

SOUTHERN CONSTELLATION



December, 2017

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Message from the Commander

Commander Jeff Frank

For those receiving the printed copy of the newsletter, I apologize! There were significant errors in the mailing labels which resulted in most of them being undeliverable last month.



Elements of the 21st, 27th, 28th and 30th NC Troops marched in the annual Jamestown, NC, Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 3rd. Participants included three members of the Col. John Sloan Camp; Rahlo Leonard, Lt. Commander Don Saunders and Commander Jeff Frank. The company stops frequently to fire a musket volley, which is always a crowd pleaser, while the ladies toss candy to the children along the parade route.

This Month's Program

Dennis Barbour will present, "Lee...A Man of Few Words".

If you haven't reserved your seats for our Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet yet, save yourself the cost of a stamp and handle it at our upcoming meeting. Stan Clardy will be providing an evening of Southern music, and I expect you will have an opportunity to purchase some of his music (*'Written in Stone'* and *'Wearing of the Gray'* are a couple of my favorites!).

The Virginia Flaggers announced that on Monday, December 11th, that the Richmond City Council rejected a proposal (6-2) to request the Virginia General Assembly to grant the city the authority to remove the Confederate statues on Monument Avenue. However, a majority of those voting against it cited a major reason for their vote was related to waiting on recommendations from Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney's Monument Avenue Commission. This fight will continue.

In case you missed it...

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



Robert Lee Candy receiving his membership certificate.

- Guests attending included...
 - John Shey and his wife, Connie.
- A motion was made to meet the challenge made by the 47th Regiment NC Troops Camp #166 (Wake Forest) and match, or best, their contribution to the NC SCV Heritage Defense Fund of \$500. The motion passed. (While always a worthwhile target for contributions, preservation of our monuments/memorials in today's environment will likely demand extensive resources.)
- New member Robert Lee Candy received his membership certificate.



**Steve Campbell giving his presentation,
"Broken Band of Brothers:
Pickett, Hancock and Armistead".**

155th Anniversary Event at the Slaughter Pen Farm, Fredericksburg

The Civil War Trust hosted an event at the Slaughter Pen Farm over the weekend of December 9-10. While anniversary events planned by the National Park Service for that Saturday were cancelled due to the inclement weather forecast, events at the Slaughter Pen Farm continued. The event raised approximately \$3,800 for the Civil War Trust, due to the efforts of 168 living historians. The low temperatures were compounded by the continually falling snow and/or sleet.

Photos below by Buddy Secor. Visit his [album](#) on Facebook (Ninja Pix) for many more excellent photographs of the event.



General Lee and Santa Claus

(An excerpt from *GENERAL LEE AND SANTA CLAUS*, by Mrs. Louise Clack, published in 1867.)

DEAR GENERAL LEE:—We think you are the goodest man that ever lived, and our auntie says you will go right straight to heaven when you die; so we want to ask you a question, for we want to know the truth about it, and we know that you always speak the truth.

Please tell us whether Santa Claus loves the little rebel children, for we think he don't; because he did not come to see us for four Christmas Eves.

Auntie thinks you would not let him cross the lines, and we don't know how to find out unless we write and ask you.

We all love you dearly, and we want to send you something; but we have not any thing nice enough; we lost all our toys in the war. Birdie wants to send you one of our white kittens--the one with black ears; but Auntie thinks maybe you don't like kittens.

We say little prayers for you every night, dear General Lee, and ask God to make you ever so happy.

Please let us know about Santa Claus as soon as you can; we want to know for something very, very, very particular; but we can't tell even you why until Christmas time, so please to excuse us.

Your little friends,
LUTIE, BIRDIE, AND MINNIE.

The above letter was sent the following day, and in about a week the answer was received:

MY DEAR LITTLE FRIENDS:—I was very glad to receive your kind letter, and to know by it that I have the good wishes and prayers of three innocent little girls, named Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie.



"Merry Old Santa Claus", by Thomas Nast (*Harper's Weekly* 1881)

I am very glad that you wrote about Santa Claus for I am able to tell you all about him. I can assure you he is one of the best friends that the little Southern girls have. You will understand this when I explain to you the reason of his not coming to see you for four years.

The first Christmas Eve of the war I was walking up and down in the camp ground, when I thought I heard a singular noise above my head; and on looking to find out from whence it came, I saw the queerest, funniest-looking little old fellow riding along in a sleigh through the air. On closer inspection, he proved to be Santa Claus.

Halt! Halt!, I said; but at this the funny fellow laughed, and did not seem inclined to obey, so again I cried Halt!. And he drove down to my side with a sleigh full of toys.

I was very sorry for him when I saw the disappointed expression of his face when I told him he could go no further South; and when he exclaimed, Oh, what will my little Southern children do! I felt more sorry, for I love little children to be happy, and especially at Christmas. But of one thing I was certain--I knew my little friends would prefer me to do my duty, rather than have all the toys in the world; so I said: Santa Claus, take every one of the toys you have back as far as Baltimore, sell them, and with the money you get buy medicines, bandages, ointments, and delicacies for our sick and wounded men; do it and do it quickly--it will be all right with the children. Then Santa Claus sprang into his sleigh, and putting his hand to his hat in true military style, said: I obey orders, General, and away he went.

Long before morning he came sweeping down into camp again, with not only every thing I had ordered, but with many other things that our poor soldiers needed. And every Christmas he took the toy money and did the same thing; and the soldiers and I blessed him, for he clothed and fed many a poor soul who otherwise would have been cold and hungry. Now, do you not consider him a good friend. I hold him in high respect, and trust you will always do the same.

I should be pleased to hear from you again, my dear little girls, and I want you ever to consider me,

Your true friend,
GENERAL LEE.

Calendar of Events

413th Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, December 19th, 6:00 pm for Meal, Meeting starts at 7:00 pm
 Capt. Bill's Seafood, 6108 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409
 Speaker: Dennis Barbour will be our speaker and the program will be,
 "Lee...A Man of Few Words".

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1st

Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, January 16th, Reception 6:00 pm, Meal 6:30 pm
 Program of Southern music performed by Stan Clardy.
 Oak Branch Event Center
 23 Oak Branch Dr.
 Greensboro, NC 27407

2018 Winter DEC Meeting

Saturday, January 27th, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Sampson County Agri-Expo Center, Heritage Hall
 414 Warsaw Road
 Clinton, NC 28328

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

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