

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 10, Number 1 Winter Quarter January – March 2018

Oklahoma Division Convention – April 28

Commander's Comments

Ken Cook, Division Commander

This year is starting out with a mix of good and bad news. First, the bad news. As reported elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter, school boards in Oklahoma City and Tulsa have voted to rename schools named for Confederate generals. All of the schools were established many decades ago, with the school in Tulsa scheduled to celebrate its 100th birthday this year. In the current environment of political correctness and kowtowing to grievance groups by elected officials, the names are no longer deemed appropriate. At this writing, our Division membership stands at 450. That's an increase of only twenty-six members from this time last year. We are undoubtedly facing strong headwinds because of the current virulent attacks on our flags, monuments and symbols. It may have had a negative impact on our membership retention. Some of our camps are having very good success with recruiting, others not so much.

Now for some good news. We had a very successful Confederate Flag Day Rally on March 3. Attendance was down from last year, but those who attended were very enthusiastic, and the program was exceptional. We are now approaching Confederate Memorial Day season, which will give every camp another opportunity to honor our Confederate heroes and to show the colors. We encourage all camps to hold a Memorial Day service or partner with another camp for a service. This is the most important camp-level event on the Confederate calendar. There is no excuse or reason for a camp not to hold a Memorial Day service to remember and honor our Confederate soldiers. It requires only a little planning effort and an hour or two out of a year of 8,760 hours to attend a service and honor our ancestors.

The Oklahoma Division Convention and Reunion will be Saturday, April 28, in Reunion Hall South on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Campus, located at 1702 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Coffee and donuts will be available at 9:00. Brigades will meet at 9:45; the Convention will begin at 10:00.

Every Oklahoma SCV member should make a special effort to attend the Convention and meet fellow compatriots. A convention preliminary meeting agenda will be circulated to camp commanders in the next few days.



2018 SCV National Reunion

Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp No. 33, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, will host the 2018 Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, July 18-21. The Reunion will be held at the Franklin Cool Springs Marriott, 700 Cool Springs Road, Franklin, Tennessee. Information about registration and hotel reservations can be found at http://www.scv.org/new/reunion2018/.

Dues Proration Period

We are now in the period of the national SCV's fiscal year when a member can be enrolled for a prorated membership fee for the remainder of the 2017-2018 year. Proration is based on the new member paying membership through July 2019. For example, a half-year's prorated fee of \$15, plus the full \$30 fee for the 2016-17 year will pay a new member through July 2019. That's a savings of \$15. This can be an important recruiting tool, and it will commit a new member through July 2019.

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Calendar of Events

April - Confederate History Month

- Oklahoma Division Convention - Shawnee April 28

May 28 - National Memorial Day July 4 - Independence Day

July 18-21 - SCV National Reunion - Franklin, TN



Commentary

There is a folk song from the war named "Southern Soldier". One of the parts of it says:

"And if our Southern cause is lost And Southern rights denied us, we'll be ground beneath the tyrant's heel For our demands of justice".

I don't think the writer realized just how long those rights would be denied. The tyranny of that day has not only continued, but also multiplied.

This great land has headed down the slippery path of socialism for nearly a century and we have seen a great acceleration of it in recent years. Had someone told me, in my youth, that our ancestors would be considered "enemies of the state" and their memories be forbidden, I would have thought you needed mental therapy.

The education system has been promoting a slanted view of our heritage as far back as I can remember. I'm not sure that keeping the names, of those very heroes who fought to save this land, associated with the same educational system which strives to eradicate and demonize their memory would have been doing them justice. As our heritage continues to be cleansed in favor of progressivism, it becomes more difficult to spread Truth.

This is the new age way of American leadership – our values in 2017. We, the people, are turning into we, the government. Of the people, by the people and for the people is becoming of the elite, by the elite and for the elite. We, the people, are once again becoming the governed, not unlike our colonial heritage and the events of the 1850s. Nothing shows the sheer disrespect for the electorate than to ignore the will of the people, like the OKC school board did on this occasion. I have to wonder how things would look if those willing to cleanse our culture from memory got their wishes. It's a universal constant that any void will be filled. What will they fill it with? Utopian dreams? Visions of Che Guevara?

This is yet another version of political correctness, where liberal leadership tries to engrain their agenda on the masses, reality or no. Diversity is not proven by the names of buildings or monuments; diversity is the infusion of many cultures. The OKC area is diverse, without cleansing the Confederate culture. When you target a specific group for excision, you are breaking down the very fabric that frames diversity.

Ed. Compatriot Bartraw wrote this in response to a survey of 1,000 Oklahoma City residents that showed they overwhelming favor retaining the three school names memorializing Confederate generals. The survey was taken after the School Board voted unanimously to change the names and arrogantly proclaimed the results of the survey meant nothing to them. Compatriot Bartraw is a relatively new member of the SCV - Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore.

DEC Winter Meeting

Ken Cook, Division Commander

The Oklahoma Division winter DEC meeting was held at Curtis Watson's Catfish Restaurant at McLoud on February 3. Camp Captain Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City was the meeting host. Camp Adjutant, Terry Pierce, welcomed the members.

After opening ceremonies, the first order of business was the roll call of the members by Adjutant James Orebaugh. Seventeen members were present, giving the meeting a quorum to do business. Adjutant Orebaugh then read the minutes of the previous DEC meeting, which were unanimously approved. Commander Cook presented his State of the Division Report:

"The State of the Division is not as good as it should be. There are 430 members as of January 15, 2018, only eight more than at the last convention. We have serious retention issues within the Division. Only three camps, Duncan, Altus and Cooperton, reported one hundred per cent membership retention.

The most successful camps have a camp project. For example, Oklahoma City has their annual Lee-Jackson-Rogers Dinner. Tulsa has Confederate Memorial Day, McAlester has adopted a local park, Ardmore supports the Confederate section at Rose Hill Cemetery in Ardmore and Poteau has a room in the local museum. Other camps, but not all, have other projects. Retention appears to be better when camps have activities and projects.

There were twenty-one camps at the time of the last convention, however, due to the illness of Cdr. Sevier at the Yukon Camp, the camp has become inactive and will be closed. We will hold on to the charter and hope to restore the camp in the future. That leaves the Division with twenty camps. We are making an effort to add camps in Lawton and McCloud."

Commander Cook also presented the membership goal for the next year, 2017-18. The goal is a fifteen per cent net membership increase. He also reminded members of the March 3rd Confederate Flag Day Rally in Oklahoma City.

Chief of Heritage Operations Brice Hill gave a report on the school renaming actions in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Three schools in Oklahoma City named for Confederate generals have been renamed. The renaming of Robert E. Lee Elementary School in Tulsa is currently under consideration. Compatriot Hill has furnished information to the Board member who represents the district in which the school is located. He also reported on Past- Division Commander Logan's three interviews with an Oklahoma City radio station. "Compatriot Logan was 'outnumbered' on all occasions; however, he was able to state our case effectively and appreciated the opportunity to do so".

Terry Pierce, Chairman of the Rose Hill Cemetery Committee, gave a report on the cemetery. He will contact the Ardmore Parks Department and determine what is required to get title to the lots on which our Division monument is situated. If a purchase is available, we will acquire the lots from Division Project Funds.

Larry Logan, Chairman of the Confederate Flag Day Rally Committee, reported that all is ready, and the event is well

planned. He asked that we bring as many people from our camps and anyone else who is interested in coming to the event. He reminded members that news media will be there, so be careful what you say.

Larry Logan, Chairman of the Harold Tydings Award Committee, reminded members of the procedures for submitting nominations for the award. Commander Cook reminded the members of the Division convention at Shawnee on April 28. He also advised members of two proposed amendments to the current Division Constitution and a proposed revised Division Constitution that will be circulated to Camp commanders within thirty days of the Convention.

The meeting was closed with the singing of "Dixie" and the benediction.



Division/Brigade Elections

This is an election year for Division and Brigade officers. Ballots were distributed to Camps about twenty-five days ago, and many, if not most, members who intend to participate in the elections have probably voted.

Election returns are due to the Division Adjutant by midnight on March 29. Camp adjutants must report the returns by email (terrypierce41@yahoo.com) or by USPS at the address shown below. Returns should include the number of votes cast for each candidate, including write-ins, for each Brigade and Division office. The purpose of the returns is to determine if a runoff election will be required. A candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast for a particular office to avoid a runoff for that office.

Adjutants, do not send the actual ballots. They are to be brought to the Convention by your Camp delegate. The Division Adjutant will return, unopened, any ballots he receives. It's the actual ballots, not the preliminary election returns, that determine the winners of the election. If there is a runoff, the ballots of the first election, as well as the ballots of the runoff election must be delivered to the Division Adjutant AT the Convention. The Division Adjutant, along with the Division Judge Advocate, will count the ballots. If there are any contested ballots, the Judge Advocate will make the decision as to the validity of the ballot(s). His decision shall be final. Members shall not interfere with the ballot counting. Election results will be announced at the end of the Convention.

Camp commanders and adjutants, do not forget Division dues. They are \$5 per member and must be paid on or before the start of the Convention for a member to be allowed to participate in the Convention. Any camp that fails to remit its members' paid dues by the start of the Convention will not have that Camp's ballots counted. Mail your checks, payable to Oklahoma Division, to Adjutant Terry Pierce, PO Box 82366, Oklahoma City, OK 73148. If anyone has any questions about the election procedures, please review the Division Constitution.

Camp News and Activities

Camp Col. Tandy Walker (Shawnee) held its December meeting on the 28th. During the meeting, Camp Commander Allen Harrison presented the newest member, Gerald "Jerry" Kudling with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Kudling's ancestor is CPL John Robertson Tyler of Co. E, 15th Mississippi Infantry Regiment.



Commander Harrison presents Compatriot Kudling with his SCV Membership Certificate

Commander Harrison reported that Camp Walker members placed Christmas wreaths on Confederate veterans' graves in cemeteries at Shawnee, McLoud and Cushing. Commander Harrison encouraged Camp members to attend the Stephen Dill Lee Institute in Shreveport, Louisiana, on February 17. He also urged members who will be attending the Oklahoma Division Confederate Flag Rally to take a large Confederate flag.

Commander Harrison presented the meeting program: "Clash of Cultures – the Union Desecration of Southern Churches and Cemeteries" – by Charles A. Jennings of Owasso, Oklahoma.



At the **Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh** (Tulsa) January meeting on the 9th, Division Commander Ken Cook installed 2018 Camp officers — Commander Todd Cathey and Adjutant Robert Woodall, Jr. — and presented Commander Cathey with the Camp's Commander's Medal.



Oklahoma Division Commander Ken Cook administering the oath of office to Camp McIntosh 2018 officers — Commander Todd Cathey and Adjutant Robert Woodall, Jr.



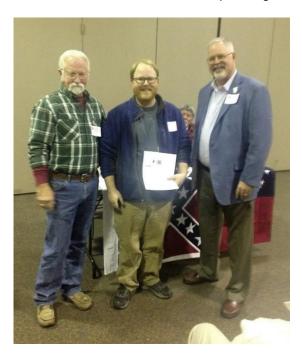
Division Commander Cook presents the Commander's Medal to Camp McIntosh Commander Cathey

The Tulsa School Board has voted to change the name of Robert E. Lee Elementary School. A new name has not been announced. There is some conversation about changing the name to Lee School, obviously with no connection with, or reference to, the General. That idea was advanced by the Board member who represents the district in which the school is located. Although some of the alumni like the idea, it seems unlikely. Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh (Tulsa) will be petitioning the School Board for return of a large portrait of General Lee and several photographs, which the Camp gave to the school in 1990. Until it became politically incorrect several years ago, Camp McIntosh had a great relationship with the school, including programs on General Lee's birthday and annual cleanup of the shrubbery beds and trimming of the shrubs. At the time, the school principal welcomed and encouraged the Camp's participation. Things began to change after she retired.

At the January 16th meeting of **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** (Moore), Oklahoma Division Lt. Commander Rex Cash administered the oath of office to the Camp's 2018 officers. The Camp also inducted its newest member, Compatriot Beau Harris.



(L. to R.) Commander Rocky Waddell, 2nd Lt. Commander Noble Stanfield, 3rd Lt. Commander Ed Granger, Adjutant Larry Logan, Division LTC Cash, Deputy Adjutant Stan Dowling, Chaplain Richard McDonald and Assistant Chaplain Larry Windsor. 1st Lt. Commander Jimmy Carter was unable to attend and will be sworn at a later Camp meeting.



Commander Rocky Waddell, Compatriot Beau Harris and 3rd Lt. Commander Ed Granger

Camp Capt. James J. McAlester (McAlester) held its January meeting on the 20th. At the meeting, Commander Bently Couch was unanimously re-elected and Patrick Self was unanimously elected Lt. Commander. Commander Couch appointed Steve Ward Camp Adjutant/Treasurer and Bob Pattison as Chaplain. Commander Couch also inducted new member, Bret Streater.



Commander couch swearing in new member, Bret Streater

Commander Couch presented the program on two of America's greatest heroes: Lt. General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and General Robert E. Lee. After the close of the Camp meeting, members celebrated the generals with the Camp's annual Lee-Jackson Banquet. After the Banquet, Camp members gathered at Oak Hill Cemetery in McAlester to retrieve the holiday Confederate memorial wreaths and install small ANV flags at all Confederate heroes' gravesites.



Commander Couch presenting the meeting program



Camp members enjoying their Lee-Jackson banquet



Camp McAlester members at Oak Hill Cemetery

Camp Colonel Tandy Walker (Shawnee) held its January meeting on the 25th. During the meeting, Commander Allen Harrison presented SCV Membership Certificates to new members, Brent S. Haught and Wade Anthony "Tony" Reeves. Seventeen members and four guests attended the meeting, the largest turnout since the Camp was reconstituted in August 2015. Two of the guests were Dwayne and Kevin Dabney, father and son, whom Commander Harrison met at the December 30-31 gun show in Shawnee. Both men completed their SCV membership applications and paid their dues at the meeting. Commander Harrison presented the program: "Life and Times of Robert E. Lee".



Commander Harrison presents Brent S. Haught with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Haught's Confederate ancestor is PVT James Franklin Waldrip, Co H, 12th Louisiana Infantry (Jackson Sharpshooters).



Commander Harrison presents Tony Reeves with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Reeves' Confederate ancestor is PVT James Madison Reeves, Co. C, 29th North Carolina Infantry.

New member, Rocky Elmore, was unable to attend the meeting, so Commander presented him with his SCV Membership Certificate at his home in Shawnee two days later.



Rocky Elmore, with his son, Alexander, displaying his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Elmore's Confederate ancestor is PVT James V. Elmore, Co. F, 6th Kentucky Mounted Infantry.

In the evening of Saturday, January 27, Camp Captain Clem Vann Rogers (Oklahoma City) held its twenty-fourth annual Lee-Jackson-Rogers Dinner at New Hope Baptist Church at Tecumseh. Special guest speaker was ATM Councilman Darrell Maples. Other guests included Oklahoma Division Commander Ken Cook, Oklahoma Division Adjutant James Orebaugh, Commander Allen Harrison, Camp Colonel Tandy Walker (Shawnee), Commander Charley Wilson, Camp PVT Drury Warren (Ponca City), Commander Mason Page Camp Colonel Dew Moore Wisdom (Muskogee) and Past Oklahoma Division Commander Larry Logan. Camp Colonel Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore) Other attendees outside Camp Rogers included members of Camp Colonel Jackson F. McCurtain, Camp Colonel Tandy Walker and Camp Colonel Dew Moore Wisdom.



Camp Commander Eric McBroom welcoming the guests



ATM Councilman Darrell Maples presenting his program on the life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest

Oklahoma Division Past-Commander Larry Logan, Chairman of the 2018 Confederate Flag Day Rally Committee and Adjutant of Camp Colonel Jackson F. McCurtain, addressed the guests on the Flag Day Rally to be held at Wiley Post Park in Oklahoma City on March 3. Oklahoma Division Commander Ken Cook presenting the SCV Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate to Compatriot Rob Weaver of Camp Captain Clem Vann Rogers in recognition of his outstanding work with the JROTC programs of several Oklahoma City area high schools in connection with the SCV's H. L. Hunley Award.



Commander Cook Presenting Compatriot Weaver with his award.

Camp Commander Eric McBroon is on the left.

The final event of the evening was an auction of books and artifacts donated by members of Camp Rogers and others.

(Event photos by Kevin Easterling and Ken Cook)



Commander Robert Findlay, Sr. of **Camp Pvts. Grayson & Brewer** (Altus) attended a special event at Camp R. E. Lee of Childress, Texas, on Saturday evening, January 27. Oklahoma Division Commander Ken Cook designated him the official Oklahoma Division representative to the event. The event was a combination of re-chartering the camp, installation of Brigade officers and Lee-Jackson Day dinner.



Commander Findlay (right) with Benjamin Bonney, Commander of Camp R. E. Lee



National SCV Lt. Commander, Paul Grambling, and Commander Findlay at the Camp R. E. Lee event

On February 6, Commander Robert Findley, Sr., Camp Pvts. Grayson & Brewer (Altus), paid his respects to PVT W. A. Cook,

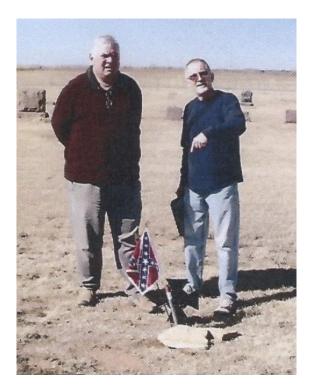
Co. C, 20th Texas Cavalry, by placing a wreath and Confederate Battle Flag at this grave in Rock Creek Cemetery in rural Stephens County. (Ed. PVT Cook is not an ancestor of the Editor.)



On February 9, Division Quartermaster Jerry Patrick, Camp Lt. Commander Jimmy Carter and Compatriot Stan Dowling, all of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore) placed a Cross of Honor on the grave of Compatriot Carter's Confederate veteran grandfather, James W. Carter, in Carmel Cemetery in Jackson County. They also placed a Cross of Honor at the grave of an unknown Confederate soldier in Elmer Cemetery, also in Jackson County.



Jimmy Carter at his grandfather's grave in Carmel Cemetery



Stan Dowling and Jimmy Carter at the grave of an unknown Confederate soldier in Elmer Cemetery

At the February 17th meeting of **Camp Capt. James J. McAlester** (McAlester), Adjutant Steve Ward discussed the DEC meeting held on Saturday, February 3 at McLoud. Commander Bently Couch swore in new members: David Nix and Frank Wilson. Members discussed the upcoming Division and Brigade elections as well as the announced candidates running for National SCV and ATM offices. Commander Couch emphasized the importance of attending the Confederate Flag Day Rally at Wiley Post Park in Oklahoma City on March 3. Adjutant Ward gave a presentation on Mildred Lewis Rutherford's 1916 publication, What the South May Claim, also entitled Where the South Leads.



Commander Couch inducting new members (L-R)

David Nix and Frank Wilson

Because of weather, **Camp Col. Tandy Walker** (Shawnee) had to reschedule its February 22 meeting to March 1. They had a nice turnout of thirteen members and four guests. Three new members were inducted during the meeting. Special guest, Division Lt. Commander Rex Cash, administered the oath of office to the Camp's new Lt. Commander, Ronald Gwynn.



Compatriots Rex Cash and Ronald Gwynn

Lt. Commander Cash also presented SCV Membership Certificates to father and son, Dewayne and Kevin Dabney, who are descendant cousins of General Robert E. Lee. A few days after the meeting, Camp Commander Allen Harrison presented Jim L. Whitaker with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Whitaker's Confederate ancestor is 5th Sergeant John Harrison Whitaker, Co, K, 25th Tennessee Infantry "Ford's" Regiment.



Compatriots Dewayne and Kevin Dabney

Lt Commander Cash presented the program: "The Pledge of Allegiance Unmasked", a history of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.



Lt. Commander Cash presenting his program



Commander Harrison presenting Compatriot John Whitaker with his SCV Membership Certificate

The March meeting of Camp Capt. James J. McAlester (McAlester) was held on the 17th. Members discussed the recent Oklahoma Division Confederate Flag Day Rally. Kudos were given to Camp Commander Bently Couch for his rousing speech about General Robert E. Lee and why we should have schools named after him. Members also discussed the upcoming Division elections and urged everyone who hadn't to fill in and return their ballots ASAP. The Camp was honored to have retired Commander, U.S. Coast Guard and SCV Life Member, Harold Tydings, give his presentation about the massacre of Confederates by Osage Indians near Coffeyville, Kansas.

Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore) held its March meeting on the 19th. The program was presented by Compatriot Rob

Weaver of Camp Captain Clem Vann Rogers (Oklahoma City) who spoke on the SCV's participation with high school JROTC programs. Participating JROTC programs can recommend an outstanding cadet for the SCV's H. L. Hundley Award. Compatriot Stan Dowling presented Commander Waddell with a donation of \$500 that he secured from the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association.



Rob Weaver (L) with Camp Commander, Rocky Waddell



Commander Waddell (left center) receives the \$500 donation from Compatriot Stan Dowling (right center). Compatriots Noble Stanfield (L) and Jimmy Carter (R) are also pictured.



Camp Col. Tandy Walker (Shawnee) held its March meeting on the 21st. Commander Allen Harrison presented new compatriot, Ronald E. Leister, with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Leister's Confederate ancestor is PVT John Ledford Monroe Neighbors, 41st Regiment of Alabama Volunteers. Other business included reminding members of the Division Convention at Shawnee on April 28, the need to get their ballots into the Camp Adjutant, if they have not already done so, the special event at Honey Springs Battlefield on March 24 and the SCV National Reunion at Franklin, Tennessee, on July 18-22.

Commander Harrison presented the program. It was based on the book *Confederaphobia, an American Epidemic,* by Paul C. Graham, published by Shotwell Publishing, Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Graham says in a nutshell: "... there is a campaign to expunge Southern identity." The meeting was closed with the singing of "Dixie" and Chaplain William Boles offering a moving prayer for Southern culture and our government.



Commander Harrison presenting Compatriot Ronald Leister with his SCV Membership Certificate



Patrick Self

On Saturday, March 24, the Honey Springs Battlefield Visitors Center hosted Mr. T. S. Akers, the 4th great-grandson of Col. William Chillicothe "Chilly" McIntosh. His presentation was titled "Chilly McIntosh and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation: 1800-1875". The presentation traced the movement of the McIntosh family from Georgia in the 1800's to Indian Territory before the War Between the States, and into the 1870's. Col. Chilly McIntosh, of Creek and Scottish descent, commanded the 2nd Regiment Creek Mounted Volunteers, CSA. He and his men were engaged in several battles, including Round Mountain, Pea Ridge, Ft. Wayne and Honey Springs. Mr. Akers went through the units that were engaged at Honey Springs. On the Confederate side, most were

from Indian tribes being supplemented by Texas cavalry and artillery units. The Confederate defeat at Honey Springs is attributed largely to poor quality gun powder. As nature would have it, it was very humid and heavy rain had fallen during the battle rendering the poor quality gun powder of the Confederates useless. There were many after action reports of misfires in such numbers that most Confederate firearms were rendered useless. After the war, Chilly returned to farming and preaching and lived the remainder of his life in and around Fame in today's, McIntosh County, Oklahoma.



Mr. Akers delivering his address

Mr. Akers presented a very informative program and was quite knowledgeable of the history of the McIntosh family. A "Q&A" session followed with most questions being related to the McIntosh family tree. The program drew approximately 65-75 people with some attendees coming from Missouri and Texas. Oklahoma Division SCV members who attended were Commander Allen Harrison of Camp Col. Tandy Walker of Shawnee, Patrick Self and Ben McIntosh (a lineal descendant of Col. Daniel N. McIntosh) of Camp Capt. J. J. McAlester of McAlester.

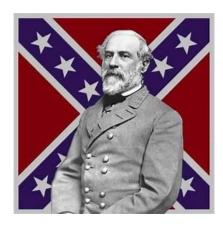


Allen Harrison, Patrick Self and Ben McIntosh



The Wisdom of Robert E. Lee

Bently Couch, Division Historian



The following are some quotes from Robert E. Lee, presented here as an indication of his wisdom and Christian character.

"There are few, I believe, but what will acknowledge that slavery as an institution is a moral and political evil in any country." Letter to his wife December 27, 1856.

Robert E. Lee was opposed to the concept of the ends justify the means. He said, "I am opposed to the theory of doing wrong that good may come of it." Letter to his son, Custis Lee, June 22, 1851

Robert E. Lee said, "Duty is the sublimest word in the English language." Letter to his son, Custis Lee, March 28, 1852.

"Is it not strange that the descendants of those pilgrim fathers who crossed the Atlantic to preserve their own freedom of opinion, have always proved themselves intolerant of the spiritual liberty of others?" Letter to his wife, December 27, 1856.

"What a glorious world Almighty God has given us. How thankless and ungrateful we are, how we labor to mar his gifts." Letter to his wife, August 4, 1861.

"We cannot always be successful and reverses must come. May God give us courage, endurance, and faith to strive to the end." Letter to his son, Custis Lee, September 3, 1861.

In a letter to Reverend Beverly Tucker, during the War, General Lee wrote: "I can only say that I am a poor sinner,

trusting in Christ alone, and that I need all the prayers you can offer for me."

During the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, General Lee and a subordinate were viewing the 100,000-man Union army, which led the subordinate to exclaim, "I wish all those people were dead!" General Lee, with Christian grace, promptly said: "How can you say so? I wish that those people were all at home attending to their business and leaving us to do the same."

Also, during the Battle of Fredericksburg, General Lee said, "It is well that war is so terrible or we should grow too fond of it. December 13, 1862.

"I have fought against the people of the North because I believed they were seeking to wrest from the South its dearest rights. But I have never cherished toward them bitter or vindictive feelings, and I have never seen the day when I did not pray for them."

In a letter to his wife dared July 12, 1863, Lee wrote about Yankee war crimes, "Their conduct is not dictated by kindness or love, and therefore we should not expect them to behave otherwise than they do. But I do not think that we should follow their example."

"We have only to do our whole duty, and everything else will be well." Letter to President Jefferson Davis, June 14, 1864.

"The South contended only for the supremacy of the Constitution and the just administration of the laws made in pursuance of it." Letter to Lord Acton December 15, 1866.

"We have but one rule here, and that is every student must be a gentleman." Lee, while president of Washington College, to a new student.

While Lee was president of Washington Collage a sophomore, who had been called before Lee to be instructed with the fact that he must mend his ways or become a failure in life. "But General, you failed!" answered the youth. Lee answered without the least resentment: "I hope that you may be more fortunate than I."

"Strike the tent." Last words of Robert E. Lee, October 12, 1870.



Heritage News

Shrouds Pulled from Charlottesville Confederate Statues Following Ruling

Amy Held - npr.org



General Lee statue at Charlottesville

A circuit court judge ordered that the tarps draped over controversial Confederate statues in Charlottesville, Virginia, be removed. The city says it complied, lifting the coverings early Wednesday morning (February 28).

The statues of Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson — both military heroes of the Confederacy — had been hidden under the cloths following a white supremacist march and rally in August erupted in violence and the death of a counter-protestor.

Over the weekend, beginning August 11, torch-wielding marchers and a patchwork of alt-right activists chanting racists slogans, gathered in Charlottesville, in part to protest plans to remove the Lee statue from Emancipation Park (formerly known as Lee Park.)

Counter-protesters were there too, among them 32-year-old Heather Heyer, who police say was killed after a suspected white supremacist deliberately drove his car into her and others in the crowd.

On August 21, the city council, as a symbol of mourning, voted to obscure both statues from public view, and workers followed through a couple of days later. But "it is not a matter of the 'mourning' having gone on too long," Judge Richard E. Moore of Charlottesville Circuit Court wrote in his ruling Tuesday. Rather, he said, the city didn't do enough to prove that the coverings wouldn't be "anything other than permanent."

The Washington *Post* reports the city wanted the shrouds to remain in the public parks until the first anniversary of Heyer's death. But, Judge Moore wrote that the city didn't indicate an end date for the coverings — adding if it had, "the Court would have given serious consideration to that." "I can only surmise that they have not set an end time because they never meant

for the coverings to be temporary," he wrote. Moore's ruling is a temporary injunction; a final ruling, which could order the statues be removed entirely, is not expected until later this year, reports the New York *Times*.

In recent months, dozens of cities have removed their Confederate monuments — an issue President Trump has weighed in on — as the country grapples with how to memorialize its past. In Virginia, a state law protects public war memorials from being removed or altered. The city argues the law does not apply to the statues, but the plaintiffs, a group of Confederate heritage advocates, say it does, according to the *Post*.

In his ruling, Moore noted that shielding the statues interfered with the public's ability to view them. "I find that the irreparable harm here is based not on physical damage to the statues but, given the significant period of time that has gone by, on the obstructed rights of the public, under the statute, to be able to view the statues," he wrote.

WCVE's Hawes Spencer reports that the debate about what to do with the statues has divided the city. He spoke to Danielle Jones at Emancipation Park after the tarp came down Wednesday, and she told him she wants the statues gone too. "Somebody was killed," Jones said. "It's bringing all the hatred back up."

But the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Virginia Division, called the ruling "a victory." In a statement, the city said it "is disappointed by the ruling but will respect the court's decision. We are looking forward to the process of redesigning our downtown parks to promote a more complete history of our community."

The *Times* reports the city is considering adding historical signage to the parks to provide more context about the war.

Bill Banning Confederate Flags from Public Property Stalled in House

Emily Manley – foxillinois.com

A proposed piece of legislation would ban Confederate symbols from being displayed on public property in Illinois. State agencies wouldn't be able to display or sell the Confederate flag. Any statue, memorial or monument that honors the Confederacy existing on public property would be removed if this bill is passed.

Rep. La Shawn K. Ford and Rep. Thaddeus Jones, both Democrats from the Chicagoland area, are the sponsors of House Bill 4087.

The bill is currently sitting in a House committee, and no action has been taken on it since October 12, 2017

Ed. Doing first things first – Illinois is notoriously corrupt and verging on bankruptcy, primarily because of the state's over-committed pension obligations to government employees, and they spend their time doing this? At least there are enough sensible Illinois House members to put the brakes on, for now.

Richmond Confederate monuments, Mayor Stoney featured on '60 Minutes'

www.richmond.com - Richmond Times-Dispatch

Richmond's pressing issues with the Confederate monuments on Monument Avenue were featured on Sunday night's episode of "60 Minutes."

TV anchor Anderson Cooper interviewed Mayor Levar Stoney and University of Richmond historian Julian Hayter. Both discussed their opinions on the monuments.

Hayter said the monuments were erected to commemorate the Lost Cause and to serve white supremacy.

According to the segment, Stoney said that he wanted the statues taken down. He said, "It is for me the greatest example of nostalgia masquerading as history."

Titled "The History and Future of Confederate Monuments," the '60 Minutes' segment focused on the future of Confederate monuments in the wake of the Unite the Right rally and violence that broke out in Charlottesville seven months ago.

"No state has more Confederate monuments to revere or revile than the commonwealth of Virginia. In Richmond, the capital, there's a contentious debate about what to do about five prominent Confederate statues on Monument Avenue," Cooper said, introducing Richmond.

Ed. The "60 Minutes" segment was by CNN's Anderson Cooper, who also does CBS "60 Minutes" segments. Cooper also interviewed Julian Hayter, a historian at the University of Richmond. Part of the segment was filmed in New Orleans, where Cooper interviewed Mayor Mitch Landrieu. He didn't interview anyone with a different opinion. It's good that neither CBS nor CNN claim "fair and balanced" in their news and features, because they obviously are not.

New Proposal Could Bring Confederate Statues Back to Memphis

Mary Jo Ola – wkrn.com (Memphis)

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (<u>localmemphis.com</u>) – A proposed bill called the Tennessee Historic Properties Act could allow the state to take back any monuments or land with historical ties. If passed, it would undo the sale of two Memphis parks with Confederate statues.

Two east Tennessee lawmakers are behind the proposed legislation: Frank Niceley and Matthew Hill. "If this bill in fact makes it to the floor, if in fact this bill makes it out of committee and it does get to the floor, it's going to be a very hot and contentious battle over this bill," said Democratic Representative John DeBerry of Memphis.

If passed, it would allow the state to use eminent domain and seize properties like parks or monuments with historic ties, and they could use that power retroactively. This could impact parks like the two in Memphis that were once home to Confederate statues. One of the things we have to remember about Memphis, our population, our demographics and our politics is that a

lot of times when you go east people don't give us our proper due and consideration," said DeBerry. "This is just the state trying to create teeth to try to stop people from removing statues from parks without the Tennessee Historical Commission giving them approval," said Memphis attorney Robert Hutton.

The operation to remove statues of Jefferson Davis and Nathan Bedford Forrest took place during the night on December 20, immediately after the city of Memphis sold the park land where they were located to a non-profit group.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans promptly filed a lawsuit. They told a judge last month that they want to inspect the statues to make sure they're preserved undamaged and stored properly.

Some have questioned if the proposed legislation is legal. Hutton says one part of the bill raises some flags. This seems to try to place the cost of eminent domain on the city. That's unusual and I'm not aware of that ever happening before where the state basically passes a law that tries to basically force a local subdivision to pay the cost," said Hutton. He added that there is no problem generally with the retroactive piece of the bill.

Van Turner with Memphis Greenspace, who bought the two Memphis parks and removed the statues, released a statement Friday saying they knew there would be challenges along the way.



Past-Division Commanders Larry Logan and Allen Harrison at the 2018 Stephen D. Lee Institute Symposium. See a report of the Symposium below.



Report of 2018 Stephen D. Lee Institute Symposium

Allen Harrison

It has been approximately ten years since the first Stephen D Lee Symposium. It has grown from a handful of attendees to well over one hundred men and women present at this year's event.

The first speaker, Charles (Chuck) McMichael, has been an outspoken leader in the defense of Southern Heritage. He is a past Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Compatriot McMichael spoke on Heritage Defense among other topics. He said Heritage Defense is national not local. When our heritage is attacked in one area of the country, we, as southerners, are affected nationwide. The people who are anti-battle flag and anti-southern have the long-term goal of attacking all of traditional America. The left wingers are producing a "false history" to destroy all memory of the Old South. We must remind minorities, Black and Hispanic, who is in charge of this false history: the left wingers. Among the left is "Antifa" and "Occupy Wall Street". These organizations, among others, are Anarchist's and Nihilist's, people who want to take down our country. These people do not believe in morality or the value of life. They attack white Christian conservatives to lead to the destruction of our Capitalist System.

To the Left, the truth does not matter anymore. It means nothing! They have a one-way ticket on the Bi-Polar Express. As harmful as these Leftists are, our own "Rebels without a Clue", Southerners who are apologists for the Confederacy and do not stand up for their heritage, are more harmful.

Marvin Lee Bright III spoke second. He is a native South Carolinian, who served two terms in the South Carolina Senate. Mr. Bright was one of three Senators to vote to keep the Battle Flag beside the Confederate Soldiers Monument at the state capitol. He also made an impassioned speech in defense of Confederate heritage. Mr. Bright plans another run against Senator Lindsey Graham for the U. S. Senate. He was outspent by Graham about \$9 million dollars to Bright's \$700,000 war chest.

Lt. Colonel Jeffrey F. Addicott (U.S. Army, Ret.) was the next speaker. LTC Addicott is a full professor of Law and the Director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas. The Colonel spoke of "negative volition", which means to become influenced by evil. This is in reference to the wave of protests and violence against all things Confederate and Southern. He mentioned he had a picture of Gen. Robert E. Lee over his desk while in the military. Several of his fellow officers questioned him about it and told him it was not wise to have the picture in his office. LTC Addicott admitted it may have cost him a promotion, but it did not matter. His heritage was more important than a promotion.

Paul C. Graham is a native of Columbia, South Carolina and holds a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Philosophy from the University of South Carolina. He was a contributing author to *Understanding the War Between the States* (2015) and edited a collection of accounts from the South Carolina Slave Narratives entitled *When the Yankees Come: For South Carolina Slaves Remember Sherman's Invasion* (2016). His most recent book, *Confederaphobia: An American Epidemic*, was published in September 2017. Mr. Graham discussed the unprecedented furor since the Charleston xhurch killings. He alleges this intensified the war on the South. He stressed the need for education on the truth of the war and Southern culture and that education begins in our homes and extended families.

Ryan S. Walters is a native of Mississippi. He attended the University of Southern Mississippi and holds a Masters Degree in American History. He now teaches at Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, Texas. Professor Walters is the author of two books: The Last Jeffersonian, which is about Grover Cleveland and Remember Mississippi, which is about the 2014 U.S. Senate race in Mississippi. Professor Walters says we are in a conflict brought on by Yankee Spirit versus American Spirit. The South represents American Spirit with its culture of tradition, Christianity and patriotism. He presented the case for how Lincoln made the sovereign states into a united empire by defeating and subjugating the Old South. Lincoln flipped the Declaration of Independence by overthrowing Jeffersonian America.

James Ronald Kennedy, also a native of Mississippi, now lives at Mandeville, Louisiana. Ron and his twin brother, Donnie, are the authors of the bestselling book The South Was Right with more than 135,000 copies sold. The brothers have written five books together. Mr. Kennedy expounded on the dangers of empire created by Mr. Lincoln. Empires always claim to be "indivisible"; as in our Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Pledge was created by a socialist and Lincoln lover, who wanted to push the South further into subjugation. Kennedy says a Southerner should not Pledge Allegiance to a Flag that Yankee soldiers marched under and shot and killed their ancestors. After all, our Confederate veteran ancestors never pledged allegiance to the stars and stripes. If they took the oath after the war, it was to the United States Constitution. Mr. Kennedy also says the Confederate States of America as a part of history is at a point of becoming extinct. Our ancestors are being called "troublemakers and treasonous". Falsehoods are declared on the vast majority of websites and television broadcasts. Google cannot wait to write a derogatory news article that denigrates the battle flag, our monuments and southern Christianity. Charles Bancroft of Massachusetts in 1875 declared: "The war was over freedom".

Ed. The 2018 Stephen D. Lee Symposium was held on February 17 at Shreveport, Louisiana. Oklahoma Past-Division Commanders, Allen Harrison and Larry Logan, attended the Symposium.



Is the Battle Flag a Flag of Slavery?

Commentary - Ken Cook

We are continually told by our enemies and other misinformed people that the Confederate Battle Flag is a flag of slavery, and therefore, doesn't belong in a public venue. Is this factual or is it fiction? Since the Battle Flag and slavery are entwined as one and the same in the minds of many, let's examine the facts.

Slavery within the United States was constitutionally protected until December 1865. At the time of the Declaration of Independence, slavery existed in all thirteen British colonies. In 1860, slavery legally existed in the United States in fifteen states and the District of Columbia. Since it was constitutionally protected, the only means of federally abolishing it was by a constitutional amendment. This is an indisputable fact.

Was a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery possible in 1860? The answer is emphatically no. Here's why: There are only two methods by which the Constitution may be amended. One is by Congress passing the proposed amendment by a minimum of two-thirds of all members voting in each house of Congress. Once passed, Congress sends the proposed amendment to the several state legislatures for ratification. Three-fourths of the states must ratify the proposed amendment to make it effective. In 1860, there were thirty-three states in the Union for a total of sixty-six senators. In fifteen of those states, slavery was legal. Those fifteen states sent thirty senators to Congress, almost half of the Senate. There was no possibility of a constitutional amendment passing out of the Senate. We don't know the number of representatives in the House and how many represented the fifteen states that allowed slavery. However, when the proposed Thirteenth Amendment was first voted on in the House in 1864, with representation only from states that remained in the Union, it failed by thirteen votes short of twothirds, this from the Congress of a country supposedly fighting a war to abolish slavery. When the amendment finally passed in January 1865, when the Confederacy was clearly defeated, it passed with only seven votes over the necessary two-thirds. Fifty-six congressmen voted against it, and several abstained. That was without any of the states of the Confederacy, except Tennessee, having congressional representation. A substantial number of Union congressmen voted against the proposed amendment, even after it was clear they were about to win the war. There's no reason to believe that the House of Representatives would have passed an amendment to abolish slavery before the Southern states seceded. The other method of amending the Constitution is for two-thirds of the states to petition Congress to call a constitutional convention. With nearly half of the states allowing slavery in 1860, that was an impossibility.

The point of all this is that slavery was solidly in place in 1860. There was no need to secede from the Union in order to save slavery. Slavery was fully protected from either presidential or legislative action, making it safe and secure. The first seven future Confederate states *did not* secede in order to save slavery.

In February 1861, six seceded states formed a government and a union called the Confederate States of America. Texas would join them shortly thereafter. According to the 1860 census, there were 3,950,528 slaves in the United States. At the time of Fort Sumter, the seven Confederate states contained 1,980,624 of the enumerated slaves. That means that the states still in the Union at that time and in which slavery was legal, contained 1,196,424 or a little more than thirty per cent of the slaves in the country. President Lincoln made it perfectly clear that he couldn't touch slavery. His intent was to restore the Union, peacefully if possible, but by force if necessary. Until it became obvious that the Confederacy would lose the war, Lincoln was open to restoration of the Southern states based on their status prior to secession, that is, with slavery in place and constitutionally protected. Even late in the war, he was amenable to gradual emancipation if the rebellious states would come back into the Union. None were interested in rejoining the Union. Lincoln did not take the United States to war and continue to prosecute it for four bloody years in order to free the slaves.

After the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, which purported to free the slaves within the bounds of those states still in rebellion, many people within the United States, particularly the abolitionists, adopted the position, or jumped to the belief, that abolition of slavery was now one of the purposes of the war. That was propaganda and a myth that remains alive and well today. Lincoln knew that not a single slave would be permanently freed by the Proclamation, and none would be freed but by the success of Union armies. He believed that he had authority as Commander in Chief to seize property of every kind belonging to the enemy, including slaves. He made it clear that the Emancipation Proclamation was strictly a war measure. He knew, and said, that it would unlikely stand up once the war was over and the rebellious states had been restored to the Union. The Proclamation, in fact, exempted several counties in Virginia and Louisiana, which were under the complete control of the Union army. It, of course, also exempted the four states of the Union that allowed slavery, but which had not seceded.

If the purpose of secession was not to save slavery, and the purpose of the United States government going to war, and continuing its prosecution for four years, was not to free the slaves, and that slavery still existed in what remained of the Union, how can the flags of the Confederacy be called slave flags and the flag of the United States not. The fact is that the flags of neither country were, or are, slave flags. The flags of both countries were/are simply symbols of the respective countries. The fact that slavery was legal in all, or parts, of both countries is irrelevant to the argument about flags.

What about the Battle Flag? Doesn't it represent slavery or at least the fight to keep slavery? Hasn't it been repeatedly used until this very day by some to promote white supremacy and to intimidate black people, the descendants of the slaves of 1860? The answer to the first question is an emphatic no. The answer to the second one is, of course, yes. Some very few people do use the Battle Flag as a symbol of white supremacy. But, that is not the belief, position or practice of the SCV, nor, do we believe

it is the position of the overwhelming majority of Southerners. The SCV has publicly denounced these actions on numerous occasions, but our actions and words fall on deaf ears of those uninterested in the facts.

Let's examine the origin and purpose of the Battle Flag. The Confederate Battle Flag is exactly what the name says it is: a regimental battle flag. Specifically, the regimental battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia. The original national flag of the Confederacy, the Stars and Bars, was in fact modeled on the Stars and Stripes and was similar in appearance. During the first Battle of Manassas, with all the battlefield smoke, and when the wind was still, it became difficult for soldiers to distinguish between the two flags. After the battle, General Pierre G. T. Beauregard proposed that the government approve another flag to be used as a battle flag, one different enough that soldiers could easily distinguish it from the United States flag. His idea was approved, and the battle flag was soon designed and accepted. The flag was immediately very popular with the soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia. It very soon became popular with the general public and the soldiers of other armies. It was not the only regimental battle flag, but it was the one most used, the most popular and the most recognizable, then and now.

The Battle Flag was, and is, the Confederate soldiers' flag. It had nothing to do with slavery then, and nothing now. There is ample, indisputable evidence that Southern black men, both slave and free willingly served under the flag. Southern soldiers, including black men within their ranks, were fighting for the defense and independence of their new country or out of loyalty to men who were. The vast majority of Confederate soldiers didn't own slaves or come from slave owning families. The fact is that those who were fighting for the Union were in fact doing so as much for slavery as the Southern soldiers, whether they realized it or not. During the war and until December 1865, their country still contained more than 429,000 slaves. The supreme irony of the whole subject of slavery and the war is that if the Southern States had not seceded, slavery in the United States would have continued in place and under the Stars and Stripes for at least another generation or until enough states had been added to the Union to make a two-thirds majority in Congress and a three-fourths majority of states willing to ratify a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery.

One of the great dishonesties in the arguments over whether or not Confederate flags are slave flags is that the Stars and Stripes have been in existence since 1777, and until 1861, flew over the Southern, or as some would say, the slave states. It was the flag when the Constitution that sanctioned slavery was framed and ratified. It flew over the country when the Missouri Compromise and Fugitive Slave Act were enacted and when the Dred Scott decision was handed down. It was the flag of the United States for eighty-eight years, at the same time that the Constitution and laws of the United States protected slavery and until 1807, allowed international slave traders to enter American ports. During this entire time, there was no congressional effort to abolish slavery. On the other hand, the Battle Flag existed for its purpose for less than four years. To decry the Battle Flag as

a slavery flag is not only inaccurate, but extraordinarily dishonest, while at the same time ignoring the history of slavery under the United States flag. Yet, it is the Confederate Battle Flag that is charged with being the flag of slavery.

In summation, there is incontrovertible evidence that the Southern states did not secede to preserve slavery. Slavery was constitutionally protected and could not have been abolished other than by constitutional amendment, which was impossible in 1860 and would have been for several more decades. Slavery was safe, period. At the same time, there is incontrovertible evidence that Lincoln and the United States government did not go to war to abolish slavery. They went to war with the Confederate States to restore and preserve the Union. In 1862, Lincoln replied in a letter to Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune: "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union and is <u>not</u> either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing <u>any</u> slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union". (Emphasis in the original) Freeing the slaves was never a Union war aim. How can one side be accused of fighting to save something the other side was not trying to destroy? Simple, common sense dictates that neither the Battle Flag nor any of the national flags of the Confederacy were flags of slavery, that is flags that represented one side fighting to preserve something the other side was not trying to destroy. Yet, demands are continually made upon us to give up the most important symbol of our soldier ancestors because most Americans are ignorant of history and a very few of them desecrate the Battle Flag by using it for their perverse purposes. As descendants of the soldiers who fought courageously for four years, with more than a quarter of a million of them dying in the process, to achieve separation from an overbearing people and a government that cared little for their interests, it is our duty and responsibility continually to defend our soldier ancestors, their flags, monuments and graves as well as the truth of their history. (Presented at the 2018 Oklahoma Division Flag Rally)



"The living have the cause of the dead in trust".

Oklahoma Division Confederate Flag Day Rally

On Saturday, March 3, at Wiley Post Park in Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Division held its third annual Confederate Flag Day Rally. The theme of the Rally was "Setting the Record Straight". It was a little windy, but otherwise a perfect day. We had a smaller turnout than we had hoped for – about eighty – but those in attendance made up for it with plenty of Southern patriotic enthusiasism. The Flag Rally Committee - Larry Logan, Terry Pierce and Don Branham - did a superior job organizing and executing the Rally. Camp Captain Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City and Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore jointly hosted the Rally. Past-Division Commander and current Adjutant of Camp McCurtain, Larry Logan, was Master of Cermonies. The crowd was warmed up by the playing of recordings of gospel music and Southern partiotic songs. Camp Rogers Compatriot and Commander of Roger Quarles Mills Brigade, Kevin Easterling, and Lt. Commander Jimmy Carter of Camp McCurtain welcomed the attendees. Opening ceremonies included an invocation, posting the colors, salute to the Confederate flag, reading the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, reading the SCV Battle Flag Resolution and reading the SCV Charlottesville Resolution. Division Commander Ken Cook got down to the business of "Setting the Record Straight", by answering the question: "Is the Confederate Battle Flag a Symbol of Slavery?". He was followed by Bently Couch, Division Historian and Commander of Camp Captain James J. McAlester of McAlester, who spoke on whether General Robert E. Lee deserved to have a school named for him. Division Judge Advocate and Chief of Heritage Operations, Bryce Hill, answered the question: "Was Secession a Treanous Act in 1860-61?". Commander Mason Page of Camp Col. Dew Moore Wisdom of Muskogee spoke to the question of whether Lt. General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson deserved to have a school named for him. Past-Division Commander Logan followed by answering the question: "Who Invaded Whom?". Commander Jim Orebaugh of Camp 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles of Edmond closed the Setting the Record Straight portion of the program by answering whether Brigadier General Stand Watie deserved to have a school named for him. The Flag Rally was closed with the Oklahoma Division Color Guard firing a 21-gun salute in honor of Confederate veterans, the singing of "Dixie" led by Color Sergeant Steve Stricklin and the benedection.

Althogether, it was quite an impessive program. The questions about the Battle Flag and secession were answered correctly in the negative. As far as who invaded whom, everyone already knew the answer to that – the United States was the aggressor. All speakers presented incontrovertible evidence in answers to the questions. Late last year, the Oklahoma City School Board voted to re-name three schools which had been named for generals Lee, Jackson and Watie because the three generals were accused of "not representing the values of today". All of us except the School Board members believe that the basic values they possessed and practiced are enduring. The speakers on these subjects easily refuted the School Board's charges.

Finally, we are grateful to the City of Oklahoma City Parks Department's cooperation with the Rally. The Oklahoma City Police Department was superb, with a large presence to keep the sizable crowd of hecklers and shouters well away from us. Unfortunately, the local television station that covered the event seemed to be more interested in the protestors than what we had to say.



Members of the Oklahoma Division Color Guard fire a 21-gun salute in honor of Confederate veterans.



Kevin Easterling The Charge



Allen Harrison
The Charlottesville Resolution



Ken Cook
Is the Battle Flag a Symbol of Slavery?



Bently Couch Gen. Robert E. Lee



Bryce Hill Was Secession in 1860-61 a Treasonous Act?



Mason Page LG Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson



Larry Logan Who Invaded Whom?



Jim Orebaugh BG Stand Watie



Steve Stricklin "Dixie"











2018 Oklahoma Division Confederate Flag Day Rally



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