

# The Gray Line News



High Bridge



## High Bridge Camp #1581

August 2024

## 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: 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,

As I sit here in my air-conditioned office writing this, the “feels like” temperature is supposed to reach 110 today and the news is warning us about how dangerous these temperatures can be. What would it take for you to put on wool clothes, carry over a 50 lb. backpack. and walk for miles on a day like today (and by the way, you only have a canteen of warm creek water to drink)? Would you do it to support something that had little or nothing to do with your life? The re-writers of history would have us believe that hundreds of thousands of men, most of whom didn’t own a slave, were fighting for slavery.

That just doesn’t make sense. However, I think most of us would gladly walk through hell to protect our families and defend our homes from foreign invaders. Common sense has gone completely out the window!

I am proud to be part of a group that remembers and honors those who willing to stand up in defense of their homes and freedoms.

Deo Vindice

Whit Morris

“I have fought against the people of the North because I believe they were seeking to wrest from the South its dearest right. But I have never cherished toward them bitter or vindictive feelings, and I have never seen the day when I did not pray for them.”

Gen Robert E. Lee

### Battles in August 1863

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> -Sept 9<sup>th</sup> SC Battle of Fort Sumpter 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 21<sup>st</sup> TENN Battle of Chattanooga 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> -Sept 7<sup>th</sup> SC Battle of Charleston Harbor 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> KS Battle of Lawrence Quantrill’s Raid

## The State Fair of Virginia 2024

This year the Virginia SCV will again have its booth located in one of the buildings at the State Fair of Virginia September 27<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>. Along with Dan & Judah Johnson, I will be working with them at their booth on October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2-6pm. Should you attend the fair on this day, be sure to stop by and give us a shout!

## Sam Davis Youth Christian Camp

The Sam Davis Youth Christian camp was held the last week of June, and our camp sponsored our member Judah Johnson to attend. We also had Mathew Morris attend as a camp counselor. Here are a few photos from the camp.



## Thought for Today.....

If your SCV camp closed, or disbanded, **would your community notice?** Are you a **"meet, eat and retreat"** member, or are you regularly and faithfully supporting the activities of the camp?

Are you a complainer or are you seeking ways to support your group, volunteering for positions, attending meetings, writing Confederate heritage defense letters or e-mails to elected officials, helping with camp meetings, supporting fellow members in their business's, etc., or are you a **"Why aren't THEY doing anything" member?**

No, everyone can't do everything in a camp, but **everyone can do something, to forward "The Charge"!**

Ask not what your SCV camp can do for you..... **but ask what you can do for your SCV camp.**

We are the voice for the voiceless, our ancestors and their comrades. Don't let the only sound the public and fellow SCV members hear from you is the silence of inactivity or the poison of complaining. Speak up, use your voice, **be part of the team,** we get stronger when we all are heard and working together.

## **Make your ancestor proud!**

### Gettysburg Presentation Part I

We had a very good presentation which was part one of a three month series on The Battle of Gettysburg. On the left Adam Pantaze gave the introduction to the three part series and on the right Pete Pennington, Commander of the Charlotte County Grays, who gave the main program. The stage is set, and coming at our next meeting is Part II.



## **DUES**

If I may, let me take a moment to talk about our camp dues. First off, let me say the camp understands, and so do I, that many received no renewal, or an incorrect statement. We are trying to get that corrected with the Virginia SCV who is responsible for sending them out.

It seems for some reason I have become (not by choice) involved in this process. Since I have been a member, it has been a mess for one reason or another to get them collected or even sent out properly. This year, I received in the mail the first notice for dues I have ever received, all years prior I have never received a notice. We are aware that some were sent with incorrect information, and we have notified the Virginia SCV as to corrections on each and every one. Some have paid in cash; some have paid with checks. Some have sent or given the incorrect amount in their payment. Many have not included the payment sheet because of not receiving one, with your payment, or it was misplaced.

Let me address the issues. If you don't return the payment sheet, then Shane has to look up your information and then recreate one to submit your dues. That is a requirement from National that for each payment, a dues notice has to be submitted. When paying by cash in an envelope in hand, or by mail, it is a little dangerous. While we trust all of our members, things do happen. What record do you have of payment? Please take the time to ensure the correct amount is sent/submitted with your payment. We certainly don't want to have to call, text, or e-mail about incorrect payment information. I can tell you; the leadership of the camp is as frustrated as you and are discussing what we can do to make this process flow easier next year. We have worn out the ears of many with the Virginia SCV over this process and are considering our options for next year.

Thank you to the many members that have sent in, on time, their payments, or paid at our meetings. We understand the frustration and are trying hard to fix the solution with the powers that be.

## **Lone Pine Roadside Memorial Flag Installation**

Our Camp participated and assisted The Charlotte County Grays installing a Memorial Flag in Burkeville, Virginia on Long Pine Road. We were part of the Musket Salute and Canon Salute on site on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## THE PROBLEM WITH SHOES DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Most of the men who fought for the Union or the Confederacy were foot soldiers and the most painful deficiency they faced was marching with poor shoes (called brogans) or no shoes.

A brogan is an ankle-length, lace-up shoe/boot hybrid; it is too tall to be a shoe and too short to be considered a boot. The brogan shoe was the most common type of shoe worn by soldiers during the Civil War.



"Posterity will scarcely believe," declared the Daily Richmond Dispatch in October of 1862, that "terrible marches and desperate battles [were] made by men, one-fourth of whom were totally barefooted."

My great-great-grandfather who fought with Co. B of the 6th Arkansas Infantry, Govan's Brigade, Cleburne's Division, C.S.A. years later told stories of the war to his little granddaughter (my grandmother) that during the war he was barefoot most of the time even during the winter, marching through snow with no covering on his feet.

The standard army shoe at the outset of hostilities was low-cut and lightweight, with wide soles of cheap leather. Some shoes were shapeless and could be worn on either foot. By one account, their life expectancy was about a month.

Not only were many shoes of poor quality; they were often a poor fit. A Louisiana private recalled instances when "No. 6 shoes were gravely provided for No. 10 feet." The reverse was usually the case. A Pennsylvanian found new shoes "much too large in every war. They are wide enough to contain both of my feet."

Soldiers called the clunkers they wore "gunboats" and "pontoons," among other epithets.

Long marches inevitably produced swollen, blistered, and infected feet from ill-fitting shoes. One of the war's classic quotations came from an unthinking private who, after a long march, wrote to his wife: "I am all right except [for] the doggoned blisters on my feet, and I hope these few lines find you enjoying the same blessings."



## The Experience of Time during the Civil War



This is actually a book review of "In Civil War Time" written by Cheryl Wells. It is fascinating to me that in the time of the war there was no centralization of actual time between the north and south, or anywhere in the country. Most towns and villages had a town clock in the square that tolled or rang on the hour. On farms they used the sun & moon and the star position at night. If you had a watch, it probably appeared like the one to the left and if you had a clock, it was either a wind up or gran-father style clock.

During the first half of the 19th century, Americans both North and South participated in multiple, and sometimes overlapping, systems of time. These included the natural time of the seasons, individual days, and weather; religious time, in which Sundays were set apart for church services, prayer, reflection, and a rest from work; personal time, which individuals could order as they wished; and clock time, which used mechanical devices to mark the hours and minutes.

In *Civil War Time: Temporality and Identity in America, 1861-1865*, historian Cheryl A. Wells, assistant professor of history at

the University of Wyoming, examines how these 19th century ideas of time were disrupted by the Civil War. Wells argues that the war, both on the front lines and away from the battles, threw antebellum systems of time into confusion and created something she calls battle time. Battle time, she argues, superseded and subordinated all other forms of time, and became a ruling time that created a temporal web within which soldiers fought, and whose effects rippled out to alter the clock, natural, personal, and religious times of soldiers, hospital workers, civilian men and women, and prisoners of war. In particular, battle time forced Civil War Americans to temporarily replace the modern, clock-based system of time they had been striving to develop with a more pre-modern, task-based time system. Wells divides her work into two sections. The first examines two major battles of the Civil War, the first battle at Manassas and the Gettysburg campaign to uncover the role that time played in the outcomes of those conflicts.

At Manassas, Federal leaders tried to impose a strict clock-based system of time on the army and its movements and forged a battle plan that depended on exact coordination between different parts of the Federal forces. During the battle, however, Wells explains that the multiple antebellum systems of time intruded onto the battlefield, disrupting the clock-timed battle plan, and producing a chaotic battle time that caused events to spin out of control. Green troops, for example, unused to military time, asserted their pre-war ownership of their personal time by falling out of the ranks at will to get water, hunt for berries, or sit down and rest, causing significant delays as units tried to maneuver into battle position. Natural darkness caused unplanned delays as well. Even clock time failed, as a uniform clock time was not asserted over individual commanders. Although Wells is careful to admit that factors such as an inability to identify the enemy because of similarities in Federal and Confederate uniforms greatly influenced the outcome of the battle, the lack of ability on the part of Federal leaders to impose a single, clock-based time on the battle resulted in a well-planned attack but, in the end, a disastrous failure.

At Gettysburg, Confederate commander Robert E. Lee, Wells argues, created many of his own problems by failing to impose a single time authoritatively over his subordinate commanders. Instead, Lee let them control time and determine when to engage their troops by issuing orders that left plenty of room for individual officers to identify what they felt to be the right moment to begin an attack. Lee also issued orders most often according to natural times, such as dawn, which further left considerable interpretational leeway in the hands of his officers. To confuse matters further, if Lee did issue an order with a clock time attached to it, not all his officers had watches set to the same time. With orders such as these, Wells explains that different geography, topography, and personal opinions resulted in uncoordinated battle operations.

As with her analysis of Manassas, Wells does not ignore the other factors that contributed to the battle's outcome, but does assert that all of these conflicting times caused the Confederate forces to lose valuable time and even kept them from securing the high ground that could have helped them win the battle.

The battle at Gettysburg, though, disrupted the time systems of civilians in the town as well as the combatants on the battlefield. Battle time, Wells argues, proved disruptive to almost every aspect of civilian life while the battle raged. Storekeepers and workers were forced to abandon normally clock-based working hours as the town became filled with soldiers and shells ripped through buildings, causing people to shut up their homes and shops to either take cover in basements or flee the town altogether. Clock-based mealtimes were disrupted, sleep was grasped during lulls in the battle, and homes were turned into makeshift hospitals that required around-the-clock attention.

Battle time was beyond the control of individuals, both military and civilian, and claimed authority over all other times. The second half of the book deals with the effects of battle time on soldiers in camp, men, and women in hospitals, and on prisoner-of-war camps. In army encampments, the clock reigned as the supreme organizer of time, usually superseded only by God's time on Sundays. Both clock time and God's time, however, were subject to disruption by battle time. When a battle raged, or preparations for battle, such as marching, were necessary, battle time took over as the controlling factor. Battle time disrupted regular drill and leisure times and took precedence over God's time as well. Battles and marching, despite some people's protests, became commonplace on Sundays during the war, and religious services were always contingent upon battle time.

Similarly, in Civil War hospitals, clock time reigned, when possible, with doctors and nurses operating on a clock-based schedule of mealtimes and work. Patients, however, often needed care around the clock, disrupting normal sleep times and regulated care and putting nurses on a task-based time system. When a battle occurred,

clock time was disrupted even more severely, as patients arrived in droves and had to be tended to and organized as they arrived, without respect for time or schedule. During battle time, task-oriented activities drove both men and women's time, and Wells argues, produced a degendering of time that removed men's ability to order women's time in the hospitals as both responded to the individual tasks presented to them. Battle time, then, temporarily took temporal authority away from men.

Once the battle was over, though, men reasserted their control of both the clock and women's time. Battle time also altered the nature of Civil War prisons from that of their antebellum predecessors. Antebellum prisons were predicated on rehabilitating prisoners and teaching them habits of work and industry that would hopefully reform them into law-abiding citizens. During the war, prisons became, rather than sites of rehabilitation, holding areas for men captured in battle. While clock time, religious time, and personal time still operated in Civil War prisons, battle time was the ultimate ruling force, determining when prisoners arrived, how many new

additions had to be accommodated, and when they were released or exchanged.

After the Civil War, Wells argues, the hegemony of battle time disappeared, giving way to the antebellum forms of time within which people had operated.

Clock times, though, as they had been doing in the years leading up the Civil War, increasingly gained an edge as the country went down a path of modernization.

The war interrupted, but ultimately did not change, this path.

On November 18, 1883, the railroads of North America set a standard time for all trains to address the danger. Industrial America grew around the railroad time system. Factories operated on this standard time, developing punch clocks to monitor and schedule work. Time became more regulated, managed to the second at the hands of technology and the clocks that set it. The shift from an almost indeterminable time to the micromanagement we experience today happened gradually.



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

“I shall therefore have to accept battle if the enemy offers it, whether I wish to or not, and as the result is in the hands of the Sovereign Ruler of the universe and known to him only, I deem it prudent to make every arrangement in our power to meet any emergency that may arrive.

— Robert E. Lee, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863, in a letter to President Jefferson Davis.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting & Presentation by Travis Easter on Gettysburg

**August 24<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm Cannon Certification Class** held at camp member Marvin Busics house. Address is 18781 Poorhouse rd. Amelia Va. 23002 Details sent via e-mail.....

**Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 8:00 – 3:00 pm** Heart of Virginia Festival in Farmville, Virginia

**Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 11:30** Civil War Re-Enactment Saylor's Creek Battlefield Details to follow via e-mail.....

**Sept 21<sup>st</sup>** Virginia Flaggers Picnic Gordonsville, Virginia Gates open @ 9:30am

**Sept.26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm @Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting & Presentation by Adam Pantaze on Gettysburg

**October 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting

In accordance with title 17 U.S. C. Section 107, any copyrighted material published herein is distributed under fair use without profit or payment to those who are interested in receiving the provided information for nonprofit research and educational purposes only.