

The Gray Line News



High Bridge



High Bridge Camp #1581

November 2024

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp Commander: Whit Morris	1 st LT. Commander: Chris Burks	2 nd LT Commander: Don Reynolds
3 rd LT. Commander: Zach Morris	Treasurer: Shane Newcombe	Adjutant: Dan Johnson
Chaplain: Ned May	Judge Advocate: Kenny Barnard	Quartermaster / Historian: Tom Haake
Sergeant at Arms: Trey Capps	Surgeon: Gene Kirkman	Camp Sutler: Greg Finn



“DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE”



COMMANDERS CORNER:

Dear Compatriots,

My wife and I were fortunate enough to spend some time in the Scottish Highlands last month and I wanted to pass along something I was encouraged by. I was woefully ignorant of Scottish history but found out what I thought I knew was wrong, and was shocked to find some similarities with those of us in the South.

I don't have the space to go into detail here but in short, they lost what was essentially their Civil War in 1745. In the aftermath they were made out to be villains, forced off their lands, and their way of life was changed forever. Then to add insult to injury; their heritage, their history and the history of their "rebellion" was rewritten by the victors. Sound familiar?

It is a tragic tale that those of us in the South can certainly relate to. However, the encouraging part to me is that the Highland folk are still telling their story and trying to correct what the history books got wrong. They have been going at it for over 100 years longer than we have and have not given up. I know it sometimes seems we are beating our heads against a brick wall, but if we don't tell our story – it will never be told.

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

Battles in November 1863

Nov 3 rd	Tenn	Battle of Colliersville	Nov 25 th	Tenn	Battle of Missionary Ridge
Nov 6 th	WV	Battle of Droop Mountain	Nov 27 th	VA	Battle of Mine Run
Nov 7 th	VA...	Battle of Rappahannoc Station (2 nd)	Nov. 27 th	GA	Battle of Ringgold Gap
Nov 16 th	Tenn	Battle of Campbell's Station	Nov. 29 th	Tenn...	Battle of Fort Sanders
Nov 24 th	Tenn	Battle of Lookout Mountain			

Flag Auction

At our camp meeting October 24th, we auctioned off the flag that flew on Route 360 in Amelia County. Congratulations to Camp Member Mark Condrey who won the auction!



Camp Donations



At our meeting we also received two generous Camp Donations. These types of donations mean so much to the Camp and are greatly appreciated by all! Shown here is Deserae Whitus of The UDC Chapter 45 located here in Farmville presenting a donation to the camp. UDC member Flora Bolt also mailed in a donation that was presented at the meeting. Thank you to Flora & Steve for their personal donation, as well as to Local UDC Chapter 46 for their contribution to the camp!

Hurricane Helene Relief



Our camp came together with the goal of sending a full pickup load west to help those in need, well we exceeded a full pickup load as you can see from the photos! We damn near filled up Trey Capp's 16-foot trailer! Trey transported the donations on Sunday October 6th to Lee Jackson Park in Fairfield Virginia to coordinate with our sister camp The Stonewall Brigade, in getting the products where they are needed most. Thanks to everyone that pitched in, donated needed products, or gave their support in prayers.

November Holiday Banquet Speaker



We are pleased to announce that **Mr. Frank Powell, III**, the Editor-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' national magazine, *Confederate Veteran*, will be our guest presenter. He is a native of Henderson, North Carolina and graduated from Louisburg College and North Carolina State University. He is a self-employed editor and publisher of The Scuppernong Press. For 45 years, he has been married to Sara Neel. Together they are the only husband and wife team to lead both the SCV and UDC. His service to the SCV is beyond compare, as he is not only a Life Member, but also served as a Division Officer, Executive Councilman, Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, Lt. Commander-in-Chief, and more. He is also a member of numerous hereditary and historical groups such as the Order of the Southern

Cross, Military Order of the Stars & Bars, Sons of the Revolution, Society of the War of 1812, the Wake Forest Purple Heart Foundation, the Bonnie Blue Society, and the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge. Since 2003, he has served as the national Editor-in-Chief of the SCV magazine which is published six times a year and goes to 30,000+ members nationwide. He and his wife currently reside in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Last Roll Call..... James "Jimmy" Cochrane Jr.



Editor's Note: For those of you that attended the Canon Certification Class held at Marvin's house, the Chief Instructor, Jim Cochrane passed away unexpectedly due to a Tractor accident. May he Rest in Peace.

James "Jimmy" H. Cochrane, Jr departed Newport, the Hokie Nation and his SCV camp unexpectedly on October 24. He was born in Richmond, spent much of his childhood and adult years in Rockville. Jim graduated from the Collegiate Schools, Virginia Tech (Architecture) and the University of Richmond (Transportation Management). He was the ultimate Tech fan, rarely missing a Hokie football or

basketball game. When he was not wearing orange or maroon, he might be found in Civil War battalion attire or a Scottish kilt. He was pre-deceased by his parents J. Harwood Cochrane and Louise "Lulu" Blanks Cochrane, and his sister Suzanne Austell Martin. He is survived by his sister Judith Cochrane Hines, seven nieces and nephews, twelve great nieces and nephews and fiancé Dale Hawthorne Harper. Jim worked at Overnite Transportation, Highway Express, then owned and operated a Tour Time America motorcoach franchise. He served on the boards of the Richmond Ski Club, the Museum & White House of the Confederacy, Huguenot Springs Cemetery and the American Frontier Culture Museum. Jim was fiercely proud of his Cochrane Scottish heritage and his brotherhood in the Kappa Alpha Order. He was well versed in American and military history. He was a long-time member and Commander of the J.E.B. Stuart camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, coordinating and commanding numerous reenactments throughout Virginia and the south. He dedicated his life to civil war history and the battlefields of the Shenandoah Valley will forever be a part of his legacy. He retired to Wintergreen and subsequently Newport to be near his beloved Blacksburg. He was larger than life and will be greatly missed by his family and friends in the Richmond Ski Club, the Knibbs Battery cannon battalion, Kappa Alpha and at Virginia Tech. There will be a memorial service at 11am on Wednesday 11/6/24 at Woody Funeral Home at 1771 North Parham Rd Richmond, Va 23229. A private interment will follow. A Celebration of Life will follow a cannon salute at Huguenot Springs Cemetery on a later date.

If You Can't Stand the Heat, Stay Off the Battlefield

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several members here have heard me tell of what impresses me about the soldiers of the War between the states. While I concur that the Generals, for the most part, were great men and impressive in their own right, it is the foot soldier himself that I am most impressed with, because of their ability to do the things that they did and do them well. This article tells of what they did, how they did it and what they faced...



Photographer Timothy O'Sullivan's May 1864 photograph captures Union soldiers cooling off in Virginia's North Anna River.

While the summer season has come to a close and we welcome in the cool breezes and warm colors of fall, we can easily recall the past season's blistering heat and how we coped. Between time spent relaxing beachside, enjoying a cool beverage, embracing the wonders of climate control, and wearing light and breathable attire, we in the present day can find comfort on even the most excruciatingly hot days of summer. While faced with some of the same sweltering conditions we endure today, the average Civil War soldier didn't have many of these amenities, nor the medical advances to treat various heat-related illnesses like heatstroke.

Utilizing today's technology and expanded access to primary source material, we can understand the drastic climate and weather conditions these soldiers fought in during the dead of summer, and what steps they took and solutions they sought to keep cool and carry on.

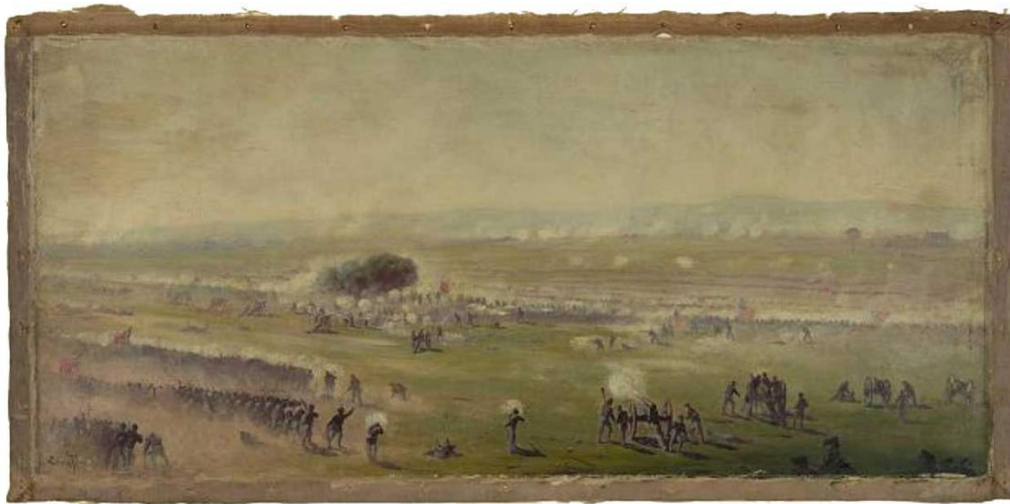
The Sweltering Reality of a Civil War Summer

Currently, an average summer day in the Mid-Atlantic U.S. can be hot, humid, slightly breezy, and/or stormy; you would've seen much of the same during the time of the Civil War. Stories have long circulated detailing weather conditions amid summer battles, but there wasn't solid data to prove or disprove them until recently.

Born out of a partnership between historian Jeff Harding and meteorologist Jon Nese, Ph.D., this revelation relied upon primary-source weather observation data recorded during the war — including measurements of atmospheric humidity; reconstructed weather maps from the period using a program developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and modern data collected over a 30-year period to analyze weather and conditions at sites of conflict.



At Gettysburg, data taken from nearby Harrisburg showed boiling results: the heat index read — at 2 p.m. on July 3, 1863, only one hour before Pickett's Charge — 98° F, with a dew point of 76° F. At the time of the charge, it is estimated that the heat index read as high as 105° F, after factoring in the blistering sunlight and saturating humidity.



Pickett's charge from a position on the enemy's line looking toward the Union lines, Ziegler's grove on the left, clump of trees on right / Edwin Forbes. *Library of Congress*

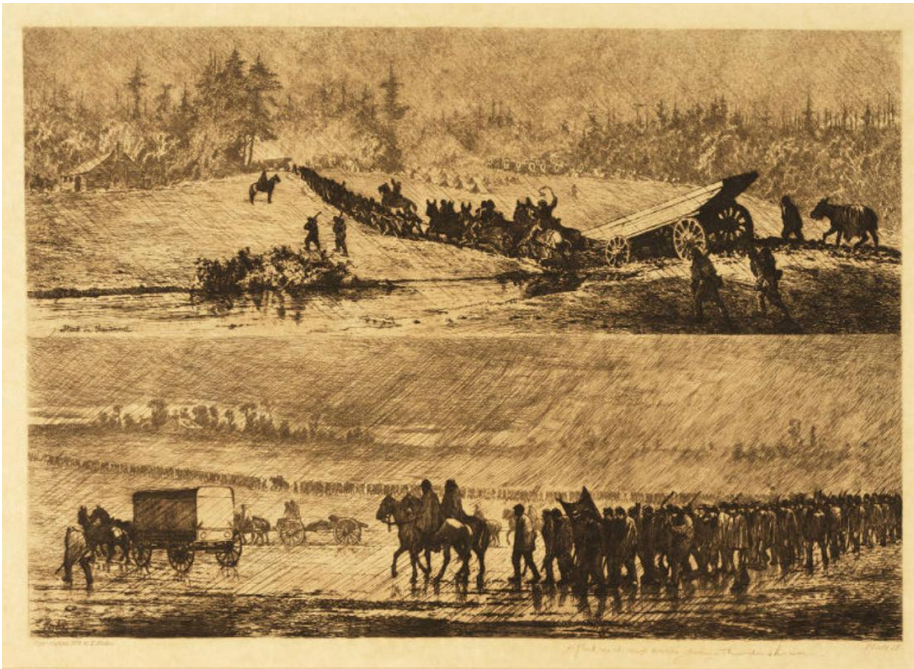
In the wider Gettysburg Campaign, battles in Virginia also saw unbearably high temperatures. With atmospheric data taken from Washington, D.C., the findings saw an absolutely blistering 95 to 118° F on the heat index at The Battle of Second Winchester and Aldie. At Cedar Mountain, soldiers felt a slightly less sizzling but equally unnerving 109° F on the heat index.

Soldiering Wear and Tear

While battling the weather conditions, the average Civil War soldier also battled their own uniform, equipment load and the excessive fatigue of marching. Soldiers on both sides wore year-round uniforms made of wool or a wool cotton blend. While these heavy, natural-fibered uniforms seem a far cry from the comfort of today's standard issue 50/50 nylon-cotton army combat uniform, wool was durable, protective and held moisture-wicking properties. While these characteristics were beneficial in the cold, they could be fatal to the summer soldier under the weight of their gear and fatigue.

Under a Deadly Sun at Cedar Mountain

Soldiers carried a hefty load of essentials when marching, in camp and on the battlefield. In all, a soldier could carry upwards of 50 pounds of gear, consisting of their tent, blankets, personal items, clothes, food, canteen, musket cartridges, and other assorted items. Add in the fact that soldiers would typically march upwards of 15 to 30 miles a day, and you've got very fatigued soldiers that are not in top fighting condition.



"Marching in the Rain, stuck in the Mud," A Flank March across Country during a Thunderstorm" etching by Edwin Forbes Pennsylvania State University. Special Collections Library

One soldier of the 8th Virginia recalled, "Flesh and blood cannot sustain such heat and fatigue...I have seen men dropping, gasping, dying...weighs the heavy musket, muffling blanket, gripping waist band, and belt...chafing canteen straps-is it strange to see hundreds of men gasping for breath, and lolling out their tongues like madmen?"

Excessive sweating is the primary way the body cools itself. But the lack of evaporation from the weight of the gear and humidity caused many to develop skin irritations and severe dehydration.

A member of the 19th Massachusetts wrote in his diary, "the salty liquid got into the eyes, causing them to burn...and down the sides of the face, which was soon covered with muddy streaks, the result of repeated wiping's..."

Beating the Heat

Civil War soldiers exhausted efforts to cool themselves in the sweltering heat. The easiest method being taking a dip in a nearby creek or river while in camp. Another simple solution was to drink water to prevent severe dehydration brought on by excessive sweating. However, there were limited supplies of clean drinking water, as it was often contaminated by bacteria, sediment, or even some lively elements. One soldier of the 1st Tennessee recalled having tadpoles and other small fish frequently in his canteen.

For doctors treating severe heatstroke, practices changed over the course of the war. At the onset, many battlefield surgeons treated heatstroke by "simply pouring whiskey into his stomach," as one surgeon did while stationed near Rappahannock Station in 1863. Older remedies proved common, but some American surgeons began adopting practices from British counterparts in India. These medical officers, who had worked in a year-round hot, humid climate, found that water was especially useful. By stripping a soldier down and pouring water on his head, over the throat, chest and along the spine, a soldier could quickly recover from heatstroke-related convulsions.

With such realizations, soldiers were keen on bringing a liberal amount of water in their kits, and medical officers recommended to commanders to provide "free supplies of water and rest to lessen the production of heat."

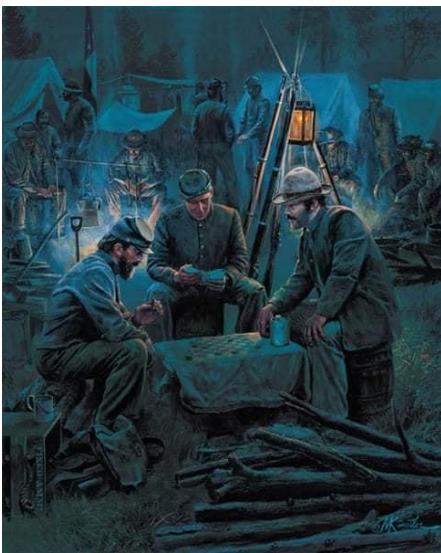


Oil on linen study of three Union Civil War soldiers drinking from and holding canteens. The painting is the work of one of the German panorama artists active in Milwaukee during the 1880s, probably F.W. Heine. These figures were painted as a study for The Battle of Atlanta cyclorama, and are visible in the finished work, held by the Atlanta History Center. *Wisconsin Historical Society*

Today, we have access and convenience that a Civil War soldier could never imagine. We can easily obtain lightweight clothing, and the modern military has even accounted for comfort in combat wear. We can walk to a sink to seek out tap water, or the refrigerator for a filtered variation. We have Gatorade and electrolyte-filled drinks on store shelves. And many across the U.S. know the cooling sensation provided by an air conditioning unit.

By more clearly understanding the weather conditions, thanks to advances in research and technology, we can better grasp a few more of the hardships that soldiers faced during this perilous time.

Letter From Home



"O, if this war was over, you and all the soldiers could come home and stay home in peace." So read a letter from home received by a soldier in Robert E. Lee's army in 1863. It was a typical sentiment expressed in letters sent to soldiers of both the North and the South. Among the hardest burdens borne by troops in this bloodiest of all American wars was the separation from loved ones. Receiving a letter from home was a heart-stirring event for war-weary troops yearning for the simple pleasures of peace. News from the family, bits of gossip, words of encouragement from parents and siblings, endearing sentiments from wives or sweethearts - all provided welcome diversion from dull duties and battlefield dangers. "Mother give me her little sheep, and I will have the wool to make you some stockings," wrote a young son to a soldier father in the Army of Northern Virginia. "Mother says I am a good boy and smart too..." Such poignant reminders of home could refresh tender memories in a soldier but could also rekindle the pain of separation. "There ain't a day, no hardly an hour, but what I am thinking

of you and the children," a dutiful Johnny Reb replied to the wife he left behind. "I look at your photograph and fear it is the last I shall see of you." For most soldiers, however, the pleasures afforded by mail far outweighed the pain. Letters were read and read again - repeatedly. "Please rite me agin soon," one Southern soldier asked the folks back home, "for I am mity sad and lonesom." In the lull between battles, even amid the ruckus of a bustling nighttime camp, a letter from home was a priceless treasure of hope. Artwork by Mort Kunstler

Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

“The general remedy for the want of success in a military commander is his removal.... No one is more aware than myself of my inability for the duties of my position. I cannot even accomplish what I myself desire.... I, therefore, in all sincerity, request your Excellency to take measure to supply my place.”

— **Robert E. Lee, August 8th, 1863**, in a letter to President Jefferson Davis

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

November 21st 6:00 PM @ Charley’s Café: Holiday Banquet & Presentation by Frank Powell, Publisher of Confederate Veteran Magazine His topic will be “The North Carolina Confederate Flags”

December 7th 4:00 pm: Amelia County Christmas Parade, Details to follow.....

December 14th 12 Noon: Wreaths Across America Trinity Memorial Gardens, Rice, VA

January 18th 2025 - Lee Jackson Day Lexington, VA.... Details to follow

January 23rd 2025 - 7:00 PM @ Charley’s Café: Camp Meeting & Election of Officers

February 27th 2025 - 7:00 PM @ Charley’s Café: Camp Meeting,

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