



The Palmetto Guardian

Official Newsletter of the Pvt. John S. Bird - Palmetto Guard
Camp #38, Sons of Confederate Veterans

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**Our camp is based in North Charleston,
South Carolina. We meet the second
Thursday of every month at Breck's on
Rivers Avenue at 6:30pm.**



***"If we were wrong in our contest,
then the Declaration of
Independence of 1776 was a grave
mistake, and the revolution to
which it led was a crime."***
- General Wade Hampton. 1892

GETTYSBURG AUCTION NETS RECORD BIDS

The following was printed in the Patriot-News (PA) of June 26th:

GETTYSBURG - A two-day auction of Civil War artifacts that ended yesterday netted \$6.4 million in sales and produced record prices for Union and Confederate swords.

But the Dallas auction house that ran the event called it a mere warm-up for three days in October, when thousands of Western and American Indian artifacts owned by Harrisburg will hit the block.

Facing a city fiscal crisis, Mayor Stephen R. Reed has agreed to sell the \$8 million collection he had amassed for a now-canceled museum.

Proceeds from the Oct. 19-21 auction at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas will be used to reduce a budget deficit, among other things.

Reed bought the items over several years, using revenue from the Harrisburg Authority, the agency that owns the city's trash incinerator and other utilities.

"Harrisburg's will be two times the size [of the Gettysburg auction]," Gary Hendershott, consignment director for Heritage Auction Galleries, said yesterday.

Harrisburg's 10,000-item collection is expected to draw 300 to 500 bidders -- plus thousands more on the Internet -- including private collectors, dealers, and representatives and curators of public and private museums, Hendershott said.

The first day will feature photos; the second will focus on Western objects; and the third day will concentrate on American Indian artifacts.

Hendershott said he envisions 600-page, full-color catalogs for each day of the three-day sale. He added that

Harrisburg has so many items, the October auction might be followed by another in 2008, so a flood of artifacts doesn't sink prices.

In Gettysburg, a couple of items pulled down eye-popping bids, but didn't sell for quite as much as expected.

A diamond-adorned sword presented to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant went for \$1,673,000, and Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's frayed battle flag was auctioned for nearly \$900,000. Both had been expected to go in the \$2 million range.



Some of the winning bidders, who walked out of the Wyndham Hotel ballroom with five-figure invoices to claim their loot at a nearby warehouse, seemed satisfied by the sale.

"It was really well-run," said Ed Ewing of Berks County. "The auctioneer was good, and he moved quickly."

Laurie Orange of Chambersburg was a stand-in for her husband, a doctor who called her with instructions between patient appointments. She estimated they spent about \$10,000.

"He gave me a list of everything he was interested in," Orange said.

Then, it was a matter of following along in the glossy catalog, or watching a projection television that kept a running tally of the sale prices, which always seemed to go up, up, up.

For example, Confederate Gen. William Mahone's sword, dubbed "the last sword of the Confederacy," fetched \$388,375, a record for a Confederate sword. Atlanta dealer John Sexton said he remembers when he could have had it for \$35,000 in the mid-1980s.

This time, he bowed out when the bidding topped \$200,000.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 29 - Heritage Ride, Charleston, SC
- October 12 & 13, Confederate Ghost Walk, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC
- October 27 & 28, Battle of Brattonville, McConnells, SC
- November 3, Pvt. Moses Davis Memorial, Magnolia Cemetery
- November 9, 10 & 11, Battle of Secessionville, Boone Hall Plantation, Charleston, SC

THIS MONTH IN CSA HISTORY

From August 16 through 18, several Northern newspapers are legally taken to task for having alleged pro-Confederate sympathies. The Brooklyn Eagle, New York Journal Commerce, New York Daily Times, among others, are taken to court for this "crime." In addition, pro-Unionists attack the offices of newspapers in Pennsylvania while the editor of the Essex County Democrat (Massachusetts) is tarred and feathered for his pro-Southern views expressed in his newspaper.

NEWSPAPER TIME MACHINE

**Over the next several issues of the newsletter, I will be adding in some interesting tid-bits from an original copy of The Charleston Mercury of Monday, March 4th, 1861:*

THE SOUTHERN RESIGNATIONS - First Lieutenant Jacob Read, of the United States Marine corps, now stationed at the Brooklyn Marine Barracks, resigned his commission on the 26th inst., and accepted a captain's commission in the Georgian army. Lieutenant Read was born in Georgia, and received his appointment from that State, which dates March 3, 1847. He has perhaps seen more sea service for the

time that he has been in the navy than any other officer, having been nine years at sea.

Lieut. Geroge Watson Carr, of Albemarle co., Va., has resigned his office of 1st Lieutenant, 9th Infantry U.S. Army, and his resignation was accepted.

Capt. Nathan G. Evans, of S.C., second cavalry; Second Lieut. Geo. A. Cunningham, of Ga., second cavalry; Capt. W. D. DeSaussure, of S.C., first cavalry; First Lieut. P. Stockton, of N.J., first cavalry; Second Lieut. Horace Randal, of Ten., first dragoons; Second Lieut. Samuel W. Ferguson, of S.C., first dragoons; Captain Crawford Fletcher, of Ten., eighth infantry - all of the U.S. Army - have resigned.

ED. NOTE - W D DeSaussure became Colonel of the 15th SCVI. Nathan G Evans became a Brigadier General and served in several positions, including the 5th Military District during the Battle of Secessionville. Samuel W Ferguson became Lieutenant Colonel of the 28th Mississippi Infantry, and later was commissioned a Brigadier General. Philip Stockton, of New Jersey, appears to be the same Philip Stockton that became Confederate Colonel Stockton in the Western Theatre.

"For though conquered, we adore it, Love the cold dead hands that bore it."



Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will 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 principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish." - Stephen Dill Lee, 1906

CONFEDERATE TRIVIA



Q: Who is this SC Confederate?
Send your answer to the editor. All who give the correct answer will be in a drawing to win a gift. You must attend the Aug. meeting to get the gift.

LAST CAMP MEETING

Jeff Antley of Moultrie Camp #27 spoke to us about the Confederate Heritage Trust, and then gave a very enlightening discussion about the underlying evils in the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." If you weren't there, you really missed out.

NEXT CAMP MEETING

Our next meeting will be August 9th at Breck's on Rivers Avenue. Mr. Sam Howell will be our presenter. He will be telling us all about the Yankee generals that fled in dresses. This promises to be fun!

CAROLINA DAY 2007 SPECIAL

June 28th was the observance of Carolina Day. This is when all the history related groups in the Charleston area celebrate the anniversary of the repulse of the British fleet at Fort Sullivan (now called Fort Moultrie) in 1776.

This is the battle where the palmetto became a symbol of South Carolina and independence. Due to the spongy texture of the palmetto fibres, the shot of the British warships for the most part simply bounced off the face of the fort. This is also where Sergeant William Jasper courageously saved the flag in the face of heavy fire securing his place in State history as a hero. The successful defense of the fort was a stunning victory for the Colonial forces which was most unexpected by nearly everyone, but Charleston's liberty didn't last forever. Charleston fell to the British in 1780.



engraving of General William Moultrie

This year's Carolina Day was a little special. All the participating groups formed up at Washington Square at Meeting and Broad, then marched down Meeting to The Battery. Standing a few yards away from the Fort Sumter monument was a brand new statue of General William Moultrie, commander at Fort Sullivan

during the engagement. A very nice unveiling ceremony was enjoyed by the spectators and march participants. Several keynote speakers gave their words culminating with the tarp being pulled off General Moultrie to the firing of cannon. There is a short video of the unveiling available on our website, accessible from the "Camp #38 Newswire" service.

The Pvt. John S Bird - Palmetto Guard Camp was represented, falling in with the members of the Moultrie Camp at the back of the procession. Other SCV camps represented were Secession Camp and the Fort Sumter Camp. Several members of the Ellison Capers Camp also attended and fell in with the UDC.

SIGHTS SET ON TAKING BACK BATTLEFIELD - TO 1863

The following is from USA Today on July 4:

Seven years after the National Park Service took down the privately owned tower overlooking the Gettysburg National Military Park, the revered battlefield is on its way to looking the way it did in 1863, when Union and Confederate soldiers clashed there in what proved the turning point of the Civil War.

Also gone in recent years from the most-visited Civil War battlefield: a motel, a car dealership and acres of trees and other "non-historic vegetation" that

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obscured the landscape soldiers saw 144 years ago. Park officials say the aim is to help visitors better understand how the three-day battle unfolded.

The finished rehabilitation project is expected to cost nearly \$3.5 million in federal and private funds. The Park Service is using historical maps, photos, sketches and archival records to recreate topographic and other features. The plan calls for clearing woods, replanting orchards, restoring fencing and rehabilitating farm lanes and roads that once crisscrossed the battlefield.

Perhaps the most controversial part of the plan calls for demolishing noted architect Richard Neutra's 1962 Cyclorama, home to Paul Dominique Philippoteaux's historic circa 1864 painting of the battle.

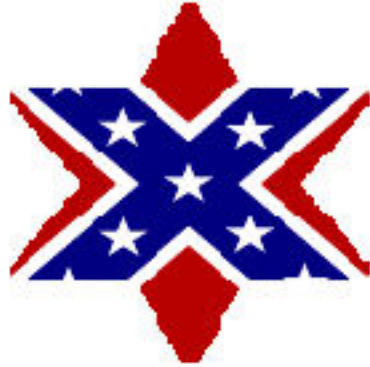
The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. It also sits on Cemetery Ridge, the place where Union soldiers repulsed the ill-fated Pickett's Charge.

Preservationists sued in May to stop the demolition, which is planned for 2009 after a new visitors center opens next year.

Regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit, Philippoteaux's painting, now undergoing restoration, is to be moved to the new visitors center.

Gettysburg's rehabilitation is the most extensive of several efforts to restore Civil War sites to their 19th-century condition. Among others turning back the clock are Vicksburg in Mississippi, Antietam in Maryland and Appomattox Court House in Virginia.





A CAUSE FOR ALL FAITHS

There are fanatics who claim the South's role in the War Between the States was a "White Christian" war to "preserve slavery." The record simply does not support this idea. The South was the most hospitable and tolerant section of the Union for faiths other than Christian sects. The oldest American Synagogues are located in Charleston. The Secretary of State, CSA, was Judah Benjamin, a Jew from New Orleans. General Robert E Lee regularly consulted a Rabbi to make sure the needs of his Jewish soldiers were met. Conversely, General U S Grant issued an order to expel all Jews from his areas of operation.

The fact that Jewish Southerners supported the Confederate Cause in such great numbers flies in the face of the "War for Slavery" concept the history books teach our children. Considering that Jewish roots are based on their own slavery in Egypt, it would be hard to imagine that they would so willingly throw themselves into a monumental struggle simply to do the same to other people. Were they fighting to "preserve slavery," or were they fighting for something much more noble ... independence? This all just goes to show that independence and national self-determination are notions embraced by all.

The following is a list of the Jewish Confederates that served in the Palmetto Guard from "The Jews of South Carolina," written by Barnett A

Elzas, 1905:

- COHEN, Edward P - Company G, 5th Regiment SC Cavalry. Transferred to Palmetto Guards, 1862.
- COHEN, Isaac Barrett - Palmetto Guards. Killed at Fort Fisher, 1865.
- HART, Daniel S - Palmetto Guards, afterwards detailed to Columbia.
- JACOBS, F C - Palmetto Guards, 17th Regiment, SCM, Stevens's Iron-clad Battery, 2d junior lieutenant Yeadon Light Infantry 1862.
- JACOBS, H R - Palmetto Guards, Company I, 2d SCV. Transferred to cavalry.
- LAZARUS, Edger M - Palmetto Guards Artillery. Detached to Quartermaster Department.
- LOPEZ, John H - Palmetto Guards Artillery. Transferred in 1864 to Company F, 2d Engineer Regiment.
- LOPEZ, Moses E - private in the Palmetto Guards, 1860. Assigned to the Iron-clad Battery on Morris's Island. Participated in the bombardment of Fort Sumter, April, 1861. Served subsequently on James's Island and John's Island, and on the coast between Charleston and Savannah, taking part in various engagements, including the battle at Secessionville. Detached for service in the engineer department, with which he was associated during the remainder of the war.
- MOISE, Isaac - Palmetto Guards, 17th Regiment, SCM, Steven's Iron-clad Battery, Palmetto Guards, SCV. Enlisted in 1862. Transferred to

- Engineer Corps in 1864.
- MORDECAI, Issac W - Palmetto Guards. Enlisted in 1863. Detached to Quartermaster Department in 1864.
- MOSES, Joshua L - Palmetto Guards, Company I, 2d SCV. Killed at Blakely, Ala., 1865. Promoted to lieutenant of artillery.

"DARK HOURS" NOW AVAILABLE

As you all should know, our camp was recently made a probationary member organization of the Confederate Heritage Trust with Commander Parks serving as our representative. A perk of being a member group of the CHT has already presented itself. At our July meeting, Jeff Antley, Vice President of the CHT, brought the camp nine copies of "Dark Hours," the sale of which is to be handled by Commander Parks.

"Dark Hours" is an invaluable resource to the researcher. It is an accompanying volume to "Broken Fortunes." Where "Broken Fortunes" is a comprehensive listing of all the South Carolinians that died in service to the Confederacy, "Dark Hours" is a comprehensive listing of all South Carolina Confederates that were held in Federal prison camps. This compilation was undoubtedly extremely daunting, and I cannot even imagine the number of hours of eye strain that the author endured to bring this resource to us. If you research the soldiers of South Carolina, this is one book you really need to buy. However, as with "Broken Fortunes," this publication is no longer in print. This is your best chance to get one.

The cost to our camp per volume from the CHT is \$25, but as of yet, there is no definite cost that our camp will sell them at individually. For details, contact Commander Parks.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION



The Sons of Confederate Veterans National Convention was held this past week in Mobile, Alabama. The GEC and the delegates completed all the business Friday so everyone could go to the memorial service for the ALABAMA sailor on Sat. Below are the highlights of the convention:

- ◆ The convention not only passed the \$8 increase in national dues they bumped it up to \$10, effective for the 2008-09 fiscal year. The budget for next year doesn't look good, so National is depending on individual and camp contributions to make up the shortfall.
- ◆ Resolution passed claiming 2008 "The Year of Jeff Davis".
- ◆ Anderson, SC will host 2010 National Convention.
- ◆ Amendments: the one exempting Cadet members from paying yearly dues failed; the one denying membership for anyone convicted of a felony was tabled indefinitely; the one removing a member's right to veto the time and place the GEC or investigating subcommittee meets to gather evidence or hear testimony in a disciplinary case passed, as did the one restructuring the disciplinary procedures at camp, division, and IHQ levels.

CSS ALABAMA CREWMEMBER FINALLY GETS FUNERAL

The following was reported by the Associated Press on July 28th, 2007:

MOBILE, Ala. - The remains of a Confederate sailor, recovered several years ago from a shipwreck at the bottom of the English Channel, were buried Saturday in a handmade wooden coffin pulled by a horse-drawn caisson.

The unidentified sailor's skeletal remains were found on the underside of a cannon raised from the wreck of the CSS Alabama in about 200 feet of water.

The Confederate warship was sunk in the channel off the coast of France on June 19, 1864, by the Union warship USS Kearsarge. More than 400 artifacts have been recovered from the site by American and French divers.

The CSS Alabama had a crew of about 120 members, and most were rescued by boaters in the area, but about a dozen drowned or were never heard from again, said Robert Edington, a Mobile attorney and president of the CSS Alabama Association.

Saturday's funeral procession began downtown at the site of the statue of Adm. Raphael Semmes, who was the commanding officer of the CSS Alabama, and ended at Magnolia Cemetery where the sailor was buried.

The sailor's coffin was accompanied by members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The group, which was holding its annual convention in Mobile, arranged the funeral with the support of heritage groups and individuals.



Drawing depicting the CSS Alabama.



One of the Alabama's Blakely Cannons being pulled from the ocean.



Captain Raphael Semmes, Alabama's commanding officer, standing by his ship's 110-pounder rifled gun during her visit to Capetown in August 1863. His executive officer, First Lieutenant John M. Kell, is in the background, standing by the ship's wheel.



The flag of the CSS Alabama, removed from the ship just after the battle with the USS Kearsarge off the coast of France.