



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins
SCV Camp 1569
Volume XIII Number IX September 2014**



Honoring the Gray

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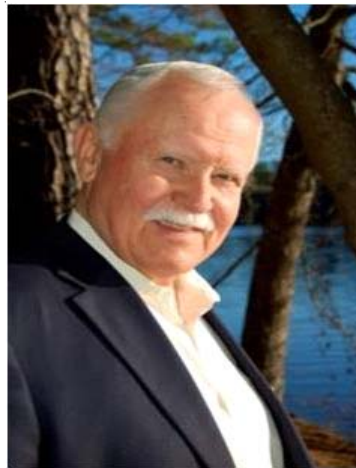
Honoring the Gray
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Micah Jenkins Camp Meeting Tuesday, September 9th 2014

**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.**



Our speaker for September will be McKendree R. (Mike) Long III. He does presentations all around the state, and Rock Hill is pretty convenient, as he lives in Blythewood, just north of Columbia. He will be doing a 'Show and Tell' display of original WBTS guns, and will have 6-8 carbines and revolvers. Folks can handle them before and after the meeting. He will do 20 minutes on the guns, 10 minutes on his two historic novels, and stick around to sell and sign books after the close. The books are \$10 each, and have sold right well, over 4000.

Mike is a former soldier with two tours as an advisor to South Vietnamese Army units. His awards and decorations include the Parachutist Badge, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Silver Star, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Gold and Silver Stars).

After retiring from the Army in 1980, he was a financial advisor with a major investment firm for 29 years. He now devotes his time to his family, his writing, his guns, and travel.

Married in 1960, he and his wife Mary have two married daughters and four grandchildren. He is a gun enthusiast, life member of the NRA and VFW, and is active in Sertoma. He is often found on Seabrook Island, S.C.

His first novel, *No Good Like It Is*, is a winding tale of violence, tolerance, and changing racial acceptance. In it, two hard-bitten Confederate cavalymen barely survive the War, riding with the famed Eighth Texas Cavalry. They then must struggle home to the Texas Panhandle, while accumulating enough misfits and strays to populate a small village. This rowdy historical fiction is filled with rich characters, both real and should-have-been. The sequel, *Dog Soldier Moon*, became available in December 2011. A centerpiece of this second historical novel is the attack by the Seventh Cavalry on a peaceful Cheyenne village on the Washita River in November 1868.

Here is his website www.mckendreelong.com

Commander's Comments

York Summerfest

Our participation in York Summerfest was one of the best on record. Literally hundreds stopped by the tent to talk about the Sons of Confederate Veterans and particularly our Camp. Jack Morton has significantly improved the selection of items to sell and we had a gross income of about \$350. Brochures about the Camp were handed out to perhaps a dozen men who indicated that they wanted to visit our Camp and there were at least three who asked for an application form.

Thanks to those who participated including Chip Adams, Jerry Brown, Billy Gallien, Rene Gallien, Connie Morton, Jack Morton, Mike Short, Chris Sims, Linda Sutton and Vernon Terry. Also, Gerald Goins and Josh came dressed in full uniform from the 6th Regiment.

The Summerfest was successful because of the great planning, dedication to getting the tent and display set up, and the participation from our SCV compatriots.

Thanks to all who made this a great event!

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 continue to keep Brad Blackmon's wife, Deborah to your prayer list.
- Please continue to keep Ray Baker on your prayer list. Ray is doing much better, but still needs your prayers.
 - Please add John O'Brien (dad) to your list. He is suffering from pancreatic cancer.
 - Please keep Micky Parris to your prayers. He has been having issues falling.
 - Please add Nancy Brewer (she was our guest speaker in May). Nancy is battling cancer.
- 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. We are in very troubling times.
 - 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 September 1864

Sept 1st - Confederates begin the evacuation of Atlanta.

Sept 2nd - Fall of Atlanta. The city is surrendered to Union forces by Mayor James Calhoun.

Sept 4th - John Hunt Morgan is shot dead by federal troops fleeing the home of a woman who had betrayed him (Greenville, Tennessee)

Sept 5th - Voters in Louisiana who had taken an oath of loyalty to the United States ratified a state constitution abolishing slavery.

Sept 5th - Tennessee Unionists meet in Nashville to restart the state government and plan participation in national elections that fall.

Sept 7th - W. T. Sherman [US] orders the evacuation of Atlanta

Sept 7th - USS Wachusett captures CSS Florida at Bahia, Brazil

Sept 10th - Joe Wheeler returns to Confederate lines following a raid into North Georgia.

Sept 16th - Meeting in Charles Town, Ulysses S. Grant and Phil Sheridan discuss the problems in the Shenandoah Valley with Jubal Early's Corps

Sept 17th - John C. Fremont withdraws from the race for President

Sept 19th - At the 3rd battle of Winchester (Opequon Creek) Phil Sheridan, with a force of 40,000 men, strikes Jubal Early's 14,000 man Confederate army north of Winchester. Sheridan simply overpowered the Confederates. General Robert E. Rodes was mortally wounded in the conflict.

Sept 22nd - At the Battle of Fisher's Hill George Crook's 8th Corps overpowers Jubal Early marking the start of Phil Sheridan's destructive Shenandoah Valley campaign.

Sept 23rd - To please Radical Republicans before the Election of 1864, Lincoln asks Montgomery Blair to resign as Postmaster General, which he does later in the day.

Sept 25th - Jefferson Davis visits General John Bell Hood at Palmetto. Hood asks permission to relieve William Hardee.

Sept 27th - A small Confederate force under "Bloody" Bill Anderson attacks Centralia, Missouri. 24 Union soldiers are killed in the town and another 116 are killed in an ambush.

Sept 28th - President Davis approves Hood's request to relieve William Hardee

Sept 29th-Oct 2nd - At the Battle of Peebles' Farm, hoping to extend his line westward south of Petersburg, George Meade pushed towards the Southside Railroad. Fighting occurred at various farms throughout the rolling hills with most of the action occurring at Wyatt's, Peebles, and Pegram's farms, Chappell House, Poplar Spring Church and Vaughan Road

Sept 29th-30th - At the Battle of Fort Harrison, southeast of Richmond, Fort Harrison was the main bastion of a string of Confederate defenses. 3,000 men under George Stannard swarmed over the fort, capturing it in less than 20 minutes. Robert E. Lee directed a counter-attack the following day that failed to regain the position

Sept 30th - At the Battle of Poplar Springs Church, G. K. Warren's 5th Corps and John Parke's 9th Corps are attacked by A. P. Hill at Squirrel Level Road southwest of Petersburg. Warren and Parke did extend the siege lines.

Famous Quotes

"The South is our country; the North is the country of those who live there. We are an agricultural people; they are a manufacturing people. They are the descendants of the good old Puritan Plymouth Rock stock, and we of the South from the proud and aristocratic stock of Cavaliers. We believe in the doctrine of State Rights, they in the doctrine of centralization."-"Co Aytch," by Sam Watkins, 1882



The Civil War is Over. Let the Battle Flag Be.

By Steven Simpson

Over the past several months, the NAACP has launched a campaign against the Confederate Battle Flag by protesting its presence at the South Carolina statehouse. Governor Nikki Haley did not respond to the demands of the NAACP to remove it. In a similar matter, black protesters have called for the removal of the Battle Flag from a Georgian cemetery that happens to have interred the bones of Confederate soldiers. And now, most recently, Republican presidential candidate Governor Rick Perry of Texas has become the newest target of the NAACP over whether the Battle Flag should appear on license plates. In the end, Perry decided against the idea.

Facts remain: there was indeed a Civil War, and one cannot just simply wish it — or its symbols — away. Yet it seems that the NAACP and their friends wish to delete a symbol that, while controversial and complex in what it does or does not stand for, is still seen by many Southerners as a cultural symbol with no racial overtones.

Do the NAACP and their allies also wish to blacklist Robert E. Lee and everyone else who, from the standpoint of the South, fought for the rights of Southern states to be free from a federal government that they saw as tyrannical, and that transcended just the issue of slavery? And if the Battle Flag is deemed as a “Southern Swastika” that should be banned, will Stone Mountain — the memorial for Confederate war veterans — be the next symbol removed?

It is hard not to see the battle to do away with Southern symbols from the Civil War as nothing more than the first step in an all-out deconstruction of America in toto. It should be remembered that it was under the Stars and Stripes that Africans were taken here as slaves — not the 1861-1865 Southern flags. Perhaps we should ban “Old Glory” as a racist symbol as well.

The destruction of Stone Mountain, should it come to pass — and it should not be unthinkable in today’s America — would be no different from the Taliban’s destruction of the Buddhist statues ten years ago at Bamiyan. The Civil War ended over a century and a half ago, yet the NAACP and other groups seem incapable of coming to terms with that. Will Southerners and other Americans ever say “enough is enough”? When will the time come for Americans of all colors and creeds to finally say, “It is over, and let’s get over it”.

Yet in spite of the passage of over 150 years, it appears that America is still fighting the Civil War de facto, if not de jure. Many Southern people feel that the Battle Flag and the Stars and Bars are part of American history. This is not to say that “the Flag” does not conjure deep emotions on both sides. However, to view the tortured and complex history of the Civil War as simply a war to end slavery would be naïve. The story of a chivalrous North fighting against a racist South to end slavery is seen by many in the South as hypocritical. Indeed, if the war was fought exclusively to end slavery, why did the North have its own slave states?

Ironically, men like Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan all held racist views against blacks, Jews, and American Indians. As for Grant, he did not free his slaves until December of 1865, after the Thirteenth Amendment had been ratified. However, Robert E. Lee freed the slaves living on his plantation in 1862. It was Lee who said that slavery was an “evil.” Yet, whether apocryphal or true, it has been written that Grant, when confronted as to why he did not free his slaves until the end of 1865, stated that “good help is hard to come by these days.” And all this says nothing of Grant’s anti-Semitic “General Order Number 11.” Meanwhile, even Lincoln stated that his main goal was the preservation of the Union, with or without slavery.

It is long overdue for people of goodwill and fairness to address the real racial and other issues plaguing this once-great country without pandering to those who have nothing else on their minds but a flag that to many people represents heritage and not racism. This is not to say that America has been a paragon of virtue when it comes to race or that hate groups have never used the Battle Flag for their own nefarious purposes. But it should be emphasized that racism is a two-way street. Black people can — and do — hate white people as much as the reverse. Indeed, while American officialdom is loath to admit it, most racial crimes are committed by blacks against whites. Why is this issue never raised by any presidential or other political candidate?

Attorney General Eric Holder has said that “we are a nation of cowards” when it comes to race. Indeed, regarding many people, he is correct. However, some may argue that it is white people who are a nation of cowards when it comes to racial issues. For if they raise the issues of discrimination against whites (e.g., “affirmative action”), black-on-white

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crime, or even bilingualism, they will certainly fear being called the worst word in the English language: “racist.”

Instead of automatically trashing the Battle Flag and everything Southern, let us address the above issues forthrightly. If not, America will continue toward a state of chaos that may well spell the dissolution of this country. It is past time to have a true and honest discussion on race and other issues, and how they have affected the moral fiber of this country in many ways — not just regarding a flag that hasn’t been officially used in over a century and a half (and then only on a battlefield).

There are pros and cons on both sides of this issue. However, for racial healing to finally and truly begin, people have to engage in a civilized dialogue and not let their emotions rule. Until that day arrives — if ever — America will continue to be plagued by demagogues, cowards, and anarchists who live only to stoke the flames and fires of racial, economic, and class hatred.

Steven Simpson is a writer/researcher who has a B.A. in political science and a master’s degree in library science. He can be reached at ssimusa@hotmail.com.

“In all their motley array there was hardly a uniform to be seen, and then, and throughout all the brilliant campaigns on which they were about to enter there was nothing to distinguish their officers, even a general, from the men in the ranks, save a bit of red flannel, or a piece of cotton cloth, fastened to the shoulder, or to the arm, of the former.

But for all that, they were the truest and best of soldiers... Among them there was hardly a man who could not read and write, and who was not more intelligent than the great mass of American citizens; not one who had not voluntarily abandoned his home with all its tender ties, and thrown away all his possessions, and left father and mother, or wife and children, within the enemy’s lines, that he might himself stand by the South in her hour of great peril, and help her to defend her fields and her firesides.

And among them all there was not a man who had come forth to fight for slavery.”

Thomas Lowndes Snead, Confederate Veteran



Sherman's Bowties

During Sherman's March to the Sea, in order to deny the Confederates the use of their railroads, it was essential that the rails themselves be rendered useless and unreparable. To accomplish this, the rails were ripped up, placed on a great bonfire, heated until they were red hot, and then wrapped around a tree. It was the appearance of these rails wrapped around a tree that gave birth to the term "Sherman's Bowties." The following is a description of how this task was accomplished.

".....The destruction of railway communication between the Confederate Army at Richmond, and the Gulf States, had been a very important part of Sherman's purpose, and he spared no pains to do this thoroughly. A battalion of mechanics was selected and furnished with tools for ripping the rails from the cross-ties and twisting them when heated, and these were kept constantly at work; but the infantry on the march became expert in methods of their own, and the cavalry also joined in the work, though the almost constant skirmishing on the flanks and rear of the army usually kept the mounted troops otherwise employed. A division of infantry would be extended along the railway line about the length of its proper front. The men, stacking arms, would cluster along one side of the track, and at the word of com-

mand, lifting together, would raise the line of rail with the ties as high as their shoulders; then at another command they would let the whole drop, stepping back out of the way as it fell. The heavy fall would shake loose many of the spikes and chairs, and seizing the loosened rails, the men, using them as levers, would quickly pry off the rest. The cross-ties would now be idled up like cob-houses and with these and other fuel a brisk fire would be made; the rails were piled upon the fire, and in half an hour would be red hot in the middle. Seizing the rail now by the two ends, the soldiers would twist it about a tree, or interlace and twine the whole pile together in great iron knots, making them useless for anything but old iron, and most unmanageable and troublesome, even to convey away to a mill. In this way it was not difficult for a corps marching along the railway to destroy, in a day, ten or fifteen miles of track most completely; and Sherman himself gave close watch to the work, to see that it was not slighted. Then all machine-shops, stations, bridges, and culverts were destroyed, and the masonry blown up...."

Source: "The March To The Sea/Franklin And Nashville" By Jacob D. Cox, LL



John Bratton (March 7, 1831 – January 12, 1898)

John Bratton was a U.S. Representative from South Carolina, as well as a general in the Confederate Army during the War.

Bratton was born in Winnsboro, South Carolina. He attended the Academy of Mount Zion Institute in Winnsboro and graduated from South Carolina College at Columbia in 1850 and from South Carolina Medical College at Charleston in 1853. He practiced medicine in Winnsboro from 1853 to 1861. Bratton was also a successful planter, acquiring high valued real-estate and as many as seventy-five slaves by 1860.

John Bratton was one of only a few men who enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private, rose to the rank of brigadier general, and fought in several important battles in both Eastern and Western theaters during the War.

He enlisted in the Confederate Army on April 1, 1861, as a private in Company C of the 6th South Carolina Infantry and was promoted a month later to captain. On March 1, 1862, he became a colonel in charge of the regiment. He participated in the Peninsula Campaign and was wounded and captured in the Battle of Seven Pines.

On June 1, 1862, under the command of Maj. Gen. James Longstreet and Brig. Gen. Richard H. Anderson, Bratton led the 6th South Carolina Regiment in an assault on several isolated Union entrenchments west of Seven Pines, Virginia. Bratton's 6th Regiment was the lead Confederate regiment in the Confederate advance through and behind enemy lines. During the assault Bratton sustained a severe injury to his left arm and shoulder. Unable to make it back to Confederate lines, he was subsequently captured by remaining Union forces. Upon hearing word of the 6th Regiment's gallantry, Union Brig. Gen. Philip Kearny saw to it that Bratton received the utmost care. Bratton was released two months later on August 31, 1862.

Bratton rejoined his regiment in October 1862 and participated in the Battle of Fredericksburg in December. In the spring of 1863, his regiment missed the Battle of Chancellorsville because it accompanied Longstreet's Corps in the Siege of Suffolk, where Bratton served as temporary brigade commander. The regiment garrisoned Richmond, Virginia, while Robert E. Lee's army fought the Gettysburg Campaign during June and July. In the fall of 1863, Col. Bratton's 6th South Carolina accompanied Gen. Longstreet's corps to the Western Theater. He was present in several battles in the Tennessee area, including the Chattanooga Campaign and the Knoxville Campaign.

Bratton's regiment did not reach the Army of Tennessee until after the Battle of Chickamauga. Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins replaced Maj. Gen. John Bell Hood after he was wounded at Chickamauga and Bratton once again served as brigade commander. Bratton led a night attack on Federal forces at Wauhatchie on October 28–29, 1863, during which Bratton had the 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th South Carolina

Regiments and Hampton's legion at his disposal. Opposing him were the 109th and 111th Pennsylvania Regiments along with the 137th and 149th New York Regiments. Although the brigade attack was well-executed, the battle was a significant Confederate defeat at the beginning of the Chattanooga Campaign.

Bratton was promoted to brigadier general dating from May 6, 1864. He led an infantry brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia for most of the rest of the war, seeing action in such battles as the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. He then participated in the defense of Petersburg and was wounded in the shoulder at the Battle of Darbytown Road.

He surrendered his brigade, the largest in the Army of Northern Virginia at the end of the war, at Appomattox Court House in April 1865 and was paroled on April 9.

Based on a collection of intimate letters to his wife, General John Bratton vivifies our sense of the war with first-hand accounts. His words reveal the enormous physical and psychological hardships faced by those who joined the fight. With keen insight, he eloquently describes the horrors of combat, the deprivations of army life and the dread he feels for the safety of those back home. The letters also expose Bratton's private struggle against self-doubt as he rises through the ranks and confronts the daunting responsibilities and the inherent loneliness of higher command. General John Bratton presents the experience of the War Between the States from the perspective of one willing to risk all to fulfill his deepest personal convictions.

In the years following the war, Bratton concentrated on farming cotton and raising imported livestock. He entered politics during Reconstruction as a supporter of the conservative Democratic regime dominated by Gen. Wade Hampton.

Bratton served as member of the State constitutional convention in 1865. He represented Fairfield in the South Carolina Senate in 1866. He served as chairman of the South Carolina delegation in the 1876 Democratic National Convention. He served as delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1880. Bratton was elected comptroller general of South Carolina by the legislature, to fill a vacancy, in 1881. Bratton was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John H. Evins and served from December 8, 1884, to March 3, 1885. He was not a candidate for renomination in 1884.

He retired from active politics and again engaged in planting at "Farmington" near Winnsboro. He died in Winnsboro, South Carolina. He was interred in St. John's Episcopal Church Cemetery.

The General John Bratton Camp #1816 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans was named in his honor.



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John Bratton (March 7, 1831 – January 12, 1898)