

SOUTHERN CONSTELLATION



September, 2015

Message from the Commander

Commander Jeff Frank

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This Month's Program

The CSS Neuse,
given by Matt Young.



Bring canned food or other non-perishables (rice, etc...), which will be donated to a local charity.

Membership renewal statements have been sent and hopefully have been received by everyone by now. If you have NOT received yours, please inform myself, Adjutant Roy Smith, or Lt. Commander Don Saunders. The statements were received approximately a month later than normal, so we will need to follow-up as soon as possible on any recordkeeping issues. You can save the cost of a stamp and bring your renewal to the next meeting (checks made payable to; Col. John Sloan Camp #1290). The dues are paid to the local camp and the camp adjutant in turn forwards the applicable dues to the NC Division and National Headquarters.

Current yearly dues are...

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

A lifetime membership at any level will of course reduce the amount due. Information regarding several opportunities to contribute to NC Division projects are also identified on the statement (donations are tax deductible).

Since it is time for our annual membership renewals, I thought it would be a good time to provide an overview of the timelines associated with the process. When joining the camp, I didn't know (or care) about these processes, I just wanted to know who to turn my paperwork into and how to make out the check, but here it is if you're interested.

- The yearly membership period is based on the fiscal year of August 1st - July 31st.
- There is a 3 month grace period from August 1st through October 31st (1st qtr) when members are still current while the camps work to collect the annual dues for the next fiscal year.
- Dues paid in November, December or January (2nd qtr) incur a \$5 late fee in addition to the normal dues.
- When paying dues in the 3rd or 4th quarters, an option to pay a prorated rate for the current fiscal year is available, but only when the dues for the next fiscal year are included (the \$5 late fee still applies).

A Life Membership is now an option at our camp level. The current dues for this membership level is \$125. A Life Membership Certificate (currently being designed) will be presented to members at our annual Lee-Jackson Banquet.

With the recent rash of vandalism of our monuments and desecration of graves taking place, our staff has been checking on the status of the various local monuments fairly routinely. While our ability to prevent these attacks may be limited, an effort is being made to monitor these locally. I want to thank Adjutant Roy Smith and Lt. Commander Don Saunders for their efforts in this on-going task.

Camp members participating in various events this past month.

- David Moore attended the Old Soldiers parade in Newton, NC, on August 20th.
- Kenneth Chilton and Michael Moore participated in the Heritage Ride, on August 22nd.

You will notice an article penned by one of our newest members, Drew Tucker, included in this month's newsletter. I would like to thank him for his contribution and remind everyone that members are welcomed, and encouraged, to submit content for the newsletter and/or web site.

(Editorial Note: Content inclusion is at the discretion of the editor. The content of any article should be relevant to the mission of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Also, content may not be immediately published due to the availability of space in the current newsletter issue, in which case it will be published in a later issue.)

On to Kinston!

The Sloan Camp will have a field trip to the CSS Neuse in Kinston, NC, on Saturday, September 19th.

- We will meet at GTCC on East Wendover at 8:00 AM.
- Arrive at Wilbur's BBQ about 11:30 AM.
- Tour the CSS Neuse Museum 12:30 PM.
- Tour the replica of the CSS Neuse.
- Possibly tour local battlefield sites.
- Return home in time for supper.

Cost \$2-\$4 admission, plus a little gas money.

Please let me know if you plan to go.

Don Saunders 299-2996

The Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain David A. Long, III

"Raphael Semmes, Midshipman Of The Navy"

Several years ago I happened to be in Geneva, Switzerland. As I passed by one building on my way to John Calvin's church, I saw a plaque with but one word on it, "Alabama". I wondered about that word which I thought to be an "Indian Word" from which the state of Alabama is named. But, I went on to the church. I wish now that I had not! Let me close with this part of my story.

Raphael Semmes (1809-1877), naval officer, Confederate Army officer, and lawyer who was born in Charles County, Maryland on September 27, 1809. Semmes was appointed a midshipman in the navy in 1826. He saw occasional sea duty in the next dozen years, but also found enough free time to study law and be admitted to the bar. He was given the rank of lieutenant in 1837 and spent the next nine years on routine tours of duty. Then, during the Mexican War, he participated in the landing of U.S. troops at Veracruz and joined Winfield Scott's forces as they marched inland to Mexico City. Until the start of the Civil War, Semmes spent most of his time awaiting orders his home near Mobile, Alabama, and practicing law. He was raised to the rank of commander in 1855 but resigned his commission early in 1861 when Alabama seceded from the Union. He was given a commander's commission by the Confederacy and placed in command of the Sumter to harass Union shipping. The Sumter fell into disrepair and he abandoned her. Four months later he was given command of a British built ship, the Alabama in which he resumed his attacks on Union vessels in the Atlantic from Canada to Brazil. In 1863 he took the ship around the world in his quest. In all he captured and destroyed 64 ships. In 1864, he met the Union Warship "Kearsarge" in the English Channel. He was rescued by the British and was appointed an officer in the Confederate Army.

In 1872, a court, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, awarded the United States government 15.5 million in damages by a joint U.S.-British tribunal. The court met in the building on which I had seen the plaque, "Alabama".

"Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; "

Isaiah 46:8,9

In case you missed it...

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

- Another well attended meeting! Guests included...
 - Mitch Flinchum (Brigade Commander) and wife Terri
 - Ron Steel
 - Myra Moore
 - Frank Kime
 - Jimmy Murray
 - Dru Michaels
 - Gary and Carolyn Kepley
 - Scott Shipton's wife and son Austin
- Old Business
 - Camp By-Laws have been updated to reflect the amendment for a camp Lifetime Membership option.
- New Business
 - Brigade Commander Mitch Flitchum presented certificates for the National Superior Achievement Award to Billy Horne Jr. and Commander Jeff Frank.
- Announcements
 - Membership renewal statements have been mailed.
 - A Heritage Ride has been organized for this Saturday (August 22nd) by the Thomasville Rifles Camp
 - The Old Soldiers Parade in Newton this Thursday.
 - Jimmy Murray planning a web site to share Southern Heritage information which will be named, confederatelivesmatter.org.
 - Camp is planning a field trip to visit the CSS Neuse and battlefields in Kinston on Saturday, September 19th.
 - Camp food drive to continue through September.
- Kelly Hinson gave an excellent program as Mrs. Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Confederate spy. We plan to have her back next year as Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, which you will not want to miss! Weather related issues kept her from sharing that program with us earlier this year.



Brigade Commander Mitch Flinchum presenting Billy Horne Jr. with his National Superior Achievement Award



Mrs. Rose O'Neal Greenhow (Kelly Hinson) with Lt. Commander Don Saunders

At War

Lt. Commander Don Saunders

We are at war.

Not with al Qaeda or Isis. Our History and Heritage is under attack daily. Our Monuments in Reidsville, Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte, Albemarle, and Chapel Hill have been desecrated

Many of these Monuments have been standing for nearly one hundred years. Now, because of one racist nut-job in South Carolina, the cause for which our ancestors fought, freedom and independence, is being challenged.

Our flag is being portrayed as a symbol of slavery. Read and research the history of our flag-the symbolism of its colors and design. It was, and is, a Battle Flag. Our ancestors carrying the flag were fighting for home, family, state, and independence; not defending slavery.

Our history is being re-written. If you don't believe it, talk with your school- aged child or grandchild.

Ask them about Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, or Jefferson Davis. Many textbooks and historians call these Southerners, traitors.

As SCV member it is our Duty to see that the True History (of our Heritage) is told.

On Confederate Loyalty

Drew Tucker

I saw the title of Professor Gary Gallagher's new book, *Becoming Confederates: Paths to a New National Loyalty*, and thought "hmm, that's not QUITE right." For I would argue the loyalty of our ancestors did not waver at all. People often talk of Southerners, whether women at home, privates, or Generals, developing a "new loyalty" to the Confederate Cause. They wonder how they could have thrown aside love and devotion to the United States shown for so many decades before the war. I would submit that it was not a new loyalty shown in their act of defiance, but in fact loyalty to the same cause the southern people had been devoted to since the before days of the revolution. The southern people have always been dedicated to divided power in government, expressed in a republican form. The political culture of the South has always been fearful of massed, centralized government power. The reserved sovereignty of the states, and their right to defend their citizens from the oppression of an elite far away in Washington, was the South's chosen bulwark against tyranny.

This was woven into the fabric of the constitution of 1789. This framework passed ratification by a majority only by the insistence of southern Anti-Federalists that a bill of rights be included to protect the people of the several states from such federal overreach. The anti-federalists, based in the south and soon followed by Jefferson's Democratic-Republicans, fought the Hamiltonian Yankee obsession with centralizing power in our country since the beginning (the FEDERALIST party's power base was New England, which lived and died by the shipping industry, and later by manufactories as well). When it became apparent to the people of the south that the federal government (an agent created by the states for their aggrandizement, not to control them) cared no longer to abide by the limits placed upon its powers by the pact of union, the states acted in their sovereign character by forming conventions and voting to secede and form a new government. The final straw which broke the camel's back, leading to the secession of the mid-Atlantic southern states was the act of the President calling forth an army to tyrannize and conquer free men of his own country, by using arms to force them back into a government from which they had withdrawn their consent. This led states such as North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Arkansas to secede as soon as 2 weeks or a month after votes by the people rejecting secession. In short my friends, my argument is this: that the only loyalty expressed by the creation of the Confederate States of America was a dedication to the defense of LIBERTY—that a man should not have a gun held to his head and be forced to comply with the demands of men living hundreds or thousands of miles away. Once consent is withdrawn, power has no legitimate base. The people of the states of the south held love for the country they inherited from their revolutionary forefathers—but as Jefferson Davis speaks in his masterwork, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, they held fast not to the name and form of their government, but to the principles for which it was organized! Their loyalty to Constitutional Liberty never wavered, despite their defiance of the United States Government. I will end with a quote from our beloved President:

"We feel that our cause is just and holy; we protest solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice save that of honour and independence; we ask no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the States with which we were lately confederated; all we ask is to be let alone; that those who never held power over us shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms."

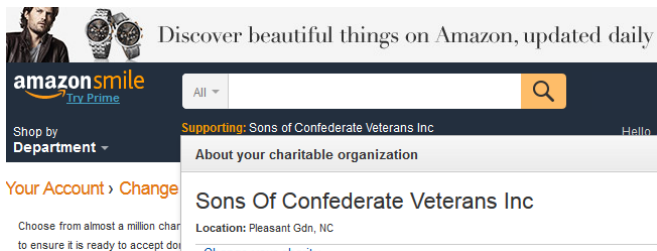
President Jefferson Davis, C.S.A. – 29 April 1861

J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace

The 25th Annual Civil War Reenactment and Living History Weekend will take place October 3-4 at Laurel Hill, birthplace of Major General J.E.B. Stuart (in Ararat, VA, just a few minutes North of Mt. Airy, NC). This local event is a personal favorite of numerous reenactors, while attendance has suffered the past couple of years due to national 150th anniversary events. This is the 25th anniversary of the event and attendance by reenactors is expected to be good (approximately 300 have already registered).

With a portrait of Maj. General J.E.B. Stuart, CSA, being taken down from the Patrick County Courthouse court room by Judge Martin Clark on August 19th, it is a great opportunity for people to come out to the event and show their support the J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc.. The weather is very unpredictable at this time of the year, but regardless of the weather there is something special about the place that draws us back every year.

AmazonSmile :)



Amazon, like several other retailers (Wal-Mart, eBay, Sears, Target, Etsy,...) joined the unjustified attacks on our heritage by removing items that included the Confederate flag. As part of our response, our members have avoided doing business with these businesses whenever possible. These retailers however represent a significant share of today's retailers and simply not doing business with them is not always an option. These companies priority (like any) is their bottom line and they believe their decision will result in a greater return when compared to the negative impact of the backlash from Southerners.

In the case of Amazon there is still a way for our organization to profit when doing business with them, it's called AmazonSmile. It provides an automatic way to support the charitable organization of your choice every time you shop. A portion of the purchase price will be donated to your selected charity, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans is a supported charity :) While the percentage is small, every little bit helps, and a little from a lot of our 30,000 members would add up!

To enable it, simply go to smile.amazon.com and on your first visit select your charity. For example, search for "Sons Of Confederate Veterans Inc", then select a location from the list. "Pleasant Gdn, NC" is our camp (I think, I don't see Greensboro listed and am guessing it's based on latest tax fillings which reference Pleasant Garden, NC). You will have to page through bunches of camps and there doesn't appear to be any way to sort.

So while they may have pulled Confederate items from their virtual shelves, they are funding our organization, which makes me smile :)



Don't forget to visit our camp's [Facebook](#) page. Josh Myers routinely provides updates such as "Today in Confederate History" and other timely information.

It was also brought to my attention how our camp members that are on Facebook could utilize this social media tool to share information about our upcoming meetings.

Flag Removed from Sutherlin Mansion in Danville, and...

The Third National flag of the Confederacy was removed from a monument on the grounds of the Sutherlin Mansion after



the Danville City Council voted on August 6th to approve a new ordinance that only allows city, state and national flags to fly on city owned property.

And...a month later the Virginia Flaggers have reported, "four new big flags, a couple of law suits, a few embarrassing unintended consequences, and a whole lot of angry Danville residents..."

I firmly believe in fighting to preserve the monuments and symbols of our ancestors, but when a battle is lost, I like the approach the Virginia Flaggers take to respond. If one flag comes down from public property, two (or more, and larger!) go up on private property. This makes their efforts futile in the end.

Calendar of Events

386th Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, September 15th

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

Capt. Bill's Seafood

6108 West Market St.

Greensboro, NC 27409

Speaker: Matt Young, the Historic Site Manager for the CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center, will give a program on the CSS Neuse.

Field Trip to CSS Neuse (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

September 19th

Visit the CSS Neuse, in Kinston, and also tour local battlefields as well. The current plan is for a few of us to caravan. Please contact Lt. Commander Don Saunders if you are interested in joining us for this trip.

25th Annual Civil War Encampment and Living History

Laurel Hill, Birthplace of J.E.B. Stuart

Saturday, October 3rd - Sunday, October 4th

Open at 9:00 AM

Admission \$8.00 per person, Children under 12 free & Free Parking

1091 Ararat Hwy

Ararat, VA 24053

North Carolina State Fair Booth (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Thursday, October 16th

NC State Fair Grounds

1025 Blue Ridge Road

Raleigh, NC 27607

387th Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, October 20th

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

Capt. Bill's Seafood

6108 West Market St.

Greensboro, NC 27409

Speaker: TBD

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

SEPTEMBER 2015						
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OCTOBER 2015						
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