

The Gray Line News



High Bridge



High Bridge Camp #1581

July 2024

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: 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,

July, can you believe it? The year just keeps rolling on by. July marks 163 years since our country (countries) came to blows. I know Fort Sumter was in April, but the real fighting did not start until the battle of First Manassas in July of 1861 (battle Bull Run for any Yankees who may be reading this, silly Yankees don't they know that rivers and creeks cover great distances while towns and cities are in one place). The war was only predicted to last 90 days and many of great thinkers of the north thought it would be over in a single battle.

The battle, although a great victory for the south, is bitter-sweet for us. It marked the end of an innocence and the beginning of tragedies that on many levels continues even today. Although we are all one country now, and we also proudly celebrate our nation's independence this month, that dark war changed everyone on both sides. We stood up for our beliefs in 1776 and then again 1861. In today's world we are often outnumbered, and the odds seem against us as we struggle to defend our history and heritage, but as southerners, we know what a few determined people can accomplish. Never give up the fight, and never forget the heritage and values this country was founded on.

I hope everyone had a great Independence Day.

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

Battles in July 1863

July 1-2 nd	OK	Battle of Cabin Creek	July 16 th	SC	Battle of Grimble's Landing
July 1-3 rd	PA	Battle of Gettysburg	July 17 th	OK	Battle of Honey Springs
July 4 th	ARK	Battle of Helena	July 18 th	SC	Battle of Fort Wagner (2 nd)
July 6-16 th	MD	Battle of Williamsport	July 19 th	OH	Battle of Buffington Island
July 8 th	MD	Battle of Boonesboro	July 23 rd	VA	Battle of Manassas Gap
July 9 th	IN	Battle of Corydon	July 30 th	PA	Battle of Hanover
July 11 th	SC	Battle of Fort Wagner	July 24-25 th	ND	Battle of Big Mound
July 12-13 th	LA	Battle of Kock's Plantation	July 26 th	OH	Battle of Salineville

Scholarship Award Winner



Kyle Anderson, along with his parents attended our camp meeting June 27th and presented his Scholarship Award winning essay to the camp. He did a good job researching Amelia County's role in the war of Northern Aggression.

160th Anniversary of The Battle of Staunton River



Our Camp Participated in the 160th Anniversary of The Battle of Staunton River in Randolph, Virginia. Dan Johnson was in the color guard and Judah Johnson played taps at the event while Shane Newcombe worked in the food truck.

A Little history of the event. In June of 1864, Confederate General Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia were engaged in a desperate defense of the city of Petersburg, Virginia. Victory for Lee depended upon a steady flow of supplies from the west and south, via the South Side and Richmond & Danville railroads. Union General Ulysses S. Grant knew that if these supply lines could be destroyed, Lee would have to abandon Petersburg. To accomplish this, Grant planned a cavalry raid to tear up the tracks of both lines and destroy the Richmond & Danville railroad

bridge over the Staunton River. The raid began on June 22 and was led by Brigadier General James H. Wilson and Brigadier General August V. Kautz. They left Petersburg with over 5,000 cavalry troops and 16 pieces of artillery. As they moved west, the Union raiders were closely pursued by Confederate General W. H. F. "Rooney" Lee and his cavalry. Although Lee's troopers occasionally skirmished with the invaders, they were unable to stop their advance. Just south of Roanoke Station (present-day Randolph) was a long, covered railroad bridge over the Staunton River, Wilson's final objective. The bridge was defended by a battalion of 296 Confederate reserves under the leadership of Captain Benjamin Farinholt. On June 23rd, at 10 p.m., Captain Farinholt received word from General Robert E. Lee that a large detachment of enemy cavalry was moving in his direction to destroy the bridge and that he should "make every possible preparation immediately." Captain

Benjamin Farinholt: "By the trains at 12 o'clock that night, on the 23rd, I sent off orderlies with circulars, urging the citizens of Halifax, Charlotte, and Mecklenburg to assemble for the defense of the bridge, and ordering all local companies to report immediately... On Saturday morning, the 25th, about 10 o'clock, I received, citizens and soldiers inclusive, 642 re-enforcements. Of these about 150 were regulars, organized from different commands, my whole command numbered 938 men. Among those answering the call were old, gray haired, men bent from time spent plowing mules and hoeing tobacco; along with young boys, fair faced, still wet behind the ears, barely old enough to leave their mama's apron strings, who would become legendarily known as the 492 "old men and young boys". I am sure they were a sight to see, and war hardened soldiers probably shook their heads when they saw the shotguns, fouling guns, and squirrel rifles they held in their hands to defend the bridge.

Charged With Treason: The Plight of the Roswell Women

This is a follow-up to our recent Meeting Presentation and a big thanks to Ned May for finding this article and sending it to me.



In 1830, Roswell King passed through an area of what is now Roswell, Georgia, while on a trip to the northern part of this beautiful State. Inspired by the great potential for building cotton mills along Vickery Creek, King returned to Roswell in the mid 1830's to establish a mill that would soon become the largest in northern Georgia. As he set to work building a new and luxurious home for his family, and mills to support his endeavors, Roswell King could never have predicted that 25 years later, his mills would be burnt to the ground and further that the four hundred employed women would be kidnapped and sent against their wishes, to live in enemy territory. The Roswell Women have long been lost to the abandoned passageways of history, and this story is to give these women a voice to their tragic tale.

There are no personal accounts written by the women themselves, and for the most part their voices are still silent. But the evidence that is available is damning, and although the disappearance of the Roswell women is somewhat cloaked in mystery, it is easy to loop together the pieces of the puzzle that remain missing. At the time of the American Civil War, the four hundred women employed by the Roswell Mills were mostly of Scottish Irish descent. As the mill increased in production, so did the number of people living in the area, but once the war was in full swing, the leading families of Roswell fled in advance of Sherman's army, leaving the fate of the mills and their employees in the hands of Federal forces. Innocent civilians were left to fend for themselves and receive the entire brunt of Sherman's wrath and vengeance.

Looking for a way to get his army across the Chattahoochee and thus into Atlanta, on July 6, 1864, Sherman sent General Garrard back upstream with orders to capture Roswell. In Garrard's report to Sherman, he relayed that, "*there were fine factories here. I had the buildings burnt, all were burnt. The cotton factory was working up to the time of its destruction, some 400 women being employed.*" On July 7, 1864, Sherman wrote to General

Garrard, *“I repeat my orders, that you arrest all people, male and female, connected with those factories, no matter the clamor, and let them foot it under guard to Marietta, then I will send them by cars to the North.”* Thus, the Roswell women were charged with treason and deported from the only homes they had ever known. It has been suggested that the “Roswell Mills were a legitimate military target” and I must confess that I’m completely baffled by this theory. At the time of Sherman’s march to the sea, the town of Roswell was populated by women, children, and the elderly — 400 of these people worked in the Roswell Mills. The three mills produced cloth to make uniforms for the Confederate army and other military supplies such as rope, canvas, and tent cloth. These factories were not churning out weaponry etc. so I admittedly am hard pressed to understand how someone like General Sherman would have been threatened by a benign town such as Roswell, mostly populated by women. Factories employing women to weave cloth a military target? Where were the “illegal activities” taking place in the Roswell factories that required the town, populated by civilians, to be destroyed?

Since ‘legitimate military targets’ include factories producing arms and transport/communications equipment for the military, Roswell did not fall under this category, and it is considered a war crime to willfully attack anything that is not a ‘military target.’

At the time of Sherman’s march, the Roswell women had no choice but to work in the factories and in addition, they were forced to take their children with them. There’s no doubt that the mothers, in particular, would far rather have preferred to be elsewhere...tending to home and hearth. Instead, these women wove cloth to outfit their husbands, sweethearts, brothers, and fathers etc. and this they managed to do along with their responsibilities at home and to the community.



The Lieber Code of Conduct was introduced on April 24, 1863, and this was to form a code of civilized warfare which clearly stated that defenseless citizens were not to be attacked (including their personal property), or cities and towns plundered. It remains a mystery how General Sherman reconciled the attack on Roswell, and the deportation of 400 hundred innocent women, to a code of conduct that had been implemented a year prior. The women of the Roswell Mills and their children were kept in the open town square in the blistering heat of a Georgian July, before they were forced to march to Marietta. Roswell’s whiskey stores found their way into the hands of the Union guards and from that time on and during their escort to Marietta, the young girls of Roswell lived in a continual nightmare.

In 1860, forty per cent of the women living in Roswell were seventeen years old and younger. Therefore, at the time the Roswell Mills were burned to the ground, almost half of the population consisted of young girls on the cusp of womanhood. Along the way to Marietta, many of the women were forced to ride behind the cavalry men, which they hated. One Illinois soldier wrote home, "*The employees (Roswell Mills) were all women, and they were really good looking. We always felt that we had a perfect right to appropriate to our own use anything we needed for our comfort and convenience.*" One Union officer found it necessary to move his troops a mile away from the women in order to control his men.

A northern newspaper correspondent reported on the deportation of the Roswell women, "*Only think of it! Four hundred weeping and terrified Ellens, Susans, and Maggie's, transported in springless and seatless army wagons, away from their loves and brothers of the sunny South, and all for the offense of weaving tent-cloth.*"

The Roswell women suffered immensely during their long journey to Marietta and once they were deported their hardships continued. Some women did find employment in factories while others found themselves starving in the streets with their children. One newspaper published articles begging citizens (The Women Will Howl, M.D. Petite) to come to the aid of the Roswell refugees, while the governor of Indiana wrote to the Secretary of War, pleading for assistance and complaining of large numbers of destitute Southern refugees, living homeless in the streets. Other Roswell women died of disease, starvation, and exposure.

I wonder how many of the above women were forced into lives of degradation in order to survive, or how many bore children by Union soldiers as a result of their "escort" to Marietta?

Union Lt. Col. Jeremiah Jenkins, replying to a Columbia woman who accused him of making war on women and children, "*The women of the South kept the war alive and it's only by making them suffer that we can subdue the men.*" This may be the most revealing statement of Sherman's march to the sea.

From Marietta, the Roswell women were transported to Nashville and then to Louisville by the Western and Atlantic Railroad. A newspaper documented their arrival, "*The train which arrived at Louisville from Nashville last evening brought up from the South two hundred and forty-nine women and children, who are sent by order of General Sherman, to be transferred north of the Ohio River, there to remain during the war. We understand that there are now at Nashville, fifteen hundred women and children, who are in a destitute condition, and who are to be sent North. A number of them were engaged in the manufactories at Sweetwater at the time that place was captured by our forces.*"

Upon this news reaching the North, a New York newspaper wrote, "*It is hardly conceivable that an officer bearing a United States commission of Major General should have so far forgotten the commonest dictates of decency and humanity...as to drive four hundred penniless girls (some pregnant) hundreds of miles away from their homes and friends to seek their livelihood amid strange and hostile people. We repeat our earnest hope that further information may redeem the name of General Sherman and our own from this frightful disgrace.*" Sherman said that the women were "*tainted with treason and are as much governed by the rules of war as if in the ranks. The whole region was devoted to manufactories, but I will destroy every one of them.*"

It would appear that the women of Roswell were 'illegally deported' since they were not formally charged with their alleged crime of treason, as they arrived in Marietta. Since these women were not found guilty, they should have been returned to their homes, but instead, they were illegally deported to a strange, unwelcome, and terrifying environment. And two things I find very curious. Firstly, if the Roswell women were actual "prisoners of war," it's a strange brew that they were set loose to live and work in "enemy territory." Unless of course, these women were little more than harmless citizens who had been kidnapped from the only homes they'd known all their lives. Secondly, since every mill in Roswell had been burnt to the ground and the women had not been charged with any crime, why were they not allowed to return home? Was there a cover up that made it necessary for these women to be scattered as far North as possible?

When the war ended and soldiers came home, they found their communities destroyed and their relatives missing. One husband successfully located his wife in Louisville and brought her home, but his was an exception. Most of the returning Confederate soldiers died never knowing the whereabouts of their wives,

sisters, children, or cousins. I try to imagine the fate of those expatriated women, and how they and their children survived their ordeals.

Wayne Bagley of the Roswell Mills Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is related to Adeline Bagley Buice, a pregnant seamstress who was employed at the Roswell Mills while her husband was fighting for the Confederacy. Deported north with the other women, she went all the way to Chicago and here she stayed with her daughter before returning to Roswell on foot, five years later. But Adeline's husband, thinking her dead, had remarried. Her grave, in Forsyth County, is maintained with a special marker by the Sons of the Confederate Veterans.

Wayne Shelly's grandmother was a teenage mill worker, along with her mother and grandmother. All three were charged with treason and deported. The mother died on a train between Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee. The grandmother died on a steamship on the Ohio River, after being carried aboard in a rocking chair. Wayne Shelly's grandmother married a Confederate veteran in Louisville, Kentucky and together the two tried to make a new life in Indiana. However, the deportation had ruined the health of the young mill worker and a doctor advised that she would not live through another Indiana winter. The couple then moved South to Cartersville, Georgia.

What happened to the Roswell women is an important event of the American Civil War and should never be forgotten. These women had no choice, and in attempting to give them a voice I would not be so lofty to think that I could unfetter them from the truth of their experiences. But the plight of the Roswell women was important then, is relevant now, and it does matter.

Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

“There never were such men- - in any army before, and there never will be better in any army again. If properly led they will go anywhere and never falter at the work before them.”

— Robert E. Lee, May 21st, 1863, in a letter to William C. Rives.



Our Camp Supports The United Daughters of the Confederacy and The Virginia Flaggers



Upcoming Meetings and Events:

July 25th 7:00 pm @ Charley's Café: Camp Meeting & Presentation by Pete Pennington
Commander of Charlotte County Greys on the Gettysburg Campaign First of 3 Presentations

July 31st : DUES PAID AFTER THIS DATE ARE CONSIDERED LATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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

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

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