

The Gray Line News



High Bridge



High Bridge Camp #1581

June 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,

I can't believe how fast time flies! June marks the halfway point of 2024; it seems that just yesterday we celebrated New Year's. I recently saw a social media post about how in 100 years we all would be dead and gone. Nobody would know your name or remember what you did in this life and all things the material things you treasure would be someone else's. The point of the post was to enjoy life and focus on what matters, not material things.

For the most part that post was right, but occasionally words and actions stand the test time. Just over 163 years ago, our ancestors stood up for their beliefs and their homeland and we still remember (and may we never forget). I hope that each of you will continue to honor your heritage so that in 2124, your descendants can look back fondly at the impact your life had.

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

“Act with a determination not to be turned aside by thoughts of the past and fears of the future.”
Robert E. Lee

Battles in June 1863

June 7 th	LA	Battle of Milliken's Bend	June 20-21 st	LA	Battle of LaFourche Crossing
June 9 th	VA	Battle of Brandy Station	June 21 st	VA	Battle of Upperville
June 9 th	LA	Battle of Lake Providence	June 24-26 th	TENN	Battle of Hover's Gap
June 13-15 th	VA	Battle of Winchester (2 nd)	June 28 th	LA	Battle of Donaldsonville (2 nd)
June 17 th	VA	Battle of Aldie	June 29-30 th	LA	Battle of Goodrich Landing
June 17-19 th	VA	Battle of Middleburg.	June 30 th	PA	Battle of Hanover

Amelia Day in Amelia Courthouse

Amelia Day was held on Saturday May 11th, and we had our normal spot right in front of Jerry's Now & Then. It was a good day in sales of merchandise for the camp, not as good as last year but a good day. Thanks to all that supported our efforts and reported for duty!!



Victory in The Shenandoah Valley!!



In 2020, the Shenandoah County, Virginia School Board voted to change the names of Stonewall Jackson High School, and Ashby-Lee Elementary School. Local citizens, outraged at the lack of community input on the WOKE decision, immediately formed a coalition, and got to work.

The Coalition for Better Schools set out to work through elections to oust those school board members who voted for the change. After the 2022 elections, a vote was taken to return the names, and although headway was made, it ended with a 3-3 tie. They were halfway there! Undeterred, the coalition continued to work to elect like-minded individuals to the board. In January of this year, a new board was seated, and after public discussion at last month's meeting, May 9th was set as the date to vote on whether or not to change the names back.

After four years of working on this, the Shenandoah County School Board voted last night 5-1 to restore the historical names of the schools back to Stonewall Jackson High School and Ashby Lee Elementary School. The vote took place well after midnight and you can find the story on almost any news outlet today.

Congratulations to all involved with this momentous victory! Let it be a lesson to all of us on how the hard work we have ahead of us in preserving Confederate heritage and history is not only possible, but this should serve as a beacon on the need for a strategic process.

There is much work to be done! This is what the Sons of Confederate Veterans is about. Victories such as this one prove that we can meet the challenges set forth in the SCV Charge, even in this WOKE environment. The victory represents an exacting blow delivered by a community determined to take back its heritage.

Yours in the cause,

Kenny Bage, Commander, SCV VA Division

Flag Presentation at May Meeting

As many know, The Virginia Flaggers are a Non-Profit Organization, so it is their regular practice to put their used flags up for auction to help finance their new flags and flag replacement costs. A short while ago, they put up for auction the first original flag that flew on the pole at the High Bridge Memorial flag site when it was installed. Our past commander, Jackie Price, saw the auction and decided that it should stay in “in the family,” so to speak. He won the auction and secured the flag.

At our meeting on May 23rd, he brought the Flag to our meeting, and it was presented to Carolyn, the owner of the property where The High Bridge Memorial Flag Flies. Thanks to Jackie for standing up and doing the right thing while supporting the Flaggers and the Property Owners!



Victory In Virginia

The Governor just announced late on May 17th that he has VETOED BOTH HB 812 AND SB517, effectively ending the Democrat's attempts to confiscate our Robert E Lee and SCV license plates and remove the tax exemption status of several of Virginia's oldest historical societies, including the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Thank you, Governor, for standing with those who voted you into office, and thank you to each of YOU who made phone calls, sent emails, and wrote letters to the Governor's office!

What a great day in Old Virginy!

I know at one of our last meetings I encouraged each and every member in the camp to answer the call when requested, and that it was working, maybe slower than we like, but here are two more examples of it working in a positive manner. Can we rest.....NO!!!!!!!!!! The enemy of our heritage knows no political party limits or bounds, so we must be diligent and continue the fight, just as our ancestors did against over-whelming odds..... So..... when the call comes to write or call a politician, please step up and answer it, even though you don't want to..... IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE & SHOWS WE HAVE A VOICE!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Tragedy of War.... Close to Home

Gordon Harvie gave a presentation on Thomas Garland Jefferson, a native son of Amelia County, who died in the war of Northern Aggression. He was born in Amelia County on January 1st, 1847. Not too much is known about his early life, and early in 1861 troops from Amelia were mustered for service in the local militia, soon to become part of the 23rd Virginia Infantry. At that time, he was still a little young to be accepted, but must have been in awe of the excitement of the day!



He entered VMI two years later after a series of letters from his father, Pasteur, and teachers as to his character. Three times in late fall Cadets were called to meet the Yankee forces, although they never encountered the enemy. In early Spring, 1864 Colonel Smith, the commandant at VMI received a letter from Thomas' father imploring him not to let him resign from VMI to enlist in the Confederate Army as he wanted to do. His father felt Thomas was where he belonged and did not want him to be exposed to the perils of war or losing his life in battle.

Thomas was with the Cadets that were called to New Market and lost his life due to a mortal wound received on that field of battle fighting alongside his roommate Moses Ezekiel. After being moved to the home of Eliza Crim (Called Mother Crim by The VMI cadets) he clung to life for three days with Ezekiel by his side. He was laid to rest along with his compatriots at the VMI memorial in New Market. He now has a marker with his family here in Amelia.

Memorial Day Events

As in past years we participated with UDC Chapter 45 for the Service at The Confederate Cemetery in Farmville Virginia at 11:00 on Memorial Day May 27th, 2024. It was a fantastic service, and we escaped the forecasted rain with only a few drops here and there. The sun was coming out as we wrapped up the service!



Our Camp also placed flags on the graves of Confederate Soldiers at Westview Cemetery in Farmville Virginia the morning of Memorial Day. Thanks to everyone that showed up and participated! Roughly 78 Flags were placed by camp members dodging the rain drops.



Scholarship Winner



Camp Member James Courter presents The **Andrew Moffatt Evans Scholarship award** to Kyle Anderson, graduate of Amelia Academy at their ceremonies May 23rd. We are proud of Kyle's academic accomplishments, and he will represent our camp well with this award.



New Confederate Monument!

On June 15th at 11:00 The Old Brunswick Camp 512 of the SCV will be dedicating a new monument for Brunswick County native Brigadier General William Edwin Starke. His son, Lt. Edwin Butler Starke will also be honored at this ceremony. This project has been in the works for several years and everything has come together to make this possible now. This will all take place at Hollywood Cemetery, 415 S. Cherry Street, Richmond, Virginia starting at 11:00 am. Following the service a reception will be held at historical Pamlin Park located at 6125 Boydton Plank Road in Petersburg, which is about a 25 minute drive from the Cemetery. Let's have a good showing from our camp in support of our brothers!

How Generals Were Made in The Confederacy

There are three dates of importance concerning Generals in The Confederacy. They are as follows: (1) Date of Nomination, (2) Date of Rank, and (3) Date of Confirmation. Generally speaking, the date of nomination is the most important. That is the day Confederate President Jefferson Davis either appointed or nominated them for promotion in rank.

Their date of rank might have been the same day they were nominated. It might also have been an earlier day or (in rare cases) a later day. It was important in determining seniority. A major General with a date of rank of September 1, 1862, for example, outranked a major General with a date of rank of November 1, 1862, even if the latter had been nominated earlier. This would be especially important if jealousy entered the picture, which it often did. Wade Hampton threatened to resign his commission when Stephen Dill Lee was promoted to the same rank as him, but with an earlier date of rank. Lee had been a junior officer under Hampton's command when the war began. Faced with the threat of losing Hampton, who was an outstanding Cavalry General, President Davis adjusted Lee's Promotion to give him the same date of rank as Hampton, an arrangement which seems to have been satisfactory to all concerned. Unfortunately for the South, such happy resolutions were very rare.

Some have mistaken date of rank for date of promotion. For example, John M. Withers was nominated (promoted) to Major General on August 16, 1862. His date of rank, however, was April 6, 1862, the day he distinguished himself while commanding a division in the Battle of Shiloh. He was not, however, a major General on April 7, 1862. He commanded his division in the Siege of Corinth and the retreat to Tupelo as a Brigadier General. He did not become a Major General until August 16.

Dates of confirmation are, generally speaking less important. By law, all nominations higher than Brigadier general had to be confirmed by the Confederate Senate; however, by a law passed on September 1st, 1861, President Davis was authorized to make recess appointments, which he often did. The confirmation process was most important when the Senate rejected a promotion. This did not happen often, but it wasn't rare, either. Early in the war, the Senate tended to act quickly on Davis's nominations. The date of Confirmation came later as the war progressed.

Sometimes a Brigadier General's nomination was rejected by the Senate. These officers reverted to their lower rank, which usually was Colonel. Sometimes, such officers were renominated. Joseph R. "Joe" Davis is a good example. The President nominated Joe Davis, his nephew for brigadier general on September 15, 1862, but his nomination was rejected by the Senate on October 3, and he reverted to the rank of colonel. Apparently, his uncle, President Davis, made a political deal with Senator Ben Hill of Georgia. This was never proven, but his nomination was reconsidered, and he was confirmed on October 8th, 1862.

Some Generals were never confirmed. Colonel Thomas R. R. Cobb, for example, was nominated for promotion to Brigadier General on November 1, 1862. He commanded his brigade as a Brigadier General until he was killed in action at the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13.

On May 31, 1864, the Confederate Congress passed an act establishing the rank of "temporary Brigadier General." This rank was normally given to Colonels who were acting as brigadier commanders. John D. Barry is one example. He was the commander of the 18th North Carolina Infantry Regiment when Brigadier General Jame H. Lane was wounded at the Battle of Cold Harbour. As the senior regimental commander, he replaced him on August 29. Thirty-five temporary Brigadier Generals were promoted, but only three retained the promotion to be permanent Brigadier Generals.

There were what were called state Generals and militia generals who never actually held the rank of General in the Confederate Army. There were also Trans-Mississippi Generals, who were appointed by Edmund Kirby Smith, the commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department, in 1864 and 1865. There appointments were dubious because they were never nominated by the President, nor confirmed by the Senate. There were ten gentlemen that were promoted by Smith.

During this time, the insignia of a U.S. General were distinguished by the number of stars on the shoulder boards of their jacket. A Brigadier General wears one star. A Major General wears two stars. A lieutenant General wears three stars, and a full General wears four. The Confederacy was not this way. All Generals wore an insignia of three gold stars enclosed by a wreath. The middle star was larger than the other two. The brigadier general wore buttons in two rows in groups of two buttons each. Other generals had two rows in groups of three. Full Generals wore sleeve insignias. Robert E. Lee was an exception to the rule. He chose to wear the rank insignia of a colonel, which had three stars the same size with no wreath. As with Lee many liberties were taken as the war went on with the uniform. No one would give up a warm jacket or coat if they had one, just because it had the wrong insignia on it. Sometimes they would simply just change the collar designation if they could. Just a short note on brevet rank: a brevet was normally an honorary promotion given for bravery in the field or upon retirement.

There were 426 individuals who were given the rank of General in the Confederate Army. Some were successful, some were good, some were weak, some lost their lives in the struggle, but each served the Army to further the cause and to support their home and country.

Should you have a particular General that you would like to know about, please let me know, I have a book that gives information on all 426 men that were promoted to the Rank of General in the Confederate forces.

Keep Your E-Mail Address Current!

Should you change your e-mail provider or address, remember you need to let us know. We want you to always get the Newsletter and other camp communication in a timely manner. If you change providers, it is up to you to let us know, they do not do that!

Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

“Old age and sorrow is wearing me away, and constant anxiety and labour, day and night, leaves me but little repose.”

— **Robert E. Lee, March 9th, 1862**, in a letter to Mary Custis Lee, his wife

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

DUES HAVE BEEN MAILED OUT..... PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT PRIOR TO JULY 31ST AFTER THAT DATE THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED LATE!

June 15th Hollywood Cemetery Richmond: Monument Dedication by Camp 512

June 22nd pm Battle of Staunton River Memorial Ceremony: Details to follow via e-mail

June 23rd – 29th: Sam Davis Christian Camp

June 27th 7:00 pm @ Charley's Café: Camp Meeting Kyle Anderson will present his winning Essay to the camp

July 25th 7:00 pm @ Charley's Café: Camp Meeting

August 22nd 7:00 pm @ Charley's Café: Camp Meeting

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