



CAMPTALK

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

March 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 Between the States are invited to attend.

CAMP OFFICERS

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|-------------------------------|--------------|
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COMMANDERS CORNER

At our February meeting attendees were treated to a great program by George Khoury of FIT on the life of Stonewall Jackson. I think all will agree that George's program was one of the best we have had at our camp meetings. We look forward to having George back in the near future. I hear that the program that he does on the "Real Lincoln" is superb. Our program on 22 March will continue the series on Confederate Flag History. 1st Lt. Don Young will be our presenter.

On 03 March our Camp participated in the commemoration ceremony on the Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War. The Cannon Monument and the Florida State Historic Marker were rededicated at their new home at the Brevard Veterans Center on Merritt Island. There were approximately 30 veterans groups from around Florida and the rest of the country that participated at this event. Camp 1387 was well represented with 3 flag bears and 2 riflemen in

attendance. There were approximately 150 people in attendance for this spectacular event. I would also like to thank Compatriot Ben DuBose, who is the SAR sponsor, for the invite.

By the time you read this our camp will have participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade event in downtown Melbourne. This event probably attracts one of the largest crowds in the county during the year. We will be reporting on this event at our March Camp Meeting. Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies are just around the corner. On Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM, on 29 April 2012, Camp 1387 will participate with Chapter 2406 of the UDC in a Confederate Memorial Day service at the Old Melbourne Cemetery. This event is what the SCV is all about guys, honoring our confederate ancestors. So if you haven't attended recently, I would highly encourage you to put this date on your calendar.

In addition, during the month of April there are several other local Confederate Memorial Day events that our camp will be involved in. We will discuss these events at our March Meeting. In Service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

EVENTS

24-5 Mar Battle at Narcoosee Mill
30 Mar-01Apr 150th Battle of Shiloh, <http://shiloh150.org/>
28 Apr Charlie Dickison Marker Dedication Orange Springs
29 Apr Camp 1387 Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony
01-03 Jun Florida Division Reunion

PROGRAM

Flags of The Confederacy

Compatriot Don Young will discuss our flags, the symbols of our ancestor's nation and that they followed into battle. Do you know what the First, Second and Third Nationals are and what the Bonnie Blue has to do with Florida history. How about the Bonnie Blue and Mississippi, or Louisiana, how about Texas? Come join us for your introduction or refresher on the flags of our ancestors that we are sworn to protect.

SCV Sesquicentennial Celebration in Richmond, Virginia by Kelly Crocker



Commander Givens speaks at Heritage Rally Richmond, Virginia February 25. 2012

The Sons of Confederate Veterans held their second Sesquicentennial event on February 25, 2012 in Richmond, Virginia. This year's event commemorated the establishment of the permanent Confederate government and the Confederate White House being seated in Richmond, 150 years ago. Jefferson Davis was also sworn in as the official President of the Confederate States at this same time on February 22, 1862.

The celebration lasted all day and into the night on Saturday the 25th. The festivities began about 9:30 AM as Sons and Daughters of the South gathered to march in the celebration parade. About 500 Southerners marched down Monument Avenue, around the Jefferson Davis monument, ending at Lee Circle at the base of the huge statue of General Robert E Lee and Traveler. There in the shadow of General Lee, the acceptance speech of President Davis was read to the crowd as it would have been read to crowds all across the Confederate States, 150 years ago. Commander in Chief Michael Givens read the last portion of Davis' address.

Commander Givens then gave an inspirational speech on "Liberty". He reminded us of how precious liberty is, and how that our liberties in America are being eroded. He reminded us of how President Lincoln stripped many Americans of their liberties, 150 years ago. We were also reminded of how our Confederate Ancestors fought and died to preserve "Liberty". And how we can never let the memory of those gallant men and women die.

At the conclusion of the celebration at the Lee Monument, we moved to the area around the Confederate Chapel and the Virginia Museum. Tours were given of both and Southerners just gathered around and socialized. There was an awareness effort concerning the Confederate Veterans Home, which was established by United Confederate Veterans Camp #1 around 1869. The property is owned by the State and is in danger of being sold. The Virginia Division of the SCV is trying to acquire custody of the property. There is also a Southern friendly Film Festival coming to the Museum. The Virginia Flaggers were there to bring awareness to the upcoming Film Festival. In fact, the "Flaggers" seemed to be everywhere in Richmond.

The day's events were concluded by an Evangelical worship service, Saturday evening. As your Chaplain, I was especially looking forward to this service. The service was to be at St. Paul's Episcopal Church; the church attended by President Jefferson Davis and General Robert E Lee. However, the service was moved at the last minute, because the church would not allow Confederate flags to be posted in or around the church. The service was not cancelled, only moved to a more suitable location; The Confederate Chapel. The Confederate Chapel was established by Confederate Veterans in 1869. It is where many Confederates attended church, got married, and had their funeral. It was truly a great service. We had congregational hymns and special singing. We had Chaplain in Chief Evans and four past Chaplains in Chief to pray, encourage, and inspire. Past Chaplain John Weaver of Fitzgerald, Georgia preached the main message. He said that he asked himself, "If I were a Confederate Chaplain: What would I say to those Confederate Soldiers?" He answered himself in his message to us that night. He said "that we have the RESPONSIBILITY to repent and be saved, but we do not have the ABILITY to do that on our own." "So what can we do about our situation?" I will give you the condensed version of the answer. It is simply this: humble yourself before Jesus who died for our sins, ask him to forgive you of your sins, accept His forgiveness, pray to God, read your Bible, and depend on God as your Lord and Savior.

A great time was had by all and it was a great day to be a Southerner. I am looking forward to next year's Sesquicentennial event in March at "Beauvoir" in Mississippi.

Kelly Crocker is the Chaplain of Florida Division Camp 1614 Finley's Brigade, Havana FL

One of the Greatest Heroes of the War by Robert Hurst

The magnificent warrior, Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest, expressed the truth about war with his statement that "war means fightin' and fightin' means killin' ". Union general William T. Sherman is credited with the description that "war is hell". Sherman, of course, would

have certainly known since his "total war" tactics brought true hell on earth to thousands of Southern civilians whose homes, farms, crops, fences, animals, etc. were destroyed by Sherman's forces.

War, without a doubt, is one of the most horrible creations of mankind. In too many cases it brings out the worst side of human nature resulting in the cruelty and evil that play such a major role in conflict. If I live to be a thousand, I will never be able to understand, for instance, how a human could load a car with explosives and park it in a crowded area where it can kill or maim hundreds of people who are totally unknown to the perpetrator. (And don't even ask me how someone could give the order to firebomb a treasure like Dresden that was filled with civilians at the end of a war that was already decided.)

And yet, occasionally in war we learn of amazing instances of compassion and kindness that are so unusual that these acts give rise to ideas of saintliness. This article will be about such an act and the saintly young man who displayed such compassion and kindness generally unknown among the horrors of war. It all occurred on the 14th of December of 1862 near the town of Fredericksburg, Virginia. The name of the young man was Richard Rowland Kirkland. The events that had occurred in Fredericksburg in the days immediately preceding the actions of this young Confederate soldier made his acts of compassion and kindness even more remarkable. The federal commander, General Ambrose Burnside, had ordered an artillery shelling of the town of Fredericksburg and the more than one hundred cannons at his disposal did great damage to the lovely old town and its citizens. Many beautiful houses and buildings were destroyed by the cannon shells and more were destroyed by the fires that followed. Family heirlooms, furniture, paintings and other possessions that were not destroyed by the cannon fire soon fell victim to the looting of the federal troops. Burnside, like many other Union generals, apparently had no problem attacking civilian targets.

Burnside had his forces in Fredericksburg as part of his grand plan to move on from there and take Richmond - the Confederate capital. His plan had been foiled, however, by numerous delays that had allowed General Robert E. Lee to move a sizeable Confederate force to Fredericksburg.

The Confederate forces had set up west of town in what appeared to be an impregnable position. The artillery and infantry were entrenched in hills which were fronted by open fields. Burnside consulted his subordinate officers for their opinions and many thought it would be foolish to attack such a well-fortified position under such circumstances. Burnside would not be dissuaded, however, and around noon on December 13 the attack began. Confederate forces from their position in the hills could hardly believe the federals would attempt such a maneuver. By this time, General Lee had been able to accumulate about 80,000 troops and the artillery units and the sharpshooters with the infantry were all well-positioned to repel the attack of the blue coats.

Burnside's primary objective was a ridge called Marye's Heights. Confederate general James Longstreet's troops occupied this ridge and General Stonewall Jackson had positioned his corps alongside Longstreet. Making this position even more daunting was the presence of a four-foot high stone wall at the base of the ridge. With a multitude of sharpshooters positioned six-deep behind the wall and vast artillery stationed atop the ridge, it seemed suicidal for the federal troops to attack at this position. But attack they did and the carnage began.

Burnside had ordered General William B. Franklin to attack Jackson's position with 4500 troops and these were soon being cut to pieces by the artillery counterattack. Burnside ordered attack after attack on the Confederates positioned on Marye's Heights and each met with the same result as the federal troops continued to be cut to ribbons by the accurate artillery fire and the deadly sharpshooters of the Confederate infantry.

Before the carnage ended, Burnside had sent fifteen brigades to challenge the strongly-held Confederate position. When the federals finally stopped their attacks there were more than sixty-three hundred dead and wounded soldiers lying in the fields.

As the shooting stopped and the darkness set in, the horror of the day did not end. The fallen federal troops lay on ground that was quickly freezing in the December cold. The moans and cries of the wounded and dying were easily heard by the Confederate troops. Some of the yankee troops had gotten as close as 150 feet from the wall at the base of the ridge. The desperate and unending calls of the wounded for water and help filled the night.

The next morning as the Confederates awakened the sounds of the suffering filled their ears. Since the two armies were still in position, sporadic gunfire would erupt as combatants on either side became visible to the other. Amidst all this tragedy and horror, one young Confederate was moved to the point that he could stand it no longer. Richard Kirkland, a nineteen year old sergeant, approached his regimental commander with a request that he be allowed to go out among the yankee wounded and provide them with water and help them in whatever way he could. His commander, fearing that young Kirkland would be quickly shot as soon as he became visible to the enemy, denied the request.

Later in the day, Sgt. Kirkland was able to obtain permission to speak to Brigadier General Joseph Kershaw. Kershaw, like Richard Kirkland, was a South Carolinian. General Kershaw, in fact, was good friends with the parents of young Kirkland. Kershaw was taken aback by the request of the young soldier to go out among the enemy wounded and provide some relief to their suffering. He initially refused the request, but the young sergeant persisted and the general was apparently touched by the sincerity of Richard Kirkland and the nobility of the sentiments driving the request of the young soldier.

General Kershaw warned Sergeant Kirkland that he would likely be shot by the enemy as soon as they saw him in the field but the young South Carolinian said he was willing to take that chance. Impressed by the character of the young man but concerned about how he would explain the situation to Kirkland's parents should he be killed, General Kershaw reluctantly agreed to the request.

Before he embarked on his mission of mercy, Sgt. Kirkland asked permission to wave a white handkerchief as he went over the wall into the field. This request was denied. Although it might have provided an element of protection for the young man, the general was concerned that the meaning of the white kerchief might be misread by the enemy.

Richard Kirkland went over the wall without the white handkerchief but loaded down with as many canteens full of water as he could carry. Some accounts of his deed record that no shots were fired toward this angel of mercy while other accounts, more numerous, indicate that there were shots fired toward him initially. For certain, though, when it was recognized what the gallant young man was doing, all firing in his direction quickly stopped. The noble young soldier spent more than an hour and a half in the field going to as many of the wounded enemy as he could reach. To each wounded soldier he offered a kind word and a much-needed drink of water. For some he rearranged their coats or capes to make them more comfortable or changed their positions on the frozen ground. He gave a ray of hope to each of the wounded.

He made numerous trips to refill his canteens so he could provide water to as many as he could reach. There is no record of how many blue-coated soldiers he ministered to that day but several accounts indicate that it likely was at least a hundred. That is a small number when compared to how many fallen there were in the field that day but it wasn't the number helped that truly mattered - it was the size of the heart of the caregiver and the amazing bravery displayed by the young soldier.

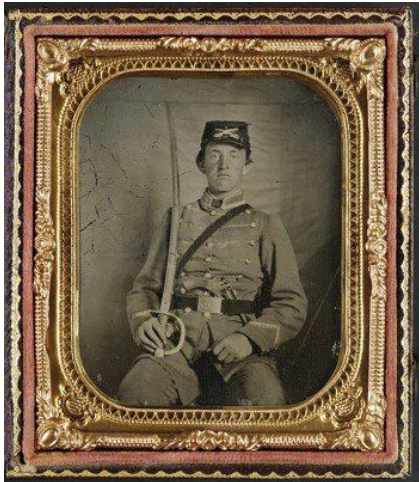
After Fredericksburg, Richard Kirkland saw service in the battles at Chancellorsville, Salem Church and Gettysburg where he was recommended for promotion to lieutenant. He later went to Chickamauga where, sadly, on September 20, 1863, this wonderful young man was struck down by a bullet to the chest. Reportedly, his last words (spoken to two Confederate companions) were, "Save yourselves and tell my father I died right." The funeral in Camden, South Carolina, for the young hero was attended by a huge crowd since he had already become a legend.

I have no doubt that Richard Kirkland held some hate in his heart for the injustices committed by the northern government and the northern army toward the South. I feel strongly that he resented the waging of an unnecessary war against the South; the waging of war against Southern civilians; the destruction of so many towns, farms, homes and lives of people of the South and the needless deaths of so many young Southern men. It is obvious, though, that this noble young man had no hate in his heart for northern soldiers as individuals and was willing to risk his own life to give aid and comfort to these human beings at a time of great need. Richard Kirkland was not a commanding general, nor a dashing cavalry leader or an esteemed member of the Confederate government; but his actions on December 14, 1862, proved him to be a person of such innate goodness and sterling character that he was truly one of the greatest heroes of the war. It is for this trait of humanity that a statue stands near the site of his remarkable deed and he will be forever immortalized as "The Angel of Marye's Heights". Addendum: For his bravery and humanitarian actions at Fredericksburg, Sergeant Richard Kirkland, C.S.A., was awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor. For more information about this medal see the December 2006 issue of this magazine or my book, CONFEDERATE JOURNAL, Volume 1, 2005-2007.

Note: Previous articles of CONFEDERATE JOURNAL are available in book form. Articles from 2005 through 2007 are in Volume 1 which can be ordered online at <http://createspace.com/3540609>. Articles from 2008 and 2009 are available online at <http://createspace.com/3543269>. Volume 3, 2010-2011, will be available in about two months.

Bob Hurst is a Southern Patriot 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.

**Man in Civil War photo, long unidentified, finally gets his name back
(Courtesy of Library on Congress/)**



[Defending the Heritage](#)

Until this week, the Library of Congress didn't know the identity of young Confederate soldier shown in a photo it received last year. The photo was included in an ad spotted by Karen Thatcher.

The old photograph shows a young Confederate soldier posing proudly in an elegant uniform, with a pistol in his belt and a saber in his hand. It is a well-known 1860s ambrotype worth thousands of dollars, and experts have identified the style of his buckle, the make of his revolver

and the cavalry outfit in which he served.

But scholars at the Library of Congress, which was given the photo last year, had no idea who he was. Like scores of forgotten Civil War portraits, his was listed as “unidentified.”

Until this week. Last Sunday, Karen Thatcher of Martinsburg, W.Va., opened a Washington Post Civil War history supplement. She spotted the picture in a Library of Congress advertisement, and realized: “That’s Uncle Dave!” In an instant, for posterity, the soldier was given back his name — and his story. He was a teenager named David M. Thatcher, from Martinsburg, who enlisted in Company B, Berkeley Troop, First Virginia cavalry, and was killed in battle at age 19 outside Warrenton in 1863. He was buried in the cemetery at Martinsburg’s Tuscarora Presbyterian Church after, family lore has it, his parents brought his body home with a horse and wagon.

The identification has thrilled Karen Thatcher, a retired federal government worker, as well as the library and the collector, Tom Liljenquist, who purchased the picture several years ago and donated it in October. “We’re just tickled to death,” Thatcher said in a telephone interview on Wednesday. “There’s something very satisfying about this 19-year-old boy who died in 1863 who was [listed as] unidentified ... that we’re able to put a name to that face.” Liljenquist, who has given the library almost 1,000 Civil War portraits in recent months, said: “I’m just awestruck. ... This anonymous young boy has gotten his life back.” The identification was made when Thatcher saw that the photo in the advertisement looked almost exactly like a larger image she had of David Thatcher, an ancestor of her husband, Larry.

The larger image — which was likely copied from the photograph — is a “crayon enlargement,” said Carol Johnson, the Library of Congress’s curator of photographs.

It was a common 19th-century technique in which a smaller picture was enlarged, printed and then colored in with charcoal or chalk to make a bigger portrait. “That way, people would have something they could hang on their walls,” she said. “Since he died in the war, they probably had this made ... as a way to remember him.”

What happened to the original photograph is less clear. “Maybe he gave it to his girlfriend, before he left for the war,” Johnson said. Eventually, someone came into possession of it and didn’t know who he was, and it went onto the collectors market. Johnson said experts were able to glean some information about the soldier from his uniform type and accouterments — his Virginia belt buckle, and the crossed sabers and number 1 on his cap. But his name remained elusive.

Liljenquist, of McLean, said he bought the picture years ago at a Civil War show, probably in Virginia. “It’s a well-known photograph,” he said. “It’s been published in a few books.” But no name was associated with it.

David Thatcher, it turns out, served in a storied unit that was originally commanded by the South’s legendary cavalry general J.E.B. Stuart. David Thatcher was killed on Oct. 19, 1863, in the Battle of Buckland Mills, which was such a complete Confederate victory that the rebels called it “the Buckland Races.”

His tombstone reads:

When thou goest out to battle
against thine enemies, be not
afraid of them, for the Lord
thy God is with thee.

Karen Thatcher said the Civil War still is “close” in her area and her family, with deep roots there, has long known of the story.

“If you have a family member who dies at the age of 19 in the Civil War, everyone knows that,” she said. “And this picture was just always in the family. And so you just knew that that’s who it was.” “My husband jokingly calls him ‘Uncle Dave,’” she said, although the soldier was three generations removed — technically a brother of her husband’s great-grandfather. She said she and her husband have a small pre-war photograph of David Thatcher in civilian clothes attached

to a certificate honoring his death. That, too, resembles the other images. She said their “crayon enlargement” was a copy of one that had been in her husband’s household when he grew up and was passed down to one of his nieces. “It looks like a drawing of a photograph,” she said. A history lover, Karen Thatcher said she opened the Post’s Civil War section, and staring back was an identical copy of the picture that the niece had given them. “Except, I could tell that it was a photograph ... not a drawing of a photograph. “I thought, ‘Son of a gun.’ I thought, ‘Gee whiz.’ I thought, ‘Isn’t this amazing?’” she said. She said she went to the library’s online gallery, and “there’s Uncle Dave.”

She called the Library of Congress on Monday morning. Johnson, the curator, said the “unidentified” designation would likely be removed from the gallery Friday and replaced with David Thatcher’s name.

Confederate Themed Songs Were Popular in the 1950’s. Play this one on Confederate Memorial Day. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZxMDZ3TdZM>

LAST NAVAL BATTLE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION by Don Young

The annual commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War was held 03 March at the Brevard Veterans Center, Merritt Island. The plaque and monument have been moved to the Veterans Center. The event was well attended. Note the SUV behind SCV.



Evan Phillips Larry Thornton Don Young Kevin Atchison Rob Murray



Confederate Memorial Day Services



Some area Confederate Memorial Day Ceremonies planned. Contact Lt. Young for a ride.

April 21, Saturday

Belle Isles (south central Orlando) Bonnie Blue Chapter UDC. Powell Cemetery (very small): 1000 AM, muster 0900. Transportation available from Merritt Island leaves 0800. West of South Orange Ave, across from Lake Jennie Jewel. Better directions to come. Lunch at the Pine Castle Women's Club 5901 S.Orange.

April 22, Sunday

CSS Florida Camp 102 (Orlando). Greenwood Cemetery (large cemetery): Time ? Probably after church. Transportation available from Merritt Island leaves ?? South side of 408 (East West freeway) just east of South Mills. Lunch, fried chicken picnic, after ceremony.

April 28, Saturday

Munnerlyn Cattle Guard Camp 2120 (Christmas), Christmas Cemetery (mid size) 1000 AM muster at 0900. Lunch covered dish at the cemetery. US 50 to Christmas, Ft. Christmas Road north to cemetery on right, before Ft. Christmas facility.

Florida SCV 5th Brigade, Orange Springs marker dedication for Sgt. Charlie Dickison (son of JJ Dickison). Original 1852 Church (field hospital in WBTS) with cemetery, still in use. 1300 hours I-95 to State 40, east to State 19, north to Salt Springs, west on County 316 to Ft. McCoy, north County 315 to Orange Springs. Similar to going to Horse Landing, but farther – 150 miles. Transportation available from Merritt Island, leaves 0930.

Capt. Bluford Sims Camp 1630 (Ocoee). Ocoee Cemetery, Candlelight Ceremony, 1930. State 528 west to 417 (Greenbelt), north to 508 (Orlando east-west), west to West 50 exit, west to S. Bluford Ave., north to West Geneva St., east to Ocoee Cemetery.

April 29, Sunday

Camp 1387 & Melbourne UDC. Old Melbourne Cemetery (Mid to large): 2 PM, Muster 1300, set-up 1200. East Hibiscus Blvd., 1 block west of US 1 at the Indian River. Snacks, drinks and social at the cemetery after ceremony.