

THE SOUTHERN PRECEPTOR

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which made him glorious and which you must also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations" (Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906)

Newsletter of The Oklahoma Division Of The Sons Of Confederate Veterans

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Grave Registration Project Begins In Oklahoma

Lt. Commander Harold Tydings

A project is now under way is to locate marked graves of Confederate Soldiers buried in Oklahoma. This project will provide valuable information for future generation, especially for genealogy research. For several years the Sons Of Confederate Veterans has been collecting information on the grave locations of Confederate Soldiers. The forms containing the data were transferred to the Broken Arrow Genealogy Society Library last year as the previous location no longer had room for the collection. It is estimated that over 5,000 records of Confederate Soldiers' graves have been identified. This information was collected by members of the SCV, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, County Genealogy Societies and by numerous individuals. At present the written copies of records are filed by county.

The SCV National Headquarters has requested that each SCV Division appoint a Compatriot as the state coordinator. Division Commander John Priddy appointed Bernard Cooper, Past Commander of Camp McIntosh as the coordinator for the project and National Grave Registration Committee member. Bernie and his wife, Lannie, are currently entering the data and it will soon be available by name, county or cemetery. Rank, unit, date of birth and date of death will be included when available. Bernie needs the assistance of all Compatriots through out the state to assist in locating the graves of our honored Confederate Soldiers. The Broken Arrow Genealogy Society has made a CD of the data available to Bernie and those who assist him in the project. hard copies of these records. Bernie's address is Compatriot Bernard Cooper, 23813 East Sisemore, Broken Arrow, OK 74014, Telephone (918) 357-2590, E-mail bcooper@valornet.com

When the initial phase is completed, a CD will be sent to County Genealogy organizations and with a request that they review and assist in locating additional grave sites. This will be coordinated with Camp Commanders in each county.

There are some graves of Confederate Soldiers that have no headstones. The original stone may have been a sandstone rock and with the passing of time has eroded away. Most of the time identification can be made from cemetery records. In some cases the grave may not have a stone but the cemetery record indicates that a person is in fact buried in a certain plot. Sometimes the contour of the earth will be sunken indicating that the earth has been disturbed. The following are two such cases:

In the cemetery east of Nowata, Oklahoma, Allen Harrison's great-great grandfather was buried without a headstone. However his wife was buried there and the ground was sunken indicating it had been disturbed. A headstone was ordered, set and the SCV held a dedication for the Tennessee Soldier.

In another case a former resident of Tulsa, who now lives in Missouri, requested that we assist with the dedication of a headstone for this relative. It took 25 years of research to locate the ancestor's grave site. The soldier's name was Hiram Pendleton Bird. He was another Tennessee soldier who came to Indian Territory. Private Bird was in the Yankee prison at Indianapolis, and developed dysentery that remained with him the rest of his life.

Private Bird is buried in the Cement, Oklahoma cemetery. His grave did not have a headstone but he was next to his wife. His stone may have deteriorated over the years, but there were cemetery records. Sounds easy enough.

However, Private Bird did not sign the Oath of Allegiance when he was released from the Yankee prison. He moved his family to Western Arkansas, then when the Oklahoma Territory opened he made the land run into central Oklahoma. For fear of his true identity becoming known. Since he had not signed the oath of allegiance to the government, he dropped his last name of Bird. He and one of his sons went into the area of 'free land' and picked out their desired piece of land. They went back to Kansas and when the cannon sounded they knew exactly where they wanted to go. During the journey Private Bird became deathly ill, stayed in the wagon, and sent his son ahead. His son waited for his father and after several days when Private Bird did not show up, his son traded their land for a horse and searched for and found his father, who was very ill but did recover.

After leaving Arkansas, Private Bird used the name "Hiram Pendleton," simply dropping the name "Bird." That's the reason it took 25 years to trace this man and his family. The Missouri Compatriot found a letter from a niece named "Dicey" and realized that was the name of Private Bird's wife. That name was the key to further research and traveling, and he finally located additional relatives and solved the Bird mystery. The family moved to Indian Territory but not on the staked out land.

In June 2007 the SCV had a headstone dedication for Private Hiram Pendleton Bird. There were 45 Pendleton family members at the cemetery for the dedication. During the ceremony the Missouri Compatriot told the members of the Pendleton family that they were not Pendletons, but were Birds.

In May 2008, The Georgia Division Lt. Commander, Ted Brooke, asked if the Oklahoma Division could provide a headstone dedication for his ancestor buried in Shawnee. Ted had already done the research, ordered the stone and had it set. Next March when the Division holds the annual state convention in Shawnee, we will have a headstone dedication following the convention.

Past Camp Commander Cecil Kirksey was unable to locate a grave site for his great uncle who was wounded and died after the Battle of Prairie Grove. The records only indicate that he died in a hospital two months after the battle. If the grave site is not known, then a headstone can be placed along the edge of the cemetery with the inscription, "In Memory Of," and the name of the person buried in an unknown grave.

Members of Camp McIntosh have righted and repaired headstones in several cemeteries. One was for a McIntosh in a small plot 7 miles west of Muskogee. Members of the camp not only locate grave sites, but they also clean and repair small Confederate family cemeteries. Major McHenry's family cemetery was cleaned and fenced not long ago. Another Confederate family cemetery is currently being reworked by members of Camp McIntosh. John Perryman's grave is in this small cemetery. His family made the "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma.

Are people interested in honoring their ancestors with a headstone and a dedication? Yes! A few years ago the camp in Muskogee set a stone for a Confederate Soldier buried near Tahlequah and 130 people attended the dedication. Is there work to be done? Yes. Here's one example. The Johnston

County census of 1910 indicates there were 156 Confederate Veterans living in the county. The majority of them probably died there, yet we only have grave information on a few of these Confederate Soldiers.

If a Veteran from any War, does not have a headstone, the government will provide one at no charge. The relative will have to pay for setting the stone, usually less than \$35.

Division Commander's Comments

As the end of summer approaches the Oklahoma Division can look back over the past few months to some solid accomplishments and noteworthy achievements. On June 21st, an Iron Cross of Honor ceremony was conducted at the grave of Private William P. Francis of Lamar County, Texas. Private Francis served in the 29th Texas Cavalry and is interred near Elk City. Undisturbed for several decades, regrettably his grave was vandalized earlier this year and an original Cross of Honor was stolen. A salute to Commander Jerry Brewer and the members of Privates Grayson & Brewer Camp #2118 for discovering the loss, procuring and installing a more secure replacement cross and conducting a respectful dedication service in remembrance of this Confederate hero.

Almost coincident with Private Francis' service, our National Headquarters solicited nominees of members who have contributed significantly to the maintenance and memorialization of our Confederate ancestors. Unfortunately at that time the Oklahoma Division was not represented on the National Graves Committee. However, that situation has been corrected and let me extend the Division's thanks to Compatriot Bernard Cooper, past commander of the COL. DANIEL N. MCINTOSH # 1378, who has accepted position as our Division's representative to that Committee. Compatriot Cooper is also heading a new project with goals of identifying all Confederate veterans interred in Oklahoma and establishing an easily accessible database for use by descendants, scholars and genealogists.

Congratulations are in order to former Division Commander Les Tucker who, during this year's National Reunion, received the Robert E. Lee Award. This award, second highest in the Sons of Confederate Veterans, recognizes service to the SCV in an outstanding manner in a position at the national, department, or division level.

On July 29th I had a very cordial meeting with Dr. Bob Blackburn, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society. He indicated willingness to work with our Division in areas of mutual interest. The Historical Society has begun first steps in preparing for the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States and Dr. Blackburn has offered to include us in planning sessions as soon as his internal committee reaches the point of expanding participation to include external organizations. That committee's focus is to identify events, reenactments, and other activities which will highlight Oklahoma's involvement in the conflict.

Regarding the upcoming Sesquicentennial, as a result of discussions at this year's National Reunion, Commander-in-Chief McMichael has set a goal of each state sponsoring at least one event for each of the Sesquicentennial's years. We'll probably be establishing a committee to identify the best ways of meeting that goal, so I ask each camp to begin thinking about projects which may best highlight the Confederacy's role in Oklahoma history as well as subsequent contributions to our state from Confederate veterans.

A meeting to begin chartering a new camp for the Ardmore-Madill area of southern Oklahoma was held in Madill on August 23rd. Compatriot James Catron appointed interim Camp Commander. Seventeen prospective charter members attended and selected "Stand Watie" as the new camp's name. Spe-

See "Commander's Comments, Concluded," Page 7



The Chaplain's Pulpit



Jerry C. Brewer, Chaplain, Oklahoma Division

"I cried all night. I'm going to be crying for the next four years. What Barack Obama has accomplished is the single most extraordinary event that has occurred in the 232 years of the nation's political history... The event itself is so extraordinary that another chapter could be added to the Bible to chronicle its significance." (Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., quoted at PatriotPost.com).

The above quote is indicative of modern man's lack of respect for the Bible. Southerners have, historically, regarded it as, indeed, the very Word of God and have treated it as such. The Southern approach to the Bible is the same as the Southern approach to the United States Constitution—both are to be strictly construed. The framers of the latter did as the Author of the former—they said what they meant and meant what they said.

Sadly, our generation has adopted an eclectic approach to both the Constitution and the Bible. Postmodernism permeates American thought from top to bottom. Postmodernism is the silly notion that Truth is determined by subjectivism and does not reside in an objective standard—that it only means what we *decide* it means. But God's Word is absolute Truth and is to be regarded as such. It is to be neither diminished, nor added to, as suggested in the above quote. Moses warned Israel against such in Deuteronomy 4:2: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it." Solomon later wrote, "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:6), and at the very end of the Bible the third such warning is found: "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19).

The Bible is to be strictly construed and one is to act in religion *only as God has authorized*. That is abundantly clear from the account of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, in Leviticus 10:1-2: "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord." God specified that fire for the priests' censers was to be taken from the altar of incense which stood before the veil in the tabernacle. But these two men took fire from another source—one which God had not authorized—and in so doing, sinned and lost their lives.

In our modern world, folks believe we can do anything which God did not say *not* to do. That was Nadab and Abihu's problem. They used fire "which he [God] commanded them *not*." God had not said, "*Don't* use fire from another source," but had given specific instructions as to the source He desired. That is precisely the problem in the world today, but Southern men understand that the Bible is God's Word and is not to be tampered with under any circumstances. God meant what He said and said what He meant and no man has the right to change that Word to suit himself or see that, "another chapter is added to the Bible" to chronicle *any* event.

Yankees Deserted Their Own POWs

Jerry C. Brewer

The following item is taken from the *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1906, which was given to me by Compatriot Larry D. Davis, a member of the Pvt. Grayson & Brewer Camp, Elk City. In the masthead of the magazine is a most interesting statement which says, "The terms, 'New South,' and 'lost cause,' are objectionable to the Veteran." This, of course, was printed in an era in which many Confederate veterans were still living, but those terms should still be objectionable to every Son of Confederate Veterans. The "cause" for which our fathers fought was never defeated. The South suffered a military defeat, but the Constitutional rights of secession and self-determination were *never* defeated, and the term "new south" simply means a South made over by Yankees. I, too, find those terms objectionable.

This article is a portion of the report in the 1906 edition concerning the erection of a monument at Andersonville, Georgia to Capt. Henry Wirz, commander of the POW camp there during the war. Wirz was executed—murdered—by Federal authorities following the war, accused of atrocities against Yankee prisoners. That was a false charge, but it made no difference to the victors who were determined to have a scapegoat. Here, then, is that article, under the heading of, *Georgia U.D.C. To Honor Henry Wirz*.

Extracts From An Appeal By Mrs. Young

"The following quotations from E. M. Stanton, United States Secretary of War, and Gen. Grant, Commander in Chief of Federal armies, furnish the following statistics:

"Mr Stanton, in his report of July 19, 1866, made the statement that there were of Confederates in Northern prisons, 220,000; Union soldiers in Southern prisons, 270,000; excess of Union prisoners, 50,000; deaths in Northern prisons, 26,536; deaths in Southern prisons, 22,756.

"This report of Secretary Stanton was corroborated the next June by the report of Surgeon General Barnes, and shows that 12 percent of all Confederate prisoners died in Northern prisons, while less than nine percent of Union soldiers died in Southern prisons. Does this not show the falsity of the claim that the South's treatment of prisoners in her hands was more severe?

"The South was all the time anxious to exchange man for man, and desired to exchange prisoners on the field where they were taken, thus avoiding the many horrors of prison life.

"In Gen. Grant's dispatch to Gen. Butler, Aug. 18, 1864, he said, 'It is hard on our men in Southern prisons not to exchange them, but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. At this particular time to release all Rebel prisoners North would insure Sherman's defeat and would compromise our safety here.

"What a tribute to Southern valor! The weak, ill-fed Confederates just from Federal prisons would 'insure the defeat of Sherman's well-fed veterans and imperil the safety of Grant's army!'

"The Richmond authorities purposed to permit Federal surgeons to go to the Southern prisons, carrying and administering their own medicines *and not asking a similar right for the Confederates*. This was not accepted, though they well knew that the great mortality and suffering their prisoners were undergoing was for want of medicine.

"All hope of being exchanged being abandoned, Judge Auld, the Confederate commissioner, offered

See, "Yankees Desert POWs," Page 8

Iron Cross Replaced And Dedicated



A Southern Cross of Honor, placed on the grave of Private W. P. Francis, Co. C, 29th Texas Cavalry, by the UDC about 80 years ago, was stolen from his grave at Ural Cemetery near Elk City in 2007. The Privates Grayson & Brewer Camp, Elk City, purchased another cross and replaced the stolen one with a dedication ceremony, June 21st. Shown here (L-R) are Oklahoma Division Commander, John Priddy; Oklahoma Division Lieutenant Commander, Harold Tydings; and Pvts. Grayson & Brewer Camp Lieutenant Commander, Ken Brewer. Commander Priddy made the dedication speech, after remarks by Lt. Cdr. Tydings and, Pvts. Grayson & Brewer Camp Commander, Jerry C. Brewer.

New Camp To Be Chartered In Oklahoma Division

On Saturday, August 23rd, an organizational meeting was held in Madill for the soon to be chartered Ardmore/Madill Camp. James Catron is the Provisional Camp Commander. Commander Catron's telephone is (580) 579-0431 and his e-mail address is circlecrossranch@gmail.com

Nineteen men attended the organizational meeting and the roster for potential camp members has now grown to 25 names with more to follow. On September 13, the camp met at the Pioneer Museum in Marietta and reviewed membership applications, Confederate ancestors, and genealogy.

Commander's Comments (Concluded From Page 3)

cial thanks are in order to Division Lieutenant Commander Harold Tydings for working with Compatriot Catron to organize the meeting and provide an excellent program on the Confederate raider "Shenandoah."

On August 26th a similar meeting was conducted in Edmond to begin actions to charter a new camp for that community. With attendees and others unable to make the meeting, there are sufficient members to proceed with chartering. Thanks to past Division Commander Les Tucker for setting up the meeting.

Looking forward to the Sesquicentennial, I came across the following interesting quotation from America's most famous iconoclast regarding Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: "The Gettysburg speech is at once the shortest and the most famous oration in American history. Put beside it, all the whoopings of the Websters, Sumners and Everetts seem gaudy and silly. It is eloquence brought to a pellucid and almost gem-like perfection - the highest emotion reduced to a few poetical phrases. Nothing else precisely like it is to be found in the whole range of oratory. Lincoln himself never even remotely approached it. It is genuinely stupendous.

"But let us not forget that it is poetry, not logic; beauty, not sense. Think of the argument in it. Put it into the cold words of everyday. The doctrine is simply this: that the Union soldiers who died at Gettysburg sacrificed their lives to the cause of self-determination - 'that government of the people, by the people for the people,' should not perish from the earth. It is difficult to imagine anything more untrue. The Union soldiers in that battle actually fought *against* self-determination; it was the Confederates who fought for the right of their people to govern themselves. What was the practical effect of the battle of Gettysburg? What else than the destruction of the old sovereignty of the States, *i.e.*, of the people of the States? The Confederates went into battle free; they came out with their freedom subject to the supervision and veto of the rest of the country - and for nearly twenty years that veto was so effective that they enjoyed scarcely more liberty, in the political sense, than so many convicts in the penitentiary." (H. L. Mencken, from "Five Men at Random," *Prejudices: Third Series*, 1922, pp. 171-76.)

Undoubtedly the upcoming Sesquicentennial will differ in content and tone from the Centennial of the early 1960's, and will most likely favor politically correct interpretations of the war; its causes, goals, and lasting results. I thought Mencken's comments, although made over 80 years ago, were worth repeating.

Yours in service
John Priddy, Commander
Oklahoma Division
Sons Of Confederate Veterans

Lt. Cdr. Tydings Receives First Jack Westbrook Award

The Colonel Daniel N. McIntosh Camp of Tulsa has created a new award, *The Jack E. Westbrook Award*, named for our esteemed Compatriot who now lives in Argyle, Texas, under the care of his daughter, Cynthia. Unlike Camp McIntosh's other award, *The Chief Dode McIntosh Award*, this one can be presented to an SCV member whose primary membership is with another camp. As the first recipient, Okla. Division Lt. Cdr. William Harold Tydings, USCG (Ret.) was chosen. Recognition for his extensive and excellent service to Oklahoma SCV camps was long overdue. It was time to formally express our gratitude. Many of you know of his work spanning fifteen years, or more, but none of us know the full extent of it, because he has worked at various levels and for many different camps. However, most of us are aware of his recruiting efforts for Camp McIntosh and other eastern Oklahoma camps, his popularity as a speaker, and his work as a newsletter publisher, as well as his help with many other SCV activities. PCC Carl Fallen presented the award to Harold on behalf of the Camp.

Yankees Desert POWs (Concluded From Page 5)

early in August, 1864, to deliver to the Federal authorities all their sick and wounded at the mouth of the Savannah River without asking for an equivalent of Southern prisoners. And though the deadly malarial season was just ahead at this time of year, the United States government did not send a vessel to receive these dying prisoners until December, thus allowing a scarcity of food and medicine and the burning sun of the dog days to have full sway over their brave prison soldiers. As soon as a Federal vessel reached the mouth of the Savannah River, 13,000 Federal sick, wounded, and some able-bodied soldiers were turned over to the authorities, while 3,000 Confederate soldiers were delivered to the Richmond authorities.

"The supplies for hospitals in the South having become absolutely exhausted, the authorities offered to buy hospital supplies from the North, payable in gold or cotton, promising on the honor of the South that none of them should be used for Southern soldiers, yet this was declined."

Camps Of The Oklahoma Division

Col. Dew M. Wisdom Camp, No. 307

Waggoner

Capt. Clem Van Rogers Camp, No. 481

Oklahoma City

Gen. Nathan B. Forest Camp, No. 513

Norman

Brig. Gen. Albert Pike Camp, No. 1367

El Reno

Col. Daniel N. McIntosh Camp, No. 1378

Tulsa

Lt. William H. Mayes Camp, No. 2078

Pryor

Privates Grayson & Brewer Camp, No. 2118

Elk City

Capt. James J. McAlester Camp, No. 775

McAlester