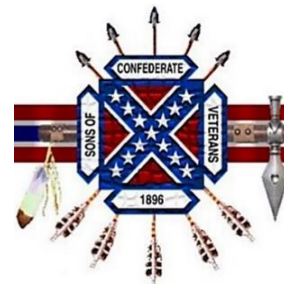


THE OKLAHOMA VINDICATOR

The Official Newsletter of the Oklahoma Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans



April – June 2023

Volume 17, Number 2

FROM THE COMMANDER

Greetings y'all! We have before us our DUTY to our Ancestors. I know getting to all events is hard to do. Look at upcoming events and pick three: a parade, a headstone dedication, or manning a booth at a gun show to recruit. We need the numbers to keep us growing I had a great response to asking who wanted to be in the Division Color Guard you know Memorial Day in Ardmore would be a great time and place to be and help. Our DUTY is up to us, we choose what we can and cant do. Sometimes we can do lots other times we don't have the time to be of much help. Lend a hand when and where you can, anything small helps . Sharing post on Facebook and such helps show what we do. support each others camps. This organization is a FAMILY. So I ask you to do what you can when you can what you do MATTERS. Now let us make this Division a better, BIGGER, and more outgoing Division.

- Virgil Chain

FROM THE LT. COMMANDER

Gentlemen, we had an excellent State Convention with a great turn out of camps, an excellent meal provided by 3 members of Shawnee camp. Our guest speaker, was from the Moore camp, Steve Byas, his topic of the right to secession was informational and eye opening. The DEC meeting was once again a very low turnout. If we are to conduct proper business at the division level, we need those elected members of the camps to attend please. It is only 3 to 4 hours once every 4 to 6 months. In order to perform our duties, Terry Pierce of the Oklahoma City camp will cover the areas Glenn Hunt left office as the Northwest Brigade Commander. Dr. Warren Boles of the Shawnee Camp has agreed to fulfill the duties of Division Chaplain for the rest of the term. The division recruiting and retention will now fall under the duties of Division Lieutenant Commander, to help the Division Commander and his duties, in order to assist the Brigade and Camp Commander.

Our retainment of the membership of this division is in bad shape. We have had a downturn in membership, in which we have lost 30 members do either death or loss of interest in the organization. We had 402 members at the time of the State Convention, we are now down to 382. Gentlemen, we must do all we can to retain good members. When we receive members into our camps, we need to do what we can to welcome them. I know many of us have that habit where we don't check on each other from meeting to meeting, and we get to conversations where we should get that. We have new perspective members or brand new ones. Fresh members may or may not know a lot about it. Many may have the knowledge or experience to contribute something that can be beneficial to this fine organization.

- Kevin Easterling



ATTENTION BROTHERS

We really need everyone to get more involved. If at least one person from each camp sent in an article even just once every quarter that would be wonderful. It would give us more to publish and not just have it all rely on the editor to fill the voids. Plus, a reminder that ALL camps are supposed to be sending in their annual camp report form to Division Adjutant Steve Ward. These reports let HQ know what is going on within our Division. Draw interest in your camp. - Kevin Easterling, Newsletter Editor

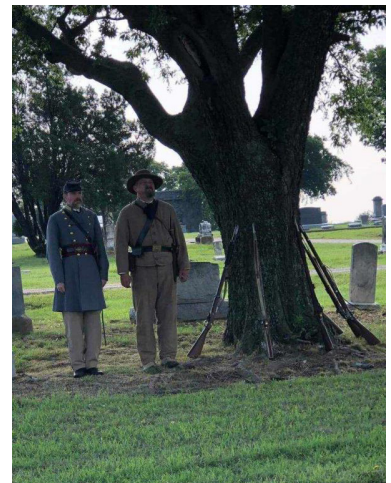
Camp Reports & Events

CLEM VAN ROGERS #481 – Oklahoma City

Commander Erik McBroom • Adjutant Terry Pierce

Camp #481 hosted a Memorial Day ceremony at Rose Hill Cemetery in Ardmore starting at 9 am Monday, May 29, 2023. All camps and families were welcome to join to honor the lives of the soldiers we have lost from the Civil War to the present.

Otherwise not much really to report with camp this quarter. Will post in the next newsletter regarding new members when they are awarded their certificates.



The camp held its 28th Annual Memorial Day celebration at Rose Hill for our honored soldiers who have passed on. Terry Pierce and Kevin Easterling continues support and maintenance of the Rose Hill Monument and Confederate graves.



PVT. W.D. CHAIN #2253 – Cooperton

Commander Virgil Chain • Adjutant Ethan Chain

Pvt W.D. Chain Camp report: We had a work day for the camp to mow and clean up around the meeting place, we went to Roosevelt for a cheeseburger, fries and great conversation. Went over Division happenings.

MAJOR JAMES McHENRY #2310 – Broken Arrow

Commander Steve Ward • Adjutant Steve Ward

The April 8 meeting of the unreconstructed Broken Arrow Camp had an average turnout. Confederate ideology and news started with the usual questions of “What’s on your mind? What are YOU doing? How have YOU pushed back?” to the meeting attendees. As always, Lt. Commander Jeff Paulk gave an exemplary report of how he has been pushing back as all good Confederates should. Topics up for discussion included: Recap of our recruiting efforts at the Wanenmacher Tulsa Arms Gun Show the previous Saturday; Report from Holdenville Camp Commander Garry Solomon who attended District 2 Rep. Josh Brecheen Town Hall meeting; Justice To The South – True History; No, Red State Economies Don't Depend on a "Gravy Train" from Blue States; Several articles discussing the possibility of a secession or “national divorce” (66 million Americans support the idea); Rick Sapp’s comments on the Confederate Memorial at Arlington; The eradication of historical monuments has nothing to do with righting wrongs; Some people believe history has to suit the century they are living in (Look Away Dixieland); Two Baltimore Confederate statues vandalized with no suspects identified; Had the South gained its independence, would it have proved a failure? And lastly, BravoJOE says, “I used to be willing to die for what I believed America stood for. Now, I would die to protect my family from what it has become.” Fitting words for Confederate History and Heritage Month.

The unreconstructed Broken Arrow Camp 2310 meeting on May 13 had another average turnout but we were blessed to have new member Marty Bunch present for his induction into the SCV and our Camp.

We started the meeting by asking all members, “What’s on your mind? What are YOU doing? How have YOU pushed back?” Lt. Commander Jeff Paulk ran down a list of subjects he’s pushed back against since the last meeting. District No. 2 Aide to U.S. Rep. Josh Brecheen phoned



Commander Ward concerning the Confederate Reconciliation Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Commander Ward reinforced the need to keep the Memorial and to deny any funding to remove it. The Aide assured Commander Ward that Rep. Brecheen was very anti-woke and would do what he could to stop its removal from Arlington National Cemetery. Other topics of discussion: A 2020 article about a Black Sons of Confederate Veterans member from Alabama opposing monument and flag removal; Madewood Plantation (1846) Assumption Parish, Louisiana photos were circulated to marvel in its Southern beauty; Morganton, NC hosts Symbols of the South Symposium - a roundtable discussion on the various interpretations of Confederate monuments by different groups of people (plus email to and response from SCV member Bill Starnes who was part of that roundtable); A poem written by Confederate veteran Orion Theophilus Dozier; Blast from the Past: 1960s News articles from the Birmingham, AL press concerning Confederate issues; Confederates committed no treason; Confederate flag groups booted from Fort Worth Stockyards parades; Confederate flags pulled from Idaho American Legion display; Actual correspondence of President Eisenhower to yankee dentist regarding the framed portrait of Robert E. Lee; The inscriptions on each side Confederate Monument, Rankin County Courthouse, Brandon, Mississippi, 1907; Lord Acton commenting on Southerners if they had won their independence; Georgia lawmakers push to remove Confederate designation on Stone Mountain Park; And the only proper title of our war is The War of Conquest.

The June 10 meeting of the unreconstructed Broken Arrow Camp saw a dismal turnout. In spite of this, member-to-be Kurtis Pasquale was able to join us for a good meal together, and excellent discussions were plentiful. Confederate ideology topics included a discussion of how our members have been pushing back against our tyrannical government. Also discussed: Juneteenth is a Celebration of Nothing; Past Grand Army of the Republic Commander shows his true yankeeness in 1900; Not About Slavery – an article by Lt. Randolph H. McKim; “The Southern people possess treasures” by General Basil Duke; Erasing a Country’s History Also Erases the Country; NC Judge’s order blocks movement of monument; Greenville, NC police investigating stolen Confederate grave marker; Alabama Senate Committee rejects effort to move Robert E. Lee holiday to October; The Communist Control Act of 1954; Some historians are fond of saying the South is better off for having lost the war.

All unreconstructed Broken Arrow Camp meetings begin with an Invocation/Blessing of food, reading of The Charge, review of the last meeting minutes, SCV news, events and announcements, and close with a Benediction.

My Confederate brothers and sisters, until next time, KEEP PUSHING BACK!

God Save the Southland,

- Steve Ward, Commander

Major James McHenry Camp 2310

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

steve@rebelokie.com



CAPTAIN JAMES J. McALESTER #775 – McAlester

Commander Patrick Self • Adjutant Steve Ward

For the April meeting Camp 775 members met at the Indianola Community and Senior Citizens Center in Indianola. Eight members and one guest were in attendance. Following the Call to Order and Welcome, the Camp remembered Jeanette Couch, wife of Lt. Commander Bently Couch. The Camp expressed continued condolences and support to Bently. The attendees then stood for the Invocation given by Chaplain Pro-tem Bret Hinds. Following the Salute to the Confederate Flag, members were seated and Lt. Commander Bently Couch read the SCV Charge and last month’s meeting was reviewed.

The Adjutant/Treasurer Report submitted by Adjutant Steve Ward was read by Lt. Commander Bently Couch. Camp membership remains at 27. Under Old Business, Quartermaster Bret Hinds reported 3 additions to the Camp Library. He also reported that the Perryville Battlefield Monument Fund now has \$826.....up from \$801 the previous month.

New Business topics of discussion: We talked about April being Confederate History Month and the importance of making friends, family, and acquaintances aware of our Confederate heritage not only in April, but each and every DAY. The SCV Press release on "Are Southerners Still Welcome In Our Military?" was given review. The SCV “Commanders Comments” (available on YouTube) was reviewed. Highlights from the most recent episode were: establishing a computer link to allow members to directly access local politicians; the SCV logo will NOT be changed; possibility of creating and sending a digital copy of the *Confederate Veteran* magazine in order to save on postage and printing cost. This would be a voluntary choice with hard copies still available if desired.

The high point of today's meeting was the signing of our replacement Charter. When asked who wanted to be the first to sign, Lt. Commander Bently Couch made a motion that the Camp Commander should be the first to sign. That motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Each attending member then came forward and signed our replacement Charter. While the document was being signed, we noted that 4 of our regular attendees were absent. We decided to extend the signing period another month to give everyone an opportunity to have their signature on the Charter. Once we have the Charter professionally matted and framed, it won't be taken out for any further signatures.

Members were encouraged to attend the Division Annual Convention and Reunion in Shawnee on April 29. The noon meal will be Bar-B-Q brisket, pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans, dessert, and sweet/unsweet tea for \$14. Please bring exact change.

Lt. Commander Bently Couch provided today's program on Preston Brooks. Brooks was a U.S. Representative from South Carolina. He is most notably remembered for the attack on Senator Charles Sumner with a cane. Sumner had belittled South Carolina and a relative of Brooks in a speech from the Senate floor. Sumner soon learned that one should never speak badly of a Southerner's home State, nor of his relatives! Several, most likely about 10, solid whacks to the head with a cane taught Senator Sumner, a Yankee, what all Southern gentlemen already know.



Following the Benediction by Chaplain Pro-tem Bret Hinds, members migrated to the Lake House General Store to share in fellowship and a meal.

The McAlester Camp had a great May meeting. There were 11 members in attendance and one guest. Following the Call to Order, everyone was welcomed and thanked for their attendance, including our guest speaker, Mr Adam Lynn. Vic and Susie Fowler were thanked for their continued efforts in securing our monthly meeting place. Members were informed that our beloved and highly respected Chaplain, Brother Bob Pattison, has moved to Tahlequah. While he remains on our membership roll, with the time/distance involved, it is not likely that Bob will be attending meetings. Camp 775 wishes Bob and Sue the very best and we thank them for their loyal support to our Camp. Brother Bob always educated and entertained us with his "Words From the Chaplain". He will be missed. Thank you Brother Bob!

As a result of Bob's move, I asked our Chaplain Pro-tem, Bret Hinds, to accept being elevated to the position of Chaplain. As I have come to expect from Bret, he immediately, without hesitation, accepted the new role. The Camp and I thank you Bret! Chaplain Bret Hinds gave the Invocation and the group gave the Salute to the Confederate Flag. Lt. Commander Bently Couch read the SCV Charge.

Because the agenda contained quite a few items requiring discussion, the Program was inserted at this point in order to not require our guest speaker to remain for the entire meeting. Mr. Adam Lynn, Director of Honey Springs Battlefield, gave an informative presentation on the Battle and extended an invitation to visit the site. Mr. Lynn departed to a vigorous round of applause.



The regular agenda was then resumed. Our last meeting was reviewed. Lt. Commander Bently Couch read the Adjutant/Treasurer Report that was submitted by Adjutant Steve Ward. Camp 775 holds at 27 members.

In Old Business: Quartermaster Bret Hinds reported that the Camp Library has 3 new additions.....one of which is a booklet of the Constitution of the Confederate States of America. He also reported that the Perryville Battlefield Monument Fund now contains \$891. The June 17 gun show was discussed at length. It was decided that due to the conflict with our regular camp meeting date and our scheduled speaker being from out of town, we would forgo this particular gun show. We had 4 more signers to our replacement Charter. As notified beforehand, this was the last opportunity to sign the Charter. It will now be double matted with red and gray and placed into a gray, wood frame.



In New Business: We reviewed the Oklahoma Division SCV Reunion. David Nix gave a report on his sale of Confederate merchandise and Trans-Mississippi patches at the Division Reunion. David sold \$40 from the Camps Confederate merchandise and \$65 of Trans-Mississippi patches. David, singlehandedly, transported the merchandise to and from the event along with his exhibit, set up the exhibit, and worked the table. A photo of him "in action" has been posted on our website. (scvcamp775.org) Attendees expressed thanks for David and his efforts.

Lt. Commander Bently Couch gave a review of Alvin Johnson's funeral. Bently attended the funeral to represent Camp 775. We discussed the funeral of Dorothy Harrison, Allen Harrison's wife. While Allen transferred his membership to re-charter the Shawnee Camp years ago, he is fondly remembered as being the major force behind the reforming of our McAlester Camp.

Members were encouraged to attend the June 3 Jefferson Davis Birthday Potluck and Cookout at Holdenville Lake, sponsored by the Ada, Holdenville, and Coalgate Camps. New photos have been posted on our website. First quarter Division newsletter is available at oklahomascv.org. Credentials Form for SCV National Reunion was discussed. Lt. Commander Bently Couch is going to attend and will represent Camp 775. We will review and vote on the proposed SCV Amendments at our June 17 meeting. Lt. Commander Couch will carry our wishes to the Reunion.

Quartermaster Bret Hinds gave attendees an idea on having some type of permanent holders for our Cemetery grave flags. Several examples were passed around for inspection. We will further discuss the matter at the next meeting but everyone was in agreement that it was a good idea.

Chaplain Bret Hinds gave the Benediction and we adjourned to the Lake House General Store for a meal and good Confederate fellowship. It was great to be with fellow Confederates today.

Until the Great Balls of Fire Bowling Alley in McAlester reopens, we are still meeting at the Indianola Community and Senior Citizens Center, Indianola, Ok, as was the case for our June meeting. After the Call to Order, members were thanked for their attendance and the guests were recognized. Today we had 7 members and 4 guests including S/E Brigade Commander Michael Leddy, his wife Britne, and Holdenville Camp Adjutant Coda Leddy.

S/E Brigade Commander Michael Leddy was given time to address the members. He informed us that Glenn Hunt had resigned as Ada Camp Commander and all of the positions he held in the Division. Commander Leddy had been elected to take the Ada Camp Commander position. We were also invited to attend and participate in the July 4 parade in Calvin, Ok. More information can be obtained by contacting Commander Leddy or the Division website (www.oklahomascv.org).

Today we remembered two of our members who have passed away: Phillip Lambdin and Harold Tydings. Both passed away in 2022. Phil, after a battle with prostate cancer, was 66 years old. He had been a land surveyor and also owned his own leather business. Harold was instrumental in restarting the Oklahoma Division after the Division Charter had been pulled. He had retired from the Coast Guard with the rank of Commander and had presented several programs for our meetings. Harold was 89 years old. Camp 775 was enriched by both Phillip and Harold and we miss their presence at Camp meetings.

Chaplain Bret Hinds gave the Invocation which was followed by the Salute to the Confederate Flag. Lt. Commander Bently Couch read the SCV Charge and we reviewed the May 20 meeting.

Chaplain/ Quartermaster Bret Hinds reported on several new additions to our Library. He also reported the Perryville Battlefield Monument Fund had hit the \$1000 mark. That is approximately 1/3 of what we anticipate to be the final cost.

Last month, Bret Hinds had suggested that the Camp develop some type of holder for our graveside flags. Today we reviewed the proposed methods and tabled further discussion on the topic until the August meeting.

The newly acquired Camp 775 replacement Charter has been matted and framed. It was unveiled at today's meeting and passed around for inspection. All present felt it was an outstanding result.



Attendees unanimously voted to take money from the Camp Treasury to pay for the matting, framing, and easel costs. Our Charter will be exhibited at each Camp meeting.

Lt. Commander Bently Couch presented the 3 proposed Amendments to the SCV Constitution. After each proposed Amendment was read and discussed, a vote was taken. Lt. Commander Couch will carry the results of our vote to the National Reunion and Convention. (The proposed Amendments are inside the back cover of the May/June issue of the Confederate Veteran.)

Adjutant Steve Ward will be mailing out the annual dues/membership renewals within the next few weeks. Please return your dues to him as quickly as possible as it makes things much easier. With our society and culture in the condition it is today (woke and anti-Confederate and anti-Southern) it is extremely important to maintain your membership. Think of Gideons 32000 man Army. God instructed Gideon to cut it to 10000 and then even further. Following God's instructions, Gideon found himself left with only 300 soldiers, yet, with the Lord's help, he and his Army achieved great things. We are looking for men like Gideons 300 man Army. Don't delay when your renewal notice arrives. It would be fantastic if our Camp could attain 100% retention.

We discussed next month's meeting (July 15). At that meeting, Mrs. Chris Clark, two of her daughters, and a son-in-law will be in attendance. Mrs. Clark has informed me that she wishes to donate quite a few items from her husband's Confederate memorabilia collection to our Camp. Ron Clark was a former member of our Camp and will be remembered at the July meeting. He passed away July 1, 2019 at the age of 78. This will be a very unique event and members are encouraged to make plans to attend. Camp 775 is honored to be the recipient of such a donation.

The Oklahoma Division D.E.C. meeting is scheduled for June 24 at LaDonna's Grill in Meeker, 11am. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Tulsa Camp Commander Clint Anderson, scheduled to give today's program, was unable to attend today as he was involved in an unexpected highway event on his way to Indianola.

Chaplain Bret Hinds gave the Benediction.

Members adjourned to the Lake House General Store for a meal and good Southern/Confederate fellowship.

God bless our Confederate ancestors!

Patrick Self, Commander
Captain James J. McAlester Camp 775
Sons of Confederate Veterans
McAlester, Oklahoma



COL. TANDY WALKER #2207 – Shawnee

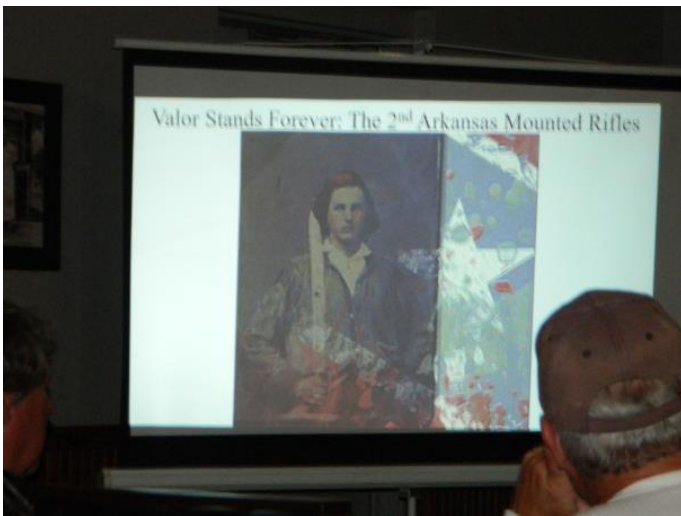
Commander James Bohrer • Adjutant Bobby L. Colwell, Jr.

April

April was a busy month with the Division Convention hosted by Camp 2207, Col. Tandy Walker. Commander James Bohrer, Bobby L. Colwell, Jr. and Dr. George Andrews prepared the meal for the convention. They did an excellent job. Many members donated money to finance the convention meal. Other members helped put the meal together and helped in the kitchen to serve the convention attendees.

Our camp meeting was attended by 14 members and 7 guests. Those present discussed the volunteers to man the recruiting table for the June 3-4 gun show.

The program was delivered by Compatriot Rex Cash of Camp 481, Clem Van Rogers of Oklahoma City. Topic: "The 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles". Compatriot Cash is currently writing a book on the 2nd Arkansas.



Opening slide of 2nd Arkansas presentation by Rex Cash.

Membership Certificates presented:



David Boyd whose ancestor is Albert Washington Boyd, Private, Co B, 1st Arkansas Cavalry Regiment (Stermans'). My apologies for the quality of the photo.



Steven Volner whose ancestor is Green Braswell Dees, Private, Co C, 7th Mississippi Cavalry Regiment (Falkners')

May

Van's Pig Stand on Harrison in Shawnee was the location of our camp meeting for May. This is our normal meeting place. We had 11 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Discussion was held on the success of the Division Convention and the upcoming gun show June 3-4.

Volunteers to man the table were secured. Collection of 2023-2024 dues commenced at the meeting. Four of our camp members plan on attending the National Reunion in Hot Springs, AR.

Captain David Netterville gave the presentation on "The Battle of Vicksburg".



David Netterville presenting "Battle of Vicksburg".



LI'L DIXIE CONFEDERATES #2259 – Coalgate

Commander Joseph K. McTee • Adjutant David Ginden



Coalgate set up a table Tuesday July 4 at Park. Had several people come and talk to me. Still holding strong with 8-9 members. But doing our part to grow. I set up a challenge in camp next 3 month for all members to bring in at least 1 new member apiece. June 10th had a camp BBQ. Michael Leddy and his son came. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the day at the lake.



SHECOE'S CHICKASAW BATTALION MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS #2331 - Ada

Commander Michael Leddy • Adjutant Michael Leddy
and

THE GRAY RIDERS #2340 – Holdenville

Commander Garry Solomon • Adjutant Coda Leddy

Camps 2340 Holdenville Camp 2331 Ada participated in the Byng Memorial Day Parade in Byng, Oklahoma. We had a good turnout and the General Lee car from the TV show was there!



Shecoe's Chickasaw Battalion Mounted Volunteers Camp 2331 and The Gray Riders Camp 2340 at the Byng Memorial Day Parade



Ada Camp 2331 Commander Michael Leddy with the General Lee.

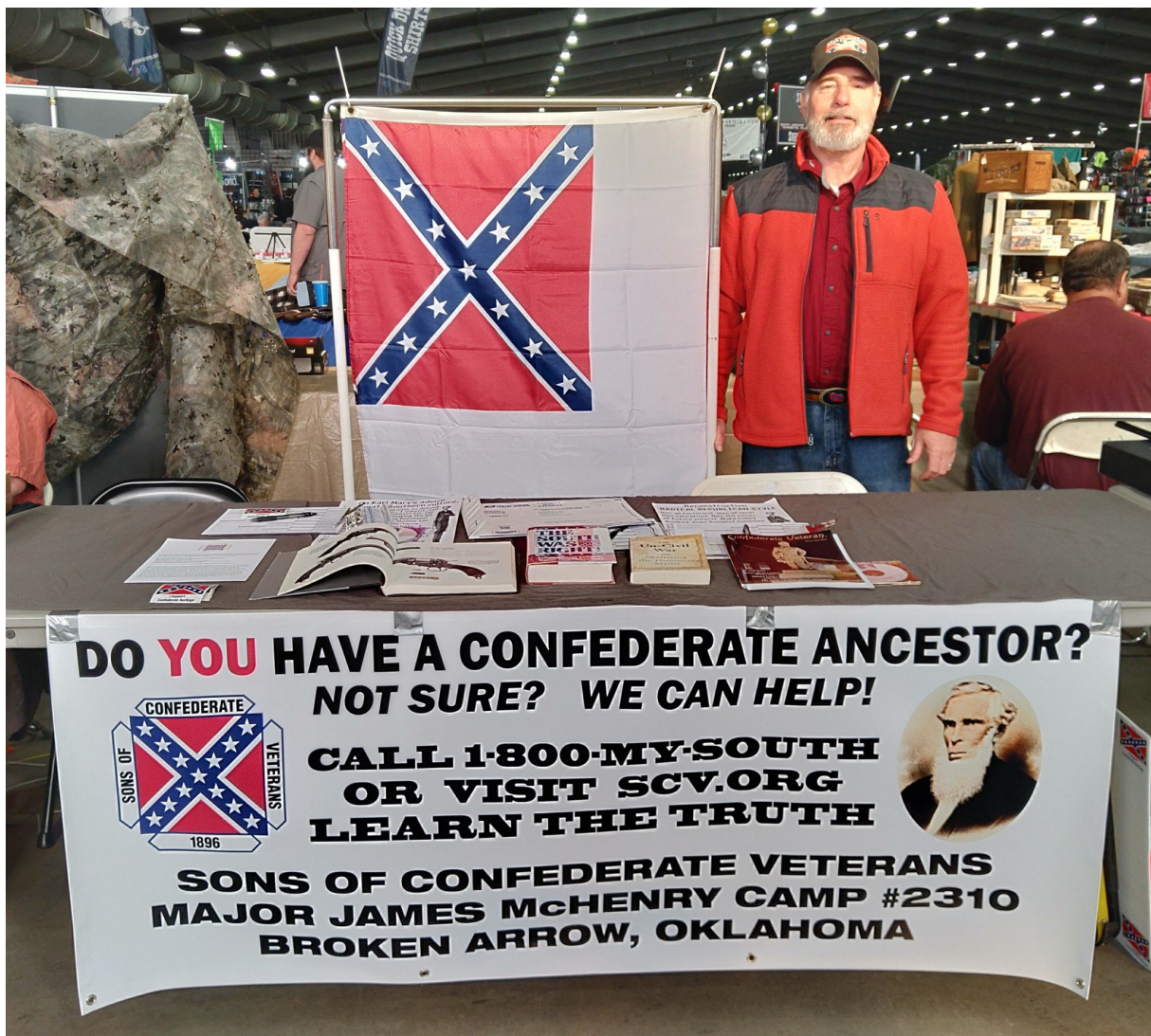
Unreconstructed Broken Arrow Camp set up SCV Education and Recruiting Station at one of the world's largest gun shows

By Steve Ward, Camp Commander
Major James McHenry Camp 2310

To start Confederate History Month with a BANG!, Lt. Commander Jeff Paulk and myself met at the Tulsa Fairgrounds in the early morning hours of Saturday, April 1 to set up an SCV Education and Recruiting Station at one of the world's largest gun shows – Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show – with more than 4,200 tables covering 11 acres in one of the largest clearspan buildings in the world, the famous IPE Building.

Having secured a table a few months earlier, we gathered our stuff and went inside to check-in. Our assigned table was in the far NW corner of the building, a couple rows east from the tables along the west wall. It was a decent location, except for the fact that we weren't far from the air conditioning ducts which kept us a bit cooler than we wanted and caused a paper or two on the table to flip over occasionally.

Set-up took us to 8:00am when the gun show officially opened. Our 8-foot table was covered by a Confederate gray cloth provided by Lt. Commander Paulk, and a new Camp banner I designed hung from the front of the table.



Reconstruction RADICAL REPUBLICAN STYLE

Own all factories! Own all land!
Own education! Own the minds
of future voters! Make happy
dumbed-down Socialist commies
out of our school kids - keep 'em
busy with sex, make them scorn
God, the Trinity, marriage, and
that "honor thy Father and
Mother stuff. Make them think
the Constitution is "just a g**
d*** piece of paper"; that my war
was fought to free the slaves.
Make Southerners take an oath
to the Union.



Our table contained popular books, CDs, magazines, handouts, and other literature that supported our honorable Southern heritage and debunked common myths. We also brought plenty of lineage worksheets to aid us in recruiting.

Behind our table was an eye-catching 3rd National Flag on a display stand provided by Lt. Commander Paulk.

On Karl Marx's advice to eliminate Southern culture,

I broke that stupid oath to defend
the US Constitution. I substituted
the Communist Manifesto for the
US Constitution by making the US
Constitution a "Living Document".
I levied a Communist income tax.
I started erasing inheritance
rights. I stirred racial hate. I
confiscated all property of Rebels.
I wanted a Federal bank. I
redistributed all Southern wealth
to good Republicans...even the dirt
under Southern homes. I sold
Southern forests for 25¢ an acre
to my New Englanders. I began
government control over
communication and transportation!
I took over education!



As students of the Charley Wilson School of Recruiting, we knew the proper way to recruit for the SCV at a gun show. (See *Pointers on Manning a Recruitment Table*, page 18, Jan-Mar 2017 issue of *The Southern Advocate* Division newsletter.) During our 2-day stay, we met many interesting folks. Some wore proud Confederate tattoos, apparel, and belt buckles.



We even met a retired Colonel from the Israeli Armed Forces who understood our history better than most Americans. And, of course, we encountered a few that thought the South was on the wrong side of the war, but we did our best to correct that thinking. Throughout both days of the gun show we asked each male passing our table, "Do you have a Confederate ancestor?" This effort resulted in 34 recruits filling out a family lineage worksheet. By the end of Sunday, we were wore out from the constant talking and standing, but we felt good about what we had accomplished.

NON-REPORTING OKLAHOMA CAMPS

No reports were received from the following SCV camps of the Oklahoma Division prior to the deadline for this issue of the newsletter:

**BRIG. GEN. ALBERT PIKE #1367 – El Reno
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**PVT. DRURY WARREN #2180 – Ponca City
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**COL. WILLIAM PENN ADAIR #2206 – Bartlesville
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**COL. JOHN W. JORDAN #817 – Mannford
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**COLONEL JOHN JUMPER #900 – Claremore
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**COLONEL DANIEL N. MCINTOSH #1378 - Tulsa
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**LT. WILLIAM H. MAYES #2078 – Pryor
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**COL. DEW MOORE WISDOM #307 – Muskogee
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**PVT. GRAYSON AND BREWER #2118 – Altus
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**SHELBY'S OKLAHOMA IRON MEN #1356 - Duncan
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**MEN IN GRAY #2309 - Lawton
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**INDIAN TERRITORY #892 – Poteau
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**BRIG. GEN. STAND WATIE #149 - Ardmore
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

**COL. JACKSON F. McCURTAIN #513 - Moore
- NO REPORT RECEIVED -**

CAMP MEETINGS

1st Thursday of Each Month

Poteau Camp Meeting @ 6:00 pm

Pryor Camp Meeting @ 6:30 pm

2nd Tuesday of Each Month

Bartlesville Camp Meeting @ 6:30pm

Tulsa Camp Meeting @ 6:30 pm

El Reno Camp Meeting @ 7:00 pm

2nd Thursday of Each Month

OKC Camp Meeting @ 6:30 pm

2nd Saturday of Each Month

Cooperton Camp Meeting @ 10:00 am

Coalgate Camp Meeting @ 11:00 am

Altus Camp Meeting @ 11:00 am

Ardmore / Madill Camp Meeting @ 12:00 pm

Broken Arrow Camp Meeting @ 12:00 pm

3rd Monday of Each Month

Moore Camp Meeting @ 6:00 pm

3rd Tuesday of Each Month

Holdenville Camp Meeting @ 6:00 pm

3rd Thursday of Each Month

Muskogee Camp Meeting @ 6:30 pm

3rd Saturday of Each Month

Duncan Camp Meeting @ 10:00 am

Ponca City Camp Meeting @ 11:00 am

McAlester Camp Meeting @ 11:00 am

4th Tuesday of Each Month

Ada Camp Meeting @ 6:00 pm

4th Thursday of Each Month

Shawnee Camp Meeting @ 6:00 pm

To find out the locations of meetings, please email or call either the camp's Commander or Adjutant. Their information can be found at <http://www.oklahomascv.org/>.

2023 Sons of Confederate Veterans National Reunion

www.2023scvreunion.org

Hosted By The James M. Keller Camp #648

Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

July 19, 20, 21, 22nd 2023



SEPTEMBER

3rd Annual Labor Day Potluck Picnic

Monday, 04 September 2023

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Holdenville Lake, Holdenville, OK

Hosted by Camps 2331 (Ada), 2259 (Coalgate) and 2340 (Holdenville)

1st Annual Dixiefest

Saturday, 30 September 2023 (Tentative)

Robbers Cave State Park

Wilburton, OK

Hosted by Camps 2331 (Ada), 2259 (Coalgate) and 2340 (Holdenville)

SCV MEMBERS AND GUESTS ONLY

Indian Territory Dispatch

EDITOR: KEVIN EASTERLING



This issue is being dedicated to the
WOMEN IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

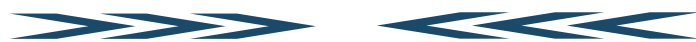




Image: Dr. Oriana Moon Andrews in 1861 With her husband, Dr. John Andrews Credit: Woman's Missionary Union

Dr. Oriana Moon Andrews

1934 – 1883

by Women History Blog 2015

<https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2015/04/oriana-moon-andrews.html>

First Woman Doctor In The Confederate Army

Dr. Oriana Moon Andrews was a remarkable woman who served as the first female doctor in the Confederate Army. After the Civil War, she was physician to women and children, but her family had to move so frequently she was not able to establish a consistent practice. Chronic illness and childbirth at an advanced age ended her life much too soon.

Early Years

Oriana Russell Moon was born August 11, 1834 the second of seven children born to Anna Maria Barclay Moon and Edward Harris Moon. Oriana lived with her family at Viewmont, a 1500-acre estate in Scottsville, Albemarle County, Virginia. Edward Moon was a wealthy merchant, while Anna Maria had inherited her own wealth from her stepfather, including Viewmont and all of its slaves.

Edward Moon was a well-educated man, and he purchased an unusually large library, which included history, poetry, fiction and scientific works. He then hired the finest tutors for his children in literature, history, music and science. For the first sixteen years of her life, Oriana was addicted to reading, sometimes refusing to stop reading to eat.

At a time when Southern society dictated that young women be tutored privately and trained in the household arts, Edward Moon permitted his daughters to pursue their own interests. Oriana attended Emma Willard's Troy Female Seminary in Troy, New York during the 1850-1851 school year. After graduating there, she returned to Virginia, talking about the independence of Northern women.

Then, at the age of eighteen, Miss Moon decided she wanted to be a doctor. Edward Moon readily agreed that she should pursue a medical career, but he did not live to see her become a doctor. In 1854, Oriana enrolled in the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. At that time the general public believed that women were not capable of mastering the subject matter, and they would be much too squeamish to actually practice medicine.

Career in Medicine

Oriana proved them all wrong, but her path would not be easy. Female students were not allowed to work in hospitals to gain clinical experience working with patients, so the College set up its own clinic where they treated women and the poor. As her thesis, she wrote about the relationship between cardiac and pulmonary diseases, and she was awarded her Doctor of Medicine in 1857.

Oriana then returned to Viewmont. In 1858, her uncle, James Turner Barclay, decided to return to Jerusalem with his family for a second missionary tour as a Disciples of Christ minister, physician and student of the Holy Land. Oriana accompanied the Barclays and practiced medicine during her stay there.

In the summer of 1859, Oriana returned to her Virginia home, where she continued her medical practice as a woman's physician for her social circle and for the the Moon family slaves. Her patients adored their young female physician. Some male physicians grudgingly accepted Oriana as an unusual woman doctor. However, despite much urging, Dr. Moon consistently declined to 'hang out her shingle' as a general practitioner.

The Civil War

The the Civil War broke out in 1861, and Virginia seceded from the Union on May 23, 1861. Oriana, her mother and her brother drove the family carriage to Charlottesville ten miles away. Their journey was made to convert the family's cash and other marketable assets into currency or bonds for the Confederacy. A notice on the bank wall stressed the urgent need of physicians, surgeons and nurses for the Confederate Army.

Dr. Moon volunteered her services to the Confederacy in several letters written to General John H. Cocke between April and July 1861. In a letter dated July 19, 1861, she wrote:

"My most respected Friend,

Owing, I suppose, to our regular postal arrangements, your kind communication of Tuesday has just been received. I have not as yet entered into service; neither shall I, without consulting you, if you will allow me that high privilege! I have been willing and even anxious to be engaged in ministering to the wants of the sick, but after you so kindly proposed to take the matter in hand, I thought it would be better to wait and learn the result...

If it will not be too great an imposition on your time and generosity, I would prefer to have you make any arrangements for me you may see proper. If the ladies of Richmond address me on the subject, I will enclose their communications to you. Enclosed I send you some suggestions, which strike me as being good...

I would prefer to be in a Surgical Hospital where I would assist in the operations... I will go anywhere or do anything they may see fit to assign me, if it is to follow the army and seek the wounded on the field of battle.

Woman Surgeon in the Confederacy

On July 22, one day after the First Battle of Bull Run, Dr. Moon received word to report to the Charlottesville General Hospital which included buildings converted for that purpose at the University of Virginia. Soon the hospital overflowed with wounded from Bull Run and spilled over to private homes nearby. Dr. Moon was assigned a ward in this hospital, and was awarded a surgeon's commission as a captain in the Confederate Army, reportedly the only one given to a woman.

A letter appeared in the Richmond Daily Dispatch on August 1, 1861, describing the situation at that hospital and Dr. Moon's role there:

"The state of the hospital is most satisfactory. The few cases of death are extremely cheering. But one of the wounded has so far died; he was a Yankee and fearfully injured. The largest number of wounded belong probably to the 4th Alabama Regiment, and there are also several young men of the Oglethorpe Light Infantry from Savannah, and half dozen students from the University of Oxford, Mississippi here. By far the large majority of sick are down with the measles and will easily recover. Among the more seriously wounded are also two Yankee captains from a New York Regiment.

Thanks to the energy and zeal displayed on all sides, order begins to reign and system to prevail amid the immense number. More physicians have arrived from other towns; among them Dr. Alexander Rives, late house-surgeon of Bellevue Hospital, New York; Dr. Moon, a young lady of the neighborhood, to whose skillful and experienced hands the care of a ward has been entrusted...

Dr. John Andrews

When the Civil War broke out, Dr. John Summerfield Andrews, aged 23, was a practicing physician in Memphis, Tennessee. He quickly arranged his personal affairs and headed for Virginia. Arriving a few days before the Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, he cared for his brothers after they were injured in that battle.

When Confederate General Bernard Bee visited the field hospital, he immediately commissioned Dr. Andrews a surgeon and put him in charge of the wounded men of the 4th Alabama Regiment. After the battle ended, the Confederate wounded were taken to the Charlottesville General Hospital, John discovered that his brother Robert's medical condition was grave.

Dr. Andrews asked for another surgeon to examine his brother, and Dr. Moon was called in. When John looked up from his seat at his brother's bedside, he was astonished to see a young woman. After a thorough examination, the doctors retired to an adjoining room for consultation. Dr. Moon advised against surgery, fearing it would kill the young soldier. John agreed that the operation should be deferred. They packed ice around Robert's chest to reduce his fever, but he died two days later.

A few months later illness forced Dr. Moon to give up her ward. She returned to Viewmont where she was cared for by her mother. At his first opportunity, Dr. John Andrews hired a horse and rode the ten miles to Viewmont to check on Oriana's health. He remained there several days before returning to Charlottesville.

Marriage and Family

Dr. Andrews also installed himself as physician to Dr. Moon, who would be confined to bed for more than a month. His visits to Viewmont multiplied and their friendship took on a deeper meaning. John requested leave to get married, and on November 28, 1861, John Andrews and Oriana Moon married at Viewmont. She was 27.



Image: Viewmont, the Moon family estate

Where Oriana lived most of her life

Credit: Scottsville Museum

After their wedding, Dr. John Andrews was granted leave to seek reassignment in Richmond. These hospitals daily received wounded soldiers from other areas of Virginia. Every medical person was needed, but records show that John did not resurface in Richmond until late January 1862. On February 1, 1862, Dr. Andrews appeared before a medical review board, and he was declared unsatisfactory as a Confederate surgeon. He resigned his commission the same day.

Civilian Life During the War

John and Oriana continued living at Viewmont, and their first child, Henry Horton Andrews, was born there on October 30, 1862, but he died from croup in May 1863. On October 1, 1863, a second son, James Barclay Andrews, was born. The Andrews family moved from Viewmont to the Bel Air estate, approximately three miles from Viewmont. On February 9, 1865, Oriana gave birth to a third son, William Luther Andrews.

General Philip Sheridan's Union soldiers marched through the area enroute to Scottsville in early March 1865. Sheridan's goal was to destroy the canal and any food and supplies that would aid the Confederacy. Oriana and John moved their two sons back to Viewmont, where they remained until Lee surrendered at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

Move to Alabama

In 1869, Dr. John Andrews' family in Alabama assured him that there was a physician's position for him in Florence, Alabama. Oriana and their youngest son caught a train in Charlottesville, while John and their eldest son drove a wagonload of their possessions to Florence.

John soon realized that the Florence area could not pay much more than gratitude for his medical services. In early 1870, he purchased a small tract of land in Hardin County, Tennessee and built a rough board dwelling for his family. Oriana and their two sons moved there later that year. Although accustomed to far more comfort, she accepted her new situation with quiet dignity.

In their three years there, the Andrews family moved three times. Their patients lived in poverty and could not pay their physician for services rendered. Due to a chronic heart ailment, Oriana's health suffered under the strain and she was confined to bed. The Moons urged the family to return to Viewmont.

John disposed of all of their furniture and shipped their books, clothing and a few small trunks of keepsakes via railroad to Virginia. He also purchased four mules and a new wagon with canvas stretched over the bows and a bed with springs in the rear. John and Oriana made the six-week trip back to Virginia in stages to avoid antagonizing Oriana's fragile health.

Late Years

In 1874, the family settled down at Viewmont again, where Oriana tutored her sons in the family library, with the books her father had purchased for her many years before. Five months of the year, the boys hiked five miles to Church Hill, the home of their Uncle Isaac Moon who taught a public school there. When not studying, the boys roamed the woods and helped with corn planting in the nearby fields. Another son was born in 1875: Owen Merriweather Andrews.

In 1879, the heirs of Anna Marie Barclay Moon, Oriana's mother, decided to dispose of her estate and divide the proceeds among them. The Andrews had to move again, this time to a farm in Buckingham County, Virginia. In 1880, Oriana gave birth to another son, Frank Moon Andrews. (She was 46!)

Oriana's health worsened. Within a year, the Andrews moved to Norwood, Nelson County, Virginia, where they rented a farm. Dr. John Andrews found an active medical practice in Norwood and also planted corn in the fields along the James River. During the spring of 1881, torrential rains fell and swept away their crops. The Andrews once again returned to Scottsville.

Image: Old Hall in Scottsville, Virginia

Oriana died in the east bedroom

Credit: Scottsville Museum

In 1882, John and Oriana rented Old Hall, a mansion built in 1830 when Scottsville was a thriving river town. There the two doctors opened the First Sanatorium of Southside Albemarle and began active practice with women and children as their patients. It must have been gratifying for Oriana to finally be able to practice medicine again, but they had more patients than they could accommodate, and the work continually taxed her strength. She was forced to quit the practice in December 1883.



In the early morning hours of December 24, 1883, Dr. Oriana Moon Andrews died of pneumonia at age 49. She was buried at the Scottsville Presbyterian Cemetery.



Isabella "Belle" Boyd

1844-1900

by Debra Michals, PhD 2015

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/isabelle-boyd#:~:text=Only%2017%20years%20old%20when,as%20an%20actress%20and%20author>

Only 17 years old when the Civil War began, Isabella “Belle” Boyd would become one of the most famous female Confederate spies, hailed by some as the “Cleopatra of Secession.” Her colorful postwar life also included several marriages and stints as an actress and author.

Born on May 9, 1844 in Martinsburg, Virginia, Boyd was the oldest child of affluent shopkeeper and tobacco farmer Benjamin Reed Boyd and Mary Rebecca Glenn Boyd. A spirited child, Boyd attended the Mount Washington Female College of Baltimore at age 12. After graduating at 16, she returned to Martinsburg, which fell to the Union the next year, on July 3, 1861. Boyd initially helped raise funds and sew clothing for the Confederate soldiers and was proud of her forty-five year-old father’s decision to enlist in General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson’s troops. When a Union soldier invaded Boyd’s home and assaulted her mother, Boyd fatally shot him, which won her favor in the South. Acquitted of the crime, Boyd returned to Martinsburg and began her espionage career.

Daring in a way that scorned the era’s standards for ladies, Boyd took advantage of the common assumption that a woman could not be dangerous. She also defied women’s conventional roles by becoming a messenger for Confederate Generals Jackson and Pierre Beauregard. Unafraid to use her feminine wiles to gain access to Union soldiers and information, Boyd became more daring with each attempt to garner Union secrets and war plans. Union soldiers initially did not expect a girl to be an intelligence agent so even when her messages were intercepted, federal officers simply reprimanded what they assumed was an innocent teenager.

Eventually, however, Boyd became known to Union officials. She was arrested six times, imprisoned three times, and exiled twice. Among her more famous exploits, on May 23, 1862 in Front Royal, Virginia, she listened through a knothole in her hotel room wall to several Union officers next door making plans. Then, she rode between the two armies to deliver a message to a staff officer. Her efforts helped secure a Confederate victory, for which, her memoirs claimed, she received a thank you note from Jackson.

On July 29, 1862, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton issued a warrant for her arrest. She was taken to Old Capitol Prison—now the site of the US Supreme Court—and later banished to the Confederate capitol of Richmond. She was arrested again before being exiled to Canada, but she instead headed for England. Likely more an adventurer than a true Confederate ideologue, Boyd married two Union men—first in 1864, Samuel Hardinge, a Union naval officer with whom she had a daughter, Grace, though he exited her life just before Grace’s birth.

To support herself, Boyd published her memoir, *Belle Boyd, in Camp and Prison* (1865), which exaggerated her exploits but sold well. She also became an actress, but gave it up in 1869, after marrying John Swainston Hammond, another former Union officer. They had four children (three that lived past infancy), but divorced in 1884. Months later, she married actor Nathaniel High, 17 years her junior. She returned to acting in 1886 to reenact her Civil War life. She died on stage in Wisconsin, on June 11, 1900 at age 56. Her childhood home is now a museum.

Rose O'Neal Greenhow

1813/1814 - 1864

by American Battlefield Trusts

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/rose-oneal-greenhow>



Rose O'Neal Greenhow was born into obscurity, but became one of the most powerful women in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately for the Federal government, she was a "Southern woman" and a Confederate spy.

Between 1813 and 1814, Rose was born on a small farm in rural Montgomery County, Maryland. Instead of her birthname "Maria Rosetta," she went by the name "Rose" and continued to do so for the rest of her life. At the age of thirteen or fourteen, she moved to Washington, D.C. Once there, Rose became fascinated with the Washington socialite scene and attempted to gain acceptance by the well-to-do Washingtonians. Even though she was mocked for her low birth, she eventually caught the eye of Dr. Robert Greenhow, a federal librarian and translator with medical and law degrees. The couple married on May 26, 1835 and, with her new husband, Rose gained acceptance into high society and socialized with famous Washingtonians, like First Lady Dolley Madison.

Robert, who was working for the Federal government, was transferred to the West Coast in 1850. Rose followed with the couple's three children. However, after several years Rose returned to Washington, D.C. to give birth to her fourth child. Robert was supposed to follow within the year, but fell from an elevated sidewalk in California and succumbed to internal injuries on March 27, 1854.

Now widowed and fueled with a pension from the Federal government, she bought a house four blocks north of the White House and resumed her socialite occupation. She maintained political alliance with Southern Democrats and Northern Republicans and her influence was used to help James Buchanan get elected president in 1856.

However, she prided herself on being a "Southern Woman" and when the Civil War broke out, she aligned herself with the Confederacy. In Spring 1861, she became a Confederate Spy. Through Henry Wilson, a chairperson on the Senate Military Affairs Committee, Rose heard that the Union Army was consolidating their forces and planned to advance on Manassas, Virginia. Rose drafted Bettie Duvall, a young Confederate-minded woman, to help her warn the Confederate troops. Rose wrote a cipher and hid the note in Duvall's hair. Duvall then snuck out of Washington dressed as a lowly farmer woman and made her way to Confederate-occupied Fairfax Court House, Virginia. While first wary, the Confederate commanders eventually allowed her an audience. To the officer's amazement, she unraveled her hair to reveal and revealed the secret message. With this information, the Confederate Army was able to consolidate their forces and prepare for the Federal attack. This engagement, which became known as the First Battle of Manassas, was a Confederate victory.

Greenhow's spy network spanned several states and included 48 women and two men. These conspirators included her dentist, Aaron Van Camp, and the prominent D.C. banker William Smithson. The network used a sophisticated cipher to code and decode messages. She sent at least eight ciphers to General P. G. T. Beauregard regarding Union fortifications around Washington, D.C. Beauregard hoped to attack, and then capture, the Northern capital city. However, his plan was eventually labelled impractical and he was transferred to Tennessee when he started conflicts with other Confederate officers. Rose continued her espionage work for other Confederates in the area.

Rose, while brilliant at collecting information, was careless about storing information. She kept copies of messages sent to Beauregard in coded and decoded form, maps of the Union fortifications, and other incriminating documentation in her home. She eventually caught the attention of Thomas A. Scott, an assistant secretary of war, after he received an anonymous tip that Rose was a Confederate spy. Scott assigned Allan Pinkerton, head of the recently formed Union Intelligence Service and the founder of America's first detective agency in Chicago, to monitor Rose.

On August 22, 1861, Pinkerton cased Greenhow's house and noticed a young Union officer entering. Standing on the shoulders of a fellow officer, he spied into the front parlor and noticed the officer and Greenhow speaking in hushed tones and looking over a map of Union fortifications. Pinkerton waited until the officer left the residence and tried to flag him down. When the officer ran, Pinkerton followed. Unfortunately, the officer ran to the provost-marshal station and had Union soldiers arrest Pinkerton. He was thrown into a holding cell in a nearby guardhouse. By bribing a guard, Pinkerton was able to send a message to Scott about what he just witnessed. Scott summoned Pinkerton to the War Department and, after confirming his story, arrested the officer immediately.



Rose O'Neal Greenhow with her daughter "Little" Rose at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC, 1862

The War Department then went after Rose. As she was returning from a walk the next day, Rose was approached by Union soldiers and arrested. The soldiers then searched her house. The map of Union fortifications that the officers showed her yesterday was found with other incriminating materials and Rose was placed under house arrest with her youngest daughter "Little" Rose. Other raids of Confederate-sympathizers and spies were conducted in DC in the following weeks and suspected spies, like Rose's friend Eugenia Phillips, were imprisoned in Rose's home. The house became known as "Fort Greenhow."

Rose's espionage did not stop. When Phillips was able to convince her husband's friend, and Federal Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton to allow her to return to the South, she worked with Rose to slip information to the Confederacy. In addition, Rose was able to communicate with members of her network via different colored handkerchiefs that she waved through the window and notes that were smuggled in and out of her house. She was able to sneak out a letter from her house to Secretary of State William Seward demanding she be released, which was also sent to the Confederacy and printed in a Richmond newspaper. Upset that she continued to pass information to the Confederacy, the War Department moved her to the Old Capitol Prison with her daughter on January 18, 1862. This change in scenery did not stop Rose from being a nuisance and was able to smuggle in a Confederate flag to her prison cell and wave it from the prison window.

Fearing that she could expose governmental secrets or make a mockery of government officials, Rose was not tried. She was released on May 31, 1862 and told not to leave Confederate borders. Hailed as a hero by the South, she was cared for by Richmond socialites and met Jefferson Davis. That summer she went against Federal orders and embarked on a diplomatic mission to France and Britain to garner support and funds. While there, she became engaged to Granville Leveson-Gower, 2nd Earl of Granville, and wrote her memoir *My Imprisonment and the First Year of Abolition Rule at Washington*.

Carrying two thousand dollars' worth of gold for the Confederacy, she headed back to America on August 19, 1864 aboard the *Condor*, a British blockade runner. On October 1st, as the *Condor* reached the mouth of Cape Fear River near Wilmington, North Carolina the captain thought he spotted Union ships. Attempting to escape the ships, the *Condor* became grounded. Greenhow and two other Confederate agents, worried about being captured, requested a rowboat from the captain and started paddling toward the shore. The rowboat capsized. Weighted down by the gold, Rose drowned. Her body was found several days later and was buried with full military honors by the Confederacy. After her death, she became a revered symbol for the Confederate Cause and left a legacy of Confederate espionage.



Antonia Ford, Confederate Spy

1838-1871

by History of American Women Blog

<https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2006/12/antonia-ford.html>

Antonia Ford was a Confederate spy credited with providing the military information during the First Battle of Manassas (1861), and during the two years following. In 1863 Ford was accused of spying for John Singleton Mosby after his partisan rangers captured Union general Edwin Stoughton in his headquarters. Mosby denied that Ford ever spied for him, but she was arrested and incarcerated at Old Capitol Prison.

Antonia Ford was born in Fairfax, Virginia, in 1838, daughter of prominent merchant and secessionist, Edward R. Ford. Antonia was living a life of quiet comfort when the Civil War began. She was 23 years old and unmarried. Their home was located across the road from the Fairfax Court House.

Antonia's brother Charles served as a lieutenant in General J.E.B. Stuart's Horse Artillery, before losing his life at the Battle of Brandy Station. The family was good friends with General Stuart and his scout, Colonel John Singleton Mosby. In the early part of the War, Stuart's cavalry were in the vicinity of Fairfax, and he visited the Ford family frequently.

When the Army of the Potomac moved out of Washington, DC, in June 1861 on its way to what would become the First Battle of Bull Run, its path led through Fairfax. After a skirmish, Southern forces evacuated the town, and the Union troops occupied it. The Ford home became a boarding house for Union officers.

Antonia, whom contemporaries described as beautiful and refined, obtained valuable information from Union officers who were staying in her home. She listened to conversations and reported what she heard to Stuart's troops located near Fairfax Court House.

By the fall of 1861, Ford's patriotism and loyalty had endeared her to J.E.B. Stuart, already a well-respected general in the Confederate cavalry because of his courageous performance in leading a crucial charge on the federal forces at First Bull Run.

On October 7, 1861, Stuart commissioned Antonia as an honorary member of his staff. She hid the citation under her mattress. "She will," Stuart wrote, "be obeyed, respected and admired by all the lovers of a noble nature."

One Confederate soldier who witnessed Stuart's presentation of the commission to Ford later insisted that the document bore the impression of the General's signet ring. Still, he noted that General Stuart's intentions were more lighthearted than serious, and the document was presented to Antonia with only "mock formality."

In August 1862, just before the Second Battle of Bull Run, Antonia rode 20 miles by carriage in the rain in order to warn Stuart about a Union plan to use the Confederate colors to draw the soldiers away from their assigned positions.

In December 1862, when Union General Edwin Stoughton set up headquarters at Fairfax, Antonia relayed information about the Federals' movements to Stuart and Mosby. In the early months of 1863, to fortify the federal capital, Union authorities sent more troops to Fairfax, still under the command of Stoughton.

Mosby, a talented Confederate cavalryman, harassed the enemy in his usual style, with raids and assaults on their camps. General Ulysses S. Grant would later order him hanged without trial if captured, but they never caught him.

Antonia seems to have cultivated a friendly relationship with General Stoughton. They went riding through the countryside together so often that their relationship became the source of gossip and concern among the general's own troops.

On March 8, 1863, General Stoughton hosted a party for his mother and sister, who had come down from Vermont to visit him. The party was held at the Ford residence, where the two women were staying. It was a rainy and windy night, but the soiree was a great success. By 1 a.m. the last carriage of guests departed, and everyone went to bed.

A little after 2 a.m. Colonel John S. Mosby and two dozen raiders slipped into Fairfax. Sgt. James "Big Yankee" Ames had defected from the 5th New York Cavalry to serve with Mosby. He was very knowledgeable about the Union encampments the area and served as their guide.

They were wearing Federal issue gum ponchos to protect them from the rain, and they managed to pass through the drowsy pickets unchallenged. An advanced guard had captured the only sentry on duty and the telegrapher.

Mosby and five men went to the residence of Dr. William Gunnell, a few hundred yards north of the courthouse, where General Stoughton's headquarters was located. They banged on the front door, announcing loudly that they had an important dispatch for the General.

One of the general's staff answered the door and was greeted by Mosby and a Colt revolver. Under gunpoint, the soldier led the Rebels to Stoughton's bedroom. The general was sleeping soundly after the evening's festivities, and there were champagne bottles on the bedside table.

Mosby pulled the covers off Stoughton. The groggy general demanded to know what was going on. In one of his audacious bluffs, Mosby told Stoughton that the Confederate cavalry under General Stuart had surrounded the courthouse.

Stoughton had been a West Point classmate of Fitzhugh Lee, nephew of General Robert E. Lee, and he asked to be brought to his old friend, and Mosby agreed. But Lee was with Stuart's cavalry miles away in Culpeper.

They set out at 3:30 am, just in time to get through the federal lines before daybreak. A few of the prisoners managed to escape along the way, but Mosby had pulled off a spectacular feat, capturing a brigadier general, two captains, 30 prisoners and 58 horses without one shot being fired!

At Culpeper, Mosby handed Stoughton over to his classmate, Brigadier General Fitzhugh Lee, who was rude to Mosby and apologized to Stoughton. "He was very polite to his old classmate," Mosby wrote in his memoirs, "but he treated me with indifference, did not ask me to take a seat by the fire, nor seem to be impressed by what I had done."

The reaction of the Union Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was intense. He instructed Lafayette Baker, the head of the United States Secret Service, to conduct an investigation of the circumstances and to arrest those responsible.

The Federals did not know about the deserter in Mosby's command, and their attention quickly focused on prominent local secessionists. Edward Ford and several other citizens were arrested on March 9, but he was soon released. Suspicion then fell on his daughter, Antonia.

Lafayette Baker was convinced that a spy was working in the area. "The time, circumstances, and mode of this attack and surprise," he reported, "the positive and accurate knowledge in possession of the rebel leader, of the numbers and position of our forces, of the exact localities of officers' quarters, and depots of Government property, all pointed unmistakably to the existence of traitors and spies within our lines, and their recent communication with Confederate officers."

Acting on his suspicions, Baker sent a female agent, Frankie Abel, to the Ford home. Abel posed as a refugee from Union-occupied New Orleans. She went dressed in faded calico and looked as poor as a church mouse. The Fords took her in, gave her stylish clothes to wear, and a place to stay.

Abel befriended Antonia, who made the mistake of showing her the commendation she had received from General Stuart. That document, to Lafayette Baker, was sufficient proof of her treasonable activities, though Mosby and Stuart vehemently denied that Antonia had played any part in the general's kidnapping.

After Abel left the Ford home, Baker immediately ordered Ford's arrest and transfer to Washington DC, about fifteen miles to the northeast. On March 16, she was searched and found in possession of contraband correspondence and a handful of Confederate money. Baker took those items from her and ordered her into confinement in the Old Capitol Prison, a dingy damp place resembling a medieval dungeon.

Word of Antonia's arrest spread quickly. The New York Times condemned her without a trial. "Miss Ford of Fairfax," one article said, "was unquestionably the local spy and actual guide of Captain Mosby in his late swoop upon that village."

Union Major Joseph Willard had been a provost marshal at Fairfax, and had fallen in love with Antonia while he was there. He had himself transferred to duty in Washington, and worked diligently for her release from prison.

Antonia's health, already frail, was failing from the poor diet and exposure she received in prison. After seven months, Joseph finally persuaded her to sign a loyalty oath to the Union and arranged for her release. He proposed and they were married on March 10, 1864, almost exactly a year after General Stoughton's kidnapping.

Joseph resigned his Army commission, and the couple settled in Washington, DC, where his family owned the famous Willard Hotel. Antonia gave birth to three children, two of whom died in infancy, and she never fully recovered her health.

At the age of 33, after only seven years of marriage, Antonia Ford Willard passed away in 1871 and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, DC. Many were convinced that her untimely death was a direct result of her confinement in the Old Capitol Prison.

Joseph never remarried and died a recluse in 1897.

What sad endings to such promising lives.



Designer Sidelines....

As some can notice, there are a few changes since the last issue. I changed the paper looks to make it look more vintage and to give more honor to those we are honoring in our newsletter. Plus it's not a bright white background, so it won't blind anyone while reading too long. Backgrounds may change from time to time depending on what the articles are all about or if there is a holiday in the air. Kevin wants to have a theme when comes to each issue so that it is cohesive when reading it. For example, the issue is The Women of Confederate History; however, most would never think of the women that risked their lives as spies, doctors, or officers in the Confederacy. My husband and I do sit around trying to come up with new and interesting things that we think this Division would like to know more about. Our youngest daughter, Stephanie, was the one that actually came up with the idea for this issue, so we Thank her for the brilliant idea of thinking about the women in our history that don't always get remembered as time passes.

Amanda Easterling

Designer



Editor's Page

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Please send submissions of 1-2 page articles with pictures and camp updates by end of each month. The newsletter will be sent out 4 times a year in the Spring (March), Summer (June), Fall (September), and Winter (December).

This is because we have not been getting very many sending in articles or camp updates, so no need to send out monthly updates. We thought long and hard about this decision and this was the best for everyone, so they can have plenty of time to get articles together and send in what they would like to put in the newsletter regarding their camps. Kevin's wife, Amanda, does have a background in doing this type of design and layouts, so she has been entrusted to help with the newsletter to give us the best layout.

Historically the news for the nations was edited by Elias C. Boudinot who was related to Brig. Gen Stand Watie. During the war, the nations used the Indian Nations Dispatch as a way to keep communication between the main tribes in the east and the refugees in Texas and the Choctaw-Chickasaw lands. During the War, these lands were the Indian Territory. The Enabling Act created the Twin Territories, we as a Division are the Oklahoma Division but our unique history is the civilized and Plains tribes and the other tribal nations that allied with us.

Kevin W. Easterling

Editor and Oklahoma Division Lt. Commander



Lieutenant General Wade Hampton, October 29, 1873 --

“As it was the duty of every man to devote himself to the service of his country in that great struggle which has just ended so disastrously, not only to the South, but to the cause of constitutional government under republican institutions in the New World; so, now, when that country is prostrate in the dust, weeping for her dead who died in vain to save her liberties, every patriotic impulse should urge her surviving children to **vindicate** the great principles for which she fought, to justify the motives that actuated her, to explain to the world the ever-living truths she sought to maintain, to show the unexampled triumphs of her heroic armies, and to place on the eternal record an appeal from the distorted and vindictive judgment of her enemies, to the impartial tribunal of history, and to that dread Judge on high who alone can condemn or acquit. These are the imperative duties imposed on us of the South; and the chief peril of the times is that, in our daily struggle with adverse fortune, in our despair at the evil that has fallen on us, we forget those obligations to the eternal principles for which we fought; to the martyred dead, who gave up their lives for their principles; to the living, who strove in vain to maintain them; and to our children, who should be taught to cling to them with unswerving fidelity.”

