



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

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June 2009



Honoring the Gray

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Commander's Comments

As I write this month I pray that all members and their families are safe and well.

I can not help thinking at this time of year that we observe Armed Forces Memorial Day. The respect we need to show all those brave men and women who served in the armed forces and especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can live in a free society, I pray that God has shown mercy to each and every one of our lost heroes.

Look forward to seeing each one of you June 9th at our next meeting.

Jim Floyd, Commander



Confederate Memorial Day
May 9th 2009
Fort Mill, South Carolina

Honoring the Gray

Editor

Jerry Brown
803-327-2834

Camp Meeting

Tuesday, June 9th 2009

Regularly scheduled meeting at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant @ 7:00 PM.
Come early join the fellowship and eat. Our guest speaker will be Michael C. Hardy, Civil War Historian & Author. He will be speaking to us about the Battle of Hanover Court House.
He will have copies of his book for sale after the meeting.

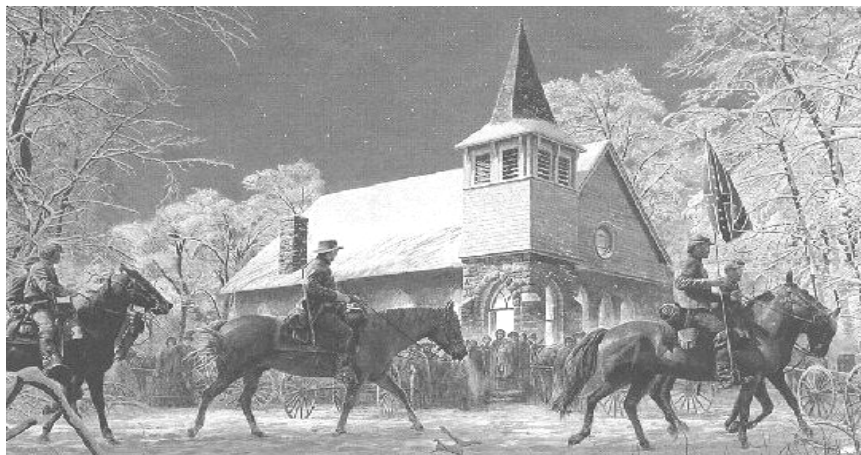
Stuart's First Ride Around McClellan

In one of the more flamboyant moves of the war, on June 12th 1862, Confederate General J E B Stuart takes a force of cavalry and artillery out on a reconnaissance of the Federal positions on the peninsula during the Peninsular Campaign. This action, which covers a period of several days, is an important one as it disturbs supply and communication networks. Riding completely around McClelland's Union army force. General Stuart seriously undermines the morale of the Federals who feel threatened by what is a seemingly larger enemy force than actually exists. This move (which comes to be known as Stuart's First Ride Around McClellan) is responsible for encouraging Southerners who have been suffering from numerous defeats and invasions over the past months. Stuart's move is buttressed by General "Stonewall" Jackson's forces who are reinforced at Lee's command and add to the threat posed by cavalry under Stuart.

The Peninsular Campaign was fought from April to July 1862. At the request of Union general George Brinton McClellan, President Abraham Lincoln agreed that an attempt should be made to capture Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital. On April 4, a Union force of about 100,000 men set out from Fort Monroe at the eastern end of the peninsula formed by

the York and James rivers. Almost immediately the army met strong resistance at Yorktown and was forced to undertake a month-long siege before the town fell. McClellan then continued his advance on Richmond, but his indecision combined with bad weather and lack of reinforcements delayed him. The Union advance was halted at the Battle of Fair Oaks and Seven Pines, fought on May 31-June 1, just east of Richmond. The Confederate general Joseph Eggleston Johnston, commanding nearly 42,000 troops, was severely wounded in battle and replaced by General Robert E. Lee.

The turning point of the campaign was reached in the Seven Days' Battle fought between June 25 and July 1, in which the Confederate forces suffered the greater losses, but were able, because of Lee's adroit maneuvering, to force McClellan to retreat. Several stubborn battles, including the battles of Savage's Station, Frayser's Farm, and Malvern Hill, were fought in the course of the retreat, but McClellan was able to lead his troops back to the James River, where he gained the support of gunboats of the Union navy. The campaign was a failure, however, and the Union army was forced to abandon the attempt to take Richmond. The Confederate success in saving the capital gave a new impetus to the Southern war effort.





Michael C. Hardy, Civil War Author and Historian

BIOGRAPHY

Whether on a battlefield, at an historic site, or in a museum, history has been a life-long passion for Michael C. Hardy. During his childhood in Central Florida, he often spent time at the nation's oldest city, St. Augustine; along the sand dunes at New Smyrna Beach, the site of a small Civil War skirmish in March 1862; or among the rockets at Kennedy Space Center. In November 1982, Michael traveled to Orange Springs, Florida, to participate in his first Civil War re-enactment. For the next twenty years he took part in events from Florida to Pennsylvania, and at hundreds of locations in between. Some of the highlights include the 125th Gettysburg; the 130th Murfreesboro; the 135th Antietam; the 135th Gettysburg, which was the largest re-enactment ever held; the 135th Nashville; the 135th Chickamauga; and the 140th Manassas. Michael has served in nearly every position imaginable, from medical steward, to color sergeant, to colonel of an infantry battalion. He has also volunteered as an interpreter at local museums and state and national parks, and has presented hundreds of programs for schools, libraries, scout troops, and churches. Michael has spent a vast amount of time researching the day-to-day lives of mid nineteenth-century Americans in an effort to effectively communicate the past to people today. Michael had always been a reader and, while young, enjoyed mysteries, including the tales of Edgar Allen Poe, Sherlock Holmes, and Alfred Hitchcock. Though his adult reading focused squarely on history, he continued to enjoy these authors and to see that interpreting history and solving mysteries really have much in common.

In August 1995, Michael married Elizabeth Baird of Berea, Kentucky, and they soon

returned home to the mountains of Southern Appalachia. Michael's mother's family first came to western North Carolina in 1771; his father's from Alabama, Tennessee, and South Carolina. Once Michael moved to western North Carolina, he began putting his love of books and his passion for history together. In 1998, Michael's first nationally published article was released in North and South. This piece focused on a British-born Confederate general, Collet Leventhorpe.

Since that first article was published in 1998, he has contributed to numerous other publications. His topics have ranged from the details of common soldier life, to biographies, to battle analyses. In 2003, Michael's first book was released, a history of the 37th North Carolina Troops, published by McFarland and Company. Using first-person accounts from letters and diaries, as well as official records, Michael wove together the account of one of the hardest fighting regiments of the war. It took Michael six years to put these accounts together. Other books have followed, both books that deal with the American Civil War and with Appalachia. In 2006, two of Michael's books won awards. Both the Battle of Hanover Court House: Turning Point of the Peninsula Campaign and A Short History of Old Watauga County won the Willie Parker Peace History Book Award from the North Carolina Society of historians. Michael continues to divide his time between local history and writing about the Civil War. He recently finished his eighth book, Remembering Avery County, and he is currently working on a regimental history of the 58th North Carolina Troops.

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Michael C. Hardy
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At the end of December 2004, Michael left the professional world to devote himself to writing history full time. He had spent nearly a decade working in libraries in western North Carolina. Michael's primary motivation for writing is the preservation of history. Rather than re-visit the frequently covered epic or sweeping events of history, he seeks to find and relate the incidental or small facts that otherwise get glossed over or completely forgotten. There are many events and people that are of interest but which are seldom even given a second thought by "academic" historians. These are the events and people to which Michael is drawn and about which he is most passionate in his writing.

Michael also consults with other authors and organizations in their work. He has helped several museums with displays about the Civil War, and at times even loans articles from his own collection for display. He has also worked with several well known fiction writers, including New York Times best-seller Sharyn McCrumb, answering questions about the Civil War or western North Carolina. An avid photographer, Michael at times illustrates the books and articles that he has written with many of his own photographs. Some of Michael's favorite subjects to photograph are the tombstones of Confederate soldiers and the beautiful mountains of Southern Appalachia. He is also a book collector, with several thousand volumes in his collection, and can often be found reading two or three books at once. Michael volunteers with a number of local historical societies and associations on a regular basis. Michael lives with Elizabeth, an English professor at Mayland Community College and also a published author, their wonderful son Nathaniel (born in April 2001), and their beautiful daughter Isabella (born in December 2006) high up in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Prayer Closet: January 2009

- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. The SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Pray for our children as they start their summer vacation.
- Pray for the parents as their children start their summer vacation.
- Pray for our service men and women protecting our freedom.
- Pray for the families of our troops.



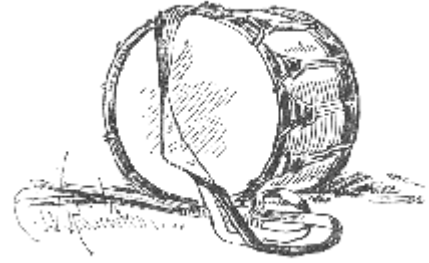
Romans 1:9

"For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, That without ceasing I make mentions of you always in my prayers."



Do you have an article for Honoring the Gray?

If so, please send to Jerry Brown at jenkinsscv@yahoo.com or call Jerry at 803-327-2834. Articles may be funny or serious as long as it reflects the ideals and purpose of the SCV. Please limit the size of articles to one page for mailing purposes.



Roll of Honor

This month we honor Dean Wade's Confederate Ancestor Pvt. Granville H. Wade of Co. D 43rd Tennessee Infantry

Residence McMinn County TN; 29 years old
Enlisted as a Private (date unknown)

He also had service in:
"D" Co. TN 43rd Infantry

Engagements:

Port Gibson MS
Champion's Hill MS
Big Black River Bridge MS
Vicksburg MS
Knoxville Siege TN
Cumberland Gap TN
Morristown VA
Shenandoah Valley Campaign VA
Russellville TN
Newton NC
Dallas NC

History of the 43rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment

The 43rd Infantry Regiment [also called 5th East Tennessee Volunteer Regiment] was organized at Knoxville, Tennessee, during December, 1861. Its members were recruited in the counties of Polk, Rhea, Meigs, Bledsoe, Hawkins, Roane, Jefferson, McMinn, Bradley, and Hamilton. It moved to Virginia, Kentucky, then Mississippi where it was assigned to A.W. Reynolds' Brigade in the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana. The unit fought at Champion's Hill and Big Black River Bridge, then was captured in the fight for Vicksburg. After being exchanged and reorganized as mounted infantry, it was attached to General Vaughn's Brigade and during April, 1864, contained 215 effectives. It joined General Early in the Valley of Virginia and was active in the battles and skirmishes of his campaign. Later the regiment fought at Russellville in Tennessee, returned to Virginia, moved to North Carolina where it joined President Davis' escort, and ended the war at Washington, Georgia, in May, 1865, with a force of 123 men.

Sources:

- Index to Compiled Confederate Military Service Records
(c) Historical Data Systems, Inc. @ www.civilwardata.com
- The Civil War in Tennessee
www.researchonline.net/tncw/unit1.htm



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James Ewell Brown (J E B) Stuart
February 6, 1833(1833-02-06) – May 12, 1864 (aged 31)