

The Gray Line News



High Bridge



High Bridge Camp #1581

May 2023

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: 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,

Wow, what an eventful Confederate History and Heritage month. Thanks to everyone who helped celebrate and educate a largely ignorant public about the heritage that helps define us all.

This May marks 160 years since the Confederacy lost one of its greatest heroes and most influential figures, General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson (wounded at Chancellorsville 5/2/1863 and crossed over the river on 5/10/1863). We are all familiar with his military accomplishments, and how his loss devastated the south for the rest of the war. But to me what made him such a legend, and one of my personal heroes, was his dogged determination to stay true to his beliefs. He never wavered, never doubted, and never missed a chance to stand up for what he believed.

Today's heroes are often sports figures, musicians, or movie stars. They are famous for their accomplishments but are often morally and spiritually corrupt, with a "look out for number 1" mentality. Oh, how I miss the days when we looked up to people because of their character. If only a small percentage of us had the courage and faith to stand up for beliefs like the general, we could change this world for the better!

"You may be whatever you resolve to be." Quote by Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

Battles in April 1862

May 5th ...VA.....Battle of Williamsburg
 May 7thVABattle of Eltham's Landing
 May 8th ...VA.... Battle of McDowell
 May 15th ...VA....Battle of Drewry's Bluff
 May 15th-17th ...WVA....Battle of Princeton CH

May 23rdVA.....Battle of Front Royal
 May 25thVA...1st Battle of Winchester
 May 27thVA.....Battle of Hanover CH
 May 31-June 1st ...VA.....Battle of Seven Pines

Our Camp Receives Outstanding Camp Award for 2023!!

Pictured below, Our Camp's First LT. Commander, Chris Burks, proudly receives the Outstanding Camp Award presented by Anthony (Tony) Griffin, Commander of The Virginia Division of The SCV for 2023. This is an annual award presented to camps that increase the membership, and the reputation of the organization by completing specific goals as set forth by the Outstanding Camp Awards committee. It takes all of us together, Attending Meetings, Supporting Events and showing up to make this happen for our Camp!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



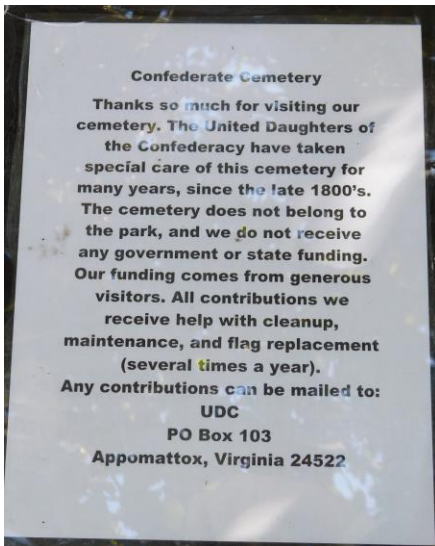
Camp Tee Shirts



We are in the process of ordering Camp Tee Shirts from Custom Ink. These are quality Hanes Tee Shirts, crew neck, Light Steel in color. The design is the SCV Logo over the left Breast in Three Colors. On the back is a two-color Photo of High Bridge, the same one at the top of the front page of this Newsletter. The cost per shirt

is \$19.81 per shirt. Some changes were made from the handout shown at the meeting. We must have a minimum order of thirty shirts. At the meeting we have commitments for nineteen shirts, so before an order can be placed we need at least eleven more. Sizes range from small to 3XXL. If you would like to add your name and get some shirts, I need your name, size wanted, and quantity of shirts desired as soon as possible. You can bring payment to Amelia Days, or no later than the next meeting. I will have to pay for these out of my own pocket when I order, so I ask that you plan to get the money to me ASAP. You can get this information to me by replying to the e-mail newsletter or by giving me a call on my cell (703-498-1215).

UDC Memorial Service Appomattox, Virginia



On April 2nd, our camp participated in the Memorial Service sponsored by The UDC Chapter 11 at the Confederate Cemetery in Appomattox. It was a beautiful service and wreaths were placed by many including our camp. Flags were placed on the graves, along with roses. An honor guard rifle salute was performed along with a cannon salute.





The Battle of Seven Pines

The Battle of Seven Pines (also called the Battle of Fair Oaks, Battle of Fair Oaks Station) was fought on May 31st to June 1st, 1862, in Henrico County, Virginia.

At this point in the Civil War, Seven Pines was one of the bloodiest battles of the war, second to the Battle of Shiloh which had occurred eight weeks prior. It would also lay the foundation for the Confederates to be able to push the Union back North.

The Battle of Seven Pines was fought by the Union Army of the Potomac under **Major General George B. McClellan** and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia commanded by **General Joseph E. Johnston**.

Part of the Union's Peninsula Campaign, the Battle of Seven Pines was the Army of the Potomac's attempt to try and take the Confederate capital of Richmond; the Confederates sought to defend the city from the Northern offensive. There was no conclusive victor of the battle as neither side accomplished anything significant.

As the Union moved into a position less than seven miles from the Confederate capital of Richmond, they were preparing to launch an assault to take the city and, potentially, cripple the Confederacy. Knowing the Confederate force would be easily overwhelmed if they engaged the Union army head on, Confederate General Johnston planned a counteroffensive against the two farthest forward Union divisions.

The commanders of the two Union detachments, Brigadier Generals Keyes and Heintzelman, had moved their men to the crossroads of Seven Pines. Heavy rains muddied the roads and swelled the Chickahominy River, cutting off the two Union divisions from the remainder of the Union army, leaving them open to attack from the Confederate forces.

The battle was launched on the morning of May 31st, 1862, but it was haphazard and fraught with mismanagement on both sides and without a clear victor. The fighting itself began hours late and only after one of the Confederate commanders, Major General Hill, grew exasperated with the delay.

With bad weather, misplaced troops, separated divisions, rickety and collapsing bridges, and McClellan being bed ridden due to a chronic malaria flare up, the Union was open to attack and unable to reinforce their units easily despite their advantages of having more men, artillery, and air balloons.

The Confederate Army did not fare any better: Johnston was delayed in starting his assault, Huger did not know when to launch the offensive, Smith was sick, and Longstreet inadvertently brought his men up the wrong road and had to backtrack to make it to the battle. General Johnston was near the fighting but could not figure out exactly where the battle was taking place.

General Johnston would not be involved in the fighting until about three hours into the battle, which was already delayed by the late start, due to a miscommunication with his forces and would later be wounded and removed from the field.

The Confederate assault began with a charge led by Hill's division on the open Union units and did successfully push back Brigadier General Keyes and his Federal IV Corps, causing heavy casualties on the Union side.

The 100th and 81st New York battalions were overpowered, and Brigadier General Casey's inexperienced but fearsome troops were unable to hold the line against the rebel forces and driven back into a retreat. The Confederates called for reinforcements due to their own losses but were not given many at first, primarily due to issues in the field.

The Union forces were eventually able to bolster their own line and establish a solid position with the arrival of the III Corps under Brigadier General Sickles and Brigadier General Sedgwick's division of the II Corps as the Southern army reinforced their own side with more men, who slowly joined the fray.

The fighting continued for hours until nightfall with scattered skirmishes across the grounds and reinforcements filling in as they were able where they could; Johnston was wounded and pulled from the field as dusk fell.

The Confederates, led now by Major General Gustavus W. Smith, were sent out in the morning to attempt a second assault on June 1st but could not gain any ground against the Union. Smith faltered through his decision making and the Union stood their ground. By 11:30am in the morning, the attack was called off and the battle ended.

The fighting at Seven Pines lasted from Saturday May 31st until Sunday June 1st, 1862. It was supposed to have begun on the early morning of May 31st but due to miscommunication, bad weather, and mismanagement, the offensive Johnston had planned to launch against the Union did not begin until about 1pm when Hill attacked Casey's division.

The battle went on into the evening, quieting down with the arrival of nightfall. The conflict was reignited around 6:45am with the Confederates resuming their attack on the Federal position. The fighting on the second day was not as long but nonetheless brutal with casualties falling on both sides, continuing until around 11:30am when the exhausted Confederates called off the assault and the fatigued Union troops slumped into their defenses.

There was no conclusive victor in the Battle of Seven Pines. Both the Confederate Army and the Union Army proclaimed victory for their corresponding sides but neither side had successfully achieved any major objective or had overwhelming casualties comparatively.

After the battle of Seven Pines General Robert E. Lee, was given command of the Army of Northern Virginia, he helped lead to the successes of the Confederacy at the Seven Day Battles in the summer of 1862 and skirmishes pushed the Union back and away from Richmond. The Union would not get this close to Richmond again until the very end of the war in April 1865.

The total number of casualties of the Battle of Seven Pines was 11,165. While the numbers favored the Union with fewer dead and wounded, both the Confederate and Federal armies dealt with heavy losses suffered through their respective divisions that were felt throughout both armies.

The Battle of Seven Pines was an important battle of the Civil War for multiple reasons.

- First: It was an inconclusive battle with neither side successfully taking any great amount of ground nor accomplishing any goal.
- Second: It was the closest the Union would get to taking Richmond and they would not get as close as they did until the end of the war in 1865.
- Third: It would be the beginning of the end for the Peninsula campaign due to its inability to successfully undermine, destroy, or cripple the Confederacy.
- Fourth: It was also how General Robert E. Lee would be named the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia and lead to a shift in power for the military arm of the Confederacy.

Under Robert E. Lee, the Confederates were able to effectively push the Union back beyond the borders of Richmond and then further beyond the James River after the Seven Days Battles in the summer of 1862.

Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

There is no more dangerous experiment than that of undertaking to be one thing before a man's face and another behind his back. We should live and act and say nothing to injure of anyone. It is not only best as a matter of principle, but it is the path to peace and honor.

— **Robert E. Lee, April 5th, 1852**, in a Letter to his son, Custis Lee

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

May 13th 8:00 setup..... Amelia Days Details to follow via e-mail.

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

May 29th Memorial Day: 8:00am Flag Placement at Westview Cemetery Farmville, VA

May 29th Memorial Day: 11:00am Ceremony @ Confederate Cemetery Farmville, VA

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

July 20th 7:00pm @ Charley's Café: Camp Meeting

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