



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 8, Number 3

Summer Quarter

July-September 2016

Commander's Comments

Ken Cook, Division Commander

This current quarter has been a good one for the Oklahoma Division. In July, the SCV National Reunion was held in Richardson, Texas, and the Oklahoma Division made a respectable showing with an estimated fifteen to twenty members attending all, or part, of the event. Past-Commander Les Tucker was at his customary position at the Registration Table with plenty of help from other Oklahoma Division compatriots.

Our summer DEC meeting in August was a success with the largest participation of members in recent years. (Details of the meeting are on pages three through six.)

The Division appears to be well on its way to achieving our goal of having 450 members by the date of our 2017 Division Convention on April 22. We will have a better feel for our position by November 1, after National has recorded all dues, and we can get an updated roster.

Past-Division Commander Allen Harrison has completed the reconstitution of Camp Col. Tandy Walker in Shawnee. He accomplished this by bringing back some of the camp's previous members, recruiting a few new ones and obtaining transfers of Shawnee area men from camps in Oklahoma City and Moore. Commander Harrison will serve as the initial Camp commander.

Finally, under the leadership of Lt. Commander Rex Cash, our committee to determine the feasibility of the Oklahoma Division hosting a future National Reunion has completed its preliminary work and has presented a positive report. The Committee will present a detailed report at the 2017 Division Reunion. If members commit to the project, we will submit a bid for the National Reunion.

Altogether, we've made a good beginning for our 2016-17 operating year. Everyone, thank you, and keep up the good work!

Dues Reminder

We are grateful for, and proud of, all of our compatriots. We encourage each of you to continue your membership in the SCV. We are the only organization standing on the firing line to protect our Southern Confederate heritage. We need all the help we can get. If you believe our struggle to protect our heritage and to properly remember and honor our (your) Confederate soldier ancestors is worthwhile, please continue your membership in this premiere heritage organization. Please don't be discouraged because you cannot attend every camp meeting or event. Your membership and support is still valuable for our struggle to protect our heritage.

SCV annual membership dues of \$30 are now due and payable. The 2016-17 SCV year began August 1. Annual dues are payable on that date. Camp Adjutants must remit dues to National so they will receive them by October 31. Each member's dues not received at National by October 31 will require a \$5 late charge.

A recent directive sent by the Executive Director to Camp Adjutants require that National dues be paid by ONE check or money order. Also, the Executive Director has asked that Adjutants or other camp officers not call National inquiring about dues payments. If anyone is concerned about National receiving the dues, send payment by certified mail, FedEx or UPS.



2016 National Reunion

Commander Ken Cook

The 2016 National Reunion and Convention was held on July 13-16 at the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel at Richardson, Texas. The 4th Brigade of the Texas Division hosted the Reunion, and did a fine job. The hotel was adequate for the purposes, and it was just across the street from the Richardson Convention Center where the business meetings were held.

The Oklahoma Division was well represented by fifteen to twenty members who attended all, or part, of the Reunion. Camps at Ardmore, McAlester, Moore, Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Ponca City and Tulsa were represented.



Some of the Oklahoma Division attendees: Compatriots Larry Logan (Moore), Allen Harrison (McAlester), Charley Wilson (Ponca City), Bently Couch (McAlester), Les Tucker (Oklahoma City) and Ken Cook (Tulsa)



Compatriots Kevin Easterling (Oklahoma City), Les Tucker and Bently Couch at the Registration Table (Preceding photos by Editor)



National Commander Kelly Barrow addressing the convention

Newly elected officers:

National Commander	– Thomas Strain, Jr. (Tennessee)
National Lt. Commander	– Paul Grambling (Louisiana)
ATM Commander	– Johnny Holley (Texas)
ATM Councilman	– Darrell Maples (Missouri)



Grand Ball – Saturday evening, July 16

(Business meeting and Grand Ball photos by Kevin White)



Report of Summer DEC Meeting

Ken Cook, Division Commander

The DEC met for its summer meeting at Cowboy Corner Restaurant in Henryetta. After lunch, which began at 11:00 a.m., the meeting convened at noon. After the customary opening ceremonies, Adjutant Orebaugh called the roll of DEC members. Of the Division's twenty-one eligible voting members, sixteen were present. Adjutant Orebaugh also read the minutes of the previous DEC meeting, which were unanimously approved.

Commander Cook discussed meeting procedures with a view of adhering more closely to procedures of Roberts Rules of Order. The object being to conduct more orderly meetings to ensure that all speakers be able to make their presentations without interruption. He then discussed the condition of the Division. As of July 1, the Oklahoma Division had 386 members. Since then, new members have been added giving the Division a membership in excess of 390. The Division is well on its way to achieving its goal of 450 members by the 2017 Division Convention. He noted that two camps are out of Division good standing because of non-payment of Division dues: El Reno and Elk City. (El Reno has since paid their member dues.) Prospective new camps include Shawnee, which re-organization is underway by Division Past-Commander Allen Harrison, and Lawton and Altus, which are in a very early exploratory stage. Commander Cook reminded members that we are in the National dues paying season and that camp commanders should begin visiting with members about dues renewals.

The Commander noted that the Division Adjutant has consolidated the two Division bank accounts – the Division operating account and the old Division monument account – into one new account at BancFirst. We changed banks because Midfirst began charging monthly maintenance fees. The Division's account balance is in excess of \$7,000. The funds from the old monument account will continue to be reserved for projects.



Division Commander Ken Cook addressing the Meeting with Adjutant James Orebaugh on the right

Lt. Commander Rex Cash, Chairman of the Division Convention Committee, organized to explore the feasibility of making a bid for the National Reunion in Oklahoma City, gave a preliminary report. The essence of his report was that Oklahoma has an excellent opportunity to have the National Reunion in either 2021 or 2022. The key to the project is whether or not the Division will support it financially and with participation as volunteers and with attendance. All DEC members in attendance agreed to these conditions. Lt Commander Cash also relayed that the National Convention Planning Committee is excited and supportive of a National Reunion in Oklahoma City. The Division Convention Committee will have a more thorough report for the winter DEC meeting, which if approved will be presented to the 2017 Division Convention on April 22.



Division Lt. Commander Rex Cash giving the preliminary report on the feasibility of hosting the National Reunion in Oklahoma City in 2021 or 2022

Division Historian Bently Couch, the Division's representative on the National Task Force created by Past-Commander Kelly Barrow to address the Southern Baptist Convention's recent resolution condemning the Confederate Battle Flag gave a report. The Task Force has developed a resolution, the essence of which is to remind the SBC of its Southern and Confederate heritage and to call on SBC congregations to ignore the National SBC Resolution. Feedback suggests that many, maybe most, congregations will, in the end, ignore the national SBC resolution.



Division Historian and Commander of Camp Capt. James J. McAlester of McAlester reporting on the National SCV's SBC Task Force

Commander Cook asked attending Camp Commanders to briefly discuss projects they will be undertaking between now and the next Division Convention. Commanders Bruce Bishop of Tulsa, Erik McBroom of Oklahoma City and Mason Page of Muskogee spoke about future projects for their camps.



Commander Erik McBroom, Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City describing some of the projects his camp is planning in the near future



Commander Virgil Chain (above), Camp Shelby's Iron Men of Duncan, addressed the Meeting regarding the Guardian Program. Oklahoma has only eleven Guardian Program members. Commander Chain explained the program and encouraged members to become interested in it.

Commander Cook asked the DEC members to poll their camps as soon as possible about what they wanted from the Division. Information received from the camps will be reviewed, and if practical and in conformity with the Charge and overall goals of the SCV, will be incorporated in the 2018 strategic plan, which must be approved at the next DEC meeting.

Commander Charley Wilson of Ponca City spoke on a resolution of support proposed by a Virginia camp for the recent National Reunion, but never made it to the floor. The committee that decides these things apparently had some objections to it. The DEC members agreed without objection to offer such a resolution of support to the Division Convention. Commander Cook asked Commander Wilson to use the Virginia camp's resolution as a model, and write a proposed resolution for consideration by the Oklahoma Division at the next Convention.

Commander Matt Harms of Cooperton proposed alternating sites for the DEC meetings to make it more convenient for members from western and southwestern Oklahoma. Commander Cook asked Roger Quarles Mills Brigade Commander Kevin Easterling to research sites in south Oklahoma City along the 74th Street corridor and to report his results as soon as possible. The winter DEC meeting will be February 4, 2017, the first Saturday of February.

Commander Cook presented the National SCV awards to those recipients in attendance. The meeting was closed with a benediction offered by Compatriot Bently Couch, acting as Chaplain. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30



2016 National SCV Awards

The following Oklahoma Division members received awards at the recent SCV National Reunion:

Dixie Club – Honors members who contribute greatly to the organization by recruiting new members (5-9 new members – certificate; 10-15 new members – certificate and bronze medal)

Charley Wilson, Camp Pvt. Drury Warren, Ponca City (13)
Larry W. Logan, Camp Lt. Col. Jackson F. McCurtain, Moore (9)
Allen Harrison, Camp Capt. James J. McAlester, McAlester (7)

Commendation Medal – Meritorious service or meritorious achievement at camp, brigade or division level

Bently Couch, Camp Capt. James J. McAlester, McAlester

Meritorious Service Medal – Outstanding performance of duty to the SCV

Christopher A. Chain, Camp Pvt. W. D. Chain, Cooperton
Ethan Chain, Camp Pvt. W. D. Chain, Cooperton
Virgil L. Chain, Camp Shelby's Oklahoma Iron Men, Duncan
Frank Gilbert, Camp Shelby's Oklahoma Iron Men, Duncan
Edwin Wayne Gill, Camp Shelby's Iron Men, Duncan
Matthew Harms, Camp Pvt. W. D. Chain, Cooperton
Hubert Reeves, Camp Shelby's Iron Men, Duncan
Steven A. Stricklan, Camp Shelby's Iron Men, Duncan
Brett Wood, Camp Shelby's Iron Men, Duncan

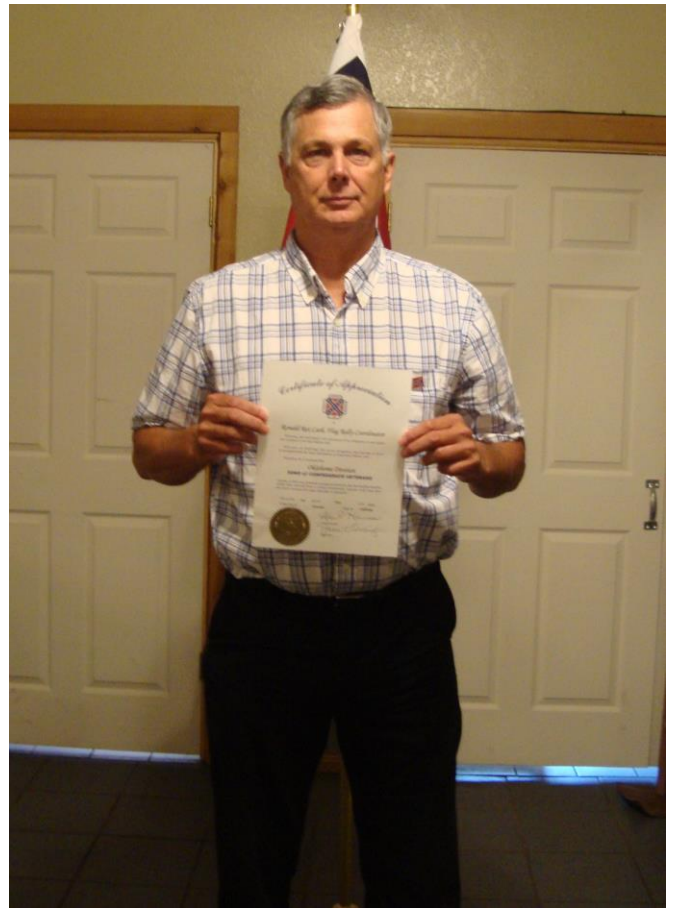
(The awardees listed above are the Division Color Guard.)

Leslie Tucker, Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers, Oklahoma City
Bryce Hill, Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh, Tulsa
James Orebaugh, Camp 1st Cherokee Volunteers, Edmond

Distinguished Service Medal – Outstanding service in a position of responsibility

Erik McBroom, Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers, Oklahoma City
Rex Cash, Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers, Oklahoma City
James W. Catron, Jr., Camp BG Stand Watie, Ardmore
Jerry Patrick, Camp Lt. Col. Jackson F. McCurtain, Moore
Robert Pattison, Camp Capt. James J. McAlester, McAlester
Robert Woodall, Jr., Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh, Tulsa

Only the awardees shown in the photographs below were present at the DEC meeting to receive their awards. Camp commanders will present their awards to those members not in attendance.



Lt. Commander Rex Cash displaying a Certificate of Appreciation awarded by the Oklahoma Division in recognition of his exemplary work in organizing the 2016 Division Confederate Flag Day Rally



Commander Charley Wilson, Camp Pvt. Drury Warren of Ponca City and Past-Commander Allen Harrison of Camp Capt. James J. McAlester of McAlester displaying their Dixie Club Certificates



Commander Bently Couch, Camp Capt. James. J. McAlester and Division Historian, displaying his Commendation Medal Certificate



Top – Commander Matt Harms, Camp Pvt. W. D. Chain of Cooperton and Commander Virgil Chain, Camp Shelby's Iron Men of Duncan
Bottom – Division Judge Advocate Bryce Hill, Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh of Tulsa, and Division Adjutant James Orebaugh, Camp 1st Cherokee Mounted Volunteers of Edmond, displaying their Meritorious Service Medal Certificates



Division Lt. Commander Rex Cash, Camp Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City; Commander Jerry Patrick, Camp Lt. Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore and Commander Erik McBroom, Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City, display their Distinguished Service Medal Certificates

(All DEC Meeting Photos by Bruce Bishop)

Calendar of Events

November 11 – Veterans Day
February 4 – DEC winter meeting, Oklahoma City
April 22 – Oklahoma Division Convention, Shawnee

Heritage News

"To tar the sacrifices of the Confederate soldier as simple acts of racism, and reduce the battle flag under which he fought to nothing more than the symbol of a racist heritage, is one of the great blasphemies of our modern age". Former U.S. Senator Jim Webb of Virginia

WHO WILL BE TODAY'S MONUMENTS MEN?

Lunelle McCallister, Member - Society of Independent Southern Historians, Speaker and Living Historian

The 2014 movie "Monuments Men" exposed a little known aspect of the horrors of Hitler's Aryan supremacist totalitarian regime – the looting of priceless historical treasures and cultural purge of peoples he viewed as inferior.

In the years leading up to American involvement in WWII, art historians around the world were in an uproar, concerned about systematic theft and destruction of the world's cultural treasures by the Third Reich. They lobbied the Allies to create an organization affiliated with the military to identify and protect European monuments and art in danger of becoming casualties of war, and in 1943 President Roosevelt set a tone from the top, establishing the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section. General Eisenhower stated that "the good name of the Army depended in great measure on the respect which it showed to the art heritage of the modern world."

An elite team of 350+/- soldiers and civilians were assembled from Allied Countries, led by the United States. The ranks included grey haired museum curators, art scholars, architects, archivists, artists and historians. But the geriatric brigade set about to intercede in the cultural purge on statues and art that Hitler and his Third Reich would wage on all but the "pure race" as defined by Hitler.

The Monuments Men engaged in a protection action in Europe to safeguard historic and cultural monuments from war damage, and then, as the conflict came to a close, engaged in a treasure hunt to find and return works of art and other items of cultural importance that had been stolen. Two Americans would die in the effort under the Monuments Men Czar, portrayed by George Clooney in the film which dramatized the story.

In a portrayal of an actual post-war event, in the final scene of the film, President Truman's character asked Clooney "was it worth it?" That is, was saving the cultural history of Europe worth the cost of the lives of two of Clooney's men? Clooney's character responded with an emphatic "yes".

This was something that had never been done before in war; an organized effort to protect symbols of European culture that were in jeopardy of being erased by an organized effort by a regime backed up by its armed forces. The Allies (not including Russia) realized that the preservation of art and culture was part of what they were fighting the war for ... not just stopping the advance of totalitarianism, but the elimination of cultures targeted for obliteration. To make a better future,

they wanted to save, protect, and preserve the culture as portrayed in its art.

The Monuments Men were successful, recovering tens of thousands of irreplaceable paintings, sculptures, and historical documents stolen by Hitler and his thugs, not only from the Jews, but all through the path of Hitler's European invasions.

Hitler had plans to build a museum to end all museums, the Führermuseum, and was stockpiling his plunder in secret repositories. The art that didn't extol Hitler's views ... honoring or portraying "degenerate" cultures, was either destroyed or derided with graffiti and put on exhibit for the 'survivors' of the subjugated population of the Hitler regime to be intimidated and 're-educated' on what culture is acceptable.

The Monument Men understood the significance of art. Clooney's character in the movie said *"You can wipe out an entire generation, you can burn their homes to the ground and somehow they'll still find their way back. But if you destroy their history, you destroy their achievements and it's as if they never existed. That's what Hitler wants and that's exactly what we are fighting for."* (Emphasis added.) Sadly, the irony is not lost on many Holocaust survivors, that the US seemed more concerned about saving the art than the lives of those it was stolen from, but I digress.

After seventy years in near obscurity, on U.S. Memorial Day 2014, the men and women of the "Monuments Men" were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. During the last year of the war, and during the post-war years, they recovered more than 5 million artistic and cultural treasures stolen by the Nazis.

Ironically, at the same time the Monuments Men are being recognized by US Congress, another totalitarian regime, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was engaged in a mission to erase the memory of the culture and peoples before them. ISIS uses a unit called the Kata'ib Taswiyya (settlement battalions), tasked with selecting targets for demolition. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO") World Heritage Site Director, General Irina Bokova, branded the ISIS' activities as "a form of cultural cleansing" and UNESCO launched a Unite4Heritage campaign to protect heritage sites threatened by the extremists.

The ancient city of Palmyra, Syria, a ("UNESCO") World Heritage Site, has been ground zero for wholesale elimination of cultural symbols of people not to ISIS' liking. In fact, UNSECO states Heritage Destruction has become an act of War [against past civilizations]. Khaled Mohamad al-Asaad, an eighty-one year-old Syrian archaeologist and expert on the cultural artifacts targeted by ISIS, was publicly beheaded by ISIS on 18 August 2015 for refusing to reveal locations of hidden cultural sites to the ISIS "eracists".

In a recent interview, Monuments Men star Clooney disclosed that a special unit in the State Department is leading similar efforts to those of the WWII Monument Men in the Middle East. "It's a funny thing, one of the scenes that when we were writing, we wrote about, we said if you take their culture away, you can kill them. You can murder their families, but if you take away their culture, that's when society breaks

down. I spent a lot of time going through these villages in Sudan and in Darfur where it wasn't enough that you killed them and killed their children. You had to destroy the things that they had created generations before. You had to destroy what made the village theirs. That was as important as the raping and the murdering of these families. You start to understand. We started to understand how, when we didn't protect the art during the beginning of the war in Iraq – we didn't protect those museums and those artifacts and a lot of those things are lost forever – how that can actually affect the community in a very deep way. We learned that lesson again, and we keep relearning how important those things are, how important these pieces are. What are you fighting for if it's not for your culture and your life? It's a hard thing when you're doing a movie, if we're going to write a script about saving art, it doesn't really sound all that fun. You have to remind people that what we're talking about isn't just these paintings on a wall that some people can look at and get it and some can't, but it's also about culture. It is about these monuments and these sculptures. It's also just about the fabric of our culture, and that's what was in our history. It is mankind's way of recording history. So that's a very important part, and that's why the people at the State Department are working very hard at this.

Meanwhile, on its own homeland, the United States is tolerating Nazi- and ISIS-like acts against the culture and history of a segment of its own people. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and #blacklivesmatter, in collusion with other groups, have convinced local and state entities to purge statues, art and flags of the South from the civil landscape. Monuments from Florida to Texas to the Southern Veterans and heroes have been targeted by extremists for removal from the civic landscape. Even the Southern historical icon Stone Mountain has been threatened in the Georgia legislature.

Clamors to put flags and monuments in museums and "they've got to go" are the slogans of the cultural cleansers. Clooney's words in the interview relating to the current cleansing by ISIS could be quickly reworded for application against the current efforts to purge American culture, especially culture of people who resided in the historical South.

So who is leading the protection against American Culture at home? Is it the State Department, is it the Art Historians? Is it the armed forces?

No, similar to the Monument Men, the outcry is coming from thousands of volunteers who are witnessing the efforts to cleanse Southern heritage and culture from the civil landscape. They are speaking at public meetings, writing letters to the editor, and filing lawsuits to protect the culture of one of America's cultures.

Justifiably so, many are concerned that even museums will not be safe havens for cultural treasurers. Caving to the pressure of one anonymous complaint, St. Augustine's Potter's Wax Museum's historical exhibit of Confederate President Jefferson Davis was on the chopping block. And public museums would be off limits as well if bills like the one filed by Florida legislator

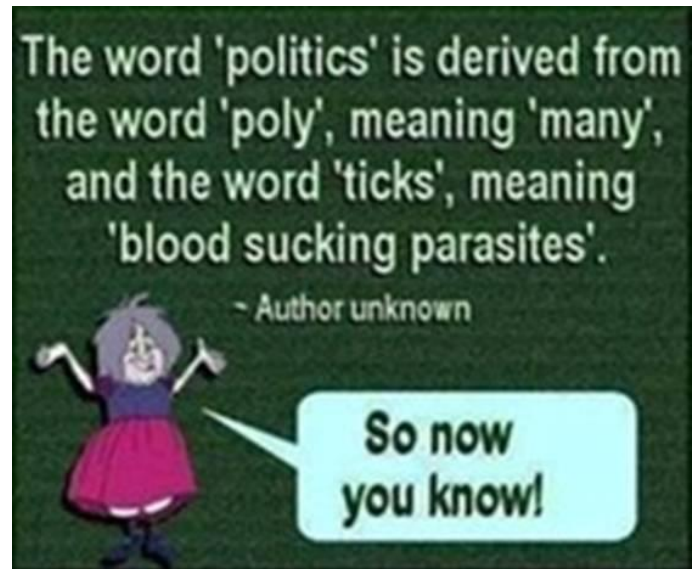
Geraldine "Taliban" Thompson were enacted, which would remove all observances to Southern Veterans from public property.

Despite the work of the Monuments Men, hundreds of thousands of plundered documents and artworks - including pieces by Monet, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Rodin, and Botticelli - remain at large. The Monuments Men Foundation is continuing the search for the lost treasures in addition to its work in keeping alive the legacy of an unlikely band of war heroes.

The lesson here is that extremists of all ilk are ready to destroy the culture of those they disagree with, and the civilized world, has acknowledged that is not acceptable. Today historical sculptures to the heroism and suffering of Southern Americans are being spray painted with words "Racist" and "#blacklivesmatter", repeating the re-education and intimidation tactics utilized by Hitler. Will today's extremists be looked upon with the same disdain as ISIS and Hitler? Or has civilization accepted the cleansing of history as acceptable?

Who will be Monuments Men in the war on Southern Culture? Assad's willingness to suffer and even die for the sake of the cultural legacy and the Monuments Men precedent sets a high standard to what must be done to protect history, heritage and culture. We must decide for ourselves, "Is it worth it?"

(Contributed by Scott L. Peeler, Valrico, FL)



Contributed by Scott Peeler

"Nothing fills me with deeper sadness than to see a Southern man apologizing for the defense we made of our inheritance."
Jefferson Davis

Vanderbilt University and Confederate Memorial Hall

(Elm Springs, TN) August 26, 2016 - On August 16, 2016, Vanderbilt University of Nashville, Tennessee announced that it would remove the word "Confederate" from its Confederate Memorial Hall. As part of the removal, the University, via funds received from anonymous private donors, is paying \$1.2 Million to the United Daughters of the Confederacy ("UDC"), Tennessee Division who originally gave money for the name. This is a major victory for the UDC and other historic civic organizations like the Sons of Confederate Veterans ("SCV").

We, the SCV, have watched the steady erosion of our history, heritage, and symbols and have fervently fought such efforts wherever and whenever possible. We came to the aid of the UDC when Vanderbilt first tried to change this name in the early and mid-2000s. While an appeal was won and Vanderbilt was forced to keep the name unless they would pay the UDC back in full (in today's dollars), they have finally decided that money is worth less to them than their perverse mission of revision and exclusion. While we regret that the University has stripped the building of its legacy, we are pleased that the original donors are at least being given a full refund since they are being cheated of their original intent.

Dedicated memorials like Vanderbilt's Confederate Memorial Hall were meant to stand for the ages and rightfully honor those who made possible everything we have today. Vanderbilt University has made the choice to ignore its history, taking the lead from academics and officials who, hiding behind the false legitimacy of their degrees and position, re-write history at their will. More and more, universities and colleges across the country are handpicking their versions of history, discrediting their benefactors, and vaunting the currently fashionable all under the guise of inclusion. Perhaps not so ironically, this culture of inclusion is anything but. Once a place to learn and grow, institutions of higher learning are now factories that churn out not educated adults, but peevish children eager to please their indoctrinators.

The SCV will not abandon our ancestors, and thanks to the precedent set by Vanderbilt University, we will expect full reimbursement whenever memorials to our Confederate ancestors are desecrated. If they are to be discredited, insulted, and expunged from our common history, at least we, their proud descendants, will be repaid in their stead. Such funds will be used to the glory of their names and deeds.

Deo Vindice,

Thos. V. Strain Jr.
75th Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Victory in Mississippi

A federal lawsuit filed by Grenada attorney Carlos Moore claiming the Mississippi state flag violates the Constitution has been dismissed. Judge Carlton Reeves On September 7 ruled that Moore could provide no direct link between the flag and any injury suffered by Moore or any other citizen.



Camp News and Activities

On Saturday, June 11, **Camp Brigadier General Stand Watie** of Ardmore/Madill held its 2nd Annual Flag Day Memorial at Ft. Washita Military Park's Confederate Cemetery. The Confederate Cemetery has approximately 200 unknown soldiers buried there. Jim Argo, Ft. Washita's Site Manager has partnered with our Camp to do these Memorials, and other improvements to the cemetery, including the placement of an Unknown Soldier headstone that our Camp donated to the Fort to be placed at the cemetery in honor of those buried there. We held the dedication of the Unknown Soldier stone on November 14, 2015.

Our service was opened with the posting of the colors by Brandon Thompson, Camp Adjutant, and the invocation by Camp Chaplain Johnny Cox. We were honored to have Rex Cash, Lt. Commander of the Oklahoma Division, to present his program, "A Legacy in Stone". We closed our memorial with a cannon salute by Jim Argo, and the fort's mountain howitzer. Everyone enjoyed the service. (Contributed by Robert Carroll)



Commander Robert Carroll addressing the attendees



Unknown Soldier Memorial at Fort Washita's Confederate Cemetery



It doesn't take much, just the will to do it.

(Contributed by Charley Wilson)



Division Lt. Commander, Rex Cash, presenting his program

Commander Charley Wilson, **Camp Pvt. Drury Warren** of Ponca City, had a recruiting table at the Oxford, Kansas Festival on Saturday, June 25: "Only a small table, a Confederate Veteran magazine, a few gray cards, four Confederate flags, two 3' x 4' Confederate flags in packages (not for sale), SCV Certificate and the 2010 SCV Directory, all for display. Just needed a larger crowd but was able to find seven prospects for the SCV at this event", reported Commander Wilson.



Lt. Commander Stanfield giving his address – Commander Jerry Patrick is on the left.



The Division Color Guard – The Iron Guard – led by Division Color Sergeant, Steven Stricklan, posing next to the UCV Monument

At 5:30 p.m., fifty-four Southern patriots gathered for a spaghetti and meatball dinner with all the trimmings at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Norman. The Iron Guard again provided the presentation of colors.



Camp Adjutant Larry Logan, recognized the Camp's partners in the Memorial Day commemoration and presented Certificates of Appreciation to SCV camps Capt. Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City, Shelby's Iron Men of Duncan, Pvt. W. D. Chain of Cooperton and UDC Chapter General Robert E. Lee and Chapter 1182, both of Oklahoma City.



Commander Jerry Patrick presents a SCV Membership Certificate to the Camp's 50th member, Compatriot Robert Findlay. L. to R. Camp Lt.

Commander, Rocky Waddell, Commander Patrick, Compatriot Findlay, Oklahoma Division Commander, Ken Cook, and Oklahoma Division Lt. Commander, Rex Cash.



Division Lt. Commander Cash giving his presentation on his ancestor, Col. E. C. B. Cash of South Carolina



Adjutant Logan, on behalf of Camp McCurtain, presented Ms. Libby Hays of UDC Gen. Robert E. Lee Chapter with a gift of \$50 for help in providing assistance to veterans in the Oklahoma City VA Hospital.





Special guest and keynote speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Addicott, Professor of Law at St. Mary's Law School in San Antonio speaking on "The Cause".

Division Commander Ken Cook recognized Camp McCurtain compatriots, Ken Gray and Rick Brand, as the second and fourth longest serving members of the Oklahoma Division.

Altogether, more than sixty people attended both events, and all participants are already looking forward to the event next year. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all, and thanks to everyone for their attendance. (Contributed by Larry Logan)

On Saturday, July 9, **Camp Captain Benjamin F. Smallwood** of Coalgate held its July Camp meeting at the Coal County Library. The Camp's special guest was Division Commander Ken Cook who presented the program: "Jefferson Davis and the National Capitol". Also in attendance was Bently Couch, Division Historian and Commander of **Camp Capt. James J. McAlester** of McAlester.

Also present was Division Historian and Commander of Camp Captain James J. McAlester and Bill Robinson of the Coalgate *Reporter-Register*. Adjutant Alvin Johnson presented Mr. Robinson with a Plaque of Appreciation for the newspaper's friendliness and cooperation with the Camp over the years of its existence.



Adjutant Alvin Johnson presenting a Plaque of Appreciation to Mr. Bill Robinson of the Coalgate *Reporter-Register* at the July meeting of **Camp Capt. Benjamin F. Smallwood** of Coalgate. (Contributed by Editor)

On Monday evening, August 8, **Camp Col. John Jumper** of Claremore held its regular monthly meeting. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of his SCV Life Member Certificate to Compatriot Charles Lane.



Camp Commander Ron Burton presenting Compatriot Lane with his SCV Life Member Certificate.

The Camp's special guests were Division Commander Ken Cook and Cherokee Brigade Commander Bruce Bishop. Commander Cook up-dated the Camp members on the Division's efforts to secure a future National Reunion in Oklahoma City.

Lt. Commander Tim Wantland presented a very informative and interesting program, entitled "The Political Implications of the Battle of Wilson's Creek". This past August 10 was the 155th anniversary of the battle, call Oak Hills by the Confederates. (Article and photos contributed by Editor)



Lt. Commander Wantland presenting his program

On Saturday, August 20, **Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh** of Tulsa held its annual Awards Luncheon and joint meeting with Sarah Watie Chapter of the UDC (Tulsa). Something over thirty SCV and UDC members, including Commander Ron Burton of **Camp John Jumper** of Claremore and Adjutant Kevin White of **Camp Dew Moore Wisdom** of Muskogee. Also in attendance were several UDC members from chapters at Tulsa, Muskogee and Seminole. Dr. Brad Agnew, retired Professor of History at Northeastern Oklahoma State University, presented the program.

Commander Bruce Bishop presented Certificates of Appreciation to two UDC chapter presidents – Lois Olzawski of Tulsa and Betty Trinkka of Muskogee – in recognition of their cooperation and support of Camp McIntosh activities. He also presented Compatriots Bryce Hill and Robert Woodall, Jr. with their National SCV Meritorious Service Awards, and Division Commander Ken Cook with his Twenty-Year SCV Membership Pin.

Commander Bishop also presented the family of our late compatriot, Billy Clawson, with the National SCV Memorial Resolution, and Commander Ken Cook presented them the Oklahoma Division Memorial Resolution. (Contributed by Editor with photos by Carl Fallen.)

Camp Lt. Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore proudly announces that it has secured a commitment from Ms. Susan Hathaway of the Virginia Flaggers to be the special guest for the 2017 Confederate Memorial Day Service in Oklahoma City's Fairlawn Cemetery. The event will be on June 24, 2017. Mark your calendars; tell everybody, and be there. (Contributed by Larry Logan)



Commander Ken Cook receiving his Twenty-Year SCV Membership Pin



Mrs. Pauleta Clawson, her son, Mark, and his wife and daughter displaying their National and Division Memorial Resolutions, presented in memory of the Camp's late compatriot, Billy Clawson.

Camp Captain James J. McAlester of McAlester meets on the third Saturday of the month. Their most recent meeting was August 20. This report is a compilation of Camp's third quarter meetings.

Camp members have been discussing adopting the "Confederate Christmas Wreath" program that the Duncan camp has used very successfully for the last several years. At the July meeting, a new compatriot, Steve Ward, volunteered to get prices on the materials to make the wreaths. By the August meeting, he had completed his mission with the help of his wife, Kathy. They had assembled a wreath with tripod. Commander Couch is donating thirty-four Confederate flags to ac-

company the wreaths. The camp members have donated \$125 to date, to pay for the materials. These wreaths will be placed in Oak Hill cemetery in McAlester.



Commander Couch presenting new member, Compatriot Steve Ward, with his SCV Membership Certificate.

Camp Commander Couch donated a subscription to "Confederate Veteran" to the McAlester Library. He also penned a letter to the McAlester newspaper supporting our local law enforcement in recognition of "National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day".

A Marine Corps cap was passed around at one meeting to collect for a donation to the Oakwood Cemetery project in Richmond and to the SCV Heritage Defense Support Team. The camp sent \$100 to each of these worthy causes.

Compatriot Ward also stepped up to volunteer to resurrect the old Camp web-site. He had it up and running right away. Mr. Ward is now known as the "Reb-Master". (Editor: Check it out. It's an excellent website, full of a lot of good information: <http://www.scvcamp775.org/gallery.html>.)

The camp has twenty-two members with two applications in the process of being finalized. The camp also has one "Friend of SCV", a lady who is a big asset to the camp. (Report submitted by Allen Harrison)



Camp Adjutant and Division Past-Commander Allen Harrison presenting Compatriot Bob Pattison with his National SCV Distinguished Service Award.

Camp Col. Tandy Walker (reconstituted) of Shawnee held its first meeting on August 25. The Camp is starting its new life with fourteen members. Camp officers are Commander and Adjutant, Allen Harrison, who has transferred his membership from McAlester, and Chaplain, Warren Boles. Commander Harrison will serve in both offices only until a member can be recruited for one of the offices. Compatriot Jerry Patrick, Commander of **Camp Lt. Colonel Jackson F. McCurtain** of Moore and Division Quartermaster, was a special guest. He spoke to the Camp members and answered questions about the SCV.



Division Quartermaster Jerry Patrick answering questions from Camp members

Commander Harrison presented a Friend of the Confederacy Certificate to Mrs. Judith Davis. He also presented her with a Membership Certificate for her grandson, Compatriot Joshua Mount, a student at OSU. Compatriot Mount was awarded a \$1,000 Stand Watie Scholarship at this year's SCV National Reunion.



Commander Harrison presenting Mrs. Judith Davis with her Friend of the Confederacy Certificate.

Commander Harrison led a discussion on the SCV International Organization, the Oklahoma Division and the responsibilities of the local camps and their officers. (Report submitted by Allen Harrison)

On Saturday, September 17, **Camp Captain James J. McAlester** of McAlester held its monthly meeting. At the meeting, camp members decided to encourage the patriotic Mississippians to continue fighting the anti-Southern bigots who want to take their state flag. (Contributed by Bently Couch)



Members of Camp Captain James J. McAlester showing its support for the people of Mississippi.

Oklahoma Division Top Nine

The following Oklahoma compatriots all have four-digit membership numbers indicating they probably joined the SCV thirty or more years ago. We don't know if any of them have had an interruption of service. The names are listed sequentially by membership number. We congratulate these men, and thank them for their service.

Gregory Parker – El Reno
Jack Kenneth Gray, Jr. – Moore
James P. McGavock, III – El Reno
Rick Brand – Moore
Leslie R. Tucker – Oklahoma City
Donald W. Read – Ponca City
James Bently Couch – McAlester
James Brian Orebaugh – Edmond
James L. Orebaugh – Edmond

SCV Disaster Relief

In August, we received a request from National SCV Disaster Relief Committee Chairman Danny Honnell for assistance with the National Disaster Relief Fund. The fund is a budgeted item that was easily exhausted by the severe Louisiana floods this summer. Relief fund recipients are thoroughly vetted before assistance is provided. Recipients, of course, must be SCV members in good standing, and secondarily, their need must be genuine.

Commander Cook polled DEC members for their reaction to his proposal of a \$500 contribution in the name of the Oklahoma Division. Fourteen members responded. Twelve supported the proposal, and two voted in the negative, not because they opposed contributing to the Relief Fund, but felt it should be an individual or camp response.

DEC members overwhelmingly supported the proposal; therefore, Commander Cook instructed the Division Adjutant to send a check of \$500 to the SCV Disaster Relief Fund in the name of the Oklahoma Division. We believe that it was important to act as a Division. Supporting the Relief Fund was the right thing to do; the Christian thing to do; the Confederate thing to do. We take care of our own.

The latest information available from the Disaster Relief Committee showed that eleven of our Louisiana SCV brothers and their families have benefited from the Relief Fund.

VA Changes Regulations Regarding Headstones for Confederate Veterans

The VA has changed its regulations regarding Confederate headstone applications. It no longer requires a direct descendant of the veteran make the request for a headstone. Any person may now make the request for a headstone for a Confederate veteran.

Effective April 1, 2016, per paragraph 38.600(a)(1)(vi), which allows for "any individual" to apply for a headstone or marker for veterans whose service ended prior to April 6, 1917, or for an individual whose eligibility is based on such service." Click on the following link to read the applicable regulation: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-20160302/pdf/2016-04553.pdf>



Palmyra Massacre

By Bently Couch, Division Historian

Palmyra is a small town in northeast Missouri, just north of Hannibal. Before and during the War, the citizens in the area held a strong Southern sentiment, even though Missouri had been occupied since the beginning of the war.

On September 12, 1862, Confederate Colonel Joseph C. Porter and his troops rode into Palmyra in an effort to free the town from Yankee occupation. To ensure their own safety, they detained Yankee spies. One of them was Andrew Allsman, a Union sympathizer who had betrayed many of his Southern neighbors.

Allsman had kept Union forces well informed of Southern-ers activities. The information he supplied to the Union military resulted in thousands of people being arrested, simply for speaking their sentiments for the Southern Cause.

Allsman was called upon, frequently, to testify of the "disloyalty" of certain individuals. If Allsman said a man was a Southern sympathizer, the U.S. authorities believed him. The accused Rebels were thrown into jail, without charge. Their families were robbed by union men. Naturally, there was deep resentment for Allsman in the town of Palmyra. Reportedly, when Colonel Porter had captured Allsman, some of the ladies of Palmyra had said to Colonel Porter, "Don't let old Allsman come back."

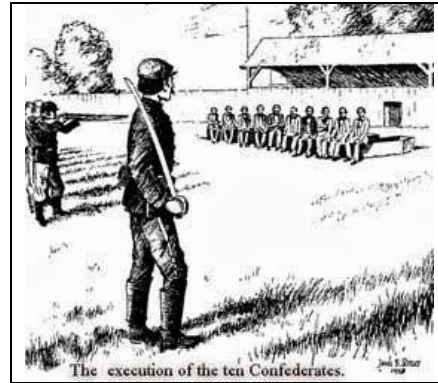
Three days after Allsman's capture, Colonel Porter could no longer hold him as he slowed down the movement of his troops. Allsman was offered release, but he did not want to be left alone while on his way back home for he feared that his enemies would kill him. Colonel Porter allowed Allsman to choose six of Porter's men as an escort to the nearest home of a Yankee sympathizer, to Palmyra city limits, or to the nearest Union lines. While in route, other Confederate men approached Allsman and his escorts. These men took charge of Allsman and continued the trip. No one is quite sure what happened after that.

When the Federals re occupied the town, Allsman had disappeared. No one could tell whether he had been made prisoner, or fled from fear, or had left the town for some other business. The informant was gone. If he was killed, his body was never found.

Colonel John McNeil, the senior Union officer that took control of Palmyra, assumed that Allsman was a prisoner. On October 8, 1862, McNeil gave notice in the local newspaper that if Allsman was not returned within ten days, he would retaliate: ten of Porter's men, held as prisoners of war, would be executed. The ten days passed, and Allsman did not return; he might have been dead, or he might have been in a different part of the country transacting some business. No matter; he was absent.

Colonel Porter probably never even saw the notice, and most writers agree that Allsman had already been the victim of his personal enemies. The Confederate colonel was therefore powerless to return him.

On the evening of October 17, 1862, ten prisoners of war were selected (five from the jail in Hannibal, five from the jail in Palmyra). None of them had any connection with the disappearance of Allsman. Willis Baker was in the Palmyra jail because his sons were said to be riding with Colonel Porter. All ten were executed on October 18 by a firing squad of thirty soldiers from the Second Missouri State Militia.



The names of the murder victims: Captain Thomas A. Sidenor, Willis T. Backer, Thomas Humston, Morgan Bixler, John Y. McPheetens, Hiram T. Smith, Herbert Hudson, John M. Wade, Francis M. Lear, Eleaser Lake

Friends or family claimed and took seven of the corpses. Three were buried by the military in the public cemetery. In recognition of his "faithful service to the Union," he was promoted to brevet rank of Major General of Volunteers.

The execution of these prisoners of war, which was widely discussed in the media, enraged and horrified citizens on both sides of the conflict. Ultimately, the massacre is remembered as one of the most uncivil events of the Civil War. Colonel John McNeil, who ordered the barbaric execution, became known as the "Butcher of Palmyra." In February 1907, the Palmyra Confederate Monument Association erected a granite monument on the Palmyra courthouse grounds. It lists the names of the ten victims of the massacre.



Today, Camp Colonel Joseph C. Porter, No. 2055, Sons of Confederate Veterans, is based in Shelbina, Missouri.

In Memoriam Billy Alvin Clawson

Bill Clawson was born at Big Cedar, Oklahoma on November 14, 1935. He moved to Texas when about nine months old and lived there until he was sixteen, when he left home and came to Tulsa.

Bill worked at Jitney Jungle Grocery for several years before joining the U.S. Navy in 1958. He and his wife, Pauleta, met on a blind date in 1956 and were married in July 1959. While in the Navy, they were based in California and moved back to Tulsa in 1962. Billy retired from Safeway Stores, Inc. in February 1988.

Bill is survived by his wife of more than fifty-six years, two sons, two daughters, a sister and a brother, grandchildren and many nephews, nieces and cousins.

Said Pauleta: "Bill loved his Lord and Savior first, then his family. He enjoyed helping other people, often when he didn't feel like it. His other true love was music – Blue Grass, Southern Gospel and Country. When he was sitting down he had either a guitar or mandolin in his hand. Standing up, it was an old Kay upright bass. Billy went to sleep in his chair and the angels took him home before he could wake up".

Compatriot Billy Clawson passed away on June 17.



Compatriot Bill Clawson receives his SCV Membership Certificate at the August 2014 Camp McIntosh Awards Luncheon. Bill was also a guitarist with the band, *Mountain Railway*, which for the past several years has entertained us at the Awards Luncheon.

In Memoriam T. John Edgin, Sr.

Theodore John Edgin, Sr. was born in Oklahoma City on June 24, 1928. He attended Shawnee and Tecumseh schools, graduating in 1946. He afterwards served in the U.S. Navy.

John Edgin passed away in Shawnee on July 13. His funeral was held at Shawnee's First Christian Church.

He is survived by two children, two grandchildren, nephews, nieces and many friends.

Compatriot Edgin was a member of Camp Lt. Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore.



Compatriot John Edgin at the Cross of Honor dedication for his great-grandfather, Pvt. Ephraim Milton Draggio, 20th Virginia Cavalry, on April 11, 2015.

Division Website Updated

We have updated the Oklahoma Division website, giving it a new background, revising and updating the text, deleting outdated photos and adding new photos. In the process, we lost the generic photos on the individual camp contact pages. Camp commanders who wish to have a camp specific photo on the camp contact page, please send the photo as an email attachment to khcook@cox.net.

Please regularly visit the website at www.oklahomascv.net. It has many informative features and news of upcoming events. The Division newsletter is also linked on the website.

Resolution

Gene Hogan, National SCV Chairman of the SBC Task Force

Response to Resolution # 7 Southern Baptist Convention "On Sensitivity and Unity Regarding the Confederate Battle Flag"

To quote: *"We recognize that the Confederate battle flag is ... perceived by many as a symbol of hatred, bigotry, and racism."*

Whereas the history of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has been inextricably tied to the Confederacy and her heirs for over a century and a half;

Whereas many Southern soldiers influenced by the great spiritual revival that swept through the Southern camps during the War were influential in the starting and supporting of many Southern Baptist Churches throughout the South;

Whereas many Southern Baptist pulpit expositors, as well as seminary professors, who left their mark in the area of Biblical thought and world view, served as Confederate chaplains and men of arms as well;

Whereas thousands of SCV members are members of Southern Baptist Churches and many Southern Baptist Churches have cultivated great relationships with SCV camps by opening their facilities for regular meetings, special occasions, and cemetery memorial services;

Whereas the Confederate Battle Flag (the Christian Cross of St. Andrew), rather than being a symbol of hatred, bigotry, and racism is the soldiers' flag used in the fog of battle to identify Southern forces from invading Northern forces;

Whereas the Scriptures compel us to "honor father and mother" (Exodus 20:12) and to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), we who enjoy Confederate ancestry are bound to tell the Truth of our ancestors fight and flag;

Whereas the tone of SBC Resolution 7 has the effect of intimidating the consciences of Southern Baptist into holding terribly negative opinions of Confederate symbols;

Whereas each Southern Baptist Church is autonomous and thus not bound by any resolution of the Convention; Be it resolved that the Sons of Confederate Veterans call upon Southern Baptist Congregations to ignore the distraction of SBC Resolution # 7 and to continue in helping their communities to retain historic truth and to honor the men who rebuilt these communities after a tragic War and devastating reconstruction and to move forward with the priorities of Gospel proclamation, building up the fellowship of Faith and the pursuit of a witness of goodwill.

SCV Telegraph

The 2015 Fiscal Year ended on 31 July 2016 and the Fiscal Year 2016 started on 1 August. In addition to the requirement to renew membership for all members (except life members) is the requirement to file your IRS 990N (e-Postcard). Below are two links which will help you in filing and also in maintaining your tax exempt status.

IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) User Guide:

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf>

IRS Instructions on maintaining your tax exempt status:

<https://www.stayexempt.irs.gov/Existing-Organizations>

All camps, divisions, and armies are required to file their 990N before 15 December EACH YEAR. If your camp, etc. has not filed in the past three years, you will have to regain your tax exempt status through the IRS.

The SCV Headquarters files and receives EINs from the IRS and forwards these letters to the camps. However, it is the responsibility of the camps, etc. to maintain their tax exempt statuses. The SCV Headquarters can't assist the camps in this process, but each camp is required to do all problem solving with the IRS. I wish we could assist, but we can't. If you have lost your tax exempt status, read and follow these instructions:

<http://www.scv.org/pdf/RegainingTaxExemption.pdf>

Lastly, the IRS only grants tax exemption for Federal Taxes. If a camp, division, or army wishes to be exempt from state sales tax, then each EIN must register with the state for that organization with that EIN to be exempt. Each state is different, so you need to find the laws for your individual state. The division adjutants can normally assist in these matters.

Semper Fidelis!

Mike

Michael L. Landree
Executive Director



5th Virginia Infantry

Ken Cook, Division Commander

The 5th Virginia Infantry Regiment traces its lineage and honors back to when it was first organized on November 3, 1741, in the Virginia Militia as the Augusta County Regiment with Headquarters at Beverley's Mill Place, Virginia. (Beverley's Mill Place was later renamed Staunton). Elements of the Augusta County Regiment were called into active service at various times during the French and Indian War and Dunmore's War and provided elements of the Virginia provincial forces. The Augusta County Regiment and its associated elements were also called into active service at various times during the Revolutionary War

After the American Revolution, the Augusta County Regiment was expanded on December 31, 1792, to form the 32nd and 93rd Regiments. Elements of the 32nd and 93rd Regiments were mustered into Federal service at various times during the War of 1812.

During the War for Southern Independence, the Augusta County volunteer infantry companies of the 32nd, 93rd, and 160th regiments were reorganized and re-designated on April 13, 1861, as the 5th Regiment, Virginia Volunteers. This unit was mustered into Confederate service on July 1, 1861, as the 5th Virginia Infantry, an element of the 1st Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah. The 5th Virginia was combined with other Virginia infantry regiments to form the 1st Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah, commanded by Brigadier General Thomas J. Jackson. The Brigade won the nickname, "Stonewall Brigade", at the First Battle of Manassas, on July 21, 1861. The Stonewall Brigade surrendered on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House with the Army of Northern Virginia.

Former elements of the Stonewall Brigade, including the former 5th Virginia Infantry were reorganized between 1871 and 1881 in the Virginia Volunteers as separate infantry companies in the Shenandoah Valley. These were reorganized on May 2, 1881, as the 2nd Regiment of Infantry. The units were reorganized on April 20, 1889, in the Virginia Volunteers as the 2nd Regiment of Infantry. The 2nd Regiment of Infantry was entirely disbanded on April 29, 1899.

Elements of the former 2nd Regiment of Infantry were reorganized between 1899 and 1902 in the Virginia Volunteers as separate infantry companies in western Virginia. These were consolidated on May 19, 1905, with elements of the former 3rd Regiment of Infantry. The unit was re-designated on September 1, 1908, as the 2nd Infantry. The Virginia Volunteers were re-designated on June 3, 1916, as the Virginia National Guard. The unit was drafted into federal service on August 5, 1917. It was later consolidated with the 1st and 4th Infantry and was reorganized and re-designated as the 116th Infantry and assigned to the 29th Division. The 116th Infantry saw heavy action in France during World War I, and as a result, the infantry battalions earned the non de guerre "Ever Forward" for their reputation of never having given ground in battle.

Former elements in western Virginia were reorganized on October 12, 1921, in the Virginia National Guard as the 2nd Infantry. The 2nd Infantry was redesignated on March 9, 1922, as the 116th Infantry and assigned to the 29th Division (later redesignated as the 29th Infantry Division). The 116th Infantry was inducted into Federal service on February 3, 1941, at the units' various home stations. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, the 116th Regimental Combat Team landed on the German held coast of Normandy. The 116th Infantry, the assault regiment of the 29th Infantry Division, suffered 341 casualties on Omaha Beach.

In August 1944, the 116th was sent to Brittany to reduce the fortifications at Brest, chief port on the peninsula, and fanatically defended by Nazi paratroopers. With that mission accomplished, the Division took off on a 200 mile move across France, Belgium and Holland to attack the Siegfried Line. They smashed through at Aachen, which allowed the 29th Infantry Division to become the first Allied division to reach the Roer River, holding its position throughout the Battle of the Bulge to the south.

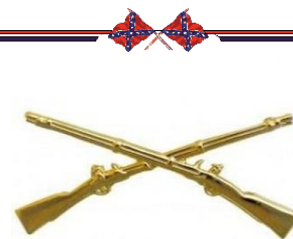
In February 1945 the 29th Infantry Division, including the 116th Infantry, crossed the Roer and pushed on to the Rhine. On May 2, the 29th made the historic link-up with Russian forces along the Elbe River. A few days later the war ended. After returning from Europe, the 116th was inactivated on January 6, 1946.

The 116th was reorganized and federally recognized on March 24, 1948. After several subsequent reorganizations, and with the reactivation of the 29th Infantry Division in 1985, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 116th Infantry were reassigned to 1st Brigade, 29th Infantry Division (Light).

The 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, was one of the first National Guard units to be deployed to Bosnia, in 1995. The 3rd Battalion would later see action in Iraq and Afghanistan.



116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
"Stonewall Brigade", Virginia National Guard



Confederate History

Contributed by Division Historian Bently Couch.



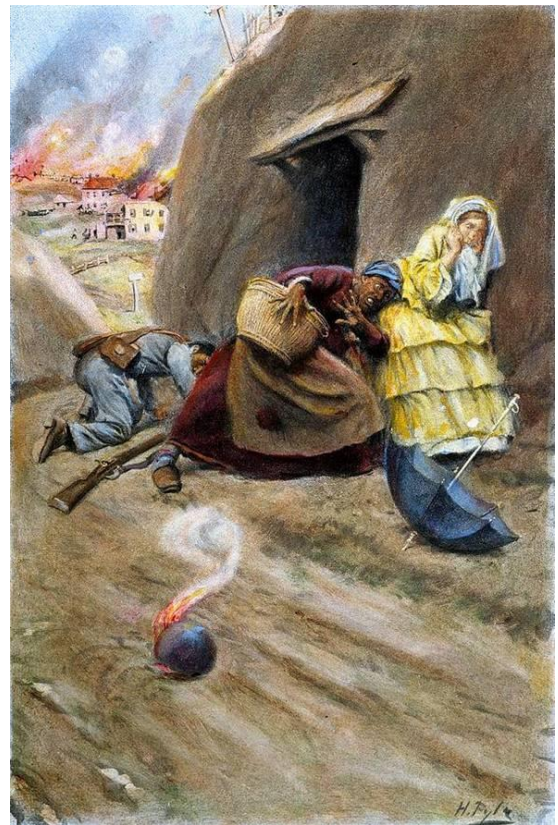
Oh, I Wish He Was Ours! – by Mort Kunstler

During the War of Southern Independence, the veneration of General Robert E. Lee in the South was well known, but what is not generally known or portrayed is the admiration of the General in the North during war. A woman loyal to the North was overheard to say in admiration, "Oh, I wish he was ours!" as Lee rode by – June 27, 1863, Hagerstown, Maryland, on the road to Gettysburg.

Pickett's Charge

"For every Southern boy fourteen years old, not once, but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it's still not yet two o'clock on that July afternoon in 1863, the brigades are in position behind the rail fence, the guns are laid and ready in the woods and the furled flags are already loosened to break out, and Pickett himself with his long oiled ringlets and his hat in one hand probably and his sword in the other looking up the hill waiting for Longstreet to give the word and it's all in the balance, it hasn't happened yet, it hasn't even begun yet, it not only hasn't begun yet but there is still time for it not to begin against that position and those circumstances which made more men than Garnett and Kemper and Armistead and Wilcox look grave yet it's going to begin, we all know that, we have come too far with too much at stake and that moment doesn't need even a fourteen-year-old boy to think, this time. Maybe this time with all this much to lose and all this much to gain: Pennsylvania, Maryland, the world, the golden dome of Washington itself to crown with desperate and unbelievable victory the desperate gamble, the cast made two years ago; or to anyone who ever sailed a skiff under a quilt sail, the moment in 1492 when somebody thought, This is it: the absolute edge of no return, to turn back now and make home or sail irrevocably on and either find land or plunge over the world's roaring rim."

William Faulkner – *Intruder in the Dust* – 1948



Siege of Vicksburg

The siege of Vicksburg began May 18, 1863 and lasted until July 4, 1863. In the summer of 1863, Vicksburg was the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River. By the end of June, The Union army surrounded the city. General Pemberton realized his situation was desperate. The hope of relief by General Johnston's army had disappeared. Over 10,000 soldiers in Pemberton's Army of Vicksburg were incapacitated due to illness, wounds, and malnutrition. His supplies and munitions were at critically low levels. He learned that Grant was preparing for another massive assault on the Confederate works in early July. After a meeting with his division commanders, Pemberton concluded that surrender was inevitable. On the morning of July 3, 1863, he gave orders to display a white flag of truce, and sent representatives to deliver a message to General Grant proposing a meeting to discuss surrender terms. Grant agreed and at 3:00 p.m., Generals Grant and Pemberton met under the shade of an oak tree midway between the opposing lines.

The commanders could not reach an agreement, but discussions among subordinate officers, and an exchange of notes between Grant and Pemberton late in the day, brought about agreement for final terms of surrender.

The next morning, July 4, the Confederate defenders marched out of their trenches, stacked their arms, and were paroled. After forty-seven days, the siege of Vicksburg was over. The city of Vicksburg did not celebrate on July 4 until 1963.

Battle of Wilson's Creek

Contributed by division Historian Bently Couch

The Battle of Wilson's Creek (aka Battle of Oak Hills), Missouri, was the first major battle fought in the Trans-Mississippi. It was a Federal humiliation and saved Arkansas from Yankee invasion at that time. This is the second major battle in the War. The Battle of First Manassas was less than three weeks earlier. These two Confederate victories were devastating to Northern moral.

At the beginning of the War, Missouri declared that it would be neutral in the conflict, and not send materials or men to either side. This neutrality was put to a major test on May 10, 1861, in what became known as the Camp Jackson Affair. Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson had called out the Missouri Volunteer Militia (MVM) to assemble near St. Louis.



Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson

The MVM encampment was known as "Camp Jackson". U.S. Captain Nathaniel Lyon was aware of this encampment and was afraid of the MVM potential. To neutralize them, and without orders, Lyon surrounded the militia camp with Union troops, forcing their surrender, thus breaking the fragile truce. When Lyon marched the prisoners through the streets of St. Louis, some citizens in the crowd began to press against the procession. Taunts and jostling eventually led to gunfire from the Yankees. There were many deaths, mostly civilians but also several soldiers and unarmed members of the militia.

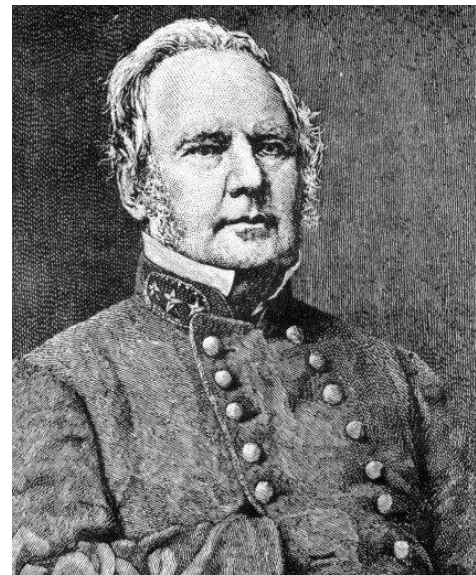
The next day, the Missouri General Assembly created the Missouri State Guard (replacing the MVM) to defend the state from attacks from enemies of either side. The governor appointed Sterling Price as the commander with the rank of major general of state forces.

For his treachery, Nathaniel Lyon was promoted to brigadier general, and became the Federal commander of the U.S. Army's Department of the West.

Lyon further destroyed the truce. On June 12, 1861, Lyon and Governor Jackson met in St. Louis in a last attempt to avoid a resumption of fighting. General Lyon was inflexible. Lyon

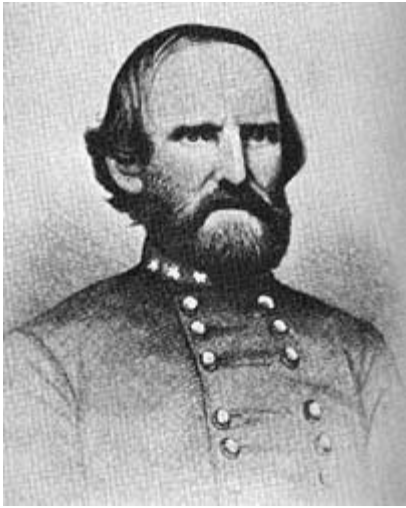
demanded the right to inspect any area of the state for any reason. Governor Jackson refused and demanding that Federal forces be restricted to the St. Louis metropolitan area. The meeting ended with Lyon yelling at the governor: "This means war. In an hour one of my officers will call for you and conduct you out of my lines." General Lyon sent a force to Springfield while his own forces quickly captured the capital and pursued Governor Jackson, Price, and the now-exiled state government across Missouri.

By the end of July, Lyon's army was encamped at Springfield and the Missouri State Guard was camped about seventy-five miles away. Price was reinforced by Confederate Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch and Arkansas Confederates, making the mixed Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas force over 12,000 strong. They planned to attack Springfield, but Lyon marched out of the city on August 1, in an attempt to surprise the Southern forces. By August 6, the Southern force was encamped at Wilson's Creek, ten miles southwest of the city. Price favored an immediate attack on Springfield but McCulloch, doubtful about the quality of the Missouri State Guard, preferred to remain in place. After Price threatened to launch an attack without his support, McCulloch agreed to an attack at dawn on August 10, but when a rainstorm started during the evening of the ninth, he canceled his plans and ordered his troops back to camp.



General Sterling Price

Lyon planned to withdraw northeast to reinforce and re-supply, but not before launching a surprise attack on the Missouri camp to delay pursuit. Union General Franz Sigel proposed striking McCulloch in a pincer movement, which would split the already outnumbered Union force, and Lyon concurred. Sigel planned to lead 1,200 men in a flanking maneuver while the main body under Lyon struck from the north. The Union army marched out of Springfield on the rainy night of August 9, 1861, leaving about 1,000 men to protect supplies and cover the retreat.



General Benjamin McCulloch

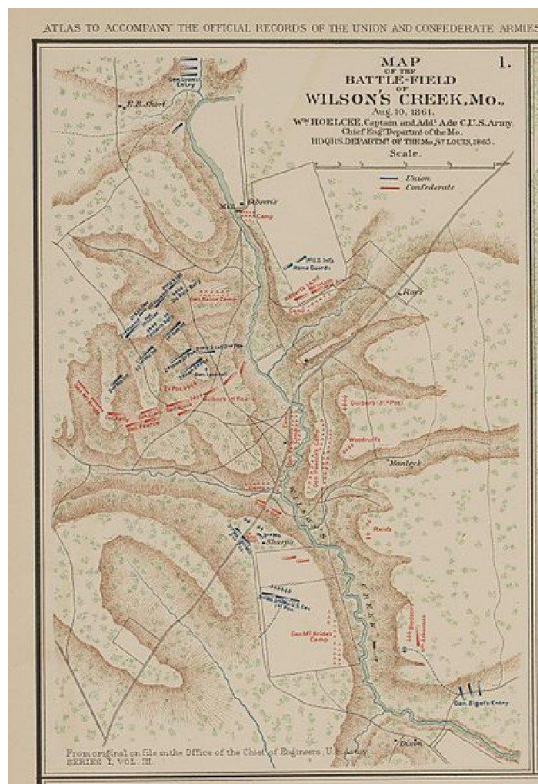
At first light on the morning of August 10, the Union began a surprise attack on the opposing forces. Lyon's force overran the Confederate pickets and took the high ground at the crest of a ridge, which would become known as "Bloody Hill". Early Union hopes for a rout were dashed, however, when the artillery of the Pulaski Arkansas Battery unlimbered and checked the advance, which gave Price's infantry time to organize lines on the south slope of the hill. Lyon organized a line on the southern slope of Bloody Hill, from which he launched an unsuccessful counterattack. Price launched a series of frontal and flank attacks but was also unsuccessful.

The two Union forces lost contact with each other, with no means of communicating with or supporting each other if anything went wrong. Sigel's attack was successful at first; the brigade arrived in the Confederate rear soon after dawn. Artillery fire routed the Confederate cavalry units, which were encamped at the Sharp's farm. Sigel began a pursuit, but stopped along Skeeg's Branch. During the break, he failed to post skirmishers, leaving his left flank open for an attack. Meanwhile, McCulloch rallied several Confederate units, including the 3rd Louisiana Infantry and the 3rd Division from the Missouri State Guard, to lead a counterattack. Sigel's flank was devastated by the counterattack, and his brigade was routed, losing four cannons. Sigel and his men fled the field, leaving the force under Lyon, holding out alone.

With the rout of Sigel's flank, the momentum of the battle shifted in the South's favor. Lyon became the first Union general to be killed in the war; he was shot in the heart on Bloody Hill at about 9:30 a.m. while leading a countercharge. While still in a defensible position atop the hill, Union supplies were low and morale was worsening. By 11:00 a.m., the Union forces had already repulsed three separate Confederate charges. Ammunition and men were nearly exhausted, and Major Samuel Sturgis retreated rather than risk a fourth Confederate attack.

The casualties were about equal on both sides – around 1,317 Union and 1,230 Confederate soldiers were either killed, wounded, or captured. The Confederate force won the field. Price wanted to start a pursuit of the Union force immediately, but McCulloch refused, worried about the quality of the Missouri State Guard and the length of his supply line back to Arkansas.

Editor: The Battle of Wilson's Creek was significant for Indian Territory as the Confederate victory was the final straw that persuaded Cherokee Chief John Ross to propose an alliance with the Confederacy.



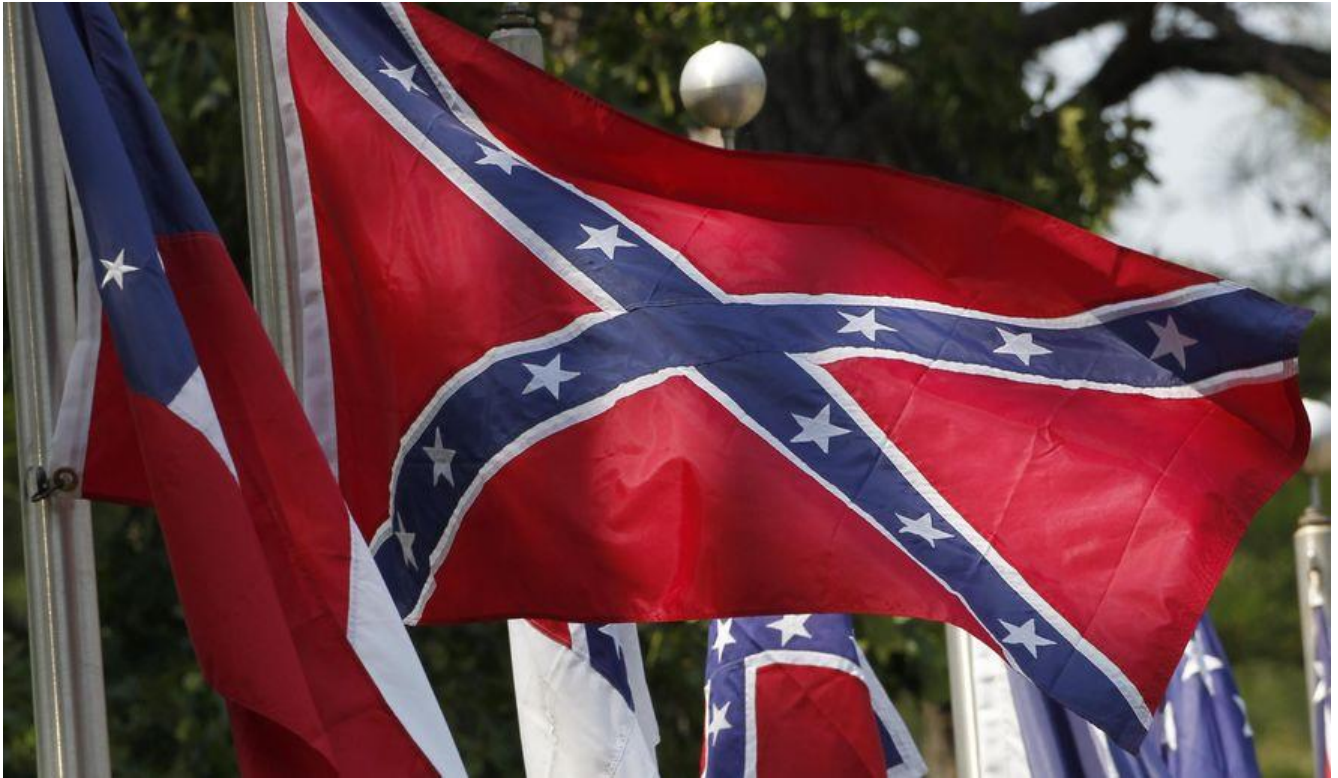
Wilson's Creek Battlefield

Confederate Arizona Territory

Confederate Arizona Territory was established on August 1, 1861. It comprised the modern states of Arizona and New Mexico south of latitude thirty-four degrees. Shortly afterwards, Col. John R. Baylor issued the following proclamation:

"The social and political condition of Arizona being little short of general anarchy, and the people being literally destitute of law, order, and protection, the said Territory, from the date hereof, is hereby declared temporarily organized as a military government until such time as Congress (Confederate) may otherwise provide. I, John R. Baylor, lieutenant-colonel, commanding the Confederate Army in the Territory of Arizona, hereby take possession of said Territory in the name and behalf of the Confederate States of America."





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