

The Gray Line News



High Bridge



High Bridge Camp # 1581

January 8th, 2023

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp Commander: Whit Morris

1st LT. Commander: Chris Burks

2nd LT Commander: Don Reynolds

3rd LT. Commander: Zach Morris

Treasurer: Shane Newcombe

Adjutant: Russell Easter

Chaplain: David Easter

Quartermaster: Tom Haake



"DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE"



Happy New Year
2023

COMMANDERS COMMENTS:

Happy New Year compatriots,

Welcome to 2023! I hope each of you had wonderful Christmas, were able to spend time with your families and hopefully get recharged for the coming year. I was fortunate enough to take some time off from work and during that time I was able to reflect on my blessings and thank God for the precious gift He gave us. I pondered how long it would be before somebody tries to tell us how wrong it is to celebrate Christmas, and that doing so is forcing your beliefs on others. What if "they" banned Christmas, what if "they" said you couldn't celebrate it? What would you do?

I hope that never happens but if it did, I think I know what most of us would do. The same thing we did when those politically correct people said we could no longer celebrate Lee/Jackson Day. And no, as much as I adore the memories of Lee and Jackson, I am not putting them on the same level as Jesus! I am simply making the point; nobody can tell us who or what we can honor, and I am proud to stand with those who understand it's about honoring those patriots who took a stand for their beliefs. I hope you will join us for the Lee/Jackson celebration in Lexington. However, if you can't, I hope you have the courage to proudly celebrate it in your own way.

Deo Vin dice
Whit Morris

"All the South has ever desired was that the Union, as established by our forefathers, should be preserved, and that the government as originally organized should be administered in purity and truth"
Robert E. Lee

Battles of January 1862

Jan. 3.....VA.....Battle of Cockpit Point
Jan. 5-6.....MD.....Battle of Hancock
Jan. 8.....MI.....Battle of Roan's Tan Yard

Jan. 10.....KY.....Battle of Middle Creek
Jan. 19.....KY.....Battle of Mill Springs



LEE JACKSON DAY Lexington, Virginia

On Saturday, January 14th our camp will again participate and sponsor the Lee Jackson Day festivities in Lexington Virginia, as of right now we plan on meeting at the Bojangles in Farmville at 6:30 am for a quick biscuit and cup of coffee, and then caravan to Lexington. The events of the day include a Memorial Service at the cemetery at 10:00, the parade at 11:15, and the luncheon following at the Hampton Inn. Our Camp will place a wreath on Stonewall Jackson's grave during the Memorial Ceremony. Final details will be issued by e-mail.

WREATHES ACROSS AMERICA

Our Camp was a Sponsor for the December 17th Laying of Wreaths ceremony at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Rice, Virginia. One of our members was also a sponsor, and one of our former members was a Memoir. They had the Cumberland County High School Jr ROTC Color Guard present the colors. The Ceremonial wreaths, pictured below were presented for each branch of the service. The main Sponsor of this event was the Judith Randolph-Longwood Chapter of the Daughters of the Revelation who made a presentation at one of our past Camp Meetings. The service was nicely presented, and several groups were involved in the placement of wreaths across the cemetery.



BLACK CONFEDERATES

Our last month's presentation by Col. Greg Eanes covered this topic very thoroughly. Here are a few additional tidbits and facts on the subject.

Why haven't we heard more about them? National Park Service historian, Ed Bearrs, stated, "I don't want to call it a conspiracy to ignore the role of Blacks both above and below the Mason-Dixon line, but it was definitely a tendency, which began around 1910." Historian, Erwin L. Jordan, Jr., calls it a "cover-up" which started back in 1865. He writes, "During my research, I came across instances where Black men stated they were soldiers, but you can plainly see where 'soldier' is crossed out and 'body servant' inserted, or 'teamster' on pension applications." Another black historian, Roland Young, says he is not surprised that blacks fought. He explains that "...some, if not most, Black southerners would support their country" and that by doing so they were "demonstrating it's possible to hate the system of slavery and love one's country." This is the very same reaction that most African Americans showed during the American Revolution, where they fought for the colonies, even though the British offered them freedom if they fought for them.

It has been estimated that over 65,000 Southern blacks were in the Confederate ranks. Over 13,000 of these, "saw the elephant" also known as meeting the enemy in combat. These Black Confederates included both slave and free. The Confederate Congress did not approve blacks to be officially enlisted as soldiers (except as musicians), until late in the war. But in the ranks it was a different story. Many Confederate officers did not obey the mandates of politicians, they frequently enlisted blacks with the simple criteria; "Will you fight?" Historian Ervin Jordan explains that "biracial units" were frequently organized "by local Confederate and State militia Commanders in response to immediate threats in the form of Union raids...". Dr. Leonard Haynes, an African American professor at Southern University, stated, "When you eliminate the black Confederate soldier, you've eliminated the history of the South."

1. The "Richmond Howitzers" were partially manned by black militiamen. They saw action at 1st Manassas (or 1st Battle of Bull Run) where they operated battery no. 2. In addition, two black "regiments", one free and one slave, participated in the battle on behalf of the South. "Many colored people were killed in the action", recorded John Parker, a former slave.
2. At least one Black Confederate was a non-commissioned officer. James Washington, Co. D 34th Texas Cavalry, "Terrell's Texas Cavalry" became its 3rd Sergeant. In comparison, the highest-ranking Black Union soldier during the war was a Sergeant Major.
3. Free black musicians, cooks, soldiers, and teamsters earned the same pay as white confederate privates. This was not the case in the Union army where blacks did not receive equal pay. At the Confederate Buffalo Forge in Rockbridge County, Virginia, skilled black workers "earned on average three times the wages of white Confederate soldiers and more than most Confederate army officers (\$350-\$600 a year).
4. Dr. Lewis Steiner, Chief Inspector of the United States Sanitary Commission while observing Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson's occupation of Frederick, Maryland, in 1862: "Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number.

These Confederate troops were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only in cast-off or captured United States uniforms, but in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. These were shabby, but not shabbier or seedier than those worn by white men in the rebel ranks. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie-knives, dirks, etc., and were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army."

5. Frederick Douglas reported, "There are at the present moment many Colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but real soldiers, having musket on their

shoulders, and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down any loyal troops and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government and build up that of the rebels.”

6. Black and white militiamen returned heavy fire on Union troops at the Battle of Griswoldsville (near Macon, GA). Approximately 600 boys and elderly men were killed in this skirmish.
7. In 1864, President Jefferson Davis approved a plan that proposed the emancipation of slaves, in return for the official recognition of the Confederacy by Britain and France. France showed interest but Britain refused.
8. The Jackson Battalion included two companies of black soldiers. They saw combat at Petersburg under Col. Shipp. “My men acted with utmost promptness and goodwill...Allow me to state sir that they behaved in an extraordinary acceptable manner.”
9. Recently the National Park Service, with a recent discovery, recognized that blacks were asked to help defend the city of Petersburg, Virginia and were offered their freedom if they did so. Regardless of their official classification, black Americans performed support functions that in today’s army many would be classified as official military service. The successes of white Confederate troops in battle, could only have been achieved with the support these loyal black Southerners.
10. Confederate General John B. Gordon (Army of Northern Virginia) reported that all of his troops were in favor of Colored troops and that its adoption would have “greatly encouraged the army”. Gen. Lee was anxious to receive regiments of black soldiers. The Richmond Sentinel reported on 24 Mar 1864, “None...will deny that our servants are more worthy of respect than the motley hordes, which come against us.” “Bad faith [to black Confederates] must be avoided as an indelible dishonor.”
11. In March 1865, Judah P. Benjamin, Confederate Secretary of State, promised freedom for blacks that served from the State of Virginia. Authority for this was finally received from the State of Virginia and on April 1st, 1865, \$100 bounties were offered to black soldiers. Benjamin exclaimed, “Let us say to every Negro who wants to go into the ranks, go and fight, and you are free...Fight for your masters and you shall have your freedom.” Confederate Officers were ordered to treat them humanely and protect them from “injustice and oppression”.
12. A quota was set for 300,000 black soldiers for the Confederate States Colored Troops. 83% of Richmond’s male slave population volunteered for duty. A special ball was held in Richmond to raise money for uniforms for these men. Before Richmond fell, black Confederates in gray uniforms drilled in the streets. Due to the war ending, it is believed only companies or squads of these troops ever saw any action. Many more black soldiers fought for the North, but that difference was simply a difference because the North instituted this progressive policy more soon than the more conservative South. Black soldiers from both sides received discrimination from whites that opposed the concept.
13. Union General U.S. Grant in Feb 1865, ordered the capture of “all the Negro men... before the enemy can put them in their ranks.” Frederick Douglas warned Lincoln that unless slaves were guaranteed freedom (those in Union controlled areas were still slaves) and land bounties, “they would take up arms for the rebels”.

14. On April 4, 1865 (Amelia County, VA), a Confederate supply train was exclusively manned and guarded by black Infantry. When attacked by Federal Cavalry, they stood their ground and fought off the charge, but on the second charge they were overwhelmed. These soldiers are believed to be from "Major Turner's" Confederate command.
15. A Black Confederate, George _____, when captured by Federals was bribed to desert to the other side. He defiantly spoke, "Sir, you want me to desert, and I ain't no deserter. Down South, deserters disgrace their families, and I am never going to do that."
16. Former slave, Horace King, accumulated great wealth as a contractor to the Confederate Navy. He was also an expert engineer and became known as the "Bridge builder of the Confederacy." One of his bridges was burned in a Yankee raid. His home was pillaged by Union troops, as his wife pleaded for mercy.
17. As of Feb. 1865 1,150, black seamen served in the Confederate Navy. One of these was among the last Confederates to surrender, aboard the CSS Shenandoah, six months after the war ended. This surrender took place in England.
18. Nearly 180,000 Black Southerners, from Virginia alone, provided logistical support for the Confederate military. Many were highly skilled workers. These included a wide range of jobs: nurses, military engineers, teamsters, ordnance department workers, brakemen, firemen, harness makers, blacksmiths, wagonmakers, boatmen, mechanics, wheelwrights, etc. In the 1920'S Confederate pensions were finally allowed to those workers that were still living. Many thousands more served in other Confederate States.
19. During the early 1900's, many members of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) advocated awarding former slaves' rural acreage and a home. There was hope that justice could be given those slaves that were once promised "forty acres and a mule" but never received any. In the 1913 Confederate Veteran magazine published by the UCV, it was printed that this plan "If not Democratic, it is [the] Confederate" thing to do. There was much gratitude toward former slaves, which "thousands were loyal, to the last degree", now living with total poverty of the big cities. Unfortunately, their proposal fell on deaf ears on Capitol Hill.
20. During the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913, arrangements were made for a joint reunion of Union and Confederate veterans. The commission in charge of the event made sure they had enough accommodations for the black Union veterans but were completely surprised when unexpected black Confederates arrived. The white Confederates immediately welcomed their old comrades, gave them one of their tents, and "saw to their every need". Nearly every Confederate reunion including those blacks that served with them, wearing the gray.
21. The first military monument in the US Capitol that honors an African American soldier is the Confederate monument at Arlington National cemetery. The monument was designed 1914 by Moses Ezekiel, a Jewish Confederate, who wanted to correctly portray the "racial makeup" in the Confederate Army. A black Confederate soldier is depicted marching in step with white Confederate soldiers. Also

shown is one “white soldier giving his child to a black woman for protection”. – Source: Edward Smith, African American professor at the American University, Washington DC.

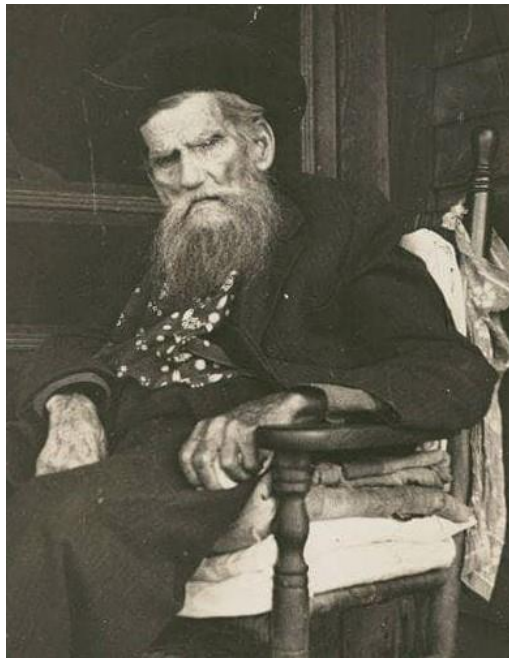
22. Black Confederate heritage is beginning to receive the attention it deserves. For instance, Terri Williams, a black journalist for the Suffolk “Virginia Pilot” newspaper, writes: “I’ve had to re-examine my feelings toward the [Confederate] flag...It started when I read a newspaper article about an elderly black man whose ancestor worked with the Confederate forces. The man spoke with pride about his family member’s contribution to the cause, was photographed with the [Confederate] flag draped over his lap...that’s why I now have no definite stand on just what the flag symbolizes, because it no longer is their history, or my history, but our history.”

The Old Man Who Whistled Dixie

It must have been about the year 2055 when I met the old man, and even now some 30 years later, I try to remember the strange melody he was whistling. I was gravity belting through a high-rise neighborhood in Highland County, about 150 floors up, when I passed a little balcony and heard the tune. I looked over and there was the old man. He was just sitting, rocking, and whistling.

Well, music is a hobby of mine, so I coasted over and hovered by the balcony. But when he saw me he stopped whistling and froze. His faded blue eyes contemplated me with evident mistrust.

That’s all right, I said, please continue. I like the tune you were whistling. What tune he asked, with a look of feigned puzzlement

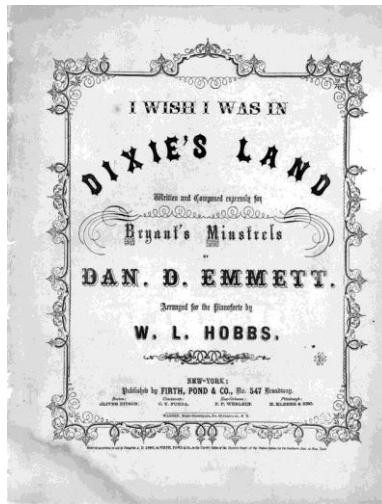


The one you were whistling, I said. It was catchy, I liked it. You from the FBI? CIA? HEW? ACLU? He asked, suspiciously. SDS?

I **ASSURED** him that I wasn’t, and at length he invited me to come in and sit down. Like most older folks, he was lonely and, once convinced I meant no harm, he wanted to talk. Finally, he whistled the tune again, in its entirety.

It’s called ‘DIXIE’, son. At any rate it was. I am sure you never heard of it before, he said. Dix-ie?? I repeated, no, how come?

It's a long story. I guess it started about close to 200 years ago, when the song was written. A man named Daniel Emmett wrote it for kind of a stage performance called a minstrel show, and the lyrics said that life was pretty good in the southern United States, and it had the jaunty tune you heard me whistling. When the War between the States started, 'Dixie' became sort of the National Anthem for the Confederates, but the Northerners liked it too, and even wrote their own words for it. President Abraham Lincoln was also very fond of the song.



Of course, that was more than a century before the period of enlightenment of the 1960's and 1970's. In our innocence we hadn't realized that 'Dixie' was a racist slur. Once that was made clear, of course most bands stopped playing 'Dixie.'

There were a few holdouts. High School and collage bands in Richmond, Roanoke, and Lynchburg banned 'Dixie' from their repertoires, but a few bands in Central Virginia continued playing it at football games. They were not very enlightened and clung to the untenable position that because it was a great song, and because the majority loved it and attached no racial significance to it, then there shouldn't be anything wrong with playing it. That was the grossest kind of error, of course.

I was playing mellophone in a high school band in 1971 when Congress passed legislation outlawing 'Dixie' altogether. We were the last organization in Virginia to still be playing it, and I can tell you we were plenty disappointed. We had a lead Trumpeter named Charley Jeter who could play the heck out of 'Dixie,' and he would just not give it up. He was hooked on 'Dixie.' The rest of us did not want any trouble with the Federal Government, so we quit playing it. But Charley would just march along by himself, soloing 'Dixie' on that old Trumpet. It wasn't long before the Feds caught him. He was convicted of playing 'Dixie' all right and sent up.

The punishment was specified by the 1971 law. A first offender was locked in a special studio for 24 hours. Two whole walls of the studio were nothing but stereo speckers, from which without letup came a recording of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir singing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," amplified 400 times. During the punishment, a prisoner was force fed 60 pounds of Fried Chicken, over cooked turnip greens, corn bread and one of the lesser colas.



After 24 hours of that, you'd think Charley Jeter would have had enough. But three weeks later, at half time during homecoming, he ran out on the field by himself and just marched around playing 'Dixie.' So, the Feds grabbed him again. In a couple of weeks, he had been tried and convicted again and was back in stir. For the second offence, the punishment was far more severe. They threw you in the same studio, but this time they played a soul version of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" by Aretha Franklin and Mahalia Jackson amplified 600 times. Seven watermelons were added to the prisoner's diet.

That put the fear of the Lord into Charley, and he was pretty dazed when he got out. But he was still game, and he was on the verge of playing 'Dixie' at a south side Political Rally when he learned what the punishment for three-time losers was: the same setup, except the Feds would bring in Janis Joplin (in person) to sing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" for 24 hours. Charley got the shakes, and his embouchure failed him. He never played 'Dixie' again.

As it was, it soon would have become impossible anyway, because right after they got the voting age down, they passed the 47th amendment which made unconstitutional any instrument other than amplified drums and electric guitars. Charley couldn't play any of those. The Old Man paused.....

For years, I put 'Dixie' out of my mind, but now that I am 106 years old I just don't give a damn anymore. So, I have taken to sitting up here and whistling 'Dixie' he said.

The Old Man's story seemed the product of senile confusion. Yet I kept trying to recall the strange melody he called 'Dixie' and failing. I went back a month later with a recorder, but he was dead. I could find no historical reference to the song anywhere and ultimately decided he must have made up both the song and the story. I'll give him credit though..... it was such a pretty tune!

This was actually printed in The Richmond Times Dispatch with special permission from the Commonwealth Magazine years ago and saved by my mom..... I discovered/found it when going through things she had saved.....



I thought it would be appropriate to close off this first Newsletter of 2023 with the charge of Lt. General Steven Dill Lee, pictured above, to the Sons of Confederate Veterans in 1906.....*To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.*

Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

In this enlightened age there are few I believe, but what will acknowledge, that slavery as an institution, is a moral & political evil in any Country. It is useless to expatiate on its disadvantages. I think it however a greater evil to the white man than to the black race, & while my feelings are strongly enlisted on behalf of the later, my sympathies are more strong for the former

— **Robert E. Lee**, 1856 in a Letter to his wife, Mary Custis Lee

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

January 14th - Lee-Jackson Day: Parade & Service in Lexington, VA Final details will be sent via e-mail

Jan. 26th, 2023– 7:00 pm Charley’s Café: Camp Meeting & Election of Officers

Feb. 23rd - 7:00 pm Charley’s Café: Camp Meeting: Travis Toombs giving a presentation on the Confederate flag

March 23rd 7:00 pm Charley’s Café: Camp Meeting with Tracy Clary speaking about the Sam Davis Christian Youth camp

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