



# 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 9, Number 4

Summer Quarter

July-September 20176

## Commander's Comments

Ken Cook, Division Commander

Even with the relentless assault on our Confederate ancestors, monuments and symbols, this current quarter has been a good one for the Oklahoma SCV. We have added thirty-two new members since our Division Convention. As of now, we do not know how many have renewed, as National is still in the process of posting renewals.

We had a good National Reunion in Memphis with about the usual number of Oklahoma attendees. The Oklahoma Division newsletter received, along with North Carolina, recognition as the best Division newsletter in the Confederacy. Several Division compatriots received awards for exemplary recruiting and other camp and brigade activities.

We added no new camps during the quarter, but are currently working on two excellent possibilities: Ada and Durant. We expect to have them chartered by yearend.

We have recently had a few minor heritage issues including a potential threat, which failed to materialize, to the Confederate Soldiers statue at Durant. We also have some school renaming issues in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. We are making every effort to get on top of any heritage issue or potential threat before they develop into something serious. The school renaming issues may be lost causes, but we intend to give them our best efforts and have our position known and recorded.

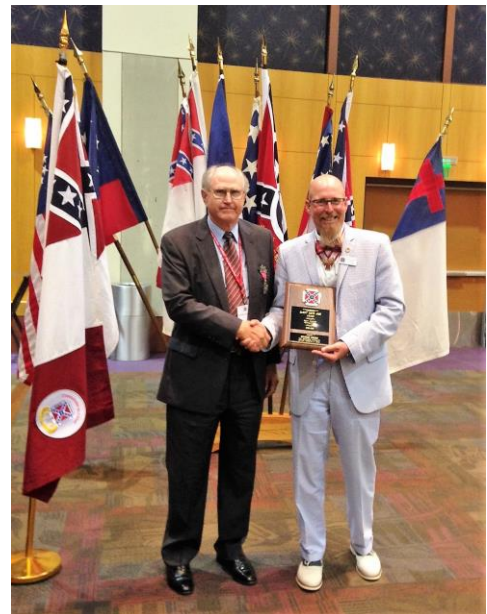
Altogether, the Oklahoma Division's future looks bright, thanks to your hard work. Let's don't relax, we are still surrounded by enemies who want very much to destroy our Southern and Confederate heritage.

Everyone, thank you for your contributions to the furtherance of our Cause. Keep up the good work!

## Oklahoma Division Awarded Best Division Newsletter in the Confederation

The newsletters of the Oklahoma and North Carolina divisions received recognition as the best division newsletters in the Confederation for 2016-17. That our newsletter shared this recognition does not diminish the value of the award. This is the second time *The Southern Advocate* has been recognized as the best division newsletter in the Confederation. The first award was for 2014-15.

This award belongs to compatriots of the Oklahoma Division, especially to those who made the award possible.



CiC Strain presenting the DeWitt Smith Jobe Award to Newsletter Editor and Division Commander Ken Cook

# SCV Telegraph

Compatriots and Friends:

We, the descendants of Confederates, are in a new battle. I am asking you to stop for a few moments, read this letter, and consider donating to the SCV Relief Fund. As we all watched the news over the past few days, Hurricane Harvey is causing untold destruction in Texas and Louisiana, (along with tornadoes in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee). You can very well be looking at the faces of our compatriots who live in those areas. Most have lost something, some have lost everything. Just think this could be you and now you have a chance to help compatriots across the devastated region.

Last year we depleted our budget for the SCV Relief Committee and you members helped by donating. We provided relief to members through twenty-two relief grants for a total of \$11, 000. Members from Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama and Louisiana received relief from the SCV Relief Funds. Heath issues, fire, and flooding were issues the committee responded to. We have a large membership in Texas and in the Houston area and these SCV members will be looking to us all for relief; our resources are low. If you can help, please do so.

This year the members of the SCV stepped up and donated to replenish the depleted funds of the SCV Relief Fund. I want to thank you for your donations to this very worthwhile source for the relief of our members.

Our SCV Relief Fund is designed to quickly support our members with instant, yet limited resources until their insurance can kick in. We need for you to act now and spread the word so we can help as many members as we can.

As various disasters and catastrophic events occur and affect our members, we must stand ready to assist our brothers and sisters in gray. We must prepare and distribute information on the level of relief as it is dictated by our available resources and the need to assist as many compatriots as possible in any given catastrophe. All levels of our organization must be made aware of the fund and its limitations.

Assistance can only be provided as a short term, stop-gap measure and at the request of those needing the assistance. Your donation is tax deductible. Please make gifts through PayPal ([accounting@scv.org](mailto:accounting@scv.org)), our website at <http://www.scv.org/new/paypal-donations/>, or send a check to:

Sons of Confederate Veterans  
c/o SCV Relief Fund  
PO Box 59  
Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0059

Do not wait! Reach into your pocket and give to the SCV Relief Fund, today. For more information, please contact me directly at [danny@honnoll.com](mailto:danny@honnoll.com) or **870-926-2985**. We sincerely thank you for your time and continued support.

Yours Faithfully  
W. Danny Honnoll

Editor: The SCV General Executive Council re-established the SCV Relief Fund in September 2005, in response to the devastating hurricanes that destroyed numerous homes and businesses in the Gulf Coast area. The SCV Relief Fund follows the traditions of United Confederate Veterans Relief and Aid Societies which were established over 100 years ago to provide aid and assistance to our veteran ancestors and their widows. The SCV will always endeavor to take care of our own.

The purpose of the SCV Relief Fund is to provide emergency monetary assistance in the form of grants up to \$500 (not loans that need to be repaid) to SCV members and their families who have been displaced from their homes due to hurricanes, tornadoes, fires or other natural disasters in their geographical areas. Written requests may be submitted by a camp or division commander for review by the SCV Relief Committee. SCV General Headquarters sends a check to the member when the committee approves the grant request.

This is a very worthwhile cause and a chance for camps and members to help their fellow SCV members during times of great need and personal tragedy. (SCV Statement of Purpose)



## 2017 National SCV Reunion

Commander Ken Cook

The 2017 National SCV Reunion and Convention was held on July 19-23 at the Memphis Convention Center next door to the Sheraton Hotel Downtown. Camp N. B. Forrest, No. 215, hosted the convention. The hotel was adequate for the purposes, although a bit pricy. It was just across the street from the Convention Center, where the business meetings were held.

The Oklahoma Division was represented by Division Commander Ken Cook, Past-Commanders Les Tucker and Larry Logan, Bently Couch, Division Historian and Commander of Camp Captain James J. McAlester of McAlester, and Kevin White, Adjutant of Camp Col. Dew Moore Wisdom of Muskogee.



Larry Logan (Moore), Bently Couch (McAlester), Les Tucker (Oklahoma City) and Ken Cook (Tulsa) – Kevin White had not yet arrived.

The convention got down to business on Thursday, July 20, with welcoming ceremonies, several reports and the 2017-18 budget. The Friday business session was more routine business with several delegates speaking about the new museum under construction at Elm Springs. The Awards Luncheon was also Friday. As noted below, several Oklahoma Division compatriots received awards. Army meetings were held first thing Saturday morning. The final business meeting followed the Army meetings.

The principal business of the Saturday business session was one proposed constitutional amendment to be voted on: a proposal to increase the number of members necessary to start a camp from seven to ten. It failed. Two proposed amendments to Standing Orders were also offered. The first was a proposal separating the SCV from the Sam Davis Youth Camp, for liability purposes. It passed. The second was a proposal prohibiting wearing of the SCV logo to be viewed from the back or rear. The proposal was specifically directed at the Mechanized Cavalry. It failed overwhelmingly.

The Oklahoma delegates enjoyed the convention, and of course, Memphis offers several off-site attractions to keep everyone occupied between business meetings.



Larry Logan, Les Tucker and Ken Cook at the General Forrest statue and grave in Forrest Park



Les Tucker with John T. Wayne, grandson of the Duke





## Report of Summer DEC Meeting

Ken Cook, Division Commander

The DEC met for its summer meeting at Curtis Watson's Catfish Restaurant in McCloud on Saturday, September 9. After opening ceremonies, Division Adjutant, James Orebaugh, called the roll and determined that we had a quorum. The first order of business was a heritage report delivered by Chief of Heritage Operations, Bryce Hill. There are a few heritage issues within the Division, including efforts to rename several schools named for Confederate heroes in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The general consensus is that these are lost causes, but we will attempt to have at least one member speaking at each of the respective school board meetings to present Confederate descendants' perspective. Lee Elementary School in Tulsa has several artifacts given to the school many years ago when Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh of Tulsa had a relationship with the school. We intend to petition the School Board for return of the items and the school's dedication stone, if the name is changed.

Compatriot Hill also presented a review of the purported threat to the Confederate Soldier statue at the Bryan County Courthouse. No threat actually materialized, but the Bryan County Sheriff's office was alerted and took immediate steps to protect the statue. The statue has been in place for 100 years and the statues base is in need of restoration. The UDC is now soliciting funds for the restoration project.

Division Commander, Ken Cook, gave his State of the Division report. The Division roster as of September 5, shows 456 members, but is not up-to-date because National has not completed posting renewals. We expect to have some non-renewals. It will be another thirty days or so before we will be able to get a clean roster; nevertheless, we have added thirty-two new members since the Division Convention. This is well on the way to meeting our target of a fifteen percent membership increase for the current business year. Whether or not we achieve our goal will largely depend on non-renewals. Ft. Washita Brigade Commander, Jerry Patrick, is working on two prospective new camps in his Brigade – Ada and Durant. We expect they will be chartered before the end of 2017. We have also targeted Lawton for a camp, but that project is in a very preliminary stage. Commander Cook also reviewed recent CiC General Orders, particularly pointing out the importance of the SCV Law Enforcement Appreciation Certificate. He also discussed other items of interest to the DEC.

We had a good discussion about the unauthorized flag raising at Rose Hill Cemetery at Ardmore. We have an excellent relationship with the City of Ardmore, but they are concerned of possible issues with continuously flying the Battle Flag. There are a few ambiguous issues concerning our Division monument at the Confederate Section of the cemetery, which we expect to clarify within the next several weeks. In the meantime, Commander Cook directed that the flag be removed so as not to attract undue attention to the monument.

Commander Cook reported on the status of the proposed revision of the Division constitution. It should be ready for distribution to DEC members in four weeks or so. After receiving

any further comments or suggestions, a final version will be presented to the DEC well in advance of the next DEC meeting, at which time we will make any final revisions for distribution prior to the 2018 Division Convention.

Commander Cook presented National SCV awards to recipients in attendance. The meeting was closed with the singing of "Dixie" and the benediction.

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## 2017 National SCV Awards

The following Oklahoma Division compatriots received awards at the 2017 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); 16-25 new members – certificate and silver medal**

### Certificate and Silver Medal:

Charley Wilson, Camp Pvt. Drury Warren (Ponca City)

### Certificate:

Terry Kent Cumber, Camp Col. John W. Jordan (Mannford)  
Allen A. Harrison, Camp Col. Tandy Walker (Shawnee)  
Ronnie Glenn Keese, Camp Capt. James J. McAlester (McAlester)  
Larry W. Logan, Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore)  
James L. Orebaugh, Camp 1<sup>st</sup> Cherokee Mounted Volunteers, (Edmond)  
Brandon Lee Thompson, Camp Pvt. William Price (Ringling)

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

Bruce Bishop, Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh (Tulsa)  
Brandon B. Porter, Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh (Tulsa)

### Meritorious Service Medal – Outstanding performance of duty to the SCV

Virgil L. Chain, Camp Shelby's Oklahoma Iron Men (Duncan)  
Stan Dowling, Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore)  
Allen A. Harrison, Camp Col. Tandy Walker (Shawnee)

### Distinguished Service Medal – Outstanding service in a position of responsibility

Rex Cash, Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers (Oklahoma City)  
Bently Couch, Camp Capt. James J. McAlester (McAlester)  
Larry W. Logan, Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore)  
Robert L. Weaver, Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers (OK City)

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Larry Logan, Adjutant of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain, Division Lt. Commander, Rex Cash, Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers, and Division Historian and Commander of Camp Capt. James J. McAlester, receiving Distinguished Service Medals



Commander Charley Wilson, Camp Pvt. Drury Warren, receiving the Dixie Award with Silver Medal



Virgil Chain, Commander of Red River/Indian Nations Brigade and Camp Shelby's Iron Men, receiving the Meritorious Service Medal



Compatriot Larry Logan, Brandon Thompson, Commander of Camp Pvt. William Price of Ringling, and James Orebaugh, Division Adjutant and Commander of Camp 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles of Edmond, receiving their Dixie Awards



Division Past-Commander Logan presenting Division Commander and Newsletter Editor, Ken Cook, with the DeWitt Smith Jobe Award for the best Division Newsletter (co-recipient with North Carolina)

Only the awardees shown in the photographs above were present at the DEC meeting to receive their awards. Camp commanders will present their awards to those members not in attendance or Commander Cook will mail the awards to the absentee recipients.

(Meeting photos are by Kevin Easterling.)





## Heritage News



Four of the seventy-nine living Confederate veterans attended the 52<sup>nd</sup> SCV Reunion and Convention at Chattanooga, Tennessee in October 1947. They were (L. - R.) in the front seat William Freeman (102) of Wetumpka, Oklahoma, and William C. Buck (96) of Muskogee, Oklahoma – (L. - R.) in the rear seat William W. Alexander (97) of Rock Hill, South Carolina, and James W. Moore (96) of Selma, Alabama. (Contributed by Larry Logan)

### A Green Country Confederate Group Denounces Correlation with Hate Groups

Joseph Holloway, *News on 6* – Tulsa



Bryce Hill, Judge Advocate and Chief of Heritage Operations  
Oklahoma Division, SCV

A group of Green Country (northeast Oklahoma) Confederate supporters is speaking out against racially-charged protests like the one in Charlottesville, Virginia. The group is saying it's giving the Confederacy a bad name.

"That is very frustrating, and we hate it but it happens repeatedly." Said Bryce Hill with "Sons of Confederate Veterans". Hill said a lot of people try to associate their group with controversial protests like the one in Charlottesville, Virginia, two weeks ago and rallies over the past week.

He says that's far from the truth of their message. "Our [SCV] constitution and our organization denounce all of that. You can't even be a member of the "Sons of Confederate Veterans" if you're a member of one of those", said Hill.

The group released a statement right after Charlottesville saying "the Antifa and the Alt-Right has nothing to do with the Confederacy, the SCV nor Southern History."

Hill asks, "Why would the KKK and the Aryan Nation go marching through Charlottesville? And, it wasn't even about the General Lee monument there. They were looking for a fight. Antifa showed up, and they gave 'em one."

But, the group says tearing down monuments and renaming schools, like Lee Elementary (Tulsa), is not the answer to the problem.

"If you don't like General Lee sitting there in Charlottesville, let's go over there and put up a monument of equal quality of Frederick Douglass, a very deserving person for a monument", said Hill. Hill said it's going to take a lot of work to move past the stigma attached to the Confederate name.

He says it would help if hate groups would stop using their flag. "The KKK, the neo-Nazis, the Aryan Nation, the people that have confiscated our flag and use it do it without our authorization, and we demand they cease and desist", said Hill. To listen to Compatriot Hill's interview, click on the link below:

<http://www.newson6.com/story/36325362/tulsa-confederate-group-weighs-in-on-charlottesville>.

### Democrats Offer a Bill to Remove Confederate Statues from the Capitol

Eugene Scott – *Washington Post*

Two Democratic lawmakers are taking the movement to remove Confederate memorials to Capitol Hill. Sen. Cory Booker (N.J.) and Rep. Barbara Lee (Calif.) introduced Senate and House versions of the Confederate Monument Removal Act, which would mandate the removal of all statues of those who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from the National Statuary Hall Collection within 120 days.

There are currently twelve Confederate leaders, including Gen. Robert E. Lee and President Jefferson Davis, in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

"The National Statuary Hall Collection is intended to honor American patriots who served, sacrificed or made tremendous contributions to our nation," Booker said. "Those who committed treason against the United States of America and led our nation into its most painful and bloody war are not patriots and should not be afforded such a rare honor in this sacred space."

Activists around the country have been protesting Confederate memorials and taking and pushing measures to call for their removal. Last month in Charlottesville, a white supremacist plowed his car into a crowd, killing one counter-protester at a rally organized by those wanting to preserve the statues.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and other Democrats called for the immediate removal of the statues in

the Capitol after the Charlottesville attack. This is the first bicameral legislation aimed at doing so, according to a spokesman for Lee.

Lee called the memorials “hateful symbols” unfit for the U.S. Capitol. “In the wake of Charlottesville, it’s abundantly clear that much work remains to root out racism from our society”, Lee said. “Across the country, Confederate statues and monuments pay tribute to white supremacy and slavery in public spaces. These hateful symbols should have no place in our society and they certainly should not be enshrined in the U.S. Capitol.”

The National Statuary Hall Collection was established in 1864 to celebrate “illustrious” individuals who served or sacrificed for the United States, which the lawmakers argue excludes Confederate soldiers, because they took up arms against the United States. The bill would allow states to claim the Confederate statues that are removed if they so choose. And those that states do not claim would be sent to the Smithsonian. The bill is the latest attempt from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle calling on lawmakers to be more aggressive in the fight against white supremacy. (Ed. Each state is permitted to place two statues in Statuary Hall.)

However, most Americans disagree with Booker and Lee about what the statues represent. An *Economist* and *YouGov* survey found that, by more than two to one, Americans believe that Confederate monuments are symbols of Southern pride rather than of white supremacy.

The bill may have a hard time getting support from enough lawmakers to pass. Republicans control the House and the Senate, and eighty-four percent of Republicans in the *Economist/ YouGov* survey said that Confederate monuments represent pride rather than supremacy.

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## New Confederate Monuments are Going up, and These are the People Behind Them

Emanuella Grinberg, *CNN.com*

(CNN) Since 2007, John Culpepper had been anticipating this moment: the unveiling of a statue to the common Confederate soldier in his hometown of Chickamauga, Georgia. In November of last year, three days before Donald Trump won the presidency, it became a reality.

Culpepper founded the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the self-described historic honor society that's been keeping the Confederate legacy alive for more than a century.

Culpepper greeted visitors with smiles and handshakes as they filed into rows of white folding chairs behind the towering, shrouded statue. Most of them were his neighbors from Chickamauga, a town of some 3,000 people near the Tennessee border. Some were dressed in the uniforms of Confederate soldiers; a woman and her daughter came dressed in hoop skirts, and bikers wore leather jackets and bandanas awash in Confederate flags. (Ed. SCV Mechanized Cavalry, not “bikers”.)

The monument, erected on the grounds of an antebellum plantation that's now owned by the city, was dedicated to soldiers of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. It's the unit that local men fought for during the Civil War – what the town still refers to on its [website](#) as the “War Between the States.”

“It's about remembering our ancestors, the people who built this town,” said Culpepper, who retired as Chickamauga city manager in 2013 after thirty-four years. “Regardless of what you think about the cause, they were fighting for their homes, their land, their neighbors.”

At a time when Confederate statues and plaques are coming down across the country, the SCV is among the few groups pushing not just to preserve those that exist, but to establish new ones. The audience clapped as Culpepper pulled the covering off the life-size bronze figure. The soldier was bearded, wearing a period-perfect hat, jacket and gunnysack. He clutched his rifle by the barrel and faced north toward Chickamauga battlefield, the site of the bloodiest Civil War battle after Gettysburg.



Confederate Monument – Chickamauga, Georgia

The inscription at the monument's base reads: “*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*”.

For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the SCV focused on activities like conducting genealogical research, tending soldiers' graves and establishing monuments. As the fight to remove Confederate symbols from state flags to monuments heated up in the 1990s, their focus shifted to protecting them.

Ever since a white nationalist killed nine black parishioners in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, momentum to remove Confederate symbols has grown throughout the South. Those calls accelerated nationwide in the wake of deadly violence this month (August) at a white supremacist gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia, which began in part as a rally to protect a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In recent years, the SCV has stepped up its efforts, throughout the south, to keep pace with the movement lobbying against Confederate icons. The Virginia Division is the main plaintiff in the lawsuit to keep Charlottesville's Lee statue. Mississippi's SCV is preparing to fight to keep the Confederate battle emblem in the state flag. The Louisiana division sued -- unsuccessfully -- to stop the recent removal of New Orleans' Confederate monuments.

Since the Chickamauga monument was unveiled, local chapters in Tennessee have placed two more markers commemorating Confederate soldiers killed in skirmishes of little renown outside the communities where they occurred. An obelisk was placed in front of a courthouse in Leakesville, Mississippi, with the names of Confederate soldiers from the county. In May, a massive Confederate flag was hoisted above private property adjacent to Interstate 22 in Alabama, following a procession of leather-clad bikers from the SCV Mechanized Cavalry. Since 2008, the group has been raising money for a National Confederate Museum on the grounds of its headquarters in Columbia, Tennessee. It's scheduled to break ground in 2018.

After Charlottesville, members including Culpepper, blame white nationalists for unraveling their legacy, and confusing their message of honoring their forebears. "I hate all of them because they took my ancestors' flag of honor and destroyed it," Culpepper said of the KKK, neo-Nazis and the League of the South. "They've done more damage to Southern heritage than anybody has." But, he's just as upset at those tearing down monuments across the country and vandalizing them. "You're stomping on a statue that represents a citizen of North Carolina who was called up to defend his state against an invading army."

You're not likely to see most SCV members on the news protesting to preserve Confederate monuments. The group focuses on working behind the scenes -- filing lawsuits, raising money and persuading private landowners to host their monuments. Virginia Division leaders warned members not to show up in Charlottesville. "We are reasonable people that believe in the Constitution and the rule of law," said B. Frank Earnest, spokesman for the Virginia Division. "When the SCV has issues with a locality or the state, we go to city council meetings. We go to seminars, and if necessary, we take the city to court. That's how we deal."

The group formed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as an outgrowth of its parent association, United Confederate Veterans, as men who fought in the war began to die out. Then, as now, membership requires proof of lineage to an actual Confederate veteran, much like its sister organization, the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The women's group was behind most of the monuments that went up between Reconstruction and World War II as tributes to relatives who served and generals. During this period, which included the Supreme Court ruling that legalized "separate but equal" public accommodations, the "Lost Cause" narrative took hold throughout the South. It emphasized the valor of the common soldier and espoused states' rights as an equal, if not greater, factor contributing to the war.

Consequently, as former enslaved black people and their descendants were enduring Jim Crow-era policies of legalized segregation and lynchings, heirs of the Confederacy were gathering by the thousands for public dedications of monuments; some celebrated their ancestors, some vowed to maintain white supremacy.

As protests around contested Confederate monuments become more heated, the SCV has taken great pains to distance itself from the white nationalist movement. It points to the SCV Constitution, revised in 2016, which says the group "neither embraces, nor espouses acts or ideologies of racial and religious bigotry, and further, condemns the misuse of its sacred symbols and flags in the conduct of same."

The SCV puts forward a romanticized, genteel version of the Old South, one that plays up the nobility of the common man and glosses over the suffering of enslaved black people. But, after Charlottesville, when most people picture champions of Confederate icons, they see torch-bearing men in riot gear who don't want to separate those symbols from racist ideology.

"Charlottesville clarified the monument's connection to an attempt to create a slaveholding republic based on white supremacy," historian Kevin Levin said. "That's what Lee was willing -- with Stonewall Jackson -- to give his life to achieve, and I think the white nationalists see that."

The Sons of Confederate Veterans have been trying for some time to distance themselves from hate groups. They passed a "hate resolution" in 1989, denouncing the Ku Klux Klan. But, white nationalists have found homes in leadership positions with them over the years. Kirk Lyons, a longtime SCV member, ran an unsuccessful campaign to lead the national organization. The Southern Poverty Law Center has labeled him a white supremacist, an allegation he denies.

The SPLC has called out the group several times over the years for refusing to take a stand against racism and maintaining a pro-Confederate view of history. Their membership is open to people of all races and they do not openly denigrate other groups of people. But, their support for monuments and the "Lost Cause" narrative raises red flags for the civil rights watchdog. "They've historically been reluctant to be explicit about race issues," said Heidi Beirich, who leads the SPLC's Intelligence Project. "They have this twisted view of history where they don't take slavery as seriously as they should because of this idea of the nobility of the Confederacy, but they're defending monuments that are all about white supremacy."

Charlottesville suggests their days are numbered, said Levin, whose blog, *Civil War Memory*, is full of attempts to debunk SCV claims about the war. As the SCV's members age, the latest generation is finding new ways to frame their identity online and in protest ranks. "I think what happened in Charlottesville was a game-changer for a lot of people trying to find a middle-of-the-road solution," Levin said. "Is there one? No."

But, the group isn't done fighting yet. Each time a "national crisis" occurs, the group experiences a boost in membership, executive director Michael Landree said. It happened in 2015, when their ranks grew by 5,000 people to 33,000 by the year's end. And, he expects it to grow even more this year.



Their next battleground is Richmond, Virginia, said Earnest, the spokesman for the Virginia Division. The short-lived capital of the Confederate States of America is home to Monument Avenue, a tree-lined boulevard featuring the pantheon of Confederate generals. Its grandeur earned it recognition as a National Historic Landmark in 1997, and the American Planning Association included it in its first list of Great Places in America in 2007. But with each accolade, the architectural marvels have faced challenges. Amid growing protests of Confederate symbols earlier this year, Richmond's mayor convened a commission to find ways to add context to the monuments. Then, after Charlottesville, he announced that he had instructed the commission to consider removal or relocation, too. "Removal has to be on the table," Mayor Levar Stoney told CNN affiliate WTVR. "These are divisive symbols that no longer represent what Richmond is." Earnest vowed that his group will be at the next city council meeting. The bigger question is, who else will be there? "We want to get back to the rule of law and civil discourse. We want to get this back to the way civilized people should be behaving," he said. "People have problems with 'Make America Great Again,' but my America is not in mob rule and destroying property."

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## The Confederate Air Force and Southern Ingenuity

Contributed by Bently Couch, Division Historian

Early in the war the union used hydrogen-filled balloons to ascend and spy on the South. They developed techniques to produce hydrogen so his balloons could be filled with gas on the battlefield. Because no one in the United States Army had ever used a balloon, there were no trained observers who could interpret what they were seeing. Troop movements were hard to detect. Maneuvers were obscured by the dust and smoke of battle or hidden by the wooded terrain. When the Union tried balloon observations, the Confederates felt obligated to match it. So, when the union balloon appeared over the countryside of the Virginia Peninsula in the spring of 1862, the Southerners went to work.

A problem for the South was obtaining sufficient lighter-than-air-gas. Hydrogen gas is generated by using a large amount of sulfuric acid, which comes from sulfur. The South had sulfur, but that chemical was a major ingredient in manufacturing black powder. The Confederate high command did not think it wise to divert sulfur from ammunition production to use in balloon. Fortunately, there are other ways of raising a balloon. Hot air was tried first; a flue directed the heat from a stove into the neck of a balloon, but only a short flight a few feet up could be achieved in this fashion. Coal gas was used to light homes and businesses in Richmond. It is lighter than air and could be used in a balloon. The gas seemed to work.

Dr. Edward Cheves of Savannah, Georgia, a wealthy chemist and inventor, thought balloons had a future in warfare, so he

bought up all the available silk in Savannah and hired seamstresses to begin the tedious task of sewing to make tight seams. While this was going on, Dr. Cheves began experimenting to find a varnish that would make the silk impermeable to coal gas. He finally produced such a varnish by melting rubber in oil. On June 24, 1862, the first Confederate balloon arrived in Richmond, and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Porter Alexander became the first "pilot" in the Confederate air force. Alexander would eventually win fame as commander of the Confederate artillery at Gettysburg.

Alexander loaded the balloon on a single railcar towed by a steam engine and rode down to the Richmond Gas Works. He filled the balloon with the gas, but kept it secured to the railcar. He ordered the train to continue on the tracks until he was close to the fighting front. Then the balloon was untied and up went Alexander, connected to the ground by a single tether. On the first few ascents, he could see little, but he signaled his observations to men on the ground, using a flag system. The coal gas had lift, however, that full height above the ground could be maintained only for three or four hours before the balloon began to sink earthward.

After the Seven Days Battle, the Union army began to retreat from Richmond, and Alexander could no longer observe them by using the railroad. On July 3, the Confederate balloon was put aboard a small tug, CSS *Teaser*, and towed down the James River. Thus, making *Teaser* the world's first aircraft carrier. Alexander then went up again. Shortly after sunrise on July 4, 1862, the gas began losing its lift so the balloon was reeled in. Alexander asked the commander of *Teaser* to run a little farther down the river. *Teaser* headed downriver, but in the process the tug ran aground. The tide would not change for three hours, and while *Teaser* was waiting, around a bend in the river came the large Union gunboat, *Maratanza*.



Model of CSS *Teaser* with observation balloon

Quickly, the Confederates set fire to *Teaser* to prevent its capture. They boarded small boats and rowed to shore. Men from *Maratanza* captured *Teaser*, put out the fire, and sailed away with tug, balloon and all. This ended the Confederate Air Force. No more balloons were constructed by the South during the War.

## Division Media Spokesmen

SCV CiC Strain has asked all Division commanders to appoint an authorized person as Division news media spokesman and a second one as an alternate. He has taken this action because there have been several instances of compatriots around the Confederacy speaking to the news media and apparently making statements purporting to be SCV positions or policy.

Commander Cook has appointed Chief of Heritage Operations and Judge Advocate, Bryce Hill, as the Division's authorized spokesman. He has also appointed Division Past-Commander, Larry Logan, as the Division's alternate spokesman. Only these two compatriots are authorized to speak to the news media for, or on behalf, of the Oklahoma Division. If a member of the news media approaches or asks a compatriot for an interview or comments on something related to the SCV, the compatriot should refer the news media representative to one of the authorized spokesmen.

This of course is not meant to preclude any compatriot from speaking to the media on matters of interest to his camp, but he must not state, or imply, that he is speaking for, or on behalf, of the SCV. If a compatriot doesn't know the news media representative, it would be best if he would not mention his membership or association with the SCV. This may sound harsh, but we must remember that the media generally are not our friends. If a reporter knows or believes someone he or she is speaking with is affiliated with the SCV, they are likely to present the interview on television, the internet or in print as an official pronouncement of the SCV or its position or policy on a particular matter.

We ask the cooperation of all compatriots in this matter. If anyone has any questions, he should contact the Division Commander or Compatriots Hill or Logan.

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## Know Your Applicant

CiC Strain is concerned that there may be persons trying to join the SCV as subversives rather than individuals who are interested in the SCV's mission. That would not be a difficult thing to do. All one needs do is go on the internet and get the name of a Confederate veteran and concoct a genealogy. We would be unlikely to discover this, but a few well-phrased questions asked of applicants might raise red flags.

We are asking all camp commanders and camp members to be attentive to this possibility. Camp commanders must control the conversation at camp meetings to ensure that no member strays into a conversation that reflects any subject that the SCV doesn't support. This goes beyond SCV constitutionally prohibited conversations on religion and political elections. Be particularly aware of any conversation or statement that disparages a person's race or ethnicity. Be especially aware of any new member who engages in such conversations or makes such statements, whether to individuals or in meetings. The times are such that we must be extra vigilant.

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## Camp News and Activities

On May 29, **Camp Capt. James J. McAlester** (McAlester) held a Confederate Memorial Day commemoration at the graves of William C. Cummings, Co. G, 35<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry (top photo) and P.M. Drake, Co. A, 8<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry (bottom photo) in Oakwood Cemetery at Wewoka, Oklahoma.



(L. to R.) Compatriots Ralph Morton, Patrick Self and Ronnie Kessee  
(Photos by Guy Tucker and Patrick Self)

At **Camp Col. Tandy Walker's** (Shawnee) June meeting, Commander Allen Harrison presented Compatriot James C. Campbell with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Campbell's Confederate ancestor is Pvt. William H. Suter, Co A, 9<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry (Elliott's Regiment). Chaplain Warren Boles was the featured speaker. He gave summaries of several military engagements in what is now Oklahoma, including Round Mountain, Big Cabin and Middle Boggy.





Commander Harrison presenting new Compatriot James C. Campbell with his SCV Membership Certificate



Chaplain Warren Boles delivering his program



At the June 20 meeting of **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** (Moore), Commander Jerry Patrick and Deputy Adjutant Jimmy Carter presented a Guardian Certificate to Compatriot Jack Cottrell. Commander Patrick and Compatriot Cottrell presented twenty-three Confederate grave flags to Robert Potvin, Sr., Commander of the VFW and American Legion posts in Lexington. The flags will be placed on the graves of Confederate Veterans in the Lexington area on National Memorial Day



Commander Jerry Patrick (left), Jack Cottrell and Deputy Adjutant Jimmy Carter



Compatriot Cottrell, VFW Commander Potvin, Commander Patrick

In June, Commander Jerry Patrick, **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** resigned as camp commander for personal reasons. Lt. Commander Rocky Waddell assumed the office and will serve the remainder of the current term. Compatriot Patrick will continue to serve as Commander of Ft. Washita Brigade

On Saturday evening, June 24, **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** held a Confederate Memorial Day service at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Norman. Special guest, Ms. Susan Hathaway of the Virginia Flaggers, presented a most informative and energetic program.

Other special guests in attendance were Army of Trans-Mississippi Commander, Johnny Holley, National SCV Lt. Commander, Paul Gramling and Oklahoma Division Commander, Ken Cook. Camp McCurtain Adjutant and Past-Commander of the Oklahoma Division, Larry Logan, was master of ceremonies for the Memorial Day service.

The Memorial Day service was preceded by a spaghetti dinner, which has become a tradition of Camp McCurtain's Confederate Memorial Day services.





Ms. Hathaway presenting her program



National SCV Lt. Commander Gramling addressing the Memorial Day gathering



ATM Commander Holley addressing the Memorial Day gathering



Commander Allen Harrison, **Camp Col. Tandy Walker** and Lt. Commander Patrick Self, **Camp Capt. James J. McAlester**, enjoy a photo with featured guest speaker, Susan Hathaway of the Virginia Flaggers, at the Confederate Memorial Day dinner hosted by **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** on June 24.

At the June meeting of **Camp Capt. James J. McAlester**, Adjutant Steve Ward spoke about the Membership Renewal Statement he created, which would be mailed to all members of the Camp. The presentation for the meeting was given by Compatriot Ben McIntosh, who spoke about his ancestors Colonel William Chillicothe "Chilly" McIntosh and Colonel Daniel Newnan McIntosh, both Creek Confederates.



At the July meeting of **Camp Capt. James J. McAlester**, it was announced that all but one member had renewed his membership. David Boyer gave an informative presentation on *CSS Alabama*. Interesting fact: Lieutenant Simon W. Cummings was the only crew member of *Alabama* killed during its cruise. After lunch, Adjutant Steve Ward, his wife Kathy and Commander Bently Couch were surprised to find the Jeff-Lee Pool open for business after raining all morning, so they were able to access the clean-up tools left by Pride In McAlester and did some litter pick-up and weed cutting in and around the park and pool area. Camp McAlester has adopted the park as a part of the Keep McAlester Beautiful Adopt-A-Block Program.



Adjutant Steve Ward (left) and Commander Bently Couch picking up litter in and around the Jeff-Lee Pool and Park area.  
(Photo by Kathy Ward)



On Saturday, July 8, **Camp Capt. Benjamin F. Smallwood** (Coalgate) held its monthly meeting. Guests included Division Commander Ken Cook, Ft. Washita Brigade Commander Jerry Patrick and Camp Capt. James J. McAlester Commander, Bently Couch. There were two program presentations at the meeting: Mr. Robert Cast, Choctaw Nation Tribal Archaeologist and Dr. Robert Lee Montgomery, Chaplain of Camp Stonewall Jackson of Denton, Texas. A reporter for the Coalgate newspaper was also in attendance. The newspaper later publish an extensive and flattering article on Camp Smallwood and the meeting, including numerous photos.



Commander Cook administering the oath of office to Commander-Elect Ron Miller



Commander Cook administering the oath of induction to two new camp members: Nick McDonald and John Miller



Choctaw Nation Archaeologist, Richard Cast, presenting his program on his current project of attempting to locate the site of the Battle of Middle/Muddy Boggy River





Dr. Robert Lee Montgomery, Chaplain of Camp Stonewall Jackson of Denton, Texas, presenting his program on Confederate culture.

Editor: Dr. Montgomery is author of several books on Southern and Confederate topics. For more information about his books, visit his website at <http://www.livinginthelandofcotton.com/>.

(Photos by Jerry Patrick)

Commander Rocky Waddell (left) and Deputy Adjutant Jimmy Carter presented Compatriot Noble Stanfield with his SCV Life Membership Certificate at **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain's** meeting on July 17.



**Camp Col. Tandy Walker** held its July meeting at Vann's Pig Stand (BBQ restaurant) on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Guest speaker was Mr. Ken Landry, Director of Pottawatomie County Museum & Historical Society. His address was entitled "Founders and History of Shawnee, Oklahoma".



Mr. Ken Landry delivering his address

**Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh** (Tulsa) held its annual Awards Luncheon on Saturday, August 19. The Luncheon was a joint meeting with the UDC. Members from UDC chapters in Tulsa, Muskogee, Ardmore and Holdenville were in attendance. Todd Cathey, a recent transfer from a Tennessee camp, gave the program. Oklahoma Division Commander Ken Cook presented the SCV Commendation Award to Camp Commander Bruce Bishop and Compatriot Brandon Porter for their work in identifying unmarked graves of Confederate veterans, and for arranging for headstone placement on the graves. Compatriot Porter lives in Oregon; his award will be mailed to him.



Oklahoma Division Commander Ken Cook presents Camp McIntosh and Cherokee Brigade Commander, Bruce Bishop, with the National SCV Commendation Award at the Camp's annual Awards Luncheon.



At the August 12 meeting of **Camp Col. Tandy Walker**, the Camp inducted two new members: William B Dalley, whose Confederate ancestor is Pvt. John W Tipton, Co H, 20<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Regiment, and John Floyd Fisher, Jr. His Confederate ancestor is Pvt. Andrew Jackson Fisher, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Mounted Infantry (Lilliard's Regiment). Compatriot Fisher was initially contacted at the Flag Rally on March 4.

Members discussed their Confederate Christmas wreath program. Commander Harrison will be ordering supplies for thirty-six wreaths to be placed on Confederate veterans' graves in Fairview Cemetery at Shawnee. Compatriot Harrison presented the program: "Differences Between Union & Confederate Constitutions". Friend of the SCV, Judith David, and Compatriot John Fisher have volunteered to be coordinators of the Camp Facebook page. Commander Harrison presenting SCV Membership Certificates to new compatriots John Floyd Fisher, Jr. (top) and William B. Dalley.



At **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain's** August meeting, Commander Rocky Waddell presented Compatriot Stan Dowling with his SCV Meritorious Service Award (top). He also presented Camp Adjutant, Larry Logan, with his SCV Dixie Award and Distinguished Service Award (bottom).



On Saturday, September 2, compatriots and friends from Camps **Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** (Moore), **Shelby's Iron Men** (Duncan) **Pvts. Grayson & Brewer** (Altus) and **Pvt. W. D. Chain** (Copperton) participated in the Elk City Rodeo and Labor Day Parade. Parade attendance was estimated at a minimum of 5,000 to as many as 10,000. There were over 120 entries in the two-hour parade. "Two people booed, while hundreds cheered, gave high fives, yelled congratulations and showed respect. Some didn't do anything, but for those who did it was about 1,000 to two." The SCV's parade entry was judged second best among all entries.





L to R: Larry Logan (Moore), Bob Findley, Sr. (Altus), Bob Findley, Jr. (Altus), Nicky Chain, Friend of the SCV (Cooperton), Bret Wood (Duncan), Virgil Chain (Duncan), Hubert Reeves (Duncan), Jerry Brewer (Altus), and Steve Stricklan (Duncan). (Photo and report contributed by Larry Logan.)

On September 7, **Camp Indian Territory** (Poteau) held its monthly meeting at the DAV hall. Special guests were Division Commander Ken Cook, Ft. Washita Brigade Commander, Jerry Patrick and Compatriot Jimmy Carter of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain. The principal event of the meeting was the election of Compatriot Ken Shubach as Commander. He had been serving as acting commander after the resignation of Commander Doug Ridner earlier in the year. The Camp has lost several members over the past two years, and Commander Cook discussed several items he recommended the camp either consider or needed to do. Commander Shubach discussed the Camp's restoration of the Confederate Room at the Leflore County Museum. The Camp has adopted the room as an ongoing project. Adjutant Don Branham presented the program.



Commander Cook addressing the meeting



Camp Commander Shubach presiding over the meeting. Adjutant Branham is on the left.

(Photos by Jimmy Carter)



Commander Cook administering the oath of office to Commander-Elect Shubach

The August meeting of **Camp Capt. James J. McAlester** was one of their largest, with twenty-four attendees. Through collected Camp donations, they were able to present a check of \$300 to Richard Ellwanger, Executive Director of the Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka, Oklahoma. Mr. Ellwanger will use the money to create a display showcasing the Seminole's importance in the Confederacy, most notably Chief (Lt. Colonel) John Jumper. During the meeting, Commander Bently Couch presented Compatriot Ronnie Keesee with the SCV Dixie Club Award for his achievement of recruiting 5-9 new members.



(L to R) Commander Bently Couch, Adjutant/Treasurer Steve Ward and Richard Ellwanger, Executive Director of the Seminole Nation Museum

(Photo by Patrick Self)



Commander Bently Couch presents Compatriot Ronnie Kessee with the Dixie Club award. (Photo by Steve Ward)

On Saturday, September 6, **Fort Washita Brigade** commander, Jerry Patrick, assisted Compatriot Nick McDonald, **Camp Capt. Benjamin F. Smallwood** with a gun show at Ada, where we are attempting to organize a camp. The results were positive. Compatriot McDonald will be following-up with potential applicants.



Michael Leddy and Nick McDonald at the Ada gun show

At its September 18 meeting, **Camp Col. Benjamin F. McCurtain**, presented Certificates of Appreciation to University of Oklahoma senior, Caitlyn Jones, and Compatriot Mike Weeks, shown below.



Compatriot Ken Gray giving the program

On Saturday, November 11, **Camp Dew Moore Wisdom** (Muskogee) will host a Community Dinner at the Muskogee Masonic Lodge, 121 S 6<sup>th</sup> ST, W. Camp Commander, Mason Page, states the purpose of the dinner is "to better educate the public and community about who we are and give them a chance to meet us all and celebrate and be thankful for our Confederate Heritage". Please come and bring your families and friends. Cost is \$20 per person. The meal will be catered by Muskogee's popular Mahylon's BBQ Restaurant. Doors will open at 3:00. Dinner will be served at 4:00. Pre-paid registration should be received by October 31. Cost is \$20 per person. Late registration is \$25. For registration forms, contact Commander Page at [masonpage81@yahoo.com](mailto:masonpage81@yahoo.com) or 918-577-2015.

Editor: The official announcement implies this is an ATM event; however, it is entirely a Camp Dew Moore Wisdom event.





## Confederate Veteran Statue Almost Century Old

Dan Pennington – dpennington@civitasmedia.com  
Posted on August 16, 2015 by the Durant *Democrat*

For nearly a century, the Confederate veteran has kept watch over Bryan County. He would have been watching a different area of town had he been placed at the originally intended location at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Main. Newspapers of the day do not say why officials decided not to use that location, only that, “it was thought not to do.”

The statue was carved in Italy and brought to Durant where it sat crated in storage five years before being erected. The United Daughters of the Confederacy are credited with the building of the monument and putting the Confederate soldier where he is today. The motto of the Daughters that is carved in the base of the monument says, “Lest we forget.” The following is on the pedestal: “Erected in memory of our gallant Confederate soldiers, by the Julia Jackson Chapter, U.D.C. A.D. 1917.” The soldier is in the position of rest with his gun. He is wearing the private’s Confederate uniform.

The program to unveil the statue was rich with prominent speakers and visitors. It was said of the ceremony, “One of the largest crowds of people gathered in the county in quite some time.” The Honorable W.A. Durant, who was to be the state’s next Governor, spoke at the program. He oversaw the entire project as Chairman and “presided with his usual dignity.” Newspaper accounts continue by saying, “The Daughters to whom goes the credit for the monument, were there in full force in the happy and patriotic spirit.” Everyone in the county as well, was excited to have the monument to the Confederate soldier.

Speakers for the occasion were Governor Robert L. Williams and Colonel Jim Tom Story, a veteran of the Confederacy. Story was also the editor of the *Bokchito News*, which insured plenty of news coverage of the day’s events. Jim Tom Story the Great-Grandfather of Bob Story and the Great-Great-Grandfather of former city councilman Bobby Story.

Newspaper accounts say, “In a happy manner, Honorable W. A. Durant introduced Governor Williams who held the vast crowd spellbound.” They said, “The Governor made the speech of his life. He was full of the subject before him, referring many times to the heroism of the people of the South, in the sixties. He paid high compliments to the women of the South and to the Daughters (of the Confederacy) who are laboring to perpetuate the principles, the memory and the deeds of the brave boys, who followed the flag.”

Governor Williams, at the unveiling ceremony continued, by stating he was proud because it was in his home town, and county and state. Williams said about the occasion and history. “All of this showed the sealing of the North and South – that we now have no North, no South, no East or West. Yea, all one for winning of this war under our great President, Woodrow Wilson, but one now inseparable.”

His reference was to World War I which was being fought overseas as the monument was unveiled. The statue actually

brought together all Americans for the cause to win the first World War. Newspaper accounts said, “the Governor was looking and feeling well and in the best of spirit to suit the occasion.”

Miss Julia Jackson was in attendance at the unveiling and was greeted with loud cheers and applause as she took her seat on the platform that day. “The little lady arose and acknowledged her thanks as the band played “Dixie” amid cheers and hurrahs.”

Then Colonel Jim Tom Story spoke. He told of how proud he and his comrades were to be present. He paid compliments to the Daughters of the Confederacy, who had labored for years, for the statue. “None except this band of Daughters, the noblest little women in the world, could have made such a success as this had proved to be,” said Story. “All praise to Julia Jackson Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy of Durant, the best on Earth.” Julia was the niece of Stonewall Jackson who attended the event.

“The old Confederates of today are bending their energies in helping to win this war (WWI), and we must win it, and we will win it,” said Story. He mentioned the flag (U.S.) and said, “Long may it wave o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.” It was at this point in the ceremony, newspaper accounts said, “Two sweet little girls, Mabel Hicks and Edl Spears, in a handsome manner, unveiled the monument which showed the Confederate soldier at rest with his trusty rifle, canteen, haversack and cartridge box. He is clothed in the regulation Confederate uniform.”

At the time of its unveiling in 1917, this was the only monument in the state of Oklahoma that was erected solely in memory of the Confederate veterans. There are others to individual Confederates, but none to the Confederate soldier.”

The Confederate veteran statue has stood ninety-eight years with its birthday only a couple of years away (2017). With a little refurbishing of the base of the monument, the statue should stand another 100 years, until our contribution to its refurbishing, is but a memory.



Never wavering, the Confederate veteran stands watching over the citizens of Durant, as he has for nearly 100 years.  
(Photo by Dan Pennington)



## Commentary

Ken Cook, Division Commander

With the current threat to the Confederate soldier's monument at Durant, I wanted to learn more about the monument, so I researched it on the internet. One article that I found was a report of its dedication in 1917 (above). I was taken with the overall patriotism and good will that existed at the dedication. I also got to wondering about other Confederate monuments and statues around the country. We have heard from news sources that there are over 700 Confederate monuments around the country, overwhelmingly in the South, as would be expected. We have also heard from many on the news networks – talking heads as well as guests – that most of them were erected after 1954 as an act of defiance over Brown v. Board of Education, follow-up school desegregation orders and civil rights activities in general. I also got to wondering about that, so I did some more internet research.

I did a random survey of monuments around the South to find out when they were actually erected. It was quite an eye-opener. It was in no way a scientific survey, but it did include more than one per cent of the 700-plus Confederate monuments and statues that currently exist. One per cent is actually quite high for statistical sampling. I did not cherry pick nor look until I found what I wanted to see.

The earliest monument I found in the survey was at Macon, Georgia, erected in 1879. The General Lee monument on Monument Avenue in Richmond was erected in 1890. Others include the elaborate Confederate memorial at Austin, Texas, (1903) Greenwood, Mississippi (1906), Jeb Stuart and Jefferson Davis on Monument Avenue (1907), the Confederate memorial in Arlington National Cemetery (1914), the Durant statue, dedicated in 1917, the Stonewall Jackson monument on Monument Avenue (1919) and the one that has caused all the bruhaha, the General Lee monument at Charlottesville, Virginia (1924). The erection of these monuments had absolutely nothing to do with resistance to anything, let alone the black civil rights movement. This is simply another instance of someone making an unfounded allegation and all the talking heads and assorted enemies of the South and anything Southern and those consumed with white guilt, latching onto it and repeating it until it has become accepted as fact. Joseph Goebbels was right: "Repeat a lie long enough, and it will be accepted as fact". This particular lie is not only not even close to fact, it amounts to nothing less than a libel on the Southern people. But, this is not the first, nor will it be the last, libel perpetrated on the South and our people.

After all the research, I then began wondering why the large number of monuments and statues were erected in such a relatively short period of time. It turns out, that beginning with the Spanish-American War and lasting through World War II, and maybe a few years beyond, there seemed to be a wide-spread interest in, and desire for, reconciliation and good will between the sections of the country.

At the beginning of the Spanish-American War, President McKinley was concerned whether Southerners would support

the war. He invited former Confederate general, Joe Wheeler, to his office and put the question to him. Wheeler assured the President that the South would support the government. McKinley recalled Wheeler and General Fitzhugh Lee to active duty. (Both were West Point graduates and had served in the U.S. Army before the War.) Wheeler was given a command and sent to Cuba. McKinley, himself, was a former Union soldier of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry. He entered the army as a private and finished as a major. As a former soldier and witness to soldiers' privations and battlefield suffering, he was sympathetic to them – Union and Confederate.

McKinley was also committed to sectional reconciliation. A great degree of reconciliation was achieved during the Spanish-American war, as enlistment rates across the South were quite high. The swift, stunning victory boosted the reconciliation process. After the war, McKinley toured the South. In his speech at the Atlanta Peace Jubilee on December 14, 1898, he not only celebrated the end of sectionalism but also announced that the federal government would now begin tending Confederate graves since these dead represented "a tribute to American valor". (He meant Confederate graves under Federal control, mostly in the North, not private or state-owned cemeteries in the South.) The speech impressed many Southerners, who saw it as a grand gesture of reconciliation and a symbol of national unification.

The return of the captured battle flags held by the War Department was still a sore spot with Confederate veterans. A return had been first proposed in 1887, but the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) objected, and the matter was dropped. The GAR was approached in 1905, and those high in authority expressed themselves in approval, saying the time had come for the return of the flags. The flags were duly returned to the various state governors with much celebration and joy in the South.

An especially important act of early reconciliation was the 1913 Gettysburg reunion of Union and Confederate veterans of the battle. UCV Commander, Lieutenant General C. Irvine Walker (Lt. Colonel, 10<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry), issued General Order #9 on January 20, 1912, that began the process of linking the UCV with the state governments of the former Confederate states to begin allocating funds and gaining state governmental support. Walker ended his General Order with these poignant words: "May our gray heads rest in peace in those graves which will soon claim us, with the satisfaction that we have contributed to bringing to our country the blessings of peace and good will. Let us bury deep and forever, all bitterness, but never fail to perpetuate the glorious history of that record of high duty superbly done by you in your young manhood." The agreement between the UCV and the GAR to continue their contacts and inviting each other to their respective organizational reunions and battlefield commemorations set a precedent that their successor organizations continue to this day. That memorable 1913 event was followed in 1914 by the dedication of the Confederate Memorial in Arlington.

It was World War I that put the cap on reconciliation. Northern and Southern enlistees and draftees served together

in the same, or sister, units. Federalized Southern National Guard units served together in brigades and divisions with Northern National Guard units. The all-National Guard 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry "Rainbow" Division was composed of National Guard units from twenty-six states. Southern and northern soldiers and marines fought, bled and died side-by-side in France against a common enemy. Sailors from all parts of the country served together on the same Navy and Coast Guard ships. All rejoiced and celebrated together when the war ended and marched together in victory parades.

The first three decades of the twentieth century was truly a period of reconciliation between the opposing sides of the War of Southern Independence, or the War of the Rebellion as the Northerners called it. It was also a period when Southerners began to shake off the bitterness of past defeat and occupation and began looking to the future by celebrating the heroism and sacrifice of their Confederate soldiers. The erection of Confederate monuments and memorials continued throughout the South until stopped cold by the Great Depression and World War II.

It was during this twenty to thirty-year period of reconciliation, good will and Southern reawakening that almost all of the existing Confederate monuments were erected. This is entirely lost on those who don't know history and care nothing for facts. They are intent on tearing the country apart by redefining it by group identity, which includes destroying anything they find distasteful or offensive, real or imagined, for political advantage or any number of other spurious reasons. This assault on America's heritage is larger than just an anti-Confederate movement. We are currently getting the lion's share of attention because our monuments and symbols have proven to be easy pickings. The President was prescient when he asked: "Where will it end?" The assault on our heritage and history amounts to a national cultural war that we must resist with all the energy and lawful means available to us.

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## Message from the Chaplain

Frank Gilbert, Division Chaplain

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. John 15:18 – King James Version (KJV)

In the scripture above our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ lets us know that the world hates us, it hated Him, and that hatred is 2000-plus years old. A simple sentence with a very profound and sobering pronouncement. We in the SCV need to use this scripture to face reality, understanding, and victory.

### 1. REALITY

The world hates us. That's the cold hard facts. We have to face that and come to terms with it. We can educate the world. We can do good deeds. We can proclaim all day and night that we are good people, and that our Confederate ancestors were, too. And, we SHOULD do that. It's possible that

we may have some pockets of breakthrough here and there. Yes, that's great, and we will celebrate it. But it will just be a drop in the bucket to the majority in the world. They will still hate us.

### 2. UNDERSTANDING

Once we have conquered reality, then we can move on to understanding. But why, oh, why do they hate us? And, why, oh, why would they hate the Lord Jesus Christ? After all, He died for our sins and then rose again to seal the deal. You would think everyone could grasp that. But the world can't do it. Why? There are many reasons, but the main reason is the same one that the enemy of our soul used in the garden of Eden. DECEPTION. According to the Word, they are blind, miserable, and wretched. When people are in that condition, they hate people who are free. And my Bible says "Who the Son sets free is free indeed." We my Brothers are free. You see we have the Truth, and the Truth sets us free. It's a spiritual battle that will eventually play out in the physical realm. The further our nation drifts and rejects God, they will hate us more and more. They invaded our Confederate ancestors' land and homes for that very reason. Let's pray for a mighty revival to turn this doomed ship somewhat back on course.

### 3. VICTORY

Our Lord tells us that He is the Victory. His Word tells us that through Him we have the Victory, and that we can do ALL things through Him! So, therefore, we don't need to hang our heads; we don't need to be afraid; we don't need be discouraged. And, we DON'T need to be SILENT any more. We MUST be ALWAYS proclaiming the Truth at all times. Don't let the enemy silence you. Let's fight for every monument, grave and historical site that we know of. Even if the enemy win some battles, just remember, WE are living memorials to our Lord, and our Confederate ancestors. Keep the Faith, and keep fighting the good fight. If you need any encouragement, let me give you one final suggestion. Go to the back of the Book. Check it out. WE WIN, WE WIN, WE WIN!!!! The Lord will truly make our motto come true.

DEO VINDICE! Praise the Lord, and Amen and Amen.



### Calendar of Events

November 11	– Veterans Day & Camp Wisdom Dinner
February 3	– DEC winter meeting, McCloud
March 3	– Confederate Flag Day, TBA
April 28	– Oklahoma Division Convention, Shawnee





**Confederate Soldier Monument – Bryan County Courthouse, Durant, Oklahoma  
Erected by Julia Jackson Chapter of the UDC, No. 564 – Dedicated 1917**

The statue was carved of marble in Italy in 1912. When it was received in Durant, the UDC couldn't get a location for it. It remained in storage for four years until construction of the Bryan County Courthouse was completed. The County Commission invited the UDC to install the statue at the courthouse. It was dedicated in 1917. The base is made of concrete and has cracked and seriously deteriorated. The County Commission has found an Ohio firm that specializes in this type of restoration, but it will take time and money. Contrary to rumor, the statute has not been removed from the base because of the deterioration. The restoration company will determine if that is necessary when the time comes. The estimated cost of restoring the base is \$10,000. It is reported, that to-date, \$2,000 has been donated and turned over to the County Commission.



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