



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins
SCV Camp 1569**

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Honoring the Gray

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Micah Jenkins Camp Meeting Tuesday, January 13th 2015

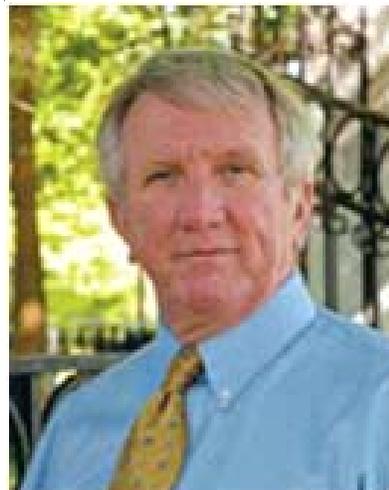
**Regularly scheduled meeting will be at 7:00 PM at the
Mayflower Seafood Restaurant at 2124 Celanese Rd, Rock Hill, SC
Come early join the fellowship and eat.**

Herbert Chambers our speaker for June will be returning in January. He will be discussing his progress on completing his biographies of South Carolina Confederate Veterans.

Herbert is a native South Carolinian whose families go back in SC and GA for 286 years. SCV member for 21 years; currently a member of Wade Hampton Camp 273 in Columbia. USC grad. Married to Susan; one daughter, two grandchildren and a son-in-law who live in Charlotte.

The books about to be published are titled "And Were the Glory of Their Times-Those Who Died for South Carolina in the War for Southern Independence." One volume is artillery; the other is cavalry. The infantry will be ready in about 18 months and will consist of several volumes. They list the soldiers in alphabetical order by company, then regiment or battalion, etc. A brief biography of each soldier is included in his entry. Researched for 18 years. He has found over 600 names in the artillery and over 500 names in the cavalry that have not been listed before in previous works, including "Broken Fortunes." The volumes include the known names as well as the new. He will have his latest book for sale.

Check his website at:
<http://www.gloryoftheirtimessc.com>



Commander's Comments

Happy New Year

Most of us make new year's resolutions. I used to make quite a few, but now I generally make just one or two. I do try to take them seriously and often write my resolutions on a small sheet of paper and tape it to my bathroom mirror so that I am reminded of them each morning.

This year I would like all of us to make a 2015 resolution for the SCV. Resolve to participate in just one event that our Camp sponsors. We just had a float in the Lowry's Christmas parade. It was fun and certainly brought positive attention to the SCV. Resolve to participate in our table at Brattonsville, the table at the York Fest event, or perhaps even attend either the Division or National Reunion. This year we will participate in a cemetery clean up.

Or perhaps you have an idea for some other way to show respect to our ancestors. We will spend a few minutes at our next meeting and explore those ideas.

Anyway, Happy New Year, and I wish you only the best for 2015!

Looking for Somewhere to Get Confederate Stuff?

If you are ever heading up hwy 81 in the Shenandoah Valley take exit 243, please stop in and visit Rex Miller in the Shenandoah Heritage Market. He has lots of Confederate items (including some books that are very hard to find). You can also check out his store on his website: www.ConfederateShop.com

Another place to visit, a little closer, is Dixie Republic. They boast to be: the South's Largest Confederate Store. They are located at: 1315 Hwy 25 N, Travelers Rest, SC. You can find out more about the store on their website: www.dixieoutpost.net or you can call them at: 864-834-7024.

Plan on stopping by when you are near either of these two Confederate stores.



Prayer Closet

- Please pray for the unspoken families that are having health and financial problems.
- Please pray, as well, for those unemployed and continually looking for employment.
- Please keep Jim Floyd to your prayer list. Jim recently fell while hunting and broke his femur.
- Please continue to keep Brad Blackmon's wife, Deborah, on your prayer list.
- Please continue to keep Ray Baker on your prayer list. Ray is doing much better, but still needs your prayers.
- A long time camp member, Howard Noe recently passed away. Please keep his wife Gayle and his family in your prayers.
- Please continue to keep Micky Parris on your prayer list. He falling issues are getting worse.
- Please continue to pray for the SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. Continue to pray for our country.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

*Camp Chaplain,
Mike Short*

From the Chaplain

Please send your Prayer Requests to our Camp Chaplain, Mike Short. Mike can be contacted by phone (803-547-5446) or by email (cmshort@comporium.net).

**Visit the Micah Jenkins Camp website at:
<http://bgmicahjenkins.org/>**

Time Line January 1865

Jan 11th – At the Battle of Beverly, WV, General Thomas L. Rosser in command of some 300 Confederates attacked the Federal force stationed there.

Jan 12th - Francis P. Blair arrives in Richmond, Virginia with a proposal for a peace conference.

Jan 13th -15th – At the attack on Fort Fisher Admiral David Porter attacks the Confederate fort on Cape Fear with the largest fleet ever assembled to that time. General Alfred Terry lands an amphibious force which captures the fort.

Jan 16th - at Ft Fisher NC, 40 die. a company of New York soldiers slept on a grassy spot that was also the roof of the fort's main powder magazine. A pair of drunken sailors with torches stumbled into the magazine at dawn, touching off an explosion that killed 40 and wounded another 64.

Jan 16th - Gen Wm Sherman issues Field Order #15 (land for blacks)

Jan 18th - Battle of Ft Moultrie, SC

Jan 19th - After regrouping in Savannah for a month, William Tecumseh Sherman begins moving north into South Carolina

Jan 19th - Union occupies Fort Anderson, NC

Jan 23rd - 25th - Battle of City Point, VA (James River, Trent's Reach)

Jan 25th - CSS Shenandoah arrives in Melbourne, Australia

Jan 28th - Confederate President Jefferson Davis names 3 peace commissioners

Jan 31st - Robert E. Lee made General-in-Chief of the Confederate Army

Jan 31st - The 13th Amendment is passed by the U. S. House



Iredell Jones CoC

The Iredell Jones Children of the Confederacy Chapter 85 is starting a new year of projects and goals. We need your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors!

Please consider the opportunity to be part of this hard working group of young people. We are teaching them the true history of the south. They are proudly sharing their heritage.

You may contact me for more information. God Bless Dixie!

Renee Gallien

Famous Quotes

"I used to have some Christian feeling towards Yankees, but now that they have invaded our country and killed so many of our men and desecrated so many homes, I can't believe that when Christ said love your enemies, He meant Yankees."

Eliza Andrews,
The War Time Journal of a Georgia Girl



Was Lincoln an Abolitionist?

by Kelly Snell

Lincoln's views on race were motivated and influenced greatly by his own political ambitions. Though Lincoln was a "political" abolitionist his personal views of the Negro question prevented him from adhering to the views of the moral abolitionists. The main influence driving Lincoln's desire to liberate the slaves was political and his first priority was to preserve the "great experiment." Lincoln's attempt to ban the expansion of slavery was for the benefit of the superior whites and was not a first step towards Negro liberation and suffrage. On the eve of the war of secession Lincoln viewed the slaves as a labor force that was essential to the southern resistance.

Lincoln was not interested in direct intervention within the slave states, he saw slavery as a political hot potato and Lincoln was merely adhering to republican politics. He made the remark that if he could save the Union and not free slaves he would, he also stated that if he could save the union and free all slaves or even just a few he would. When he did express a hatred of the expansion of the "peculiar institution" in the Lincoln Douglas debates he said nothing about the abolition of slavery in the south. By avoiding the issue of liberation he could secure the support of non abolitionists and not risk losing the anti-slavery vote.

One of the foundations of the Republican Party was free soil and labor opportunities for whites; the prevention of the expansion of slavery was one of the methods to accomplish this. Lincoln took it as his duty to hold to the party principles. Without such a strong corner stone to unite the party it would surely fall. When elected to office Lincoln continued to use slavery as a political tool in an attempt to put an end to the secession crisis. On the eve of the crisis's climax Lincoln admitted that he was willing to give in to Southern demands, such as ending Northern resistance to an internal slave trade. If it were not for the strong stance of many Republican radicals the war of preservation may have been postponed. Lincoln made it a point to stress to the slave holding states that he had no intention of re-structuring race relations.

The real purpose for barring the expansion of slavery was to provide more land for the white settlers, not to improve the living conditions of savage subordinates. Armed with this idea of the isolation of slavery for the benefit of the white man Lincoln and his party were billed as "the only white man's party in the country." The National Era reported that many Americans opposed slavery. The reason that slavery was so strongly opposed by so many whites was due to its negative effects on national honor and labor.

There was little to no consideration for the well being or equality of the Negro.

Though Lincoln did believe that the Negro was a man, he knew that he was perceived as a lesser man than whites. However even a lesser man was entitled to the basic natural rights of man, however he did know that equality among whites was not a natural right the populace would allow. He did proclaim that the Negro deserved a chance to better himself, but equality among his masters did not seem an attainable goal for the Negro. Lincoln's plan was to alter the white man's perception of the Negro.

In August 1862 Lincoln approved the recruiting of Negro soldiers. This was the first step toward altering the perception of the Black man in the White man's eyes. Lincoln hoped that Negro soldiers would be seen as soldiers, not a Negro, a first step towards changing perception. One observer remarked that seeing the Negro in uniform made him seem more confident and self assured, he no longer seemed the submissive slave.

Lincoln saw the slave labor force as a back bone to the southern economy which was fueling the Confederate war effort. An important motivation behind his Emancipation Proclamation had less to do with slave rights and Negro equality and was intended to cripple the Southern economy. On 13 July 1862 Lincoln informed some of his aides and colleagues that he intended to issue the, arguably, unconstitutional document. The reasons that he gave for his actions was as a measure to weaken the Southern resistance. Slaves were an extremely important element of strength in the southern infrastructure. The Confederate army was even using slave labor to build and repair fortifications.

Lincoln had a plan to confiscate southern slaves and employ their own labor source against them. Some of his staff tried to argue that this action was unconstitutional, but Lincoln brushed this aside. He reminded his staff that the country is at war and that under war powers if he could order the destruction and seizure of enemy rails he could just as easily order the confiscation of the contraband Negro. Through this action Lincoln was acknowledging the public view of the Negro as a contraband property. Through this policy Lincoln was striking blows at the South and providing the Negro with the opportunity to improve himself while warming the North to the idea of emancipation. In 1862 at the White House Lincoln told a group of black leaders, including Fredrick Douglas, that though slavery was a great wrong inflicted on their people the race would only suffer trying to live as equals in the superior white culture.

Was Lincoln an Abolitionist? (continued)

Lincoln admitted that the Negro deserved a chance to prove themselves as equals and capable of bettering themselves. Unfortunately it was unlikely that they would get that chance here in America. Lincoln's solution was colonization. Central America was one of the selected territories. Through colonization the US could be freed of the inferior Negro in a sort of National enema.

In the Antebellum year's views of the Negro as an inferior race were well established. Lincoln's abolitionist actions were politically motivated and

done mostly out of white interest. Lincoln used the question of slavery to further his own political ambitions and to preserve the Union making him the nation's greatest hero. The slave was seen by Lincoln had to acknowledge the common perception of the slaves as a labor force, not as an independent race of man. In promoting the idea of colonization Lincoln acknowledged national views that the Negro was unworthy of the respect and opportunities afforded by the white race. It was clear to him that the only way to guarantee Negro suffrage was to change the common perception of the Negro.

Special Field Order No. 15 - 40 Acres and a Mule

On January 16, 1865, Union general William T. Sherman issued his Special Field Order No. 15, which confiscated as Union property a strip of coastline stretching from Charleston, South Carolina, to the St. John's River in Florida, including Georgia's Sea Islands and the mainland thirty miles in from the coast. The order redistributed the roughly 400,000 acres of land to newly freed black families in forty-acre segments. Sherman's order came on the heels of his successful March to the Sea from Atlanta to Savannah and just prior to his march northward into South Carolina.

Radical Republicans in the U.S. Congress, like Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens, for some time had pushed for land redistribution in order to break the back of Southern slaveholders' power. Feeling pressure from within his own party, U.S. president Abraham Lincoln sent his secretary of war, Edwin M. Stanton, to Savannah in order to facilitate a conversation with Sherman over what to do with Southern planters' lands.

On January 12 Sherman and Stanton met with twenty black leaders of the Savannah community, mostly Baptist and Methodist ministers, to discuss the question of emancipation. Lincoln approved Field Order No. 15 before Sherman issued it just four days after meeting with the black leaders. From Sherman's perspective the most important priority in issuing the directive was military expediency. It served as a means of providing for the thousands of black refugees who had been following his army since its invasion of Georgia. He could not afford to support or protect these refugees while on campaign.

The order explicitly called for the settlement of black families on confiscated land, encouraged freedmen to join the Union army to help sustain their newly won liberty, and designated a general officer to act as inspector of settlements. Inspector General Rufus Saxton would police the land and work to ensure legal title of the property for the black settlers. In a later order, Sherman also authorized

the army to loan mules to the newly settled farmers.

Sherman's radical plan for land redistribution in the South was actually a practical response to several issues. Although Sherman had never been a racial egalitarian, his land-redistribution order served the military purpose of punishing Confederate planters along the rice coast of the South for their role in starting the War, while simultaneously solving what he and Radical Republicans viewed as a major new American problem: what to do with a new class of free Southern laborers. Congressional leaders convinced President Lincoln to establish the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands on March 3, 1865, shortly after Sherman issued his order. The Freedmen's Bureau, as it came to be called, was authorized to give legal title for forty-acre plots of land to freedmen and white Southern Unionists.

The immediate effect of Sherman's order provided for the settlement of roughly 40,000 blacks (both refugees and local slaves who had been under Union army administration in the Sea Islands since 1861). This lifted the burden of supporting the freed people from Sherman's army as it turned north into South Carolina. But the order was a short-lived promise for blacks. Despite the objections of General Oliver O. Howard, the Freedmen's Bureau chief, U.S. president Andrew Johnson overturned Sherman's directive in the fall of 1865, after the war had ended, and returned the land along the South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida coasts to the planters who had originally owned it.

Although Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15 had no tangible benefit for blacks after President Johnson's revocation, the present-day movement supporting slave reparations has pointed to it as the U.S. government's promise to make restitution to African Americans for enslavement. The order is also the likely origin of the phrase "forty acres and a mule," which spread throughout the South in the weeks and months following Sherman's march.

Thomas Lafayette (Tex) Rosser (October 15, 1836 – March 29, 1910)

Thomas Lafayette (Tex) Rosser was a Confederate general during the War, and later an officer in the Spanish American War and railroad construction engineer. A favorite of J.E.B. Stuart, he was noted for his daring cavalry raids, efficiency in handling combat troops, and tactical brilliance.

Rosser was born on a farm called "Catalpa Hill", in Campbell County, Virginia, the son of John and Martha Melvina (Johnson) Rosser. In 1849, the family relocated to a 640-acre farm in Panola County, Texas, some forty miles west of Shreveport, Louisiana. The 13-year-old Tom Rosser led the wagon train bearing his mother and younger siblings westward, as business considerations compelled his father to remain in Virginia for a short time. Texas Congressman Lemuel D. Evans appointed Rosser to the United States Military Academy in 1856. However, Rosser did not complete the required five-year course of study, as Rosser, a supporter of Texas secession, resigned when Texas left the Union on April 22, 1861 two weeks before the scheduled graduation. Rosser traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to enlist in the Confederate States Army. Thomas Rosser's room mate at the academy, George Armstrong Custer was a close friend and despite being on opposing sides this friendship continued both during and after the War ended. He was known for his "hit and run" raids.

Rosser was commissioned a first lieutenant and became an instructor to the famed "Washington Artillery" of New Orleans. He commanded its Second Company at the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861. He was noted for shooting down one of George B. McClellan's observation balloons, a feat that won him promotion to captain. He commanded his battery during the Seven Days Battles of the Peninsula Campaign, and was severely wounded at Mechanicsville. Rosser was promoted to lieutenant colonel of artillery, and a few days later to colonel of the 5th Virginia Cavalry.

He commanded the advance of J.E.B. Stuart's expedition to Catlett's Station, and was notable in the Second Battle of Bull Run, where captured Union commander John Pope's orderly and horses. During the fighting at Crampton's Gap at the Battle of South Mountain, his cavalry delayed the advance of William B. Franklin's VI Corps with help from John Pelham's artillery. At Antietam, his men screened Robert E. Lee's left flank. He temporarily assumed command of Fitzhugh Lee's brigade during the subsequent fighting against Alfred Pleasonton.

He was again badly wounded at the Battle of Kelly's Ford, where "the gallant" Pelham was killed. Rosser was disabled until the Gettysburg Campaign, where he commanded his regiment in the fighting at Hanover and the East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg. He was promoted to brigadier general of the "Laurel Brigade," which had gained fame under Turner Ashby. During one of his October - November West Virginia raids near Chancellorsville, Virginia, in November, Rosser seized a Federal wagon train containing much of the ammunition reserve of the I Corps and V Corps of the Army of the Potomac. He was distinguished again in the 1864 Overland Campaign, driving back a large force of Union cavalry and artillery at the Battle of the Wilderness.

Rosser was yet again wounded at Trevilian Station, where his brigade captured a number of prisoners from former West Point classmate and close personal friend George Armstrong Custer. The Federal rout at Trevilian Station became known to the Confederate forces as the "Buckland Races." His brigade later gallantly fought against Philip Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, and he efficiently commanded Fitzhugh Lee's division at Cedar Creek. A rare defeat where Custer overran Rosser's troops at the Battle of Tom's Brook allowed Custer to repay Rosser for Trevilian Station. For no tactical reason, Custer chased Rosser's troops for over 10 miles and the action became known as the

Thomas Lafayette (Tex) Rosser (continued)

“Woodstock Races” in Union accounts. Custer had also captured Rosser’s private wardrobe wagon at Tom’s Brook and Rosser immediately messaged him.

Dear Fanny,

You may have made me take a few steps back today, but I will be even with you tomorrow. Please accept my good wishes and this little gift - a pair of your draws captured at Trevillian Station.

Tex

Custer shipped Rosser’s gold-laced confederate grey coat to his wife with a reply.

Dear friend,

Thanks for setting me up in so many new things, but would you please direct your tailor to make the coat tails of your next uniform a trifle shorter.

Best regards G.A.C.

Rosser became known in the Southern press as the “Saviour of the Valley,” and was promoted to major general in November 1864. He conducted a successful raid on New Creek, West Virginia, taking hundreds of prisoners and seizing much need quantities of supplies. In January 1865, he took 300 men, crossed the mountains in deep snow and bitter cold, and surprised and captured two infantry regiments in their works at Beverly, West Virginia, taking 580 prisoners.

Rosser commanded a cavalry division during the Siege of Petersburg in the spring, fighting near Five Forks. It was here that Rosser hosted the “infamous” shad bake (fish feast) 2 miles north of the battle lines preceding and during the primary Federal assault. Guests at this small affair included George Pickett and Fitzhugh Lee. Shelby Foote states that “Pickett only made it back to his division after over half his troops had been shot or captured..”. It is said that Lee never forgave Pickett for his absence from his post when the Federals broke the Confederate lines and carried the day at Five Forks.

Rosser was conspicuous during the Appomattox Campaign, capturing a Union general and rescuing a wagon train near Farmville. He led a daring early morning charge at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, and escaped with his command as Lee surrendered the bulk of the Army of Northern Virginia. Under orders from the secretary of war, he began reorganizing the scattered remnants of Lee’s army in a vain attempt to join Joseph E. Johnston’s army in North Carolina. However, he surrendered at Staunton, Virginia, on May 4 and was paroled shortly afterwards.

Rosser was superintendent of the National Express Company, working for fellow ex-Confederate general Joe Johnston. He resigned to become assistant engineer during the construction of the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Railroad. He became chief engineer of the eastern division of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Later he was chief engineer of the Canadian Pacific. In 1886, he bought a plantation near Charlottesville, Virginia, and became a gentleman farmer. On June 10, 1898, President William McKinley appointed Rosser a brigadier general of United States volunteers during the Spanish-American War. His first task was training young cavalry recruits in a camp near the old Civil War battlefield of Chickamauga in northern Georgia. He was honorably discharged on October 31, 1898, and returned home. He died at Charlottesville and is buried at Riverview Cemetery, Charlottesville.

Rosser Avenue in Brandon, Manitoba is named in his honor. There is also a Rosser Avenue in Bismarck, North Dakota. This was platted before Custer’s arrival in the area, and so likely is related to Rosser’s time with the railroad (Northern Pacific) rather than his friendship with Custer, or his military career. There is also a Rosser Avenue in Waynesboro, Virginia.



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Thomas Lafayette (Tex) Rosser (October 15, 1836 – March 29, 1910)