

SOUTHERN CONSTELLATION



December, 2011

Message from the Commander

Commander Don Saunders

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"You are invited to...." How many times have you been invited to join a church, club, or group? How many times have you invited someone to join you in attending a church, club, or group? National SCV Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens has issued a call to increase the SCV membership. Every SCV member has been asked to recruit one new member. One way to do this is to invite friends and family to our (Sloan Camp) meetings. Send them email (or snail mail) a copy of our newsletter, Southern Constellation, and a SCV membership application. Give them a phone call to remind them of the meeting (it's always the third Tuesday of the month at Capt. Bill's) and to let them know who the speaker is, and what the program topic is. You can offer to give them a ride to our meeting. You can also introduce them to camp members and make them feel welcome. People are not walking in off the street begging to join the SCV or the Sloan Camp. We have to actively recruit new members.

- Thanks to former Commander Michael Briggs for sharing the history of the Sloan Camp at our November meeting. Camp member Dennis Barbour will present a program on General Lee at our December meeting. There will also be a brief business meeting.
- Eighty-four cans of vegetables were delivered to Vandalia Presbyterian Church Food Pantry in November. Thanks to all Sloan Camp members who assisted with this project. A total of 255 cans of food were collected September through November.
- Sloan Camp members are encouraged to support: (1) the Reidsville Historical Preservation Action Committee. Donations for Confederate Monument restoration may be sent to HPAC, PO Box 684, Reidsville, NC 27323. (2) Virginia Division SCV and Lexington, VA Camp #1296 in its efforts to fly the flag January 12-13, 2012. More information can be found at <http://www.leejacksonday.webs.com/>.
- Give a SCV membership a friend or family member for Christmas. It's an investment in our future.
- Camp members Billy Horne, Charlie Long and Jeff Frank participated in the Jamestown Christmas parade held on Sunday, December 4th. The 21st, 26th, 27th and 28th North Carolina Troops (re-activated) were represented.

"Do your duty in all things.
You cannot do more.
You should never wish
to do less."

- General Robert E. Lee

The Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain David Long

"Carols at Christmas"

The singing of Christmas Carols has always been an important part of the traditions of Christmas. It may be that we believe that at the birth of Christ the Angels sang. Read Luke 2:13. The word is "saying" not singing! Nevertheless, the singing of carols is an important ingredient in the observance of Christmas. One of my favorite carols was written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It is not well known and not found in most hymn books but it fits in with the history of the War Between the States. I came to know and appreciate the poetry of Longfellow when a student at Colonial Drive School in Thomasville. In the eighth grade Mrs. Stronach had us memorize many of Longfellow's poems.

Longfellow wore a beard. He wore the beard to hide the scars on his face which were caused by a fire. The fire began while his wife was melting wax to make candles. Her dress caught on fire and he attempted to extinguish the fire. His wife died and he was badly burned on his arms and face. The Christmas after her death, Longfellow wrote, "How inexpressibly sad are all the holidays. Perhaps someday God will give me peace." Longfellow's journal entry for December 25, 1862, reads: "A merry Christmas say the children, but there is no more for me."

Almost a year later, Longfellow received word that his oldest son Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been severely wounded with a bullet passing under his shoulder blades, injuring his spine. On Christmas Day of 1864, Longfellow regained his strength and faith in God and was inspired to write the poem, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day".

The original poem had seven stanzas and the last two are omitted from the carol. The carol ends with these words;

And in despair I bowed my head;
 "There is no peace on earth", I said;
 "For hate is strong,
 and mocks the song
 Of peace on earth, good - will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
 "God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
 The Wrong shall fail,
 The Right prevail,
 With peace on earth , good will to men!"

A school of the laity in Savannah Presbytery was studying the Book of the Revelation. The class was asked by the teacher to sum up what they had learned. One student wrote, "In the end, Jesus wins!". I like that! Jesus' name was Immanuel, "God with us". Not God over us, nor God under us, but God with us. This life is not all that we have. Sometimes the going gets rough. There will be things that happen to us which we do not understand. Remember this, "In the end, Jesus wins!" And He will make us "winners" also.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height , nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38,39

Charge to The Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength 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 principals he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General
 United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906

Civil War Trust

The Civil War Trust is a national, top rated, nonprofit organization working to save Civil War Battlefields. To date, the organization has helped to save over 30,000 acres in 20 states. Go to <http://www.civilwar.org> for more information.



Current campaigns...

- Shiloh at Fallen Timbers (TN), 267 acres
- Gaines' Mill - Longstreet's Assault (VA), 285 acres
- Parker's Cross Roads (TN), 52 acres
- Perryville (KY), 141 acres
- Second Manassas (VA), 44 acres
- Bentonville (NC), 455 acres
- Fredericksburg (VA), Slaughter Pen Farm

We-Care

The Sons of Confederate Veterans have partnered with an organization called We-Care, which allows a percentage of money spent on purchases at hundreds of stores to be donated to the SCV, at no cost to you. To take advantage of this service, simply go to <http://scv.we-care.com/> and select the participating merchant from the list. You can also install the We-Care Reminder, available at <http://scv.we-care.com/Downloads/Reminder>, which will eliminate the need to access the merchant through the previous web page.



Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet

The Colonel John Sloan Camp #1290 is presenting the Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet on Tuesday, January 17th.

Reception at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM

The Painted Plate
2001 N. Church St.
Greensboro, NC

Speaker: Mark Simpson, Commander South Carolina SCV

\$20 for SCV, OCR or UDC Members and Spouse, \$25 for additional guests

Please Complete and Return by January 10, 2012

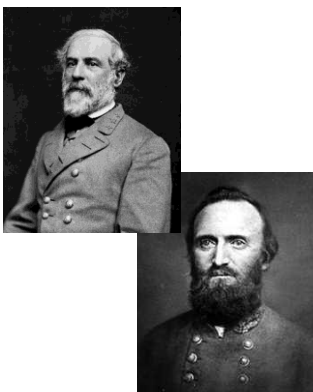
Member or Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

Total Number of Members/Guests: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

For questions, call Don Saunders at (336)299-2996



Calendar of Events

341st Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp)

Tuesday, December 20th, at 6:00 PM
 Capt. Bill's Seafood
 6108 West Market St.
 Greensboro, NC 27409
 (336) 852-5162

Speaker: Dennis Barbour
 Subject: "General Lee"

Lee-Jackson Day

Friday-Saturday, January 13th-14th
 Lexington, Virginia

Flag Vigil/Protest sponsored by the National SCV Heritage Defense Committee

Lee-Jackson Symposium
 Friday, January 13th

Wreath Laying/Military Salute (10:00 AM), Lee-Jackson Parade (11:00 AM),
 Memorial Service in Lee Chapel (12:00 PM), Lee-Jackson Luncheon (1:30 PM),
 Lee-Jackson Day Ball (7:00 - 11:00 PM)
 Saturday, January 14th

Go to <http://www.leejacksonday.webs.com> for more information.

Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet (Col. John Sloan Camp)

Tuesday, January 17th
 Reception at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM
 The Painted Plate
 2001 N. Church St.
 Greensboro, NC

Speaker: Mark Simpson, Commander South Carolina SCV

DECEMBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Camp Staff

Don Saunders - Commander
 Josh Myers - Lt. Commander
 Sammy Scott - 2nd Lt. Commander
 Thad Tucker - Treasurer
 Mike Myers - Adjutant
 David Long - Chaplain
 John Pugh - Color Sergeant
 Rahlo Fowler - Chief of Staff
 Jeff Frank – Newsletter

Mailing Address

Colonel John Sloan Camp #1290
 P.O. Box 4895
 Greensboro, NC 27404
