



# The Southern Advocate

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Oklahoma Division  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

<http://oklahomascv.org/>



*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit 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 you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."* (Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906)

Volume 7, Number 1

Winter Quarter

January – March 2015

## Oklahoma Division Convention – May 9

### Commander's Comments

Allen Harrison, Division Commander

We are two months into the calendar year and we should be actively contacting our delinquent members about rejoining our efforts to protect the integrity of our Confederate ancestors' good names. I have heard from a few camps who have added new and old members to the rosters since January 1.

Please direct your attention to a report in this publication on the Stephen Dill Lee Institute conference held February 6-7 in Dallas. Compatriot J. Bentley Couch of the McAlester camp submitted a very fine report on this event. I recommend you attend at least one of these conferences. Two of the cities under consideration for next year's conference are Charleston, SC and Tampa, FL.

There is a Confederate Heritage Rally in Shreveport, LA on May 30. The event will start at 1:30 pm. For detailed information go to [www.confederate150.com](http://www.confederate150.com). You will find a contact link at [scv150rally@gmail.com](mailto:scv150rally@gmail.com). Do not forget about camps Lt. Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore and Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City. They are hosting, along with the UDC, a big Confederate Memorial Day event on June 20 at Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City with H. K. Edgerton a noted black Confederate activist. For more information about H. K. Edgerton go to [www.southernheritage411.com](http://www.southernheritage411.com).

In closing, I cannot impress too much upon you as SCV members, honoring our ancestors and the importance of our recruiting and retention efforts. The very life blood of our organization is our active membership. A membership that will take on responsibilities to further the viability of their local camps. Once you recruit a man, you must keep him involved with camp activities, and stay in contact with him to urge him to attend meetings and share fellowship with his compatriots.

### Confederate History Month

April is Confederate History Month. This is not something just to acknowledge and then move on. It's a time to reflect on the meaning of that period of Southern history in which our ancestors believed their lives would be better and their liberties more secure as an independent republic outside the old Union. It's also a time to reflect on the personal struggles and sacrifices that our ancestors, and the collective Southern people, endured in their efforts to achieve independent nationhood.

Since there are no living people from that time, we cannot visit with actual witnesses. That leaves us with studying, not just reading, but studying, about the Southern struggle for independence. We recognize that many members are not regular readers, but for one month out of each year, set aside time for a good book, and learn something new about your history. An easy way to do it is by visiting our Virtual Library on the Division website and selecting one of the recommended books, and thereby improve your knowledge of the Confederate Period or of the South in general. Check with your local library for the book, or be bold and purchase one from an online book store, such as Amazon, Alibris or Barnes & Noble.

If anyone has any questions about any of the books listed in the Virtual Library, please contact the Division Historian at [khcook@cox.net](mailto:khcook@cox.net).



## SCV National Reunion

The 2015 SCV National Reunion will be held at The Doubletree Inn in Richmond, Virginia – July 15-19. The Reunion is sponsored by Major General J. E. B. Stuart Camp, No. 1343.

Places of interest in and around Richmond are almost unlimited. Within Richmond are the Museum and White House of the Confederacy, The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, Hollywood Cemetery, Monument Avenue and many other locations. Short drives away are the sites of the Seven Days Battles and the Petersburg National Battlefield. For the really adventurous, Colonial Williamsburg and the battlefields of Spotsylvania County are not too far away.

For those planning to attend the Reunion, now is the time to be thinking about hotel reservations.

For more information about registration and hotel accommodations, go to <http://www.jebstuartcamp.org/jebstuartcamp.org/2015reunion/>.

### Calendar of Events

May 9 – Oklahoma Division Convention – Shawnee  
May 25 – National Memorial Day  
July 4 – Independence Day  
July 15-19 – SCV National Reunion – Richmond, Virginia

### Dues Proration Period

We are now in the period of the national SCV's fiscal year when a member can be enrolled for a prorated membership fee for the remainder of the 2014-2015 year. Proration is based on the new member paying membership through July 2016. For example, a half-year's prorated fee of \$15, plus the full \$30 fee for the 2015-16 year will pay a new member through July 2016. That's a savings of \$15. This can be an important recruiting tool, and it will commit a new member through July 2016.

### Memorial Bricks Still Available

If you haven't purchased a memorial brick to place at the Division's Confederate monument at Rose Hill Cemetery – Ardmore, you can still do so. Honor your Confederate soldier ancestor with an investment of just \$100. Net proceeds, after the purchase of the brick and engraving, go to the Division's Project Fund. For more information, contact Comptroller Terry Pierce at [terrypierce41@yahoo.com](mailto:terrypierce41@yahoo.com).

## Important Contact Information

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Ken Cook, newsletter editor  
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Bryan Sharp, HQ membership  
Paula Kay, ATM assistant  
Oklahoma Division website  
National SCV website

SCV National HQ mailing address: PO Box 59, Columbia, TN 38405-0059

Please regularly visit the Oklahoma Division website for updates and other contact information on division officers, camps, camp officers, camp meeting information and more. We have added contact information on the "How to Join" page. Prospective members can now contact an actual person: Bob Woodall, Jr. at 918-704-8782 or [boba2j@aol.com](mailto:boba2j@aol.com).

### Gen. Cleburne Was Clear-eyed

The words of Irish-born Confederate Major General Patrick Cleburne from his January, 1864 letter that proposed the mass emancipation and enlistment of Black Southerners into the Confederate Army have proven prophetic:

"Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late ... . It means the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern schoolteachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision... The conqueror's policy is to divide the conquered into factions and stir up animosity among them ... . It is said slavery is all we are fighting for, and if we give it up we give up all. Even if this were true, which we deny, slavery is not all our enemies are fighting for. It is merely the pretense to establish sectional superiority and a more centralized form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties."

(Contributed by James Catron)



## Winter DEC Meeting

Allen Harrison, Division Commander

Our first Division Executive Council meeting of 2015 was held in Midwest City at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 10. Chaplain Tom Poteet opened the meeting with a prayer. Division Commander Allen Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance. Brigade Commander Rex Cash led the Salute to the Confederate Flag, and Lt. Commander Bob Pattison read the Charge. Division Adjutant Jim Orebaugh called the roll of camps. Camps in attendance were: Ardmore, Cooperton, Duncan, Edmond, Moore, Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Yukon.

Adjutant Jim Orebaugh gave the financial report. The division has \$3,700 in the bank with bills payable up to date. This includes approximately \$2,500 in the Project Fund (left over from the monument. Past-Commander Larry Logan reported on Recruiting and Retention. The division has 282 members as compared to 288 a year ago. (Coalgate submitted their dues for seven men after the DEC meeting.) The temporary increase in Division dues was discussed at length, with no decision made since we didn't have a quorum. Bryce Hill, Chief of Heritage Operations, was pleased to report that no heritage violations occurred during 2014. He also gave an update on the proposed SCV license plate project. The most likely way to get the plates approved is to wait for the U. S. Supreme Court to rule on Texas' suit before proceeding with the Oklahoma Tax Commission route.

A donation to the Indianapolis Confederate POW Memorial was discussed and will be resolved at our Division Convention. Chaplain Poteet gave the benediction, and the meeting was adjourned.

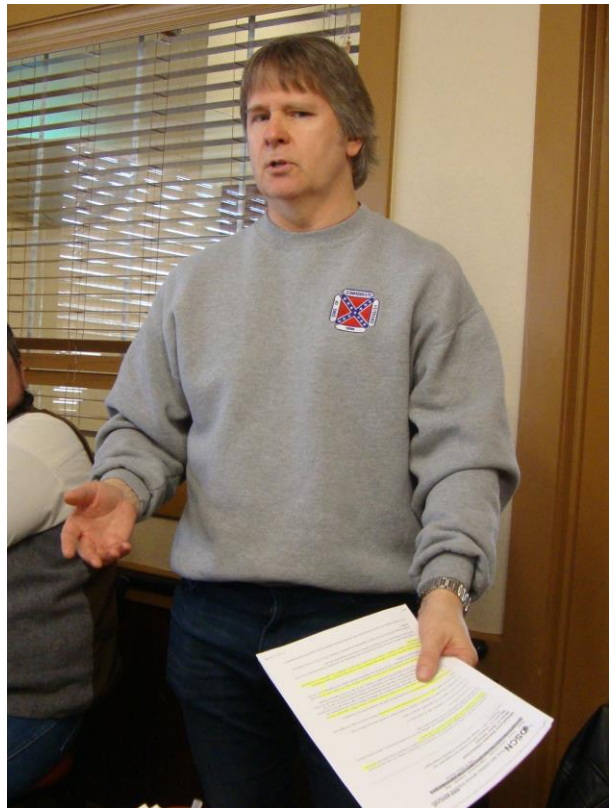
I look forward to seeing you at the convention on May 9.



Division Recruiting and Retention Officer, Larry Logan, reporting on the status of the Division as of year-end 2014.



Commander Allen Harrison addressing the meeting.



Chief of Heritage Operations, Bryce Hill, reporting on Division heritage issues (none) and his research on the options for acquiring state approval for SCV license plates. (Photos by Editor)

# **Oklahoma Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Convention & Reunion**

Saturday, May 9, 2015, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Campus, Shawnee, OK

1702 S. Gordon Cooper DR – Reunion Hall South

Coffee and donuts at 9:00 – Brigades meet at 9:30

Convention begins at 9:45

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Call to Order and Welcome – Division Commander Allen Harrison

Invocation – Division Chaplain Tom Poteet

Pledge of Allegiance – Division Commander Allen Harrison

Presentation of Colors – Camp Shelby's Iron Men Color Guard of Duncan.

Salute to the Confederate Flag – Camp Commander Jerry Patrick of Moore

Reading of the Charge – Division Lt. Commander Bob Pattison

10:00 ROLL CALL OF CAMPS – Division Adjutant Jim Orebaugh

## **ACTION ITEMS**

10:05 MINUTES – reading and approval

10:10 ADJUTANT'S FINANCIAL REPORT – reading and approval.

10:15 DONATION FOR INDIANAPOLIS CONFEDERATE POW MONUMENT – explanation and approval

10:20 STRATEGIC PLAN – presentation and approval

## **REPORTS**

10:35 Membership Report – Lt. Commander Bob Pattison of Poteau

10:40 Budget – Division Commander Allen Harrison of McAllister

10:45 Guardian Program – Camp Commander Jim Herndon of Bartlesville

10:55 Report on International Headquarters Membership Inquiries

11:00 Graves Report – Graves Registrar Bernie Cooper of Tulsa

11:05 Heritage Operations – Chief of Heritage Operations Bryce Hill of Tulsa

11:10 Division Newsletter – Editor Ken Cook of Tulsa

11:15 Facebook – Brigade Commander Virgil Chain of Duncan

11:25 Mechanized Cavalry – Camp Commander Everett Plummer of Poteau

11:30 License Plates – Chief of Heritage Operations Bryce Hill of Tulsa

11:35 Brigade Business – Brigade Commanders Bruce Bishop, Cash Chain and Marty Persall

11:40 PROGRAM – Division Historian Ken Cook "End of the Dream"

11:55 HAROLD TYDINGS AWARD – Division commander Allen Harrison

"DIXIE"

Benediction – Division Chaplain Tom Poteet of Oklahoma City

12:00 Adjournment

As required by Article 4, Section 5 of the Division Constitution, the Annual Convention will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.



## Columbia Museum Depicts 1865 Horror

Jeff Wilkinson, *beaufortgazette.com*

COLUMBIA, SC — Who burned much of Columbia to the ground on February 17, 1865, is a debate that has been as heated as the blaze for 150 years. But, when Union General William T. Sherman's troops left, about one-third of South Carolina's capital city was a smoldering ruin.

To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire, a new, major exhibit at the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum focuses not only on that horrifying day in Columbia, but the brutal march Sherman's troops made through South Carolina and North Carolina before and after — a march as destructive as the infamous March to the Sea through Georgia the year before.

"Paths of Destruction: Sherman's Final Campaign," which opens Friday (November 21), uses authentic Civil War artifacts, a life-sized diorama and a number of interactive features to detail that general's effort to smash the Confederacy in the state that fired the war's first shots.

"Sherman thought that to devastate South Carolina, which his soldiers called 'the hell hole of secession,' would end the war more quickly," said Katie Conley, the Relic Room's curator of history. "We decided to look at the campaign through the lens of total war and hard war and convey its effect on the people of South Carolina."

Following the burning of Atlanta, the March to the Sea and the capture of Savannah in December 1864, Sherman gained permission from General Ulysses S. Grant to lead his troops through South Carolina beginning in early 1865. The goal was to destroy all military facilities as well as mills, factories and farms in an attempt to break the morale of the Confederates and bring the war to an end as soon as possible.

But his soldiers also had other motives. "The truth is," Sherman wrote at the time, "the whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina. I almost tremble at her fate, but feel that she deserves all that seems in store for her."

Sherman's target was Columbia, where the state had held a convention, which led to its secession. Sherman also considered Columbia a richer prize than the much larger city of Charleston, because the Holy City had been devastated by years of naval bombardment. Columbia was also a major railroad hub and a large manufacturer of weapons, cloth and other materials that supplied General Robert E. Lee's besieged army at Petersburg and Richmond.

Ripping up railroads and burning mills, factories and public buildings as they went, Sherman's men cut a swath of destruction through the state as they traveled north into North Carolina. This example of total war, with little differentiation between military and private entities, left a lasting impact on the Carolinas, and when it officially ended in North Carolina on April 26, 1865, was one of the final campaigns of the war.

"It was a precursor to modern total warfare," such as the use of strategic bombing in World War II and the dropping of the first nuclear weapons", Conley said.



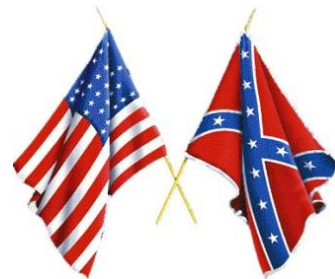
The South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum opens a new exhibit on General Sherman's march through South Carolina in 1865. The exhibit opened to the public November 21, 2014. (Photo by Kim Foster-Tobin)

## The Bloodiest Place in America

Ken Cook, Division Historian

From December 1862 through May 1864, four major battles were fought in Spotsylvania County, Virginia — Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse. In an area of only 412 square miles — about seventy percent the size of Tulsa County — 84,143 men were officially reported killed or wounded in these four battles. That's about 8,000 more than the total battlefield dead and wounded of Shiloh, Sharpsburg and Gettysburg combined. Put another way, the battlefield dead of Spotsylvania County represents about seven and one-half percent — one of every thirteen men — of all the total wartime Union and Confederate battlefield dead.

One hundred, fifty years later, these numbers are but dry statistics, maybe only answers to Civil War trivia questions for some. But, each number was a real, flesh and blood man who represented personal suffering and tragedy for over 84,000 men and their families. Spotsylvania County is truly hallowed ground, the bloodiest place in America.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry (CSA)

Ken Cook, Division Historian

After Fort Sumter, several thousand Marylanders sympathetic to the South crossed the Potomac to join the Confederate Army. Most enlisted in Virginia regiments, but several hundred formed six companies at Harpers Ferry and called themselves the Maryland Battalion. The members of the battalion refused all entreaties to join a Virginia regiment. The Confederate Army assigned Col. Arnold Elzey, a career officer and Marylander, to command the battalion. It was mustered into the Confederate Army as the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Regiment on June 16, 1861.

The regiment was a descendant of the Baltimore Independent Cadets, formed on December 3, 1774. In 1776, the Cadets became Smallwood's Maryland Battalion. On August 27, 1776, Smallwood's Battalion was on Long Island, where they first went into combat against the British army. Following the Continental army's withdrawal from Long Island, the battalion saw action at Harlem Heights, Fort Washington and White Plains. On December 10, in response to a request from the Continental Congress for troops, Smallwood's Battalion was incorporated into the 5<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry, the "Dandy Fifth", as part of the Maryland Continental Line. Before the war was over, the regiment saw action at Germantown, Guilford Courthouse and Camden.

During the War of 1812, the Dandy Fifth engaged Wellington's Invincibles of the British army in the Baltimore defenses at what was later called the Battle of North Point. The British slowly pushed the American defenders back into their defensive lines, but the spirited defense prompted the British commander to abandon a land action in favor of reducing Fort MCHenry by naval bombardment. Everyone knows how that ended.

Nine days after its mustering into Confederate service, two additional companies joined the regiment. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's first major action was at the first Battle of Manassas. They arrived at the scene of the battle after it was well under way. The regiment was combined with the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia, 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee to form the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade under command of Brig. General Edmond Kirby Smith. The brigade entered the battle, to its surprise, on the right flank of the Union army and along with other units broke the Union line, causing disorganization and Union retreat to Bull Run and the famous little stone bridge, the scene of what became a partial rout of the Union Army.

After the battle, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland returned to the Valley to become part of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Army. The regiment spearheaded the attack on Front Royal, which coincidentally was garrisoned in part by the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry (USA). The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland participated in the remainder of the battles of Jackson's Valley Campaign. With McClelland's invasion of the James-York Peninsula, Jackson was ordered to the Richmond area to reinforce the Army of Virginia (later Army of Northern Virginia). After the series of battles, called the

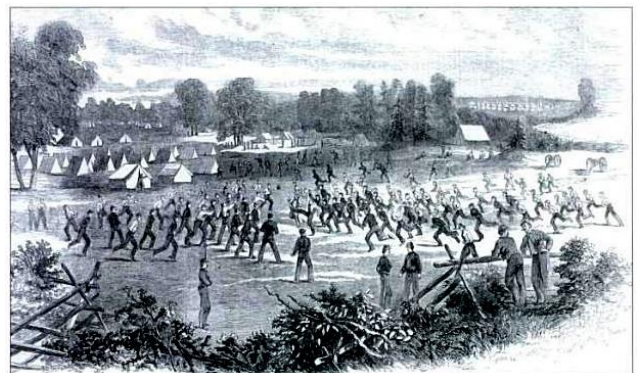
Seven Days, that forced McClelland to withdraw from the Peninsula, the regiment moved with Jackson to Gordonsville. The men's one-year enlistment had now expired, and on August 17, the regiment was mustered out of Confederate service. Because the men were not citizens of the Confederacy, the government had no authority to extend their enlistments. The regimental commander, Gen. Bradley Johnson, and his staff offered their services to General Jackson. Later Johnson would command a new Maryland regiment, the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some of the enlisted men of the old 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland joined Virginia cavalry regiments, while others later joined the newly formed 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland.

On September 29, 1881, several independent militia companies from Frederick and Hagerstown, direct descendants of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry (CSA), formed the First Battalion of Infantry. During World War I, the First was joined with the 5<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry to form the 115<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Maryland National Guard. The 115<sup>th</sup> saw combat in France where it received battle streamers for Alsace and Meuse-Argonne.

After World War I, the 115<sup>th</sup> was re-designated the 175<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the Blue and Gray Division. As part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, one of the D-Day invasion divisions, the 175<sup>th</sup> went ashore at Omaha Beach in the second wave. The Dandy Fifth's most recent deployment was to Iraq in 2007, as a unit of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. The regiment's Latin motto, *Decus et Praesidium*, is translated: An Honor and a Guard.



175<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment "Dandy Fifth", 58<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, Maryland National Guard



Men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry (CSA) playing football (soccer) at Camp Johnson near Winchester, Virginia. Published in *Harper's Weekly* on August 31, 1861.

## Huge Cache of Confederate Weapons Seized by Gen. Sherman May Have Been Found in South Carolina River

Lindsey Bever, *WashingtonPost.com*

Drunk and rowdy, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's troops captured South Carolina's capital on February 17, 1865. It was nearing the end of the Civil War, and Sherman's plan was to destroy the state where secession began.

"The truth is, the whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina," Sherman wrote to Gen. Henry W. Halleck. "I almost tremble at her fate, but feel that she deserves all that seems in store for her."

Sherman's 60,000-man army torched Columbia in retaliation for seceding from the Union. The blaze, which he later blamed on a Confederate general he said left cotton bales in the streets, destroyed a third of the city. Sherman's troops made off with the Confederate armory. They confiscated cannonballs, rammers, sabers and bayonet scabbards. And, on their way out of town, they dumped whatever they couldn't carry into the Congaree River.

Amid a massive toxic tar cleanup, historians have found possible evidence of the loot using sonar and metal detectors near the Gervais Street Bridge in downtown Columbia, the city's *State* newspaper first reported over the weekend. The munitions, if indeed they are munitions, are said to be buried in 40,000 tons of black tar that spilled into the river several years ago from a now-defunct power plant. Historians are trying to find the best way to retrieve the stash, with explosive experts on hand.

"Hopefully, none of it is going to blow up," Joe Long, curator of the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, told the newspaper.

Researchers located more than 200 sites in the two-foot-thick oil sludge as "exhibiting signature characteristics that could be associated with ordnance."

The tar was discovered in 2010 near the governor's mansion by a local kayaking instructor — and the city launched an \$18.5 million cleanup led by SCANA, an energy company.

"We don't have any direct knowledge of ordnance," Tom Effinger, SCANA's director of environmental services, told the State. "We don't know if it's hubcaps or what is there."

However, the newspaper recently obtained a report to SCANA from Tidewater Atlantic Research, a historical and archaeological firm, about the weapons.

"It has been confirmed that in 1865, during the Civil War, live munitions and other articles of war produced by the Confederacy were dumped into the Congaree River near the Gervais Street Bridge by Union forces," it stated.

For more than a century, bits and pieces of the Confederate materiel have been recovered. After the war, locals would jump into the river to retrieve cannonballs and shells. In the 1930s, political leaders organized a dive that turned up a half-dozen cannonballs, more than 1,000 rifle balls as well as time-

fused bombs and an ax, the State reported. In the 1970s and 1980s, private excavations found additional items.

It's unclear exactly how much there is to find, but an inventory taken 150 years ago lists 1.2 million ball cartridges, 100,000 percussion caps, 26,000 pounds of gun powder, 4,000 bayonet scabbards, more than 3,000 sabers, more than 1,000 soldiers' knapsacks and nearly 60 tents, according to the newspaper.

"I'm sure there will be some interesting items," South Carolina's underwater archaeologist James Spirek told the *State*. "I don't anticipate huge volumes."

As dawn broke on February 16, 1865, Union soldiers moved in on the water's edge, across from Columbia on the other side of the Congaree, according to the city's history. When the troops discovered the Gervais Street Bridge had been burned by the rebel army, they began firing cannons on the town. They bombed the railway station and the state house, which was under construction at the time.

Sherman sent his men to the only other bridge on the Broad River and, as the soldiers approached, the Confederates burned the bridge to stop them. Sherman's army waited until nightfall, then crossed the river in pouring rain. Later that night, much of the city was aflame.

Historians are excited about the pieces of history they might find buried deep in the Congaree. "It's really going to help up interpret what was a defining point for Columbia's history and, really, South Carolina's history," Long told the State.

(Contributed by James Catron)



"Abraham Lincoln once asked General [Winfield] Scott the question: "Why is it that you were once able to take the City of Mexico in three months with five thousand men, and we have been unable to take Richmond with one hundred thousand men?"

"I will tell you," said General Scott. "The men who took us into the City of Mexico are the same men who are keeping us out of Richmond."

*Confederate Veteran* – September 1913, page 471

(Contributed by James Catron)





## Camp News and Activities



As they have for the past several Christmas seasons, compatriots of Camp Shelby's Iron Men of Duncan placed Christmas wreaths on the graves of Confederate veterans in their area. This is the grave of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Cornelius M. Hardy, Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Georgia Sharpshooters, located in Highland Cemetery in Lawton.

Camp Captain James J. McAlester of McAlester, held its monthly meeting at the Western Sizzlin' Restaurant January 17. Nine out of a total of twenty members were present. In addition there were two lady guests and one prospective member at the meeting.

A certificate of membership was presented to Charles E. Lane for his son William Lee Lane. Compatriot Lane has gifted SCV memberships to three of his sons. He has one more to gift.

The featured speaker was J. Bentley Couch, who transferred his SCV membership from Maryland. Compatriot Couch gave a very informative presentation, entitled "Life of Robert E. Lee". The topic was timely as Lee's birthday was January 19. Adjutant Harrison covered the SCV Guardian Program and encouraged members to participate. Division Lt. Commander Bob Pattison and Camp Chaplain Alvin Johnson read laudatory remarks praising Lee to close the meeting.



Compatriot J. Bentley Couch presenting his program: "The Live of Robert E. Lee".



Oklahoma Division Commander and Camp McAlester Adjutant, Allen Harrison, presenting the SCV membership certificate of William Lee Lane to his father, Charles Lane. (Article and photos contributed by Allen Harrison.)

Camp Lt. Colonel Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore and Camp Shelby's Iron Men of Duncan have developed great Facebook pages. Check them out.

Camp Captain Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City held its annual Lee-Jackson-Rogers Dinner on Saturday, January 24. The guest speaker was Mr. Mark Kreslins whose topic was "Secession is Not a Dirty Word". As always, the dinner was a success.



Adjutant Terry Pierce introducing the guest speaker at the camp's annual Lee-Jackson-Rogers Dinner.





Display table showing original items used by Confederate soldiers during the War for Southern Independence and an oil painting of Jefferson Davis that was loaned by a descendant.



Oklahoma Division Commander, Allen Harrison, administers the oath of office to Tulsa's Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh's 2015 officers at the camp's January 13 meeting. Officers (l to r) – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Steven Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Mark Keith, Commander Bruce Bishop and Adjutant Robert Woodall, Jr. (Photo by Editor)



Commander Eric McBroom describing the artifacts to the attendees.  
(Photos contributed by Eric McBroom.)



A United States Marine raises a Confederate battle flag over Shuri Castle, Okinawa – 1945

## 2015 Stephen Dill Institute

J. B. Couch (Camp Capt. James J. McAlister)

In 1906 the Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, General Stephen Dill Lee, gave the charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The SCV Charge concludes with: "Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."



Posting the colors at the opening of the Stephen Dill Lee Institute

The Stephen Dill Lee Institute has taken this as its mission statement. In October 2005 the Stephen Dill Lee Institute held its first conference and has been holding one every year since. The Institute's goal is to establish a format where historians and scholars can present the true history of the South.

The Stephen Dill Lee Institute held the 2015 conference in the Hilton Double Tree Hotel in Dallas, Texas, on February 6 and 7. Ed Moon, of South Carolina, served as the master of ceremonies. The Texas Division hosted the event. The Oklahoma Division was represented by Past-Division Commander Larry Logan, current Division Commander Allen Harrison, and Compatriot Bently Couch, Camp Capt. James J. McAlester, of McAlester.

Friday evening activities began with a taco-burrito supper. After supper, Jeffery Addicott, Law professor at St. Mary's University School of Law, spoke on "Lincoln's Legacy: Lies, Damn Lies, and Damn Yankee Lies." He said the four Lincoln myths are:

1. "*Lincoln is the Great Emancipator*" - Actually, the Emancipation Proclamation freed no slaves. It was applicable for slaves in the Confederate territory where Lincoln had no authority. It was not applicable in northern slave states nor in the Union occupied South.

2. "*Lincoln is a great politician*" - Actually, he was a political novice. For example, six states (Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Missouri, and Kentucky) seceded because Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to invade the South and suppress Southern independence.

3. "*Lincoln is a Humanitarian*" - Lincoln's War caused more than 700,000 American deaths. The Confederate death rate at Elmira POW Camp was about twenty-five per cent because the Lincoln regime withheld food and medicine. Union troops could have freed the Northern POWs at Andersonville, but left them there, because feeding and housing Yankee prisoners drained Southern resources.

4. "*Lincoln saved democracy*" - Actually, "a government of the people, by the people and for the people," was exactly what the South was fighting for. Lincoln suppressed it.

Saturday morning's first speaker was Egon Tausch, a retired lawyer and former adjunct professor of Constitutional and contract law. His talk was entitled "Lincoln's Legacy: Who Needs a Constitution?" He said that the WBTS was a constitutional war; the Constitution was overthrown to allow tyranny. Lincoln's blockade of the South was illegal as stated by the Supreme Court in the Prize Case. The only difference between Lincoln's plan for "reconstruction" and Congress's plan was that Lincoln wanted presidential rule and Congress wanted congressional rule during reconstruction. President Andrew Johnson stated that they can preserve the constitution, or preserve the union, not both. Thaddeus Stevens, an anti-Southern leader in the House of Representatives during Reconstruction, stated that "all governments are tyrannical, better ours."

Scott Bowden presented "You Have Only To Blow the Bugle; Robert E. Lee, the War and Its Aftermath." He stated that Walter Taylor, General Robert E. Lee's aide, noted that in 1861, only Lee believed that the War would take years and would cost more than the American Revolution. General McClellan said that General Lee's military prowess is worth 40,000 men.



SCV National Commander, Charles Kelly Barrow, addressing the Stephen Dill Lee Institute



After lunch, Dr. Donald Livingston, Professor of Philosophy at Emory University, spoke on "Lincoln's War and the Destruction of Jeffersonian America." According to Dr. Livingston, there are two visions of what America should be: the Jeffersonian view and the Lincolnian view:

The Jeffersonian view as promoted by Thomas Jefferson was the primary American View 1776 to 1860:

- The states are sovereign;
- The Constitution is a compact between sovereign states for common defense;
- Reliance on the Constitution;
- No Central Bank;
- No internal taxes.

The Lincolnian View as promoted by James Madison was the primary American view 1865 until 1960s:

- The states are not sovereign;
- The Constitution forms a sovereign nation where the states are not sovereign;
- Reliance on centralized government;
- Central Bank (Federal Reserve);
- Income tax.

Dr. Livingston also noted that the Confederate Constitution is more Jeffersonian than the US Constitution. The South was not too small to be an independent country. It had the fourth largest economy in the world in 1860. Today, with a \$4.9 trillion GDP, the South would still be the fourth largest economy in the world. Texas alone has the fourteenth largest GDP in the world today.

Marshall DeRosa, Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University, presented what a Confederate president might say in a 2015 State of the Union Address. He commented that if secession results in violence, then there is more reason for secession. Northerners culturally identified with Cromwell and the Roundheads while Southerners identified with the Cavaliers.



Debbie Logan, Past-Commander Larry Logan, Compatriot J. B. Couch and Commander Allen Harrison at the 2015 Stephen Dill Lee Institute. (All Institute photos contributed by Allen Harrison.)

Kathleen Hines, a Ph.D. student at Southern Methodist University, spoke on "Women in Lincoln's War." Through the use of personal correspondence and diaries written at the time, she showed how well Southern women understood the constitutional, economic, and political ideas that had resulted in Southern secession. The women of the time also understood that agitation over slavery served only the political interests of white Northerners who believed that blacks were never to have social and political equality with whites; and that they could not compete and would eventually die out. Southern women fought to protect their society from a foreign invader that was no longer restrained by constitutional controls.

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## Some Minor Disturbance over What Stephen Dill Lee Really Said

Al Benson Jr. – January 28, 2015

It seems that my most recent article about Stephen Dill Lee's *Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans* stirred up a minor tempest in the proverbial teapot. Within twenty-four hours of its being posted, replies came from several sources that said that "Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations" was not a part of Lee's original address. Some friends of mine did some checking and it appears they may be correct on that one point, though I took the quote from an SCV web site. So if I got it wrong so did they. (Ed. See the masthead of this newsletter.) It seems that this particular portion of his *Charge* had the wording changed to this in 1906, and it reflected something other than what Lt. General Lee said, sort of a compromise in semantics, if you will, a slight toning down of the original wording.

At any rate, as I quoted from what was apparently the 1906 version rather than the original, I stand corrected.

There seems to be, even today, a bit of a fuss over how this terminology was parsed out and what was really said. There are those who will argue for historical correctness, and that's okay. I strive for that myself, even though I don't always get it perfect. However, what we often end up with in disagreements like this is a situation where those who have gotten a particular quote, or whatever, correct will never go any further than their historical argument, and it's usually an armchair argument rather than an active one.

I've followed SCV "politics" like I have the politics of many groups over the years, and I know enough to realize that there are factions within the SCV that argue about what the organization should be doing. Some want it to be merely an organization that puts flowers and flags on Confederate graves and keeps the lawns at Confederate cemeteries mowed, with little or nothing beyond that. Others want the SCV to take a much more activist role in presenting historical truth and contending for that truth. I guess, were I able to



officially belong to the SCV, I would belong to the latter group rather than the former.

Over the years some have felt I was a bit too much of an activist, and often they were not hesitant to let me know that. Maybe that's why I never quit being one. Seems to me if you believe in something and feel it is worth defending or fighting for, then it's worth doing as actively as long as you can. My wife and I have supported and acted in behalf of several causes over the years of our married life, and always felt they were connected at the theological level even though the connection might not be apparent at other levels to most people. We can no longer do this as actively as we once did. Age and medical conditions slow one down, but on the other hand we are not ready to lie down and concede defeat either. Helping to prepare another generation to take up the fight is also important. After all, as Christians, we have a multi-generational worldview and where we have, by God's grace sown some seed, others will, also by God's grace, come along to water.

So, in a sense, arguing over Lt. General Lee's exact wording in his Charge over 100 years ago, while it is important to get it right, really begs the question. And, the question still is: What should the SCV be doing?

What was the original intent of the organization? If it was only to decorate graves, then I guess we could paraphrase Scripture and ask "Do not even the Yankee/Marxists do the same?" And some of them don't really have to do anymore, because their grandfathers wrote the "history" books, didn't they? Yet they are not content to just let it lie, but rather they turn out a continuous stream of political correct invective that relentlessly attacks all things Southern and Confederate.

If the Confederate Battle Flag was only a flag for grave tenders then why did the NAACP so vehemently attack it several years ago and stir up a firestorm over it? Of course many of us realize the NAACP membership was flagging and they needed a whipping boy to drum up support for the politically correct shock troops and to enrich the coffers, but was that the only reason? Why do the politically correct Marxists (and they are Marxists) continue to attack the flag and Southern heritage even today? It seems to me that the SCV, as well as other Southern and Confederate groups, has an adversary that is determined to stamp out everything they ever stood for. And if that's the case, then just tending your ancestors' graves isn't enough. If that is, indeed, the case, then you better learn how to rise up from tending the graves of your honored dead and learn how to fight back. If you are willing to just sit back and let the Cultural Genocide crowd run all over you while you are trying to be "nice" then you are--well, I can't say what you are--it would probably get my blog tossed off the Internet.

It seems that the SCV, like other groups, has to decide which it's going to go. Personally, I was never in favor of letting my adversaries stomp all over me if they were Marxists.

With other Christians, and other well-meaning folks you can often agree to disagree and let it go at that. You can't do that with Marxists, or with any of the leftist crowd. There is no peaceful co-existence with them except on their terms and anyone with an ounce of sense won't play that game.

All you need to is to check out the political persuasions of those who practice Cultural Genocide on the South and you will see what I mean--all the way from the political left, to the educational left, to the Evangelical left--they are all leftists, and as such, your destruction, culturally and otherwise, is their goal.

So whatever Lt. General Lee's Charge did or didn't say, the SCV has to consider the question of what they are going to do to deal with their Cultural Marxist adversaries. That is the ultimate question for all the various groups that would defend the South, Southern tradition and history, including the Confederate States, or the Southern way of life.

Start by learning who your enemies are. Learn how to expose them. Then learn how to oppose them, because just tending the graves of your ancestors, as important as that is (and I don't discourage that) is not going to cut the mustard in the days to come and any organization that proposes to do that and nothing else, has got major problems.

To follow Mr. Benson's regular comments, you can visit his blog, at <http://southern-thangs.blogspot.com/>.

(Contributed by Frank Gilbert)

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## Lawmaker Seeks to Eliminate Confederate Holiday

Madlin Mekelburg – *chron.com*  
(Houston Chronicle)

January 19 may have been the last official Confederate Heroes Day to be celebrated in Texas.

Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, has filed a bill to eliminate the 42-year-old holiday that honors Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and other Confederate figures.

The bill would establish a new holiday, to be celebrated in May, called Civil War Remembrance Day, which would honor all men and women who fought during the Civil War.

Confederate Heroes Day was born in 1973, after the Texas Legislature opted to combine the celebrations of Lee's and Davis's birthdays, both of which previously were official state holidays. It was decided that the day would honor all soldiers who had served the South during the Civil War.

This year, the celebration of the Confederacy fell uncomfortably on the same day as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which is the third Monday of January each year.





January 19 is Confederate Heroes Day (also recognized as Confederate Memorial Day) in Texas. This year the state holiday coincided with the federal holiday, Martin Luther King Day (on a Monday), so Upshur County Patriots, Camp No. 2109, of Gilmer, Texas celebrated the state holiday in Longview, on Saturday, January 17.



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