



The Palmetto Guardian

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

Vol. 1 Ed. 2

May 2007

James Parks, commander
Robert Jackson, Lt. commander
Ricky Herndon, adjutant
Chris Ross, treasurer
Cleon Brown, chaplin
Tony Smith, color sergeant

www.scvcamp38.org

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY

It would really be a waste of newsletter space for me to lay out what Confederate Memorial Day means. There are several articles in many newsletters throughout the SC Division that do a much better job of it than I could. What I will do, however, is offer the reader a few quotes from the men themselves to reflect on while you ponder the meaning of Confederate Memorial Day for yourself.

"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 . . . If Washington was a patriot, Lee cannot have been a rebel; if the enunciation of the grand truths in the Declaration of Independence made Jefferson immortal, the observance of them could not have made Davis a traitor." - General Wade Hampton on CMD in 1892.

"Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the War; will be impressed by all the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision." - General Patrick Cleburne in a letter to President Davis in 1864.

"We will be free. We will govern ourselves. We will do it if we have to see every Southern plantation sacked, and every Southern city in flames." - President Jefferson Davis as reported in The Globe and Traveller (England), 1864.

"The powers not delegated to

the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." - The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.



AREA CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES

- Camp #38 has been invited by the Moultrie Camp #27 to participate in their CMD services at Carr Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant at 10am on May 10th.

- The United Daughters of the Confederacy is holding their annual service on May 10th at Magnolia Cemetery at 3pm.

- Secession Camp #4 is holding a service on May 12th at Magnolia at 10am. They are asking for help setting up at 8am.

- Division services will be May 5th, starting with the UDC portion at Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia at 10am, followed by a march to the Statehouse at 11:15am for the SCV portion.

- more services on page 4



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 I thought this war was to abolish slavery, I would resign my commission and offer my sword to the other side"* - U S Grant, 1862**

DOUBLE SERVICE IN BOWMAN

Warm, sunny, and lots of brotherhood was the order of the day on April 29th, 2007 outside Bowman, South Carolina. The day was set aside by the congregation of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church not only for worship, but also for a time to remember two of their Confederate brothers that lay at rest in their church graveyard.

After a fine church service, it was our turn to add to the spirit of the occasion with a memorial service and cross dedication. Commander Jamie Parks started off the memorial with a purpose statement, which was then followed by the posting of the US, South Carolina, and Confederate flags. South Carolina Division Commander Randy Burbage then read the charge of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, followed by Reverend Brian Gray with the invocation. With the setting in order, Al Mett on behalf of the Bair family and Harry Wimberly on behalf of the Wimberly family took turns relating the story of their Confederate ancestor to be honored. At that time, Commander Parks presented two ANV battle flags to the eldest members of each family; Floyd Wimberly and L C Bair. The church portion was then adjourned to be resumed in the church cemetery.



The Color Guard lead the service to the graveside of Pvt. Wimberly and Pvt. Bair, posting colors between the two. Following them was the Honor Guard. The Southern Cross of Honor for both men was unveiled followed by a pause for reflection on the service of these two Southern warriors to the backdrop of Amazing Grace. When the bagpipes faded, the Rifle Squad then fired three volleys. Each volley

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

Each volley echoing off the nearby woods several times reminding us of the turmoil and sacrifice these two men endured on our behalf. Taps was then skillfully played by Cain Griffin, commander of the Ellison Capers Camp #1212.

Some touching closing remarks were then spoken by Commander Burbage reminding us of the importance of remembering these men and their contemporaries, why they did what they did, and in hoping we could bring ourselves to do the same under the same circumstances. George Wimberly and J J Bair, privates from our beloved South Carolina served in the Confederate army, stand today as bonafide heroes when we have very few in our time.

To round off the day and a fine service, Mr. Russell LeGrande Huggins, great grandson of Pvt. Wimberly and the man who made this service possible, was officially inducted into the Pvt. John S. Bird - Palmetto Guard Camp #38, Sons of Confederate Veterans.



Honor Guard at the Wimberly - Bair Memorial and Cross Dedication, April 29th, Bowman

MAY CAMP MEETING

Our next camp meeting will be May 10th, Confederate Memorial Day. Fitting, isn't it? We will still meet at the Breck's on Rivers at 6:30 pm. However, we will not have a formal presentation. Instead, Commander Parks asks that all attending members be ready to share the history of their own Confederate ancestors to the camp. This is a good chance to bestow a little more honor on your family Confederate by sharing his legacy with your camp compatriots. See you there.

CONF. MEMORIAL MONTH BILL

On March 27th, a State Senate subcommittee killed S124, a bill to designate May as Confederate Memorial History Month. Several black senators argued against the bill, threatening to attach amendments that would make the bill unpassable if returned to the floor for a vote. Once again, willful ignorance and utter fear of being politically-incorrect has ruled the day.

Although S124 may have been killed in committee, the House keeps Confederate Memorial Month alive with H3611. It reads exactly the same as the Senate version. I understand that this House version has a very good chance of passing. Once it passes the House, it goes to the Senate where they will pretty much have to act on it because the House did. Contact your Reps and let them know how you feel about H3611.

BESSINGER DENIED BY COURT: "LEGAL FIGHT OVER"

The following was reported by The Associated Press on April 2nd:

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Supreme Court has tossed out a lawsuit filed by barbecue

magnate Maurice Bessinger accusing several grocery store chains of unfair trade by not selling his sauce on their shelves.

Nine chains with over 3,000 stores between them removed Bessinger's mustard-based barbecue sauce in 2000 after he raised the Confederate flag over his restaurants in protest of the General Assembly's decision to take the Confederate flag off the top of the Statehouse dome.

News stories at the time also pointed out Bessinger distributed literature at his restaurants with titles like "The South Was Right" and "Myths of American Slavery."

Bessinger sued Bi-Lo, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Kroger, Publix, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Winn-Dixie and Piggly Wiggly stores, asking for \$50 million. He said they violated his right to free speech under the state's Unfair Trade Practices Act by removing his barbecue sauce.

The state Supreme Court recently upheld rulings by two lower courts that Bessinger's case did not have enough merit to be heard by a jury.

Bessinger attorney Glen Winston LaForce Sr. said the ruling ends Bessinger's legal fight.

"Mr. Bessinger is still proudly flying the Confederate flag. He stood for his principles, and I'm proud of him for that," LaForce said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: visit www.mauricesbbq.com and order.

The Palmetto Guardian
Brian Lee Merrill, editor
246 Okehampton Drive
Goose Creek, SC 29445
(843) 851-5865
blmerrill@clicksouth.net

REENACTOR SHOT AT THE BATTLE OF ANDERSON

The following was reported on April 2nd by WYFF Channel 4 out of Anderson, SC:

The original battle ended without a single Confederate casualty, but in Saturday's reenactment of the Battle of Anderson, one Southern soldier didn't fare so well.

Stuart Lambert of Laurens, one of 125 soldiers dressed in period costumes, was riding horseback when the gun he was trying to holster went off. Lambert suffered burns and some wounds in his leg.

Since the guns are loaded only with black powder, instead of bullets, the shot did only a limited amount of damage.

Fellow re-enactors said that Lambert forgot that he had another shot left in his gun.

"Everybody thought at first it was a part of the show but it was not," Civil War Reenactor Allen Ashley said. "It was real."

Lambert was not seriously injured. He was treated and was back to the battlefield an hour later.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This serves as a reminder to be careful out there. Don't let the Yankees continue to rack up enemy casualties 140+ years later.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBER

Russell LeGrande Huggins was inducted on April 29th at the memorial service for his ancestor in Bowman. He joins us on the service of his great grandfather, Pvt. George Wimberly. Pvt. Wimberly served in Company H, 11th SC Volunteers. He fought in Virginia, falling ill in the trenches of Petersburg in 1864. After the war, Mr. Wimberly became an important part of his church, Mt. Tabor Baptist Church.

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:

"Abraham Lincoln, as President of the States that have not withdrawn from the Union, speaks for the first time to-day. He can scarcely avoid foreshadowing, in some degree, the policy of his administration. He must proclaim peace or declare war. He must virtually recognize the independence of the Confederate States, or encounter them in a conflict of arms. In his Western railroad speeches, while sedulously flattering the vanity and the ignorance of the rabble, by his frequent and pleasant allusions to the "enforcement of the laws," he has been shrewd enough to allow himself a wide margin for a change of mind. How far he will avail himself of this comfortable reservation, he will probably tell us to-day. His wiley advisors are evidently in sore distress. They begin to understand the madness of coercion, yet looking upon the tide of Northern prejudice and ambition which has thus far borne them upward, they dare not falter. Like Frankenstein, they have raised a monster which they cannot quell. Let them solve their riddle as best they may. The strength of the South is her safety."

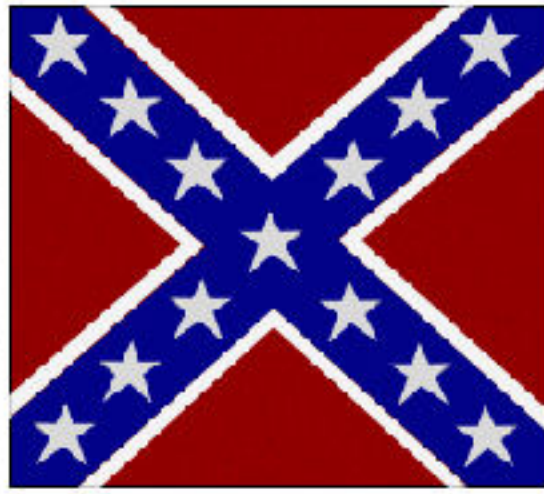
MOST ENDANGERED BATTLEFIELDS RELEASED

The Civil War Preservation Trust has released it's list of the top ten most endangered Civil War battlefields. They are:

- 1) Cedar Creek, VA
- 2) Fort Morgan, AL
- 3) Gettysburg, PA
- 4) Harpers Ferry, WV

- 5) luka, MS
- 6) Marietta, GA
- 7) New Orleans, LA
- 8) North Piedmont, MD, PA, VA
- 9) Petersburg, VA
- 10) Spring Hill, TN

You'll notice that thankfully Morris Island is no longer among them. Morris Island is a fine example of activist preservation at it's most successful; tight organization through as many interested entities as possible and lightning fast responses. Hopefully, a similar scenario can be replicated for the sites listed above.



AREA CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES

continued from page 1

- Fort Sumter Camp #1269 will be holding their service at White Point Gardens on May 10th at noon.

- The Confederate Heritage Trust will be holding a service at the French Huguenot Church at Queen and Church streets downtown at 7pm.

THIS MONTH IN CSA HISTORY

May 24, 1861 - During the occupation of Alexandria, Virginia by Federal troops, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth is shot and killed while removing a Confederate flag from an inn. The shooter, inn keeper James Jackson, is shot and killed in return by one of Colonel Ellsworth's men. This gives each side a martyr for the brewing conflict.

SOME REMINDERS FROM THE EDITOR & WEBMASTER

- The website and newsletter is for the whole camp. Please feel free to contribute to the content of both.
- Our website has an online memorial to our camp ancestors. Please add your direct ancestors by giving me their information.
- The Palmetto Guardian is available in color on our website. If you would rather print it from the website, or have me send you an email informing you when the latest edition is posted, please let me know.
- You can also get hats, shirts, and coffee mugs with our camp flag printed on them. Just follow the "camp store" button on the website. If you don't have internet access, let me know what you want and I will order it for you.
- In addition to the newsletter, I have an online blog set up to keep everyone informed of camp, SCV, and other items of interest. It is called "Camp 38 Newswire" and is updated frequently. It is also accessible from the website.
- Our camp website can be found at www.scvcamp38.org. Check it out.
- For any additions, comments, suggestions, complaints, or submissions, my complete contact information is found on page 3.