

# The Gray Line News



High Bridge



## High Bridge Camp #1581

July 2023

## Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp Commander: Whit Morris

1<sup>st</sup> LT. Commander: Chris Burks

2<sup>nd</sup> LT Commander: Don Reynolds

3<sup>rd</sup> LT. Commander: Zach Morris

Treasurer: Shane Newcombe

Adjutant: Russell Easter

Chaplain: Ned May

Judge Advocate: Kenny Barnard

Quartermaster / Historian: Tom Haake

Sargent at Arms: Trey Capps

Surgeon: Gene Kirkman

Camp Sutler: Greg Finn



*"DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE"*



## COMMANDERS CORNER:

Dear Compatriots,

I was recently asked how I could call myself a proud American while wearing my SCV tee-shirt. I explained that I consider myself a staunch patriot of the United States and a proud descendant of those with the courage to leave that union when it's principals no longer matched the values on which the country was founded. That may sound like an oxymoron to someone ignorant of the facts, but to me it shows that our ancestors were brave enough to stand up for what was right, not once but twice.

The right to resist inequality and tyranny is considered the American way as was explained so well by Thomas Jefferson in 1776. I encouraged that person (and I encourage you) to read the first 2 paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence to better understand how I can be a proud American and proud member of the SCV. I hope each of you will join me in celebrating our nation's independence and our proud heritage.

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

## Battles in July 1862

July 1<sup>st</sup> VA Battle of Malvern Hill

July 13<sup>th</sup> TENN Battle of Murfreesboro

July 7<sup>th</sup> ARK Battle of Cotton Plant

## Battle of Staunton River Bridge Commemoration



On June 24<sup>th</sup> our Camp participated in the commemoration Service for the Battle of Staunton River Bridge which occurred on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1864. The service, which started at 10:00 consisted of Posting of colors, Welcome, Invocation, Story of the Battle, Presentation of descendant medals, UDC Memorial of Battle, Laying of Wreathes, Musket Salute, Playing of Taps, and The Tossing of Memorial Wreath into the Staunton River. At 11:00 am, the Guest Speaker at the Visitor Center was Susan Lee of The Virginia Flaggers.



The Wreath Toss into the Staunton River, and the floating Wreath in the river.



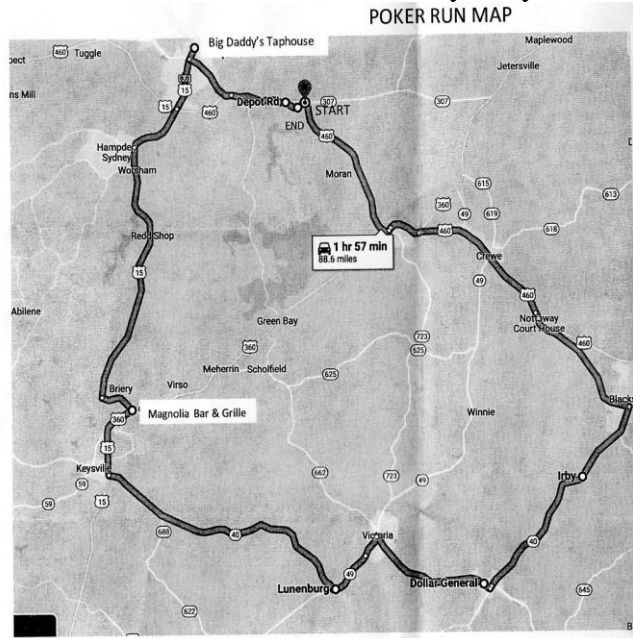
A well-planned event that was a lot of fun with a good turnout and support. I look forward to attending next year's event!

### High Bridge Memorial Flag Poker Run

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> a "Poker Run" was held at The Farmer's Daughter in Rice, Va. To benefit the legal Fund for the defense of the High Bridge Memorial Flag legal fund. Our camp had a presence at the event and kicked off the event with a Musket Salute! We were assisted by our friends from the Charlotte County Grays.



Group Photo @ our Information Booth



Poker Run Route 89 Miles

The Virginia Flaggers were also at the event and had a booth selling merchandise to also benefit the Legal fund. A total of 73 bikes participated in the event at \$20 per head plus \$10 for each back-seat rider. The layout of the ride covered 88.6 miles with two stops, one at Magnolia Bar & Grille and the second at Big Daddy's Taphouse.



Susan Lee accepts Donation Check



Booths at the Poker Run

The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Department assisted with getting the bikers safely on the road for the ride and through the town of Farmville. The bikers began to return to the Farmer's Daughter between 1:30 and 2:00 after a safe ride, without incident, to a feast for the riders and participants prepared by the Farmer's Daughter!



Rider's Return



Present Arms Biker Leave

### **Kenny Wins the Prize!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Congratulations to Kenny Barnard, winner of our raffle for the painting of "The Battle of the Crater." Rebecca Arbitelle drew his name of the hat at our Meeting after she presented her award-winning essay.

**CONGRATULATIONS KENNY!!!!**



### **The Cost of a Hobby**

The early 1860s was a time unparalleled in U.S. history. Abraham Lincoln was elected to the presidency, the South seceded from the Union, and before long the country was at war with itself, the North against the South, kin against kin, brother against brother. The North called it the War of the Rebellion. To the South it was the War Between the States. To everyone, however, it became known as the American Civil War, the most

significant historical event in the history of the nation. In the end, slavery was outlawed, the country was reunited under one flag, and some 600,000 soldiers had lost their lives.

Since then, not only have the historical aspects of the Civil War captured the imagination of millions, but also the social and cultural perception of that time-period itself. Since the 100th Civil War centennial commemoration, interest in preserving this most important and fascinating period in our history has steadily grown. This enormous interest developed into a program where “Union and Confederate soldiers,” along with their artillery, cavalry, and mounted commanders, engaged in a mock battlefield conflict that brought back to life every historical detail of a Civil War battle.

Today, Civil War battle reenactments are held throughout the country. But there is much more involved than just recreating the artillery fire, the reverberating discharge of hundreds of muskets, and the battle cries of charging cavalry and infantry troops as they clash and “die” on the battlefield. Reenactment enthusiasts of all ages, from eight to sixty-five, are also willing to endure the elements, the expense, and the time to duplicate the civilian aspect of living in a Civil War era camp. Their custom-made clothes, like the uniforms on the troops in the field, are as close to authentic as the real thing. They cook their period-style meals exactly as it was done in an 1860s army camp, their eating utensils are reproductions of the original tin versions, and they sleep under the same conditions as everyone did in a Civil War bivouac. The so-called serious “hard cores” are even known to leave reality completely behind by thinking and speaking as though they were experiencing life in a Civil War era camp.

Entertainment is also a large part of the reenactment experience. For instance, there are artillery demonstrations, at times with authentic Civil War guns, infantry drills, mule rides, rope making, leatherwork exhibitions, craft shows, lectures, book signings, vintage fashion shows, quilting, and of course the Civil War Ball complete with period music, attire, and dances. It goes without saying that the mother of all Civil War battle reenactments is the annual affair at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Held over three days every July, in 1998 the largest Civil War reenactment to date drew over 41,000 participants and over 45,000 spectators. Too many of the participants, the mere presence as a spectator at a Civil War battle reenactment may have been just the motivation they needed to consider joining the fraternity of these “Living-History” aficionados. But what does a person have to do to take part and what will be the approximate cost just to get started?

First, there is no age requirement for being a re-enactor, but a person must be convinced that he or she has what it takes to accept the living conditions of a living-history event. Once that criterion is satisfied, find a “good” unit to join, one that provides its members with the motivation to return time and time again. If you are interested in participating as a Civil War soldier then the following list represents an approximation of what it should cost for your uniform and equipment. You may not need all the listed items, or the quantity listed.

<b><u>INFANTRYMAN – \$1,700</u></b>	<b><u>OFFICER – \$2,800</u></b>
Brogans/Shoes – \$95	Boots/spurs/straps – \$300
Socks (3) – \$30	Socks (3) – \$30
Drawers (3) – \$60	Drawers (3) – \$60
Trousers (2) – \$200	Trousers (2) – \$240
Suspenders – \$15	Suspenders – \$15
Belt/buckle – \$25	Belt/buckle – \$35
Shirts (3) – \$105	Shirts/cuff links (3) – \$150

Vest – \$85	Vest – \$85
Jacket/Chevrons – \$95	Shell Jacket with shoulder boards – \$290
	Frock Coat with accessories – \$325
Hat/Insignia – \$53	Slouch hat/insignia/gold cord – \$86
Wallet – \$20	Wallet – \$20
Haversack – \$16	Gloves – \$45
Poncho – \$50	Poncho – \$50
Musket/bayonet – \$550 & up	Revolver .44/holster – \$350
Bayonet scabbard – \$25	Sword/scabbard/belt – \$385
Cartridge box – \$50	Cap box/belt – \$40
	Flask – \$30
Canteen – \$50	Canteen – \$50
Blankets (2) – \$104	Blankets (2) \$104
Mess kit – \$30	Mess kit – \$30

The critics of reenactments often wonder why anyone would want to commemorate such a bloody war in the first place, let alone the absurdity of grown men putting on wool uniforms and running around shooting blanks at each other. The truth is the practitioners of reenactments love it – and for a variety of reasons. Some enjoy the social life and the friends they encounter, while for others it is the chance to gain a historical perspective of those turbulent times. And there are those who consider it educational and in the public interest. Some do it for the escapism they experience, others to preserve this most important phase in our nation’s history. Most of them, however, simply think the whole experience is just a lot of fun. If you’re a Civil War buff, visit the next reenactment near you. And don’t be surprised if you get hooked.

The cost of this is when you start, once you acquire your setup, there is not much to add once you have it, so while the initial outlay may seem prohibitive, once you average it out over the years you are active, you will spend less in this hobby than most others. Your setup can be done in stages, and not all at once to ease the budget constraints....

**Note from the editor**..... I have purchased most of the items above and have found that you can find deals out there. I have spent significantly less than the price listed for most of my items, except for my rifle which was more. There are a few items that I have yet to purchase and not sure if I need them such as the Mess kit, Blankets, and Wallet. Years ago I purchased a wool blanket that if I choose to use, I paid \$10 for it. I am still under the total spent to date even with the extras I have picked up. E-bay is a good option for a lot of the accessories you need, and it is nice if you know a seamstress that can help with alterations.....

# THE CONFEDERATE INFANTRYMEN

Slouch hats of every color  
We wear now as our crown  
Grey kepis o' so pretty  
Were lost upon the ground

Matted hair, some short, some long  
All showing signs of age  
Hangs down in an awful mess,  
Where a damn lice war is raged

Beards on sun-washed faces  
Highlight deep sunken eyes  
With boy-like looks on others  
Still, they're men who never cries

Coats if you own one  
Are faded and they're torn  
No longer soft like gentle wool  
Just harsh, threadbare, and worn

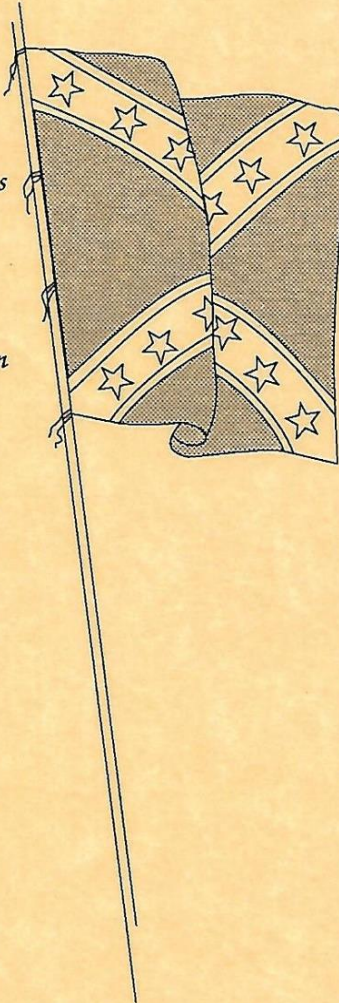
Big bright and shining buttons  
Have turned in summer suns  
Brass hatpins with our numbers  
All vanished by the tons

Checkered shirts and solids  
Full of dust, sweat and mud  
And even brand-new calicos  
Don't hide the stain of blood

Drawers, we have tossed them  
I pray you'll understand  
We just couldn't bear it  
Not even our strongest man

The trousers are mostly union  
Ours wore-out sometimes back  
But lucky ones wear homespun  
Sent from home, made of sack

No need for socks, no need for shoes  
And high boots you never mind  
For our feet have come accustomed  
To the march at double-time



Of white cotton canvas  
The haversack is made  
Holding hardtack next to bibles,  
Broken pictures of our babe

Canteens and tin cups rattle  
Like old cow bells that clank  
As they swing so freely  
Keeping rhythm in the rank

Bent bayonets are useless  
I think you will agree  
So I'll keep my old D-GUARD  
That I made in '63

A cap pouch hangs on our belts  
To the front and on our right  
Next to the C.S. buckle  
That's pulled up snug and tight

But the cartridge box must carry  
The biggest load of all  
'Forty Dead Men' we call them  
The buck, the round, and Minié ball

An old smelly blanket  
Taken maybe from the dead  
Thrown across one shoulder  
We use it for our bed

Our .58's are more like new  
Some bright, some brown, some blued  
In steady hands that hold them  
Five hundred yards, they're true

Now friends let me tell you  
Stand down-wind if you dare  
We are not much to look at  
And we don't really care

Y'all know we lack in everything  
Yet we withstand the tests  
And with what we have to fight with  
We prove ourselves the best

Corporal Stephen Stewart  
52nd Tenn. Infantry  
Company K  
C. S. A.

**Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month**

My own troubles, anxieties and sorrows sink into insignificance when I contemplate the sufferings present and prospective of the nation.

— **Robert E. Lee, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1861**, in a Letter to his cousin, Martha Custis Williams Carter

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

**July 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting

**August 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting:

**September 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting: Pat Schroeder presenting on The Forgotten Friday, The Battles in Cumberland County 4/7/1865.

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