

SOUTHERN CONSTELLATION



August, 2014

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the Commander
- 1 Membership Renewal
- 1 The Charge
- 2 The Chaplain's Corner
- 2 In case you missed it...
- 3 Flag Vigil and Rally -
Lexington, VA
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 4 119th National Convention
Election Results

Message from the Commander

Commander James Siske

By now all of you should have received your SCV membership renewal statement in the mail. Please be sure to send this statement in with your payment as soon as possible to allow timely updating of the camp roster for the new fiscal year. Thank you for your attention on this matter. If you have not received a renewal statement, please inform the Adjutant or Commander. Rex Hovey will be returning as this month's speaker, and the program will be "Maj. Bleeker Hovey: The surgeon who attended Gen. Armistead". Hope to see all of you there.

Membership Renewal

As the Commander mentioned, renewal statements have been sent out. The typical breakdown of dues is detailed below, where those with Life Memberships would be less.

Col. John Sloan Camp #1290	\$8.00
North Carolina Division	\$7.00
National	<u>\$30.00</u>
	\$45.00

Please consider including a tax deductible contribution to one or more of the funds included on the form as well. With attacks on our heritage on the rise, donations to the N. C. Division Heritage Defense Fund will be crucial in protecting our rights. While the Tar Heel Monument Fund (to complete additions and improvements for the Gen. Joseph E. Johnston statue), the various conservation funds and Sam Davis Youth Camp are all worthy of your consideration.

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

The Enemy on the New Market Road.

Richmond, August 16.—The Yankees are unusually demonstrative on the New Market Road below the city to-day. It is reported that they are attempting a flank movement which will probably lead to active operations in that quarter.

— The Greensborough Patriot,
August 16th, 1864

The Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain David A. Long, III

"The Bonnie Blue Flag"

I had promised that I would go to Lexington, Virginia the next time that I was able to go – and so I went! There were six of us who went and I am so glad that I did! I saw men and women from all of the South – from Georgia and Florida, from Tennessee and Kentucky, one was even there from Missouri. And we all had this in common – to protest the removal of Confederate flags from the memorial at Lee Chapel by Washington and Lee University.

North Carolina was slow to recognize a "State" flag. Many states had built their flag around their coat of arms on a suitably colored field. When the War of Northern Aggression broke out many states were without a suitable battle flag. Hence, the use of the Bonnie Blue Flag. The states of Texas, Alabama, and Florida all used the "Bonnie Blue Flag" as their battle flag. It was during the constitutional convention of 1861, which passed the ordinance of secession, adopted what is termed a state flag. On May 20, 1861, the day the secession resolution was adopted, Col. John D. Whitford, a member of the convention from Craven County, introduced the following ordinance, which was referred to a select committee of seven.

"Be it ordained, That the flag of this State shall be a blue field with a white V thereon, and a star, encircling which shall be the words "Sirgit astrum", May 20th , 1775."

Colonel Whitford was made chairman of the committee to which this ordinance was referred. This committee secured the aid and the advice of William Jarl Browne, an artist of Raleigh. It was he who suggested the flag that we now have. This state flag, adopted in 1861, is said to have been issued to North Carolina regiments of state troops during the summer of that year and was borne by them throughout the war, being the only flag, except the National and Confederate colors, used by the North Carolina troops during the Un-civil War. This flag existed until 1885, when the legislature adopted a new model.

Although the Chairman of the Committee, Col. Whitford, was my Great-Great Grandfather, I had never seen the flag until I attended my first SCV meeting and saw the flag which John Pugh un-furled.

I had always wondered about the Latin inscription, "Sirgit astrum" which was proposed on our first flag. As best I could determine, the inscription means, "A new star is created".

We can now see that there was a movement – all over the South – to make from that which was, a new and better land. That is why most of the flags have one star on them. The "Bonnie Blue" flag has one star and as much as they want to believe it , the star is not for Texas, Florida, or Alabama. The star represents a new nation . We had a child in Boone whose parents were John and Ruth Blue. They named their first born "Bonnie", which is a Scottish word for "beautiful". She was known by the name given to her by the family who owned the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad – the Blues.

My Grandfather would be proud of me. I had his flag, unfurled, before the speakers stand. North Carolina was well-represented!

In case you missed it...

If you were not able to attend last month's meeting, here is what you missed.

- Lt. Commander Carl Singley, past Commander Don Saunders and Tim Saunders plan to attend the 119th National Reunion in North Charleston, SC, on July 16th-19th.
- Don Saunders proposed the camp support a proposed amendment modifying Stephen Dill Lee's Charge and oppose an amendment that would change the basis for votes at the National Reunion. Both motions were passed by the camp.
- A proposal for the camp to provide \$200.00 per person attending the National Convention, to help offset the travel expenses, passed. Some concern was expressed regarding setting a precedent with these funds. This concern was addressed by deciding on a yearly basis what amount, if any, would be provided and would consider the number of attendees.
- Several members discussed attending the rally planned in Lexington, VA, in response to the Washington and Lee University actions.
- John Plybon saw the recently released movie, "America: Imagine the World Without Her", a documentary by Dinesh D'Souza, and highly recommended it!
- Lt. Commander Carl Singley discussed "Spies in the Confederacy". Suggested reading: "Rebel Gold: One Man's Quest to Crack the Code Behind the Secret Treasure of the Confederacy", by Warren Getler and Bob Brewer.

Flag Vigil and Rally - Lexington, VA

On Saturday, July 26th, a Flag Vigil and Rally was held in Lexington, VA, in response to the removal of Confederate flags from the General Robert E. Lee memorial in Lee Chapel by Washington and Lee University.

The North Carolina division was well represented, with six members of the Col. John Sloan camp attending.



Chaplain David Long, Jeff Frank, John Pugh, Kenneth Chilton, Michael Moore and past commander Don Saunders.

The university abruptly announced that the Lee Chapel and Museum would be closed over the weekend of the rally.

"We regret to announce that Lee Chapel and Museum will be **closed starting at 3:00pm on Friday, July 25 and remain closed on both Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27**. This unscheduled closing is based on concerns for the safety of the facility and its staff on the day that the Sons of Confederate Veterans have scheduled a rally in Lexington. We must take this unfortunate precaution because of the inflammatory and threatening letters, emails and phone calls the University has received in response to the removal of reproduction battle flags from the statue chamber in Lee Chapel and the decision to bring authentic battle flags to the Lee Chapel Museum. We apologize for this inconvenience."

The wording in the announcement implied they saw the Sons of Confederate Veterans as a threat, which could not be further from the truth. I can think of no group that has greater respect and admiration for General Lee than our organization, who's members would selflessly defend the Lee Chapel and Museum from any harm.

While the W&L Communications Director Brian Eckert responded, "No one suspects that the Sons of Confederate Veterans plans anything bad. But given the inflammatory and threatening communications we have received, we — like the Sons of Confederate Veterans — want the chapel and museum safeguarded."



Flaggers at the entrance of Washington and Lee University.



Incoming SCV Chief-of-Heritage-Operations Ben Jones addressing the crowd. Ben Jones is known for his role as "Cooter" in the TV series "Dukes of Hazard" and also served two terms as a Congressman from Georgia.

Calendar of Events

373rd Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, August 19th

6:00 PM for Meal, Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Capt. Bill's Seafood

6108 West Market St.

Greensboro, NC 27409

Speaker: Rex Hovey's program will be "Maj. Bleeker Hovey: The surgeon who attended Gen. Armistead".

Summer Division Executive Council Meeting

Saturday, September 6th

Host Camp: Major Charles Q Petty Camp #872, Gastonia, NC

Registration: \$20 dollar preregistration, must be received by September 1st. \$25 at the door. Make checks payable to The Major Charles Q Petty Camp 872. Send to Bill Starnes PO Box 117, Mount Holly NC 28120. Make sure to include your camp name and the number attending.

Meeting: Registration starts at 9:00 and the meeting at 10:00am.

Moose Lodge

122 Robert Russell Road

Belmont, NC 28012

374th Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, September 16th

6:00 PM for Meal, Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Capt. Bill's Seafood

6108 West Market St.

Greensboro, NC 27409

Speaker: TBD

119th National Convention Election Results

- Kelly Barrow is our new Commander-in-Chief.
- Tom Strain was elected Lt. Cmdr-in-Chief.
- Randy Burbage was elected ANV Commander.
- Ronnie Roach was elected ANV Councilman.
- Doug Nash is the new National Adjutant-in-Chief.
- Byron Brady is the Deputy Heritage Defense Coordinator.
- The award for the best web site in the confederation went to our NC Division, Craig Pippen, interim webmaster.

AUGUST 2014						
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SEPTEMBER 2014						
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Camp Staff

James Siske - Commander

Phone: (336) 674-2145

Carl Singley - Lt. Commander

Sam Scott - 2nd Lt. Commander

Thad Tucker - Treasurer

Mike Myers - Adjutant

David Long - Chaplain

John Pugh - Color Sergeant

Rahlo Fowler - Chief of Staff

Jeff Frank – Editor

Mailing Address

Colonel John Sloan Camp #1290

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