



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins
SCV Camp 1569
Volume XII Number XII December 2013**



Honoring the Gray

Camp Officers

Commander
Brad Blackmon
803-322-4674

1st Lt. Commander
Bucky Sutton
803-328-8732

2nd Lt. Commander
Jerry Brown
803-371-6237

Camp Adjutant
Chris Sims
803-981-7560

Chaplain
Larry Gregory
803-324-7438

Color Sergeant/
Quartermaster
Jack Morton
803-899-2587

Camp Historian
Jim Floyd
803-324-3532

Webmaster
Chris Brown
704-340-1944

Graves Registration
Ray Baker
803-329-2257

Honoring the Gray
Editor
Jerry Brown
803-371-6237

Communications
Jerry Brown
803-371-6237
scvcamp1569@yahoo.com
or
jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com

Micah Jenkins Camp Meeting Tuesday, December 10th 2013

**Regularly scheduled meeting will be at 7:00 PM at the
Mayflower Seafood Restaurant at 2124 Celanese Rd, Rock Hill, SC
Come early join the fellowship and eat.**

Creighton Loveless is our speaker for the December meeting. It is appropriate at this time of year that we have a preacher and devoted compatriot to tell us "Was The Confederacy Christian".

The Reverend Loveless is the minister at Danielstown Baptist Church, a compatriot of the Captain Moses Wood SCV Camp, and the author of the novel "It Could Happen to You".



1st Lt Commander's Comments

Christmas and the War

The Reverend Creighton Lovelace, a devoted compatriot of ours, will be our speaker at the December meeting to tell about Christmas during the War. Here are a few things I found out that he might not cover.

Christmas was not an official holiday until 1881 when President Ulysses S. Grant declared it an official holiday. He hoped the holiday would help to unite the North and the South. That was sixteen years after the end of the war.

Carols, hymns, and seasonal songs were sung during the period, such as "Deck the Halls", "Oh Come All Ye Faithful", and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing". They sang "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", "Jingle Bells", "We Three Kings of Orient Are" and "Up on the Housetop". Christmas cards were popular in Europe, but were generally not exchanged in our country.

Although there was a war going many Christmas traditions began in the 19th century, one of which was Santa Claus. Thomas Nast, cartoon artist, is credited with the first images of Santa Claus taken from his native German portrait of St. Nicholas.

We give and receive many gifts. Christmas for most of us is bounteous. But this was not so for our Southern ancestors during the war. So let's give thanks at this season, for their courage and determination, for their bravery, and for their sacrifices.

Bucky Sutton



Lowrys' Christmas Parade

The parade will be Saturday, December 21st at 1:00 pm. Please come early to help decorate the float.

Now is the time to prepare. For those that have attended before, you know you can not have too much candy. A five gallon bucket is a good start. Last year I brought two five gallon buckets and still ran out!!



Prayer Closet

- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. Continue to pray for our country. We are in very troubling times. The evening news is rarely about anything good.
- Please continue to keep Brad Blackmon's wife, Deborah to your prayer list.
- Please continue to keep Dan Sipe on your prayer list. Dan was able to be at November's meeting, but is still having back problems.
- Please add Lillian Wilson's family to your prayers. Lillian passed away Saturday, November 30th.
- Please keep Ray Baker on your prayer list. Ray is doing much better. He has lost a lot of weight and is on a strict special diet.
- Please keep Larry Gregory's 9 year old grandson to your list. While visiting the Grand Canyon with his family, he fell and broke his femur and had surgery to put in screws and plates.
- Please continue to pray for the SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

*Camp Chaplain,
Larry Gregory*

New Camp Officers for 2014 - 2015

Commander - Bucky Sutton
1st Lt Commander - Chip Adams
2nd Lt Commander - Jim Floyd
Camp Adjutant - Chris Sims
Chaplain - Mike Short
Color Sergeant/Quartermaster - Jack Morton
Camp Historian - Jim Floyd
Webmaster - Jerry Brown
Graves Registration - Ray Baker
Honoring the Gray Editor - Jerry Brown
Communications - Jerry Brown

Time Line December 1863

Dec 1st - In a letter to Jefferson Davis, Bragg admits that he (and Davis) erred in leaving him in command after Chickamauga.

Dec 2nd - Meade withdraws to north of the Rapidan, ending the brief Mine Run Campaign.

Dec 3rd - James Longstreet begins a two-day withdrawal from Knoxville to Greeneville following the Siege of Knoxville.

Dec 6th - William Tecumseh Sherman enters Knoxville, formally ending the siege.

Dec 8th - Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction offers a full pardon to any Southerner who participated in the rebellion as long as they took a "prescribed oath"

Dec 8th - Confederate senator Henry S. Foote of Mississippi severely criticizes President Jefferson Davis for both his military and civilian policies

Dec 9th - 14th the Battle of Bean's Station Federal forces probe Longstreet's lines near his winter camp. After several days of heavy skirmishing, Longstreet struck the Union line on Dec. 14, driving Brigadier General James Shackleford back about 1.5 miles before he made a stand. Union forces withdrew that evening.

Dec 9th - Ambrose Burnside is relieved of command (Department of the Ohio).

Dec 9th - Unhappy with proposals from the mint director, Salmon Chase recommends the words "In God We Trust" be added to the design of the new one, two and three-penny coins.

Dec 16th - Joe Johnston ordered to take command of the Army of Tennessee in Dalton, Georgia

Dec 22th - Leonidas Polk ordered to take command of the Army of Mississippi.

Dec 27th - Joe Johnston takes command of the Army of Tennessee in Dalton, Georgia

Famous Quotes

60,000 books written on the American Civil War and they are all summed up by one Confederate private when asked by his Captors, "why you fightin anyway?"

His reply, "I'm fightin because you're down here."...



Swallowing the Dog

In the South, the term "swallowing the dog" meant pledging allegiance to the United States.

For Confederate veterans, the term "swallowing the dog" meant being forced to repeatedly pledge allegiance to the United States whose military forces were occupying the Confederacy.

"It was the most despised word in the South. A few took it "as if it was nothing more than a Glass of Lemonade." Others refused as if it were arsenic. It forced people to reexamine their priorities: principles or bread? They reconsidered what it meant to give their word of honor. For loyal Confederates, it was likened to "swallowing the dog."

The Oath of Allegiance to the United States became a staple of the Confederate diet. In exchange for the privilege to vote, to transact business, to acquire rations, to perform marriage ceremonies, or even get married. Rebels were forced to gulp down their pride and utter these words: "I do solemnly swear that I hereby renounce all countenance, support and allegiance to the so-called Confederate States of America.

For a people left crushed and crippled, the requirement of the oath was like pouring salt into an open wound. "I think the exaction of this oath cannot be justified on any grounds whatever whether as of admonition and warning for the future or as punishment for the past," wrote Henry William Ravenel from South Carolina. "It is simply an arbitrary and tyrannical exercise of power."

The Western Democrat in Charlotte summed up the situation for most ex-Confederates. "Those who expect to follow any occupation in the country have no alternative but to take the oath."

No matter how many times they swallowed the dog, the taste was always foul, and compelling Southerners to swear allegiance over and over required great ingenuity. There was seemingly no end to the inducements Federals contrived to coerce the oath taking. In Columbus, Georgia, ladies were initially required to take the oath in order to receive their mail. Elsewhere in Georgia, letters were opened, in order to test the sincerity of Rebels who had taken the oath.

In the minds of Southerners, it was doubly insulting to exchange the oath for food. "It was most heart-rending," observed Cornelia Spencer, "to see daily crowds of country people, from three score and ten down to the unconscious infant carried in its mother's arms, coming into town to beg for food and shelter, to ask alms

continued on page 5

CofC Rite of Passage

Each year, our Children of the Confederacy take part in a Rite of Passage. This is the ceremony where our children who are aging out of CofC officially leave us and move to the SCV or the UDC. This is a wonderful ceremony that officially sends that young man or woman to the next step in their Confederate Heritage lives. By being a member of the Children of the Confederacy, they have been prepared. They have knowledge. They are faithful. They are ready.

This is part of that Ceremony:

We hope your many years of involvement with the Children of the Confederacy have shown you a rich heritage which will bring inspiration and courage for your entire life and an appreciation of the lessons of events and deeds of long ago. We pray that your lives may always be patterned to give such devotion and service, as did your forefathers to their great South land. Although you will be missed among the ranks of the Children, we wish you well as you progress to adulthood and become members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy or Sons of Confederate Veterans. We have two charges for you: First, always remember the words of Robert E Lee: "There is a true glory and true honor, the glory of duty done and the honor of integrity and principles." These are the principles for which our Confederate

forefathers fought with valor and the lessons you have been taught through the Children of the Confederacy. Our second charge is from Deuteronomy 4, verse 9: "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your Children and to their children after them." Keep these words ever near your hearts as you pursue your dreams.

Think about membership in a CofC Chapter so that your child, grandchild, nephew or niece is able to move from CofC on to membership in the SCV or UDC.

Consider this:

To be a Child of the Confederacy is to place your name on a Roll of Honor to our Confederate heritage, then, to be worthy of that heritage. This is the principle for which our Confederate forefathers fought with valor unequalled in the annals of history. This principle, Love of God-Love of Country, will never die unless we who are alive today permit it to die. No cause in the history of mankind ever evoked such sacrifice and patriotism as ours.

Please contact me regarding membership.
Judy McCardle, 803/493-6530, or at
mdm1@comporium.net.

SCV Camps Joined to Clean Blackstock Cemetery - Saturday, November 30th



Conscripts Verse...

“1-2-3 what are fightin for...
Don't ask me I don't give a damn...
The next stop is Alabam....”

Nearly 1/3 of Union Army soldiers were immigrants (7.5% were Irish; 10% were German). Other immigrant soldiers were French, Italian, Polish, English, and Scottish, some couldn't even speak English and I doubt many knew what they were fighting for. Approximately 1 in 10 were African American.

A verse from 'Song of the Conscripts'

”We're coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more
We leave our homes and firesides with bleeding hearts and sore
Since poverty has been our crime, we bow to thy decree;
We are the poor and have no wealth to purchase liberty.”

**Source: Flagel, Thomas R. 2010. The History Buff's Guide to the Civil War.
Naperville, IL: Cumberland House.**

Swallowing the Dog (continued)

from those who had despoiled them.” One poorly educated woman in this circumstance went to the local provost and inquired if she could draw rations. The officer asked if she would take the oath. “Thank you, sir,” said the lady, “there is my cart – please put it in that.”

Southerners were forced to swear the oath for spiritual food, as well. Even their God had been supplanted by a cold and distant Northern deity, at whose alter they resentfully laid sacrifices. At Richmond, ministers could not perform wedding ceremonies unless they had taken the oath. And couples could not marry without first swearing allegiance.

Given the situation, working in the ranks of the clergy became a high risk occupation. Reading of events unfolding in Missouri, Washingtonian William Owner was outraged that five Catholic priests were arrested and thrown into a cell “with burglars and a nigger ravisher.” Again, their only crime was refusing to swear the oath.

Like their Catholic counterparts, when Protestant preachers in Missouri failed to pray for Lincoln, they were arrested and their churches were closed. In various denominations, the hierarchy took it upon itself to discipline those clergymen in its ranks who had chosen the wrong side. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church met in Pittsburgh and passed a series of resolutions “practically upending all ... ministers until they had repented of the sin of rebellion.”

“As those in the South, almost to a man were strong supporters of the Confederacy,” explained a devout Tennessean, “this action declared every pulpit vacant and meant that the North had the right to take over our churches with their property.”

Having the oath forced upon them was not the only form of humiliation suffered by former Confederates. Most melancholy to Southerners was the

supplanting of their banner with the federal flag. “The saddest moment of my life,” recalled Myrta Avary, “was when I saw that Southern Cross dragged down and the Stars and Stripes run up ... I saw it torn down from the height where valor had kept it waving for so long and at such cost.”

“Never before,” added another woman, “had we realized how entirely our hearts had been turned away from that what was once our whole country, till we felt the bitterness aroused by the sight of that flag shaking out its red and white folds over us.” Throughout the South, many deeply offended widows crossed the street rather than pass under an American flag, draped over the sidewalk.

For returning Rebel soldiers, the order to remove or cover CSA buttons from their uniforms seemed to be rubbing their faces in defeat. Just how strictly these rules were enforced depended upon the fiat of each commanding officer. At New Orleans, Gen. Nathaniel Banks was in charge. Confederates believed that the officer from Massachusetts was particularly vindictive in peace because he had “never won a battle” in war and had been derisively tagged “Stonewall Jackson's Commissary.” Rebel soldiers in the city were not permitted to congregate in groups of three or more, and black troops were delegated to cut the buttons from their coats. “I saw squads of them dispersing gatherings of Confederates,” recalled a paroled prisoner, “and I saw coats from which the buttons had been cut.”

Thus, one by one, the victors took possession – body and soul – of the vanquished. Forced to swear loyalty to a hated enemy, their private thoughts censored, their public thoughts punished, the symbols of their nationhood outlawed, their religion and prayers policed – there seemed no haven or sacred ground.”

Posted on November 28, 2011 by Hunter Wallace

Foreign Soldiers in the American Civil War

The decades preceding the outbreak of the American Civil War witnessed an unprecedented influx of immigrants who sought security and opportunity in America. The overwhelming majority of these foreign born settled in the North and were especially attracted to urban areas or communities where their compatriots were already established. From 1820 to 1860 approximately four million people immigrated to the fledgling United States. The majority of these came from:

The German States (c. 500,000) particularly after the social and political upheaval of the 1848 revolution;

Ireland (c. 1,000,000) most as a result of economic hardships brought on by the infamous "Potato Famine";

England (c. 300,000) many of whom came from the depressed areas of Scotland and Wales.

German speaking elements

Immigration from the German speaking areas of Europe, including the as yet un-united German states, Austria, Switzerland, Alsace-Lorraine, etc. was particularly heavy prior to the Civil War, mainly because of economic and political troubles which culminated in the revolution of 1848. These new settlers had not had enough opportunity to become assimilated and retained their language and customs despite their intense loyalty and feelings for their new homeland.

The Germans, or "Dutch" as they were derisively called (Deutsche is the German word for "German," hence the confusion with the name for Hollanders) were resented by their native born neighbors, as are all new immigrant at the 1st Battle of Manassas (1st Bull Run).

McClellan granted Blenker permission to form a division of German regiments from the Army of the Potomac.

Blenker's German Division 1st Brigade: (Stahel) 8th, 39th, 45th N.Y., 27th Penn. 2nd Brigade: (Steinwehr) 29th, 54th, 68th N.Y., 73rd Penn. 3rd Brigade: (Bohlen) 41st, 58th N.Y., 74th, 75th Penn., 4th N.Y. Cavalry with Schirmer's, Wiedrich's, Sturmfels' Artillery batteries.

The Irish

Arriving in America mainly to escape social and economic deprivations in their homeland, the Irish flocked to our shores in the two decades preceding the Civil War. Settling for the most part in the urban centers of the North, they formed a most powerful minority. The Irish were to be found mostly in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and the urban areas of other Northern states. Although they spoke English, they were often the object of scorn and hatred from the native born population due to religious, cultural and class differences. In addition, the native born Americans feared they would form a cheap labor source and take away jobs.

Mention of the Irish in the Civil War brings immediate thought to the most celebrated Irish organization in the Union army, the Irish Brigade. Organized by Thomas Francis Meagher of New York, it was composed of the "Fighting 69th" New York Infantry Regiment (originally a militia unit), the 63rd, and 88th New York, the 28th Massachusetts and later the 116th Pennsylvania.

Other nationalities

Other groups which made significant communal efforts within the Federal armies also deserve to be mentioned. Though their numbers are small in relation to the Germans and Irish, they loyally answered the call to defend their adopted land.

French

The 55th New York Volunteer Infantry (the Lafayette Guard) organized by Count Philippe Rgis de Trobriand and composed of many French residents of New York, distinguished itself on the field of battle early in the war. Later it was consolidated with the 46th New York.

Italians

The 39th New York (the Garibaldi Guard) contained many Italians, but this unit was mostly German speaking and boasted a large and diverse contingent of ex-patriots from around the world.

Poles

The 58th New York (Pulaski Guard) contained many German speaking Poles from the Prussian and Austrian ruled sections of partitioned Poland. Its commander, Colonel Krzyzanowski, was a brigade commander of the XI Corps at Gettysburg.

Scandinavians

Large numbers of hearty Norwegians and Swedes had recently settled in the mid-West, particularly Wisconsin and Minnesota, prior to the Civil War. These Scandinavians answered the call to service and formed some ethnic units which served in the Western campaigns. Perhaps the most famous of these was the 15th Wisconsin, whose commander, Colonel Heg, died at Chickamauga.

Scottish

The famous 79th New York "Highlanders" was composed principally of men of Scottish birth. They sported kilts, bonnets, and were accompanied by the bagpipes, but at the battle of 1st Bull Run (1st Manassas) wore tartan "trews" (trousers) of the Cameron clan, to honor its Colonel. Though they did once mutiny, they later gave good service in action.

The number of ethnic regiments in the Union army is small compared to the vast number of units raised. But most immigrants scattered throughout the Northern states ended up joining their neighbors in local organizations, thus effectively bringing their contribution to an individual level indistinguishable from the American born majority.

Robert Emmett (or Emmet) Rodes (March 29, 1829 – September 19, 1864)

Robert Emmett Rodes was one of the youngest Confederate generals in the War, and the first of Lee's divisional commanders not trained at West Point. His division led Stonewall Jackson's devastating surprise-attack at Chancellorsville, and he was promoted major general by Stonewall on his deathbed. He then served under Ewell at Gettysburg and in the Overland campaign, before that corps was sent to the Shenandoah Valley under Jubal Early.

Rodes was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, and graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1848. He taught at VMI as an assistant professor until 1851; he left when a promotion he wanted to full professor was given instead to Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, who was years later to become one of his commanders during the Civil War.

Rodes used his civil engineering skills to become chief engineer for the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was chief engineer of the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad until the start of the war. Although born a Virginian, he chose to serve his adopted state of Alabama in the armed forces of the Confederate States of America.

Rodes started his Confederate service as a colonel in command of the 5th Alabama Infantry regiment, in the brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Richard S. Ewell, with which he first saw combat at the 1st Manassas. He was promoted to brigadier general on October 21, 1861, and commanded a brigade under Maj. Gen. D.H. Hill.

In the Peninsula Campaign, Rodes was wounded in the arm at the Battle of Seven Pines, and was subsequently assigned to light duty in the defenses of Richmond, Virginia, while he recuperated. He recovered in time for Gen. Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North, in September 1862, fighting at South Mountain and Sharpsburg. At Sharpsburg, he commanded one of two brigades that held out so long against the Union assault on the sunken road, or "Bloody Lane", at the center of the Confederate line, suffering heavy casualties. Rodes was lightly wounded by shell fragments.

In the Battle of Chancellorsville, Rodes was a division commander in Stonewall Jackson's corps. He was the first division-level commander in Lee's army who had not graduated from West Point. Rodes led Jackson's devastating flank attack against the Union XI Corps on May 2, 1863. He was temporarily placed in command of the corps that night when Jackson was mortally wounded and Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill was also wounded. Hill immediately summoned the more senior officer Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, and minutes later Rodes graciously ceded his battlefield command to him. Jackson on his deathbed recommended that Rodes be promoted to major general and this promotion be back-dated to be effective May 2.

When Lee reorganized the Army of Northern Virginia to compensate for the loss of Jackson, Rodes joined the Second Corps under Richard Ewell. In the Battle of Gettysburg, on July 1, 1863, Rodes led the assault from Oak Hill against the right flank of the Union I Corps. Although he successfully routed the division of Maj. Gen. John C. Robinson and drove it back through the town, the attack was not as well coordinated or pursued as aggressively as his reputation would have implied. His division sat idle for the remaining two days of the battle.

Rodes continued to fight with Ewell's corps through the 1864 Overland Campaign of Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Ewell was replaced by Lt. Gen. Jubal Early, and the corps was sent by Lee to the Shenandoah Valley to draw Union forces away from Petersburg, in the Valley Campaigns of 1864. Early conducted a long and successful raid down the Valley, into Maryland, and reached the outskirts of Washington, D.C., before turning back. Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan was sent by Grant to drive Early from the Valley once and for all.

On September 19, 1864, Sheridan attacked the Confederates at the Battle of Opequon, also known as the Third Battle of Winchester. Several wives of Confederate officers were chased from town during the attack and Rodes managed to save Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon's wife from capture. Rodes and Gordon prepared to attack Sheridan's forces when Rodes was struck in the back of his head by a Union shell fragment. He died on the field outside Winchester.

Rodes was mourned by the Confederacy as a promising, brave, and aggressive officer killed before he could achieve greatness. Robert E. Lee and other high-ranking officers wrote sympathetic statements. Rodes is buried beside his brother, Virginius Hudson Rodes, who had been his adjutant throughout the War, in Presbyterian Cemetery, Lynchburg, Virginia. He was survived by his wife, Virginia Hortense Woodruff (1833–1907), and two children, Robert Emmet Rodes, Jr. (1863–1925) and Bell Yancey Rodes (1865–1931).

Notes: Rodes's tombstone spells his middle name as "Emmet", as does the VMI website. The other Robert Emmett (or Emmet) Rodes references to this article spell it "Emmett". Collins, his most recent biographer, refers to discrepancies on the tombstone, which was erected years after his death. The name of the general's grandson, Lt. Col. Robert Emmet Rodes, indicates that the family supports that spelling of the name. A similar dispute relates to his date of birth, with the tombstone and VMI reporting March 30, the other references March 29, 1828.



BG Micah Jenkins Camp # 1569
4240 Mt Gallant Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732



Robert Emmett (or Emmet) Rodes (March 29, 1829 – September 19, 1864)