

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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Grand Army Of The Republic Of Thieves

"Glen Burnie, (North Carolina) March 21, 1865

My Dear Cousin,

"Well Pattie, I have seen the Yankees at last, and I earnestly pray that I may never see them again. The 9th of March will ever be remembered by me. The vagabonds appeared here early that morning, we had no idea they were within fifty miles of here... There was a hundred fifty men in the first squad that came here, and such a yell as they gave when they rode in the gate, mortal never heard. Papa ran to the swamp as soon as he saw them coming, and they were almost frantic with rage when they found he had left and started in the woods to find him and swore by all the saints in heaven that they would kill him if they found him.

"The rascals all came in, and in less than ten minutes the house was stripped of almost everything. Pa had the night before fortunately concealed his two watches and your jewelry in a very nice place... One of them came to me to know where they were, I of course refused to tell, he then immediately presented a pistol to my head and swore he would take my life if I did not tell him... They carried off every earthly thing we had to eat, did not leave a grain of corn or coffee, or anything that would sustain life one day, and they found all our silver and took every knife, fork and spoon we had in the world.

"They set the Piney Woods on fire all around us. Tell Aunt Jenny they set on fire all the rosin she saw, and turned day into night. They carried off a great many of our clothes, have not left me a cloak or shawl of any kind, tore the silk you gave Jenny all to flinders, and carried off my best dresses, and two of Mama's silks. Have not one blanket in the house, have only a half dozen quilts. The Yankees burned our barn and swore they would burn our house over our heads, but Providence saved it. I can't tell you how.

"Well Pat, I must close by telling you that the Yanks never caught Papa and that we are not quite starved to death, though we came very near it, we went five days without a mouthful of bread. You will excuse the paper I know as it is all the Yankees left in the house, and 'tis a wonder they left this. Oh how I do hate the very name of Yankee! May the chilling blight of heaven fall on their dark and doomed souls. May all the powers of earth and heaven combine to destroy them, may their land be one vast scene of ruin and desolation as ours is. This is the blessing of the innocent and injured one. I forgive them? May heaven never! Nellie." (**A Goodly Heritage**, Emma Woodward MacMillan, Wilmington Printing Company, 1961, pp. 65- 69)

Oklahoma Division Dispatches

Madill - We had a great meeting Jan. 16th in Madill. Harrell Harris, David Benz, Rick Powell, Tom Groschell, Shelby Dodd, Sam Cottrell, J. B. Pruitt, and I and Sherry enjoyed an inspiring movie Rick brought that describes how the Upshur County, Texas SCV camp moved the remains of Col. Cullin Redwine Earp, Commander of the 10th Texas Cavalry (Dismounted) from a neglected grave to a place of honor. David provided his DVD player for the meeting and it worked beautifully. Thanks to both Rick and David.

I reported that I will be the keynote speaker at the annual Stonewall Jackson-Robert E. Lee banquet in OKC on the topic of "Ethno-Nationalism and the South."

The food and service were wonderful and much lively conversation and camaraderie made the meeting very enjoyable for all. Our next meeting will February 20th.

James Catron, Commander, Stand Watie #149 Sons of Confederate Veterans

Edmond - Compatriot Les Tucker sends this note: "A man contacted me and said he has an SCV membership certificate dated March, 1907. The name is W. F. Culver, from Meeker, Okla. The man would like to return it to the family if he can find them. His contact info is Gary Clonts (405) 620-2655.

Broken Arrow - Division Lt. Cmdr. Tydings sends the following note: "We have four names of men in the Grove, Oklahoma area and plan to start a camp there in the spring. If you have relatives or friends in the Grove area that may be interested in the SCV contact Lt. Commander Harold Tydings, telephone (918) 459-6869 or e-mail htydings@att.net. We also have four names in the Ada area and the same thing applies to the Ada area.

Poteau - Oklahoma's newest camp, the Richard Gano Camp, No. 892, has been chartered in Poteau. Oklahoma Division Commander, John Priddy, presented the camp's charter to the new Camp Commander, David Tamplin on January 21, 2010.

Email dispatches to txbrew@itlnet.net for inclusion in the Southern Preceptor.

Hungry, Ragged, Fearless American Soldiers

"At Monroe's Farm...General Wade Hampton and his Confederate cavalry caught Judson Kilpatrick with his pants down—in fact, without any pants—in a sudden surprise attack during the early dawn of March 11 [1865]. Had the famished Confederates not stopped to loot the Yankee camp of food, they might have gained a signal victory that day. Many of the Confederates killed in that fight were boys—the seed corn of the Confederacy, as Governor Vance called them. They died then, those boys, many calling for their mothers. Their mangled bodies lie in a mass grave in old Longstreet Church Cemetery, now a part of the Fort Bragg Reservation.

Oklahoma Division Commander's Comments

Commander John Priddy, Oklahoma Division

The New Year has begun on a positive note for the Division as on January 21st we officially chartered the Brigadier General Richard M. Gano Camp #892 in Poteau.

2010 is an important year for the Confederation as elections will be held for national, army and division offices. We're also rapidly approaching the Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence. I greatly regret to inform the Division's membership that despite considerable efforts by many members, most prominently those by Captain Clem Van Rogers commander Terry Pierce, we were unable to receive a seat on the State's Sesquicentennial planning commission. But our nominee, Past Division Commander Les Tucker, Phd., did receive support from several State representatives, so we do have some support in the legislature. I've been informed the current Commission will serve for two years, and we may anticipate another being established for planning the later years of the Sesquicentennial period. So, it's not too soon to be preparing to assert our Division's right to represent our ancestors on that new commission. Several key legislators including the governor and speaker of the house will be changing with the upcoming November elections, and hopefully we'll find ourselves with replacements more congenial to our organization, its purpose and values. More information will follow as soon as we learn of plans to begin crafting legislation to establish that commission.

The commission notwithstanding, I most strongly encourage all camps and members to seek effective ways of responding to our charge from Lieutenant General Stephen Dill Lee. Whether writing articles or opinions for publication, participating in parades, erecting monuments or emplacing Crosses of Honor, or reenacting, the Sesquicentennial offers us an excellent five year period to engage and enlighten our fellow citizens and such actions should be high on our priorities list.

I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's reunion.

Division Financial Report

Since the last financial report we had deposits of \$240.00 and two debits \$94.24 to cover the cost of the previous newsletter and \$91.01 to pay for an artificial wreath to be used in memorial services.

As of January 25, 2010 the Division has a total of \$1,796.07 in the General Fund and \$100.00 in the Ardmore Project Fund.

Robert K. Stock, Adjutant, Oklahoma Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, El Reno, Okla.

On through Fayetteville, across the Cape Fear River and up toward Averasboro went Johnston's little army of hungry, ragged men. Only a few days before an order had been issued that none would be excused from duty merely because he had no shoes! And this was March, and it was cold and it rained—Lord, it rained all the time. So they slogged through the mud and the mire and ate parched corn, pickled pork, roots, grub worms—anything they could chew and swallow. It was at the time when Johnston's chief surgeon stated he didn't believe there was a sound set of guts in the entire Confederate Army. The route of Johnston's retreat could be followed by following the trail of dysentery-ridden soldiers left in houses along the way.

These, then, were the 6,000 men of General Hardee's Corps, composed principally of South Carolinians, who placed themselves across that 3-1/2 mile stretch of land between the Cape Fear River and Black Rivers—4 miles south of old Averasboro. Their job? Lick the Yankees!

Over in the Black River Swamp the Confederates had charged the Yankee positions...The charge was intended to turn the Federal right and neatly cul-de-sac the whole Yankee Army against the Cape Fear River and destroy it. Six thousand against twenty thousand!" (*They Passed This Way*, Malcolm Fowler, Friends of Harnett County Library, 1955, pp. 95-96).

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

Brigadier General Stand Watie Camp, No. 149

Ardmore/Madill

Shelby's Oklahoma Iron Men Camp, No. 1356

Duncan

Cherokee Mounted Rifles Camp, No. 1501

Edmond

Richard Gano Camp, No. 892

Poteau