

# SOUTHERN CONSTELLATION



June, 2017

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## Message from the Commander

Commander Jeff Frank

Please join me in welcoming our newest member, Greg Gorham! Greg's Ancestor: Pvt. John C. Bledsoe, Co. F, 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Tennessee Cavalry (Ward's).

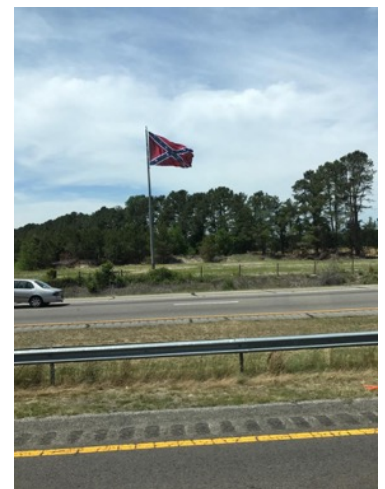
Thanks to Bill Jones, John Plybon and Color Sergeant John Pugh for manning our table in the history tent at the Summerfield Founder's Day celebration, held on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

I would also like to recognize David Moore and Clarence Long for their assistance placing the flags on the veteran's graves at Green Hill Cemetery last month (I had failed to mention them in last month's newsletter).

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, the North Carolina Division raised its first mega flag as part of the Flags Across the Carolinas project. The flag is located between exits 65 and 61 on I-95 south, just north of Fayetteville. In October of 2015, the Col. John Sloan Camp donated \$240 towards the Flags Across the Carolinas project and it is great to see the first of the mega flags being raised in North Carolina!

### This Month's Program

Ronnie Roach will present a program on, "Wade Hampton"



The Army of Tennessee Battle Flag measures twenty by thirty feet and is flying on flag pole approximately 90 feet high. The site is dedicated to General Theophilus Hunter Holmes, who was the senior officer from North Carolina during the War Between the States. For more information, see the article in the May/June edition of [The Carolina Confederate](#).

## In case you missed it...

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



**Greg Cheek presenting his program on "Galvanizing Yankees (Recruiting Foreigners) from the Salisbury Prison".**

- Guests attending included...
  - Judy Ballard (UDC)
  - Joncy Martin (UDC)
  - Robert Canady
  - Betty Hoots
- Greg Gorham was initiated as a new member!
- Prior to beginning the evening's program, Greg Cheek presented a brief description of the Yadkin Gray Eagles Flag and the conservation efforts currently underway.
 

"The Yadkin Gray Eagles Flag is historically significant as it is the only known company flag from North Carolina, carried through 26 major battles, from Manassas to Appomattox, never captured or surrendered during the War Between the States, and returned to its original owner."
- Greg Cheek presented his program on the enlistment of Yankees from the Salisbury prison.
  - Official orders from the period actually referred to them as "foreigners". The Irish and others that had only recently arrived in America were targeted for recruitment with the belief they would not have strong ties to the North and were more likely to be loyal soldiers.
  - A field trip to explore the remaining portion of Fort York is tentatively planned for this fall. Details will be provided as they become available. Fort York is located adjacent to I-

85 in Davidson County, across the Yadkin River from Rowan County, and was built to protect the railroad bridge there.

- Following the program, Commander Jeff Frank presented Greg Cheek with a \$1,000 donation from the Col. John Sloan Camp for the Yadkin Gray Eagles Flag conservation project.



**Presentation of Sons of Confederate Veterans Membership Certificate to Greg Gorham.**



**Commander Jeff Frank presenting Greg Cheek with a \$1,000 donation for the Yadkin Gray Eagles Flag conservation project. (One of the few times I have seen Greg speechless!)**

## Monuments Under Attack

Unfortunately, the attacks on our history and heritage are continuing with the removal, or proposed removal, of Confederate monuments. The proposed removal of the Robert E. Lee monument from Lee Park in Charlottesville, VA, has halted by a temporary injunction for a period of up to 6 months, to allow the case to be tried. The City is however proceeding with the renaming of the park.

See the statement from Commander-in-Chief Thomas Strain regarding the monuments in New Orleans, on the following page.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
**Sons of Confederate Veterans**

*“Historic Elm Springs”*

2 May 2017

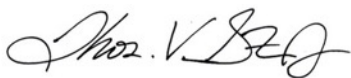
There has been an immense amount of confusion, misinformation and misdirection concerning the situation in New Orleans with regards to our monuments. The Louisiana Division, SCV has been in this fight since the mayor of New Orleans first announced his intentions to take down the monuments two years ago in 2015. Division Commander, JC Hanna, has led the efforts to fight back for his entire tenure in office, and between the Camps in New Orleans, the Louisiana Division and the National GEC, tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees have been spent, and hundreds of hours of planning and consultation have gone into this situation. Moreover, there are Confederate Monuments all over the state of Louisiana, and over the last few years they have all come under attack. Every single one of them are still standing due to the efforts of the Louisiana Division, SCV. These include, but are not limited to, The Gen Mouton Statue in Lafayette, the Confederate Monument in Shreveport, The South’s Defender Monument in Lake Charles, The Confederate Monument in Homer, La and many more. The notion that “Louisiana has done nothing” is blatantly incorrect. The Louisiana Division has put more time and effort into these battles, including in New Orleans, than every other organization combined, and Louisianans know the inner workings of this situation much better than any other outside entity.

When Commander Hanna put out his orders to, first, rally around the monuments, and later to withdraw from standing vigil because of safety issues and to direct their efforts towards lobbying the State legislature in passing the monuments protection acts now in committee, these memos were directed to members of the Louisiana Division. Social media being what it is, these messages went viral and others from out of State assumed incorrectly that Commander Hanna was asking for outside help, or, a few days later, giving directives to members of other Divisions or other organizations to “stand down”. Nothing could be further from the truth, and we now have a proverbial “powder keg” situation on our hands which can potentially explode in all of our faces and do our Cause irreparable harm.

There have been numerous comments on social media stating that the SCV “only cares about its image”. Of course we care about our image, but it is our image and our approach to this situation that will determine the outcome of whether or not these Memorial protection laws, directed towards protecting the monuments of ALL VETERANS, will pass the State legislature or not. If one incident occurs where someone ends up getting hurt, we will be pummeled in the media and the court of public opinion, whether one of our members is guilty or not, and our potential for protecting these monuments through legislation will likely die as a result. This is not what anyone wants!

Gentlemen, it is absolutely imperative that we put ego, innuendo, rumors and everything else aside and work together as one entity to do all that we can in an effort to make these bills successful. Everything else is secondary to that. I am asking you to rally behind our Brothers in Louisiana and help us to win this fight. In turn, I am asking Commander Hanna to consult with my staff on the GEC and myself regarding every step the Louisiana Division takes going forward. The State Legislature in Louisiana is our sole hope in protecting these monuments, and we must speak with one voice and conduct ourselves accordingly in an effort to bring these bills to fruition.

**For The Cause**



Thos. V. Strain Jr.  
5th Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

## Calendar of Events

### 407<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm for Meal, Meeting starts at 7:00 pm  
 Capt. Bill's Seafood, 6108 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409  
 Speaker: Ronnie Roach will present a program on, "Wade Hampton".

### Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

### 408<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm for Meal, Meeting starts at 7:00 pm  
 Capt. Bill's Seafood, 6108 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409  
 Speaker: Jay Peacock will present a program on, "Longstreet".

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## 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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