



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

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Editor Don Young

July 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.

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COMMANDERS CORNER

Our sincere thanks to Florida Division 4th Lt. Cmdr. Harry Hurst for his entertaining and provocative presentation on historical fact vs. opinion and myth at our June meeting. Cmdr. Hurst and his wife Miss Karen traveled all the way from Ocala to be with us and we enjoyed a long evening of Southern fellowship. Cmdr. and Miss Karen we appreciate your efforts.

Camp 1387 participated in the 4th of July parade in Melbourne, Florida. This parade was sponsored by Honor America and had over 75 entries. I would like to thank Rick and June Still for providing their convertible for transportation as well as advertising the SCV. I would also like to thank members from the Vero Beach and Fort Pierce Camp for providing mechanized cavalry as well as color guard members. As always, this event was well attended even with

temperatures above 90 and the heart index of about 100 degrees. There are good reasons why the summer is our "slow" season.

I have appointed Compatriot Robert Meeks to chair our Cemetery Registration Committee. Division has initiated a project to update and renew the Florida data base on Cemeteries containing CSA veterans and CSA Monument Locations. Without accurate and complete location data we will not be able to protect our monuments or even the mortal remains of our beloved soldiers from the onslaught of the politically correct, but morally empty, purge of all things Southern. Please contact Robert if you are willing to participate in this noble effort.

For this month's meeting we will be trying something different. Instead of a single person presenting a program we will be having a round table discussion on the Stars and Stripes. We will be covering topics from what was flown during the WBTS to its current use at SCV events and meetings. It should stimulate quite a discussion among all of our camp members. Please don't miss this event.

Finally, it is that time of the year when we will begin to collect dues for another year. I will be sending out dues statements during in late July. I would like to thank everyone during the past couple of years of getting your dues paid in a timely manner.

In Service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

EVENTS

04 July	Melbourne Parade
12 July	Camp E-board meeting
09-14 July	National Reunion
21 July	Military History Show Ocoee Community Center 125 Lakeshore, Camp 1630
26 July	Camp Meeting
22 Sept	Cemetery Workshop 10 th Brigade event, location TBA

PROGRAM

Stars and Stripes and the SCV

CSA National and Military flags are a large part of the struggle the SCV has in forwarding the Charge. What is the "right" and "correct" role of the US National Colors, the Stars and Stripes, in this struggle? The Stars and Stripes (of the period) were carried by the forces that illegally invaded, eviscerated, subjugated and made our South colonial holdings of the American Empire. These imperial forces murdered, raped, pillaged and plundered the private citizens of the South. In particular they targeted women, children and undefended property for their crimes which followed National policy. Captured CSA soldiers were held in prison facilities that, following National policy, were Extermination Camps. Should Southerners honor this legacy? Bring your thoughts and opinions with factual support to the July meeting for open discussion and for review of current SCV policy. PS - Study the parade photos for discussion.



Long time Camp 1387 Compatriot USAF Lt. Gen. Forrest McCartney has crossed over the river to rest in the shade. Please remember him and Miss Ruth in your thoughts and prayers. Available information states that there will be no memorial service.

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National SCV Reunion

Gentlemen, I have just returned from Murfreesboro TN, attending the 117 annual National SCV Reunion. The following is a summary of the results.

1. 27 States were represented plus the Adjutant of the European camp.
 2. The proposed amendment, allowing individual camps to leave their Division, FAILED
 3. The other proposed amendments were passed.
 4. The slate of National Officers was reelected, including contested Lt CIC Barrow.
 5. The 2015 National Reunion will be held in Richmond, Va.
 6. The 2013 National will be in Vicksburg, Ms. and the 2014 Reunion will be in Charleston, SC.
- Harry Hurst, 4th Division Lt. Cmdr, Florida Division, SCV

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SECRET AGENTS Southern style

There is an expression, often cited, which goes something like this: "May you live in interesting times." Even though this sounds quite benign, it is actually a curse whose true meaning expresses a desire for the receiver of this grammatical gem to experience trouble and disorder in their life. The irony of the statement is that "uninteresting times" in one's life - those of peace, tranquility and bliss - are actually the times that provide the best life experiences.

I thought of this expression recently while watching a news channel on television that was doing a story on the latest thing to come out of government insuring that we all live in "interesting times". This story involved the use of drones to fly over towns, neighborhoods, homes, wherever, which would give the controller of the drone the ability to spy on anyone of their choosing. It is not a pretty picture to contemplate and I began thinking wouldn't it be nice if "we the people" had spies all over Washington to report back to us the goings-on of our "masters" there in the district of corruption.

That thought, as do so many others, started me thinking about another time when there was a highly effective spy network in Washington providing much useful information to another group of "good guys" who, in this case, happened to be those fighting for independence for the South during the first part of the 1860's. Yes, folks, there were Confederate spies aplenty in Washington during that period and they formed a highly effective espionage network. This article will be a brief summary of a few of the activities of some of those remarkable Southerners.

There is a difficulty in writing about Confederate spies (or any spies for that matter) since the very best ones, unless they wrote their memoirs, remain unknown and shrouded in mystery. For instance, there is evidence that one Confederate spy spent the entire war working in the office of the chief of counterintelligence for the federal government completely unbeknownst to anyone in that agency. A name has been tagged to this Confederate operative, but more than likely it is not his real name. This guy was good!

Because of the nature of this beast, in this article I will focus primarily on those better-known Confederate clandestine operatives and operations about which much has been written or the participants penned memoirs.

Let me begin by saying that there were likely far more Southern "spies" than even imagined. This is because Washington is surrounded by Southern-friendly states. Virginia, on one side, was the titular head of the Confederate States and Maryland, on the other three sides, was full of Southern sympathizers and the state would likely have seceded and joined the Confederacy had not Lincoln had more than fifty members of the state legislature arrested and imprisoned before a secession vote could be taken. Nothing quite like having a president who disregards the Constitution of this country (although tempted, I will pursue this line of thought no further).

Most of the cadre of secret agents aiding the Southern Cause did not have to go through extensive training on spying techniques or find some way to work themselves into some critical position within the federal government. They had merely to continue living in their homes, leading their lives normally and going to work each day where their government job required them to be and, all the while, keeping their eyes and ears open. Some were staff personnel who, on a daily basis, were likely exposed to information that would be beneficial to the Southern war effort. Many more were minor officials in various federal agencies and, as such, were well-situated for espionage. Others, as I will mention later, were in high government positions.

Actually, many who were devoted to the South began establishing a Confederate secret intelligence system long before secession. These operatives, when it became obvious that hostilities were inevitable between the North and the South, set about establishing a system of secret intelligence and secret communications.

Another element that played a vital role in establishing this espionage system was the involvement of the secret society known as the Knights of the Golden Circle. The KGC not only provided spies for the South but also performed other subversive acts to undermine Union military efforts. Throughout the War the KGC provided to the Confederate government much classified information on Union military activities and troop numbers. Very little is known of the total scope of activities of this organization because of the ultra-secret nature of the society.

As I mentioned earlier, some of the Confederates engaged in espionage held high government posts. One prime example of this is John B. Floyd who served as Secretary of War under President James Buchanan and did not leave that position until the end of 1860. It has long been rumored (and speculated upon) that Secretary Floyd, well before the firing started, had ordered federal munitions stored in Southern arsenals so that Confederates could easily seize them once fighting began. Giving strong credence to this supposition is the fact that John B. Floyd was commissioned a Confederate brigadier general on May 23, 1861, less than five months after he left his position as United States Secretary of War. Coincidence, I guess.

Another example of a highly-placed Confederate sympathizer was Jacob Thompson who served as Secretary of the Interior under President Buchanan. It was Thompson who notified Confederate forces of the voyage of the STAR OF THE WEST that was attempting to smuggle food and troops surreptitiously into Fort Sumter. Confederate forces were ready for the steamer and were able to drive it away.

There were at least three Confederate spy rings that operated in Washington at various times. It is unlikely that any of these rings were connected since it is a sound principle of intelligence practice that various intelligence organizations operate independent of others.

The first Confederate spy net was established by Thomas Jordan who, at the time, was a captain in the U.S. Army. Jordan was a native Virginian who, to me, was one of the most interesting Confederate figures to come out of the War. His West Point roommate had been William Tecumseh Sherman and I've wondered if this might be one of the reasons he became such a solid Confederate. Jordan maintained his Union Army ties until he had his spy ring well established. He then turned management of this organization over to Mrs. Rose O'Neal Greenhow (likely in early 1861) and joined the Confederate Army where his entire service was as a staff officer. He was promoted to brigadier general for gallantry at Shiloh. He was a prolific writer and, after the War, made many contributions to that fine compendium of the War, *BATTLES AND LEADERS OF THE CIVIL WAR*. A very interesting and accomplished person. Tom Jordan had done his work so well in organizing his spy ring that it could continue to operate effectively without him under the astute management of Mrs. Greenhow. (Note: The August 2009 CONFEDERATE JOURNAL article was about Belle Boyd and Rose O'Neal Greenhow - two outstanding female spies for the Confederacy.) Rose Greenhow was a charming Southern lady who was a leader of Washington society. She was one of that cadre of

attractive Southern women who maintained homes in the District and continued to ply their charms on Northern officers - much to the benefit of the Confederacy.

Rose Greenhow had been a fixture in Washington society since a young lady and her deceased husband had been a State Department official. With this background and her good looks, she was able to maintain connections with many highly-placed government types. Among those she entertained regularly at her fine home were Secretary of State William Seward; Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee; and Senator Joseph Lane of Oregon, also a member of the Military Affairs Committee.

It has been a shortcoming on the part of males throughout history that when in the presence of an attractive and charming woman they tend to lose their inhibitions and their common sense. Rose Greenhow was able to glean incredible bits of sensitive information from her many highly-positioned admirers. She received intimate love letters from Senator Wilson and she commented upon how the cold and standoffish Seward could become quite affable and talkish when plied with various libations.

However she got the information, Rose was incredibly adept at gathering intelligence information beneficial to the Southern Cause. She was able to report to the Confederate government contents of correspondence between the commander of the U.S. Army, General Winfield Scott, and the chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. She was able to learn the exact plans of General George McClellan and General Irvin McDowell on numerous occasions. She was also able to gather other tid-bits such as where guards for Abraham Lincoln would be stationed at various times. It was only after the arrest and imprisonment of Rose Greenhow and her daughter that Northern intelligence operations began to close the gap between their effectiveness and that of the Confederates in the field of espionage.

And, while speaking of Abraham Lincoln, his wife was a Kentuckian who had a brother, three half brothers and three brothers-in-law serving in the Confederate Army. It was frequently said that during the first few months of the conflict every decision made by Lincoln's cabinet was known in Richmond within twenty-four hours. Could it have been...nah, I won't even go there. They didn't get along very well, though. I also recall reading that there was discussion at one point by some northern senators who wanted Mrs. Lincoln brought up on charges of treason. Interesting.

Well, it certainly seems that our ancestors of this period lived in some "interesting times". Unfortunately, we are also living in "interesting times" when you consider the condition of the economy in this country, the world financial situation, our joblessness here, the staggering national debt that we are living under, our troops overseas and the constant threat of more involvement, the continuing breakdown of our society, the constant crime in our society, the ever-increasing partisanship on the part of the national media, the continuing turning-away of this country from our Christian roots, and the list goes on.

To conclude this article I would like to say that my personal preference, especially now that I have grown a bit older, is to live in peaceful, tranquil, I guess what could be called "uninteresting times". I do realize, however, that living in "interesting times" - those times of danger, turmoil and uncertainty - is not all bad. It is frequently during these "interesting times" that the creative genius of man is unleashed (frequently of necessity) and some truly amazing technological and social advances are made.

My wish for myself, and for all of you who read this column, is that the next few decades are filled with the uninteresting times of peace and tranquility.

Bob Hurst is a Son of the South who has special 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. He can be contacted at confederatedad1@yahoo.com or 850-878-7010.

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Hate Article Dujour, Columbia County Observer blog

Lake City Florida confronting its past, present and future: Will civil rights groups join hands?

http://columbiacountyobserver.com/master_files/Lake_City_2012/12_0714_lc-fl-confronting-its-past,present,future.html , for full text – Camptalk edited for space.

By Stew Lilker posted 14 July 2012



Lake City Seal



Photo referred to (taken Olustee Festival Parade, but not stated)

LAKE CITY, FL – On Monday evening, July 16th, Lake City Florida is once again on track to confront its past, present, and future. The president of the state Southern Christian Leadership Conference, founded by Dr. Martin Luther King in 1957, and the local branch of the NAACP were expected to be asking for two things: the resignations of Police Chief Argatha Gilmore and City Manager Wendell Johnson; and the removal of the Confederate flag/battle flag from the City logo. The SCLC appears to be standing tough. However, for the local branch of the NAACP, the jury is out. It may not be in until 7 pm on Monday evening, when the local branch is scheduled to address the City Council that its final decision will be known.

On June 28, 2012 the Lake City Reporter was emailed a copy a picture of the Police Chief smiling in the center of and surrounded by members of the Confederate Mechanized Cavalry, an organization whose members sport an emblem linking them to General Forrest, a former member and Grand Wizard of the KKK. It is unknown whether LCR Publisher Todd Wilson considered this photo an example of the "community outreach" the Chief suggested in her email to the City Manager. The LCR did not publish the photo.

Blah – blah – more accusations, misrepresented facts and hate speak ...

Chief Gilmore also wrote among other things, the following: "If you write an article, that promotes racial discord within our city and you know the truth of that picture, I will not participate

any longer with the Columbia County Observer... It is time to stand up for truth and not allow a few citizens to create dissention in our city."

On Thursday afternoon, July 12th, the President of the state Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Rev. Reginald Gundy sent a letter to Police Chief Gilmore. The letter began this way:

As we are aware, there are always two sides to every story. Even after looking at the picture of you posing with the Motorcycle group, there is always another side. However, in all honesty, I do not agree with it, and it was poor and bad judgment on your part. With that said, there is also room for forgiveness, but even in forgiveness, it does not mean one does not have to pay for the act that they committed. I am sure, many crimes that were committed could have been avoided and in many cases, it was a dumb mistake, but the letter of the law was applied and subsequently, punishment followed. Unfortunately, this appears to be the case with this picture. But not only with the picture, but public records reveals some damaging issues as it relates to your tenure as Chief of Police.

Blah – blah – more accusations and hate speak ...

The Observer: It seems that lately we've been going backwards. It's sad. Rev. Gundy: Sad, and these are the issues that we are dealing with in 2012. It's just ignorance. The system is good at using ignorance to start fights between people in the community to keep them divided so that they can maintain absolute control. The Observer: Thank you for speaking with me. Do you mind if I quote you? Rev. Gundy: Absolutely, I am on the record.

Epilogue

The charges of on the job racial discrimination, regardless of the outcome of the City Council meeting on Monday evening, are winding their way through the Federal Courts, where, if it gets that far, American Juries will have the final word.

The question of whether or not to display the "Confederate Flag/Battle Flag" in Lake City continues to be a contentious issue. Some regard it as a symbol of independent states against a strong national government; some as a symbol of the difference of cultures between the north and the south; and some hate groups, such as the neo-Nazis and the current KKK, have taken the flag as its own. It is time once and for all to have an all county competition to come up with a logo for Lake City, one that shows Lake City to be the 21st century "Gateway to Florida," not the gateway to a contentious past.

Organized call for resignation of police chief and city manager reverses into a

surge of support and vote of confidence By Karl Burkhardt, Lake City Journal 17 July

<http://lakecityjournal.com/main.asp?SectionID=13&SubSectionID=73&ArticleID=8959>

The Lake City Council meeting that began Monday night with accusations against Police Chief Argatha Gilmore and call for council to fire her and City Manager Wendell Johnson grew into a wave of support and a vote of confidence for both.

.... Edited for space,

Ron Colson said he came from Tallahassee to show his support for Chief Gilmore. He did not identify his employer, but said he has been a law enforcement supervisor and has been with the agency for more than 10 years.

"She was an exceptional law enforcement officer and that led to her having the opportunity to demonstrate she could be and was an outstanding supervisor, manager and leader."

He said the group in the photo, members of the Mechanized Cavalry of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, are good American citizens and proud descendents of Confederate soldiers. "Three are retired Army veterans and one is an active duty member. Some, as am I are recently decorated recipients of the United States of America Presidential Service Award." He is the leader of the Mechanized Cavalry group in Florida.

People, who earlier called for resignations or firing, began to leave the building.

Glenel Bowden, former President of the local chapter of the NAACP who served 16 years on City Council, said "We are not talking about a good-old-boy chief, we're talking about a qualified black woman. I believe that sexism and chauvinism have as much to do with this as anything in the world. Addressing the issue of the photo from the Olustee parade, he said, "I think that what is happening here is high-tech lynching, putting her picture on Facebook, out on the Internet."

Chief Gilmore was the last to speak and she had a presentation with notes on the projector, for the audience to read. She brought up each of the complaints. Some of the black officers who were listed as resigning had left before she became chief. Others sent resignation letters thanking her for her support.

Three were fired, including Rudolph Davis who as a Captain reportedly criticized her to the public, undermining her leadership. She said Davis sent the photo from the Olustee parade to the NAACP and alleged she was involved with the KKK.

A second black officer was fired after he was exposed for lying. "The response from the NAACP was, 'Everybody lies!' How dare you tell me everybody lies and you think I'm going to put them in this uniform?"

The third was fired after failing to report to work for three days.

The charge that there are more than 60 cases of police abuse was made in the media, not at community meetings, not in formal complaints, not to the FBI or FDLE, she said.

Robert Smith, a captain, was fired because "He did not follow direct orders," she said. "There is no way I'm going to have my second in command not follow orders.

"The group that was here tonight does not speak for the 12,000 blacks in this city," she said.

"NAACP, you have voted to perpetuate a personal vendetta. I did not want Rudolph Davis on my team. By everything I have seen so far has been destructiveness, division in the community, and using notable organizations for selfish gains."

Editors Note: There are at least 4 men in the photo I know personally including one of our Hispanic members and another whose wife is black. This type of unfounded attack on all things Southern is the rule, not the exception. It is very refreshing to see "slam dunk" heritage victories that involve the SCV, NAACP, City Councils and black officials. A detailed report written by Ron Colson to the Mech Calv is available upon request. Great photo from the parade ...

Fourth of July Events



Saudi Arabia (2002)



Tavares



Melbourne



Melbourne



Brandon

The Melbourne Fourth of July Parade was very well attended this year both in spectators and in participating groups. We had a bit of confusion with our registration and instead of our normal number 15-30 slot we wound up in position #70.

This confusion caused some of our group not to find us, so they marched with the Titusville group. We mustered a Color Guard, a decorated convertible with uniformed veterans and Mechanized Cavalry.

Our unit received many whoops, waves, cheers, thank you's and folks running out into the traffic lane to take photos. It is very nice to be able to say that this type of reception is NORMAL for us at parades. We did have one individual who was seen to give us a thumbs down gesture and the group member who observed this was polite and smiled instead of returning another well known and appropriate hand gesture.

Despite the heat, or occasional heckler parades are a good time for us and an excellent way to display our colors to the public in a positive way. Many thanks to 12th Brigade Cmdr. Wesley Frank, Jason Frank, Bob King, Seth, Larry Thornton, Cmdr. Atchison, and Miss June and Rick Still for turning out.

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