

# The Gray Line News



High Bridge



## High Bridge Camp #1581

September 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 can't believe it is September already, where did the summer go? Soon the fall colors and chilly mornings will be here in all their glory. As we get back into our post-summer routines, please don't forget to pencil in our upcoming camp activities on your schedules. September is another busy month for our camp, and we need your help. We have 2 spots again this year for the Heart of Virginia Festival on the 16<sup>th</sup>; one for living history as well as another to sell merchandise and tell people about the SCV and the High Bridge Camp. Please make every effort to come out and support the effort, even if it is just for an hour or so.

Then on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup>, we have our roadside trash pickup on Sayler's Creek Road (of course the Sailor's Creek State Park spelled the name wrong). We have the privilege of keeping the roadside clean that runs through the battlefield, where Sayler's Creek literally ran red with the blood of those brave souls who fought to defend their homeland. We will meet at Marshall's Crossroads at 8 AM. If we have a good turnout, it doesn't take long and it is always a good way to catch up with each other while giving back to our community. I hope each of you will take a little time out of your busy schedule to support the camp and make our presence known in a positive way.

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

## Battles in September 1862

Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	VA	Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)	Sept 19-20 <sup>th</sup>	WV	Battle of Shepherdstown
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup> -15	WV	Battle of Harper's Ferry	Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	MISS	Battle of Luka
Sept 14 <sup>th</sup> -17	KY	Battle of Munfordville	Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	MINN	Battle of Wood Lake
Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	MD	Battle of South Mountain	Sept 24 <sup>th</sup>	TEX	Battle of Sabine Pass
Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	MD	Battle of Antietam	Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	MO	Battle of Newtonia

## **Dues Notice Reminder**

If you have not paid your dues as of yet, please make an effort to get them in as soon as possible. We understand the mix up, however, they are now considered late, so please get them in as soon as possible!



At our last Camp Meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>, Adam Pantaze gave an informative presentation on the Mine Explosion and The Battle of The Crater during the siege of Petersburg.

## **Heart of Virginia**

Coming up on September 16<sup>th</sup> our camp will host two booths at The Heart of Virginia Festival in Farmville. One booth was a living history booth while the other will be our usual informational and sales booth. I hope to see you there representing our camp and True History!

## **State Fair of Virginia**

I have signed up to work in the Virginia SCV booth at the State Fair on September 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-5:30. I am looking forward to doing this and representing our camp!

## **Lee buys Traveller**

### *1st hand account*

“In view of the fact that great interest is felt in the monument about to be erected to General Lee, and that many are desirous that his war-horse should be represented in the monument, and as I once owned this horse, I herewith give you some items respecting this now famous war-horse, Traveller.

“He was raised by Mr. Johnston, near the Blue Sulphur Springs, in Greenbrier County, Virginia (now West Virginia); was of the ‘ Gray Eagle’ stock, and, as a colt, took the first premium under the name of ‘Jeff Davis’ at the Lewisburg fairs for each of the years 1859 and 1860. He was four years old in the spring of 1861. When the Wise legion was encamped on Sewell Mountain, opposing the advance of the Federal Army under

Rosecranz, in the fall of 1861, I was major to the Third regiment of infantry in that legion, and my brother, Captain Joseph M. Broun, was quartermaster to the same regiment.

“I authorized my brother to purchase a good serviceable horse of the best Greenbrier stock for our use during the war.

“After much inquiry and search he came across the horse above mentioned, and I purchased him for \$175 (gold value), in the fall of 1861, from Captain James W. Johnston, son of the Mr. Johnston first above mentioned. When the Wise legion was encamped about Meadow Bluff and Big Sewell mountains, I rode this horse, which was then greatly admired in camp for his rapid, springy walk, his high spirit, bold carriage, and muscular strength. “When General Lee took command of the Wise legion and Floyd brigade that were encamped at and near Big Sewell Mountains, in the fall of 1861, he first saw this horse, and took a great fancy to it. He called it his colt and said that he would use it before the war was over. Whenever the General saw my brother on this horse he had something pleasant to say to him about ‘my colt,’ as he designated this horse. As the winter approached, the climate in the West Virginia mountains caused Rosecranz’s army to abandon its position on Big Sewell and retreat westward. General Lee was thereupon ordered to South Carolina. The Third regiment of the Wise legion was subsequently detached from the army in Western Virginia and ordered to the South Carolina coast, where it was known as the Sixtieth Virginia regiment, under Colonel Starke. Upon seeing my brother on this horse near Pocotalipo, in South Carolina, General Lee at once recognized the horse, and again inquired of him pleasantly about ‘his colt.’

“My brother then offered him the horse as a gift, which the General promptly declined, and at the same time remarked: ‘If you willingly sell me the horse, I will gladly use it for a week or so to learn its qualities.’ Thereupon my brother had the horse sent to General Lee’s stable. In about a week the horse was returned to my brother, with a note from General Lee stating that the animal suited him, but that he could no longer use so valuable a horse in such times, unless it was his own; that if he (my brother) would not sell, please to keep the horse, with many thanks. This was in February 1862. At that time, I was in Virginia, on the sick list from a long and severe attack of camp fever, contracted in the campaign on Big Sewell Mountains. My brother wrote to me of General Lee’s desire to have the horse, and asked me what he should do. I replied at once: ‘If he will not accept it, then sell it to him at what it cost me.’ He then sold the horse to



General Lee for \$200 in currency, the sum of \$25 having been added by General Lee to the price I paid for the horse in September 1861, to make up the depreciation in our currency from September 1861, to February, 1862.”

“In 1868 General Lee wrote to my brother, stating that this horse had survived the war—was known as ‘Traveller’ (spelling the word with a double l in good English style), and asking for its pedigree, which was obtained, as above mentioned, and sent by my brother to General Lee.”

Traveller (1857–1871) was Confederate General Robert E. Lee's most famous horse during the American Civil War. He was a gray American Saddlebred of 16 hands (64 inches, 163 cm), notable for speed, strength and courage in combat. Lee acquired him in February 1862 and rode him in many battles. Traveller outlived Lee by only a few months and had to be put down when he contracted untreatable tetanus.

### **Birth and war service**

Traveller, sired by notable racehorse Grey Eagle and originally named Jeff Davis, was born to Flora in 1857 near the Blue Sulphur Springs, in Greenbrier County, Virginia in present-day West Virginia and was first owned and raised by James W. Johnston. Traveller was trained by Frank Winfield Page, a young, enslaved boy. An American Saddlebred, Traveller was of Grey Eagle stock; as a colt, he took the first prize at the Lewisburg, Virginia fairs in 1859 and 1860. As an adult he was a sturdy horse, 16 hands (64 inches, 163 cm) high and 1,100 pounds (500 kg), iron gray in color with black point coloration, a long mane and a flowing tail. He was next owned by Captain Joseph M. Broun and renamed Greenbrier.

In the spring of 1861, a year before achieving fame as a Confederate general, Robert E. Lee was commanding a small force in western Virginia. The quartermaster of the 3rd Regiment, Wise Legion, Captain Joseph M. Broun, was directed to "purchase a good serviceable horse of the best Greenbrier stock for our use during the war." Broun purchased the horse for \$175 (approximately \$4,545 in 2008) from Andrew Johnston's son, Captain James W. Johnston, and named him Greenbrier. Major Thomas L. Broun, Joseph's brother recalled that Greenbrier:

*... was greatly admired in camp for his rapid, springy walk, his high spirit, bold carriage, and muscular strength. He needed neither whip nor spur, and would walk his five or six miles an hour over the rough mountain roads of Western Virginia with his rider sitting firmly in the saddle and holding him in check by a tight rein, such vim and eagerness did he manifest to go right ahead so soon as he was mounted.*

—Major Thomas L. Broun

General Lee took a great fancy to the horse. He called him his "colt" and predicted to Broun that he would use it before the war was over. After Lee was transferred to South Carolina, Joseph Broun sold the horse to him for \$200 in February 1862. Lee named the horse "Traveller".

Lee described his horse in a letter in response to his wife's cousin, Markie Williams, who wished to paint a portrait of Traveller:

If I was an artist like you, I would draw a true picture of Traveller; representing his fine proportions, muscular figure, deep chest, short back, strong haunches, flat legs, small head, broad forehead, delicate ears, quick eye, small feet, and black mane and tail. Such a picture would inspire a poet, whose genius could then depict his worth, and describe his endurance of toil, hunger, thirst, heat and cold; and the dangers and suffering through which he has passed. He could dilate upon his sagacity and affection, and his invariable response to every wish of his rider. He might even imagine his thoughts through the long night-marches and days of the battle through which he has passed. But I am no artist Markie and can therefore only say he is a Confederate gray.

—Robert E. Lee, letter to Markie Williams

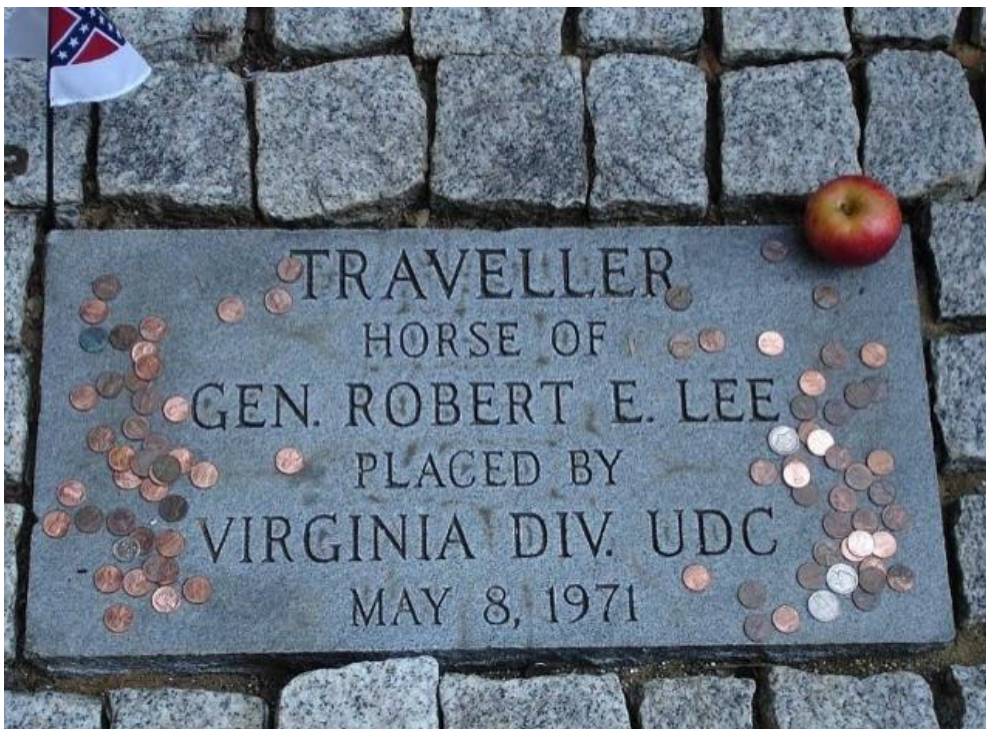
Traveller was a horse of great stamina and was usually a good horse for an officer in battle because he was difficult to frighten. He could sometimes become nervous and spirited, however. At the Second Battle of Bull Run, while General Lee was at the front reconnoitering, dismounted and holding Traveller by the bridle, the horse became frightened at some movement of the enemy and, plunging, pulled Lee down on a stump, breaking both of his hands. Lee went through the remainder of that campaign chiefly in an ambulance. When he rode on horseback, a courier rode in front leading his horse.

After the war, Traveller accompanied Lee to Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. He lost many hairs from his tail to admirers (veterans and college students) who wanted a souvenir of the famous horse and his general. Lee wrote to his daughter Mildred Childe Lee that "the boys are plucking out his tail, and he is presenting the appearance of a plucked chicken."

### **Death and burials**

In 1870, during Robert E. Lee's funeral procession, Traveller was led behind the caisson bearing the general's casket, his saddle, and bridle draped with black crepe. Not long after Lee's death, in 1871, Traveller stepped on a nail and developed tetanus. There was no cure, and he was shot to relieve his suffering.

### **Traveller's grave at University Chapel, Washington and Lee University**



Traveller was initially buried behind the main buildings of the college, but was unearthed by persons unknown and his bones were bleached for exhibition in Rochester, New York, in 1875/1876. In 1907, Richmond journalist Joseph Bryan paid to have the bones mounted and returned to the college, named Washington and Lee University since Lee's death, and they were displayed in the Brooks Museum in what is now Robinson Hall. The skeleton was periodically vandalized there by students who carved their initials in it for good luck. In 1929, the bones were moved to the museum in the basement of the University Chapel, where they stood for 30 years, deteriorating with exposure.

Finally in 1971, Traveller's remains were buried in a wooden box encased in concrete next to the chapel on the

Washington and Lee campus, a few feet away from the Lee family crypt inside, where his master's body rests. The stable where he lived his last days, directly connected to the Lee House on campus, traditionally stands with its doors left open; this is said to allow his spirit to wander freely. The 24th President of Washington and Lee (and thus a recent resident of Lee House), Thomas Burish, caught strong criticism from many members of the Washington and Lee community for closing the stable gates in violation of this tradition. Burish later had the doors to the gates repainted in a dark green color, which he referred to in campus newspapers as "Traveller Green".

The now-defunct base newspaper of the United States Army's Fort Lee, located in Petersburg, Virginia, was named Traveller.

As was reported, the leadership at Washington & Lee removed this Marker placed by the UDC and replaced it with one that only depicted only Traveller's name. A further act of dis-respect on the part of the leadership of a once great institution.

### **"One of the Boys" – Sourced from the Strasburg News, Volume 20, Number 27, November 1903**

The magnanimity of General Robert E. Lee is well known, but the daily manifestation of it are not yet all told. One notable case has. It is believed, never before has it appeared in print.

General Lee was sitting on the veranda of his Lexington home one afternoon engaged in conversation with some friends when a man, ill clothed and covered with dust, appeared at the gate and timidly beckoned to the general.

Apologizing to his friends, Lee rose at once and went to the gate. Very soon his purse appeared, and he was seen to give the man some money.

His friends, knowing the extent of his charity in any case of suffering, real or apparent, looked on with some impatience, for they knew how slender his means were then and how many calls of the same kind came to him.

"General, who was that?" one of them ventured when he had returned to his place.

"One of our boys in trouble," was the half smiling answer, for the general knew the remonstrance which his friend was going to make.

"What regiment and company did he belong to?" Persisted the friend, anxious, if possible, to unearth the suspected fraud.

"Oh, he—he fought on the other side," was General Lee's calm answer.

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

I have been unable to make up my mind to raise my hand against my native state, my relations, my children & my home. I have therefore resigned my commission in the Army and never desire again to draw my sword save in defense of my state.

— **Robert E. Lee, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1861**, in a Letter to his cousin, John Rogers



## **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

**September 16<sup>th</sup> Heart of Virginia Festival, Farmville, Va.** We will have two booths, one for information and sales, one for our Living History display.....Setup starts at 7:00am

**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.

**October 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting

**November 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting, Presenter Greg Eanes will talk on Heritage of Honor, Holiday Banquet

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