

# The Gray Line News



High Bridge



## High Bridge Camp #1581

March 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 COMMENTS:

Dear Compatriots,

If you missed it, we had the privilege of inducting 3 new members (Bill, William, and James Courter) in February at the site of their ancestor’s antebellum home and resting place. Inducting new members is always exciting but sometimes in the excitement we don’t take time to listen to the words that are said.

Below is an excerpt from that ceremony:

“...The Confederate soldier won the admiration of the world by his courageous fight against an enemy overwhelming in numbers, equipment and implements of war. With few exceptions they were volunteers who fought for principles of government in which they believed. Although defeated, they left us traditions of faith in God, honor, chivalry, and respect for womanhood. They left us a passionate belief in freedom for the individual. Our Confederate ancestors bequeathed to us a military tradition of valor, patriotism, devotion to duty and a spirit of self-sacrifice. When our nation no longer admires and pays tribute to these traditions, we will no longer remain a free nation...”

I hope everyone continues to stand proud in their heritage and that we never let the ignorance of others get us down. We know who we are, what we stand for and may we always pay tribute to these traditions.

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

## Battles in March 1862

Mar. 6-8<sup>th</sup> .....AK.....Battle of Pea Ridge

Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> .....VA.....Battle of Kernstown

Mar. 8-9<sup>th</sup> .....VA.....Battle of Hampton Roads

Mar. 23-Apr. 26th...NC.....Battle of Fort Macon

Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> .....NC.....Battle of New Bern

Mar. 26-28<sup>th</sup> .....NM.....Battle of Glorieta Pass

## **OUR CAMP'S 31<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY!!!!!!!!!!**

Our meeting on Thursday evening March 23<sup>rd</sup> marks the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our camp. The actual anniversary date is March 4<sup>th</sup> where the camp was originally chartered. The first meeting was held at Sonny's Café near where Chick-fil-a now stands. We would love to pack the house for this special event...and ask that everyone come in full Period dress for this meeting if possible! We hope to load the next newsletter with Photos!

## **Welcome NEW Members!**



On Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> a group of us met to honor and accept three new members into our Camp, Billy Courter, James Courter and William Courter III. Their ancestor, William F. Jackson, who served in The First Virginia Cavalry, Company B & Company G during the war is buried at The Jackson Family Cemetery in Jetersville, VA. We honored them on this day by giving a 21-gun salute for their service and swearing his ancestors into our camp. Please welcome them at our next meeting!



## **Cemetery Cleanup**

Trey Capps used his Mobile Power Washer to clean the sidewalk at The Farmville Confederate Cemetery. The results, as you can see from the before and after photos, were outstanding!



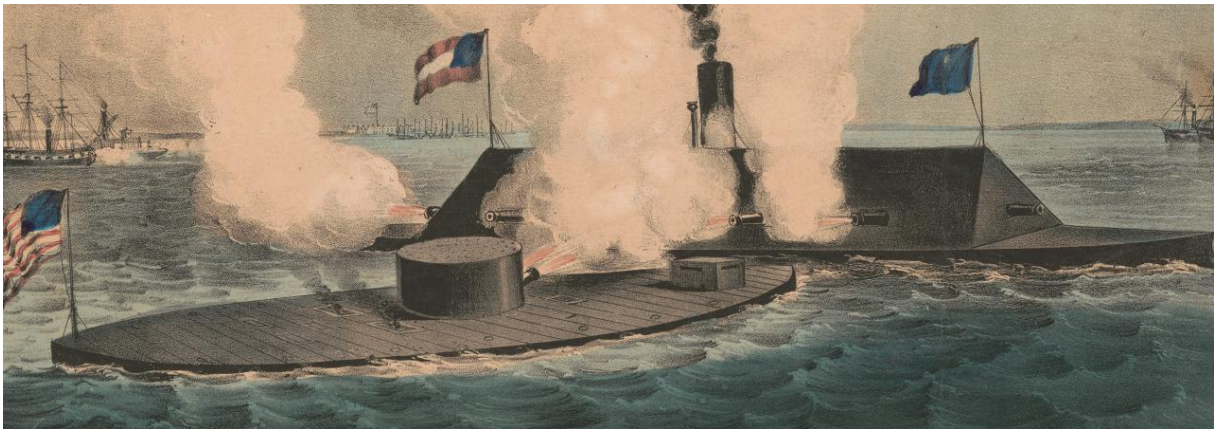
## The Battle of The Monitor & The Merrimac

Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack, also called Battle of Hampton Roads, (March 9, 1862), in the American Civil War, naval engagement at Hampton Roads, Virginia, a harbor at the mouth of the James River, notable as history's first duel between ironclad warships and the beginning of a new era of naval warfare.

The Northern-built Merrimack, a conventional steam frigate, had been salvaged by the Confederates from the Norfolk navy yard and rechristened the Virginia. With her upper hull cut away and armored with iron, this 263-foot masterpiece of improvisation resembled, according to one contemporary source, "a floating barn roof." Commanded by Commodore Franklin Buchanan and supported by several other Confederate vessels, the Virginia virtually decimated a Union fleet of wooden warships off Newport News, Virginia, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, destroying the sloop Cumberland and the 50-gun frigate Congress while the frigate Minnesota ran aground.

The Union ironclad Monitor, under the command of Lieutenant John Worden, arrived the same night. This 172-foot "Yankee Cheese Box on a raft," with its water-level decks and armored revolving gun turret, represented an entirely new concept of naval design. Thus, the stage was set for the dramatic naval battle of March 9, with crowds of Union and Confederate supporters watching from the decks of nearby vessels and the shores on either side. Soon after 8:00 AM the Virginia opened fire on the Minnesota, and the Monitor appeared. They passed back and forth on opposite courses. Both crews lacked training; firing was ineffective. The Monitor could fire only once in seven or eight minutes but was faster and more maneuverable than her larger opponent. After additional action and reloading, the Monitor's pilothouse was hit, driving iron splinters into Worden's eyes. The ship sheered into shallow water, and the Virginia, concluding that the enemy was disabled, turned again to attack the Minnesota. But her officers reported low ammunition, a leak in the bow, and difficulty in keeping up steam. At about 12:30 PM the Virginia headed for its navy yard; the battle was over.

The Virginia's spectacular success on March 8 had not only marked an end to the day of wooden navies but had also thrilled the South and raised the false hope that the Union blockade might be broken. The subsequent battle between the two ironclads was generally interpreted as a victory for the Monitor, however, and produced feelings of combined relief and exultation in the North. While the battle was indecisive, it is difficult to exaggerate the profound effect on morale that was produced in both regions.



The two ironclads faced off once more, on April 11, 1862, but did not engage, neither being willing to fight on the other's terms. The Union side wanted the encounter to take place in the open sea. The *Virginia*, on the other hand, tried unsuccessfully to lure the Monitor into another battle in Hampton Roads harbor.

Following the seizure of Norfolk by the Union forces, the strength and power of the *Monitor* and her now famous Ericsson turret was needed further south. On December 29, 1862, she left Hampton Roads, along with

the aid of a tug, the side-wheeler frigate USS *Rhode Island*. All was well until New Year's Eve when they were off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C. The waves grew and the wind howled. With each pitch and roll, shock waves ravaged the crew and the hull of the little ship. Leaks developed, flooding the engines and reducing steam pressure needed for propulsion. The crew tried using pumps and even bailing with buckets, but the distress was too great. The "Monitor Boys" raised the signal of distress, a red lantern, and the *Rhode Island* deployed their lifeboats to rescue the crew. The turret was the only escape hatch from below and as the men attempted dashing across the deck many of them were swept into the unknown by the treacherous waves. In the end, 16 of the men onboard the *Monitor* never met the year of 1863. The wreck of the *Monitor* was located in 1973, and in 2002 marine salvagers raised the ship's gun turret and other artifacts from the wreckage.



## HAM SEAY

HAM SEAY had a hemorrhage that morning, a hemorrhage from the lungs. But Ham Seay had the fastest horse in the company, and he knew how to ride a horse for all that was in him achievement.

When the news came that General Stuart wanted to communicate as quickly as possible with the Commander at Fredericksburg, Ham Seay volunteered to carry the message.

"But you're ill," said Stuart.

"That doesn't matter," said Ham.

"I can ride my horse, and my horse is a good one."

"But you're ill," said Stuart again. "And I don't want to send an ill man on such a journey as this."

Then Ham Seay rose in the majesty of his manhood and said, "General, I am a doomed man. I cannot live long to render service in this war. I want to carry this message. It will do me no further harm. It will not shorten the last few days I have yet to live. It will make my life worth something.

So, Stuart gave him the message to a general fifty miles away.

Ham Seay mounted, and said to his comrades: " Good-bye, boys. I may never see you again; but I'll do this errand all right or die trying."

He rode his horse with urgency, but with discretion. He had but one object in view, and that was to get the message to its destination in the briefest possible number of hours.

He delivered his communication and died half an hour afterwards. His horse had died before Ham did. But both had done their duty.

## Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

“I would never advise any young man to enter the Army. He is cut off from all hope of preferment. He performs all the tedium and drudgery of the Service, and no matter how well he may have performed his duties and prepared himself for the Service, as soon as the opportunity occurs for which he has been preparing, waiting and laboring, a set of worthless ignorant, political aspirations or rouses, are put over his head, who in spite of themselves, he has to lug on his shoulders to victory”.

— **Robert E. Lee**, 1848 in a Letter to his brother, Sydney Smith Lee



**Our Camp PROUDLY Supports The  
Virginia Flaggers and The United  
Daughters of The Confederacy.**



## Upcoming Meetings and Events:

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting with Tracy Clary speaking about the Sam Davis Christian Youth Camp.....**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR VIRGINIA FLAGGERS TO ASSIST IN EXPENSES FOR PRICE EDWARD CONFEDERATE FLAG DEFENSE**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am** Roadside Cleanup Saylor's Creek Road, Meet at Marshall's Crossroads Rain Date 4/1

**April 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>** – Old Brunswick Camp 512 and J. E. B. Stuart Camp 1343 are honored to jointly host the 2023 Virginia Division Convention at The Inn at Blackstone in Blackstone, Virginia April 21, 22, 23.

**April 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting

**May 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting

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