



# CAMPTALK

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

Vol. 27 No. 06 June 2011

Editor Don Young

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## June 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

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1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Don Young 321-452-3207  
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UDC/OCR Liaison Miss Lee 452-3207

### COMMANDERS CORNER

At our May camp meeting we swore in three new compatriots. They were Jim and Robert Meeks and Richard Still. I would like to welcome each one to the SCV and I would encourage each Camp 1387 member to give these new compatriots a hardy southern welcome.

On Sunday, 29 May 2011, Camp 1387's Color Guard participated in the 1st annual Memorial Day Parade in Rockledge. There were over 40 parade entries. Our Camp used my truck as a float with Chaplain Tim Cobb driving and Miss Lee riding shotgun. In addition, the Christmas Camp brought three Cavalry Mounts to the event. Thanks to all of those that participated in the Color Guard as well as the float.

Our Camp participated in a marker dedication for Sgt. J.G. Poppell on Saturday 04 June in Seville Florida. Please see separate article in this issue of the Camp Talk for details.

Camp 1387 will participate in the 4th of July parade in Melbourne, Florida. This parade will be similar to the Veteran's Day parade that we participate in each year. See the separate article.

This month's program will feature our new Compatriot Robert Meeks and his 3rd installment on Northern and Southern Prisons. Robert has compiled a lot of information on WBTS's prisons. Don't miss another opportunity in hearing one of our own.

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 early July. I would like to thank everyone during the past couple of years for getting your dues paid in a timely manner. Our Camp has a high retention rate; please help us keep the good record.

In service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

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## EVENTS

19 June	Sam Davis Youth Camp
23 June	Camp Meeting
01 July	Dues are Due
04 July	Melbourne Parade
08 July	"Shipwrecks of The Civil War in Florida"
13-16 July	National Reunion Montgomery
07 Aug	"Florida History Run"

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## PROGRAM

### PRISONS NORTH AND SOUTH

One of our favorite speakers, **Robert Meeks**, will present the 3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of talks to educate us, in detail, on the POW facilities of the WBTS. These prisons were a blight on America's history, neither side provided well for combatants they took as prisoners. Come and join us as Robert provides us with the facts of what these camps were and what happened at them.

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## Confederate License Plate Battle Goes to TV

Division 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander John Adams has been interviewed by Danny Ramos for his Bright House cable talk show. The show will air 28 June.

Commander Adams felt the format was fair and open to explaining the SCV position and presenting facts to the audience. Previous programs can be seen at <http://www.hispanicsspeakout.tv/>. This is a TV show we should all watch.

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## National Reunion, Montgomery

The deadline for early registration for the Reunion in Montgomery, AL (July 13-16, 2011) is June 15, 2011. Until this date registration is 45 dollars and afterward registration is 60 dollars.

The link below will take you to the reunion registration form on scvorg .

<http://www.scv.org/pdf/2011ReunionRegForm.pdf>

It is time to get those registrations in for the upcoming reunion. See you in Montgomery!  
Chuck Rand, Adjutant In Chief

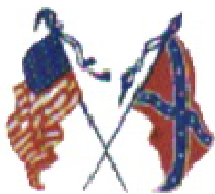
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## New Recruits Sworn In



(L) James Meeks, Robert Meeks and Richard Still, were sworn in during the May meeting. James Meeks ancestor was Lt. Alexander L. Slone, Co. A, 61<sup>st</sup> Georgia Infantry. Robert Meeks ancestor was Private William B. Widener, Co. H, 37th Virginia Infantry. Richard Still's ancestor was Benjamin Still, Jr, Co. C, 9th Georgia Infantry. Escort (L) Lt. Cmdr. Don Young, Greg Carson and Commander Kevin Atchison officiating.

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**Fourth of July**

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The annual Melbourne Fourth of July Parade will be held Monday 04 July. We will muster at 0900 hours on East Melbourne Ave along Crane Creek just west of the US 1 overpass. Step off will be a 1000 and the route will take us through old downtown to the Liberty Bell Museum. Most of you are thinking "oh the usual route", yep. We will have a Color Guard and a vehicle, but our float will not be available. If you would like to participate and cannot walk and need a ride, you may ride in the truck, please let Lt. Commander Young know. You can participate or watch the parade and be home in time for burgers and dogs!

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### **National Civil War (sic) Naval Museum; Port Columbus, Columbus Georgia**



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### **VA Marker Dedication, Sgt. James Gideon Poppell 25<sup>th</sup> GA. Infantry Co. I, Seville Cemetery, Seville Florida**

Saturday 04 June 2011 St. Johns Rangers Camp 1360, with Stonewall Jackson UDC Chapter 1981, Deland, hosted a Veterans Administration marker dedication at Seville Cemetery in Seville Florida. There were 54 folks present; men, women and children.

Sgt. Poppell's grand daughter (Margaret Poppell, 94) and great grand daughters (Susan and Beverly Poppell) traveled from Georgia and New York to attend the dedication. Susan is a member of the UDC on Sgt. Poppell's CSA service.

The family had contacted Florida Division 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Byron Peavy to request assistance in securing and setting the new stone. Commander Peavy took care of the stone. Then he put out a call for help stating that while he had attended several similar services he had not organized one and did not know what to do. Not a problem, many others did!



Camp 1360 Chaplain Bill Blair led our prayers, Captain Bluford M. Sims Camp 1630, Ocoee, led by Commander Glen Richardson provided the Color Guard and core rifle squad while a cannon salute was provided by Mortins Light Artillery, Daytona. Our only musician was William R. Milton Camp 741 Commander Jerry Peacock on drum. Order of Confederate Rose president Sylvia Darby presented a Memorial and the Black Rose Society provided 2 living history ladies in "Widows Weeds" (these folks traveled 275 miles from Quincy to help).

Keynote speakers were Afghanistan combat disabled Sergeant First Class Robert C. Meeks, Captain J.J. Dickison Camp 1387, Melbourne, who spoke in detail on Poppell's service and imprisonment and Judy Rainey, Secretary, Marion Dragoons Chapter 2311 UDC, Ocala, who spoke on Sgt. Poppell's wife.

Division 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Commander Don C. Young organized the troops that Cmdr. Peavy had recruited, conducted the event and produced the program. Miss Lee provided memorial cockades.

In Service of The South, Don C. Young



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## From Switzerland to Rowan to clear Wirz name from Civil War, By Mark Wineka

[mwineka@salisburypost.com](mailto:mwineka@salisburypost.com), Friday, May 20, 2011 12:00 AM

<http://www.salisburypost.com/News/052011-wineka-sidebar-civil-war-henry-wirz-w-pix-qcd>



Heimrich L. Wirz, great-great-nephew of Capt. Henry Wirz, Commandant of the Andersonville, Ga. Confederate Prison. Visited Salisbury to see the area where the Salisbury Confederate Prison was located. Photo by Jon C. Lakey, Salisbury Post

For the past 20 years, Heinrich L. Wirz of Bremgarten, Switzerland, has made it a personal quest to learn as much as he can of an ancestor who became an infamous figure in the American Civil War.

In roughly a dozen trips to the United States, including his three-week visit this month, Wirz has collected a wealth of information that increasingly persuades him that Capt. Henry Wirz, commandant of the Andersonville (Ga.) Confederate Prison, was unjustly executed.

"I do not blame anybody for all of this," the 75-year-old Wirz said Wednesday during a visit to Salisbury. "My mission (is) to find the truth and give justice to my great-grand uncle ... to take away the stain of the name on our own family.

"I'm especially touched with this."

The Andersonville Confederate Prison was even more notorious than Salisbury's in that 12,913 of 45,000 Union prisoners died there of starvation, dysentery and disease.

Estimates of the number of prisoners (and others) who died in Salisbury have varied wildly through the years. The best guess historians give today is between 4,000 and 5,000 dead, which led to the U.S. government's establishment in 1870 of the Salisbury National Cemetery. Part of the cemetery takes in the trenches of prisoners who were buried in mass graves.

After the Civil War, Captain Wirz was court-martialed on charges of conspiracy and murder, tried in Washington, sentenced to death by a military commission and hanged on Nov. 10, 1865. He is often described as the only Confederate official to be tried, convicted and executed for war crimes resulting from the Civil War.

The present-day Heinrich Wirz has found "so many descriptions" about his ancestor's trial suggesting it was a kangaroo court, he says. Captain Wirz proved to be a scapegoat of sorts, especially with the lingering Northern outrage over the assassination of President Lincoln, Heinrich Wirz adds.

He also cites evidence that the night before he was hanged, Captain Wirz was offered a pardon if he would implicate Confederate President Jefferson Davis and testify that he ordered Wirz to mistreat prisoners.

Wirz refused and was hanged in sight of the U.S. Capitol building. He is buried in Washington's Mount Olivet Cemetery, a place Heinrich Wirz has visited many times, often for memorial services conducted by organizations such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Wirz is a retired colonel in the Swiss Army, a writer in defense and military affairs and a self-described "independent parliamentary journalist." He started out compiling information on Capt. Henry Wirz for a family history and a brochure on federal military history.

But now that his notebook of documents exceeds 170 pages, Wirz realizes he probably should be considering a book, with an English translation. Beyond that, he would like to see Capt. Henry Wirz someday receive a presidential pardon, or have a military commission posthumously reverse his ancestor's conviction.

Wirz came to Salisbury Wednesday with a lawyerly young assistant, Florian A. Strahm, who will be taking his bar exam in Switzerland later this year.

They have been in the States since May 7, expecting to return home May 29.

Salisbury held interest to them because of its Confederate Prison history and the fact that its commandant, Maj. John Henry Gee, was similarly court-martialed after the war on charges of murder and not supplying sufficient rations, clothing, fuel, shelter and water at the Salisbury prison.

Gee was tried in Raleigh, not Washington, and was found guilty only of "weakness in retaining a position when unable to carry out dictates of humanity."

The Gee trial was held in February 1866, and he was released by July of the same year.

Ed and Sue Curtis served as Salisbury tour guides for Wirz and Strahm Wednesday. It was only several months ago, Wirz said, that he became aware of the Gee trial and discovered a book written about Gee by one of his descendants.

Wirz couldn't help but notice how the stories of Andersonville and Salisbury parallel each other in many respects.

"That's what is striking," he said. "The scene behind the scene and the similarities."

The original Hartmann Heinrich Wirz, who became known in the United States as Capt. Henry Wirz, was sentenced in his native Switzerland to four years in prison for debts. He served only one year but was banned from Zurich for 10 years.

An exile, he left the country for Russia, then Italy, then the United States, where he arrived in 1849. He eventually wound up a member of the Confederacy's 4th Louisiana Infantry in 1861. He rose in rank to sergeant, then captain. He served as an officer at the Richmond Confederate Prison and later as commandant for the prison in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Before becoming commandant for the Andersonville Prison, he also served as a special emissary in Paris and Berlin for Confederate President Davis.

He became commandant at Andersonville March 27, 1864.

"It's a sad story," Wirz says of his long-ago ancestor.

History has well documented the horrific conditions Union soldiers coped with at both the Andersonville and Salisbury prisons.

Wirz and Strahm left Salisbury Wednesday afternoon for Charleston and Hilton Head, S.C., where they hoped to speak with an attorney who wrote a 1986 article in which he described the Wirz trial as a national disgrace.

Other cities on the men's itinerary include Savannah, Americus and Andersonville, Ga., where the prison site includes a National Cemetery and National Prisoner of War Museum.

Wirz also has made trips to Natchez, Miss., where local residents helped him to find the grave of Henry Wirz's daughter, Cora Lee Wirz, in 2006.

He also has tracked down ancestors or information about Wirz in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

R. Fred Ruhlman of Pine Mountain, Ga., may be the biggest scholar in the United States when it comes to Wirz. He wrote the 2006 University of Tennessee Press book titled, "Captain Henry Wirz and Andersonville Prison: A Reappraisal."

Wirz claims that Ruhlman, based on his research, applied for a presidential pardon for his ancestor in 2006.

Wirz, for one, is still waiting. Contact Mark Wine



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## Events, Notes and Goings-on

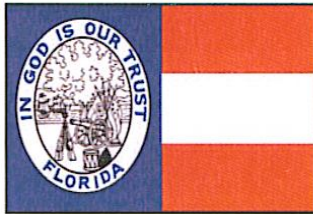
Lt. Cmdr. Young attended the first of these lectures and it was excellent. He will also be attending the second event. Thanks to Johnnie Hiott for the information.

<b>Florida Public Archaeology Network and The Florida Historical Society Present</b>	
<b>Summer Underwater Archaeology Mini-Series</b>	
<b>June 10, 7 pm</b> <b>Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, FPAN Regional Director, North West Region</b>	<b>WHEN:</b> 7 PM JUNE 10 JULY 8
<b>"The Emanuel Point Ships: Florida's Earliest Shipwrecks"</b> In August of 1559, a fleet of Spanish ships on a colonizing mission were sunk by a violent hurricane in Pensacola Bay. This presentation will describe this little-known enterprise, as well as the archaeological investigations of two of the ships, discovered by the State of Florida and the University of West Florida.	<b>WHERE:</b> <b>FHS LIBRARY</b> 435 BREVARD AVE COCOA 32922
	<b>DOWNTOWN COCOA VILLAGE</b>
<b>July 8, 7 pm</b> <b>Jeff Moates, FPAN Regional Director, West Central Region</b>	<b>FREE TO THE PUBLIC!</b>
<b>"Diversity at Sea: Shipwrecks of the Civil War in Florida"</b> The maritime battles of the Civil War employed more diversity of ships than any previous sustained naval action. Civil War shipwrecks along Florida's coasts illustrate this aspect and highlight a concerted and entrenched effort to control paths of trade and communication in the South.	<b>Refreshments will be available</b>
	
 <b>FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK</b> <small>WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICARCHAEOLOGY.ORG</small>	<b>For more information call:</b> Gregg Harding 321-690-1971 ex.223
	



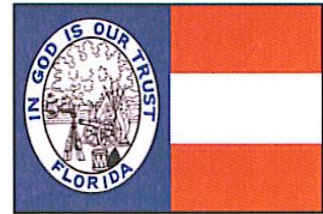
**Camp 1387** will be providing our flags, period weapons display, and living historians for "Florida Confederate History" and "Confederate Flags" for this event. If you would like to participate see Cmdr. Atchison or Lt. Cmdr. Young. Muster at Lone Cabbage at 1430 hours.

# INAGURAL FLORIDA HISTORY RUN



**Sunday  
August 7, 2011**

**Registration:**



**Lone Cabbage Fish Camp - 8199 Highway 520 Cocoa, Fl.**

**First Bike out at 10 A.M. - Last Bike Out 11 AM**

**\$10.00 per hand, \$5.00 Per Passenger.**

**(Buy one hand get one free if your wearing or displaying the Confederate Flag)**

**Last Bike In at Lone Cabbage at 4:00 PM**



***\*HELP YOUR LOCAL RE-ENACTORS AND FELLOW RIDERS CELEBRATE  
FLORIDA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED STATES HISTORY.***

***\*LEARN UNIQUE FACTS ABOUT FLORIDA'S INVOLVEMENT IN HISTORY AND  
VIEW WEAPON'S DISPLAY AND RE-ENACTORS AT EACH STOP  
WHILE RAISING MONEY FOR A GREAT CAUSE.***



**Live Band**

**50-50  
Door Prizes**

***PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE FLORIDA DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS.***

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