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# LEGIONARY

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LT. GEN. WADE HAMPTON CAMP NO. 273

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Paul C. Graham, Editor

**A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN**

## LINKS TO A BYGONE ERA: FEWER THAN 100 KIDS OF VETERANS OF CONFLICT REMAIN

By Matt Lakin

Jim Brown grew up in the Civil War's shadow, listening to stories of the fighting from a father who lived it.

"He was in it from the beginning at Manassas to the end at Appomattox," Brown said. "He'd be amazed to see the changes today."

At 98, Brown's part of an exclusive group - the surviving children of Civil War soldiers, removed by a single generation from the nation's bloodiest conflict. Records show fewer than 100 sons and daughters of the blue and gray veterans remain nationwide. Tennessee boasts four Confederate sons - two in the Knoxville area, including Brown - along with a Union son and daughter.

Historians hope to see members of that club hang around long enough to help celebrate the war's 150th anniversary, which begins next year.

"As you might imagine, they're going away pretty quickly," said Ben Sewell, executive director of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "We know of 32 Confederate real sons across the country, and we're losing them at the rate of about five to nine per year. But a number of these fellows who are remaining have birth dates as late as 1923 or 1924. So there's a pretty good chance of having a few remaining for the sesquicentennial."

See *REAL SON*, Page 3



Jim Brown, 98, of Tellico Village (TN) holds a photograph of his father, James Henry Harrison Brown

## RECOGNITION OF CIVIL WARRIORS



U.S. Colored Troops re-enactors at Fort Fisher State Historic Site in January. The presence of black troops fighting for the Confederate States forced the Union to recruit all-black units during the four-year conflict.

By Herbert L. White

The heroism and sacrifices of blacks who fought for the Confederacy may get an overdue honor.

Historians and Civil War buffs went before Union County commissioners on May 3 to lobby for a historic marker recognizing the contributions of 10 black Confederate pensioners, known as colored troops during the Civil War. The 4-foot-by-4-foot marker would cost \$1,800 and installed at the old courthouse in Monroe. The funds would come from private sources.

It would be the first acknowledgement of black contributions to the Confederacy - or the Civil War in general - in North Carolina. "This is about a bit of Union County's forgotten history," said historian Tony Way of Indian Trail.

Aaron Perry of Charlotte is the great-grandson of one of the pensioners, also named Aaron Perry, a Union County slave who fought with the North Carolina 37th Company D. Although the Confederate States lost, their story should be remembered.

"I think it's a great thing," said the younger Perry, 72. "It's been a long

time ago, so I'm not going to overlook that. What's so bad about it? They're honoring these 10 North Carolina soldiers for being helpful to their country, even if it was under slavery.

"They lost that war, but my great grandfather helped rebuild the camp at Fort Fisher," Perry said. "He played his part, even though he was under slavery and somebody else's command. When you enlist in the service, you're taking orders from somebody."

See *WARRIORS*, Page 3

Memorial Day is now behind us, but I hope that each of us keep our nation's heroes in our hearts and prayers on a daily basis. As many of us already know, Memorial Day was enacted after the War of 1861 to 1865, and initially called "Decoration Day" as a day to tend to the soldier's graves. US General John A Logan issued Order Number 11 calling on the country to "let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic." General Logan continued to say that we should guard the graves of the dead with "sacred vigilance".

I often find that many Americans know so little about the work that our nation's soldiers currently face. It is no wonder that the Confederate soldier's great name is beginning to fade to the "ravages of time", when many people only know of the American soldier based solely on what little the news media brings to us daily. We

too often only hear or read about the number of soldiers wounded or killed in countries half way around the world, in places that many cannot find on a world map. Very few reports tell of the schools, churches, communities and lives that are built and rebuilt on behalf of the American soldier.

Each month, Wade Hampton Camp members reaffirm their pledge to the United States of America and its Constitution, as well as promise to cultivate, perpetuate and sanctify the memory of the Confederate soldier. We all are very aware of Stephen Dill Lee's Charge to us as Sons of Confederate Veterans and most realize that SCV compatriots are the final line of defense to the true history of the South and our ancestor's good name. It is my hope that as Americans, we do not forget our country's soldiers and veterans who currently give and have given their lives to defend liberty to people throughout the world. These

soldiers fight for those who will never know the freedoms and liberties that some here in the US take for granted each day.

Remember compatriots, honoring our ancestors does not end with the Confederate soldier. We ALL descend from Americans who have defended liberty and freedom, and need to remain vigilant in remembering those that have served. Do not let our tribute to these soldiers begin and end on holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Like the Confederate soldier, the American soldier is the greatest pillar against tyranny and oppression that the world will ever know. It is our duty to ensure that their legacy continues to thrive.

I hope that everyone will be able to join us for our next meeting on Thursday, June 17. Our speaker will be ANV Councilman Gene Hogan and will be speaking about Nathan Bedford Forrest.

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LARRY BATES

CHAPLAIN'S WITNESS

Last month, a group of us helped camp member Bob Slimp with a project he started last year, setting Confederate Battle flags at the graves of soldiers in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery for Confederate Memorial Day. Bob and I are both members at First Church and I looked forward to helping this year. We all had a good time honoring these men by setting a flag at their place of rest, but as we worked, I realized there wasn't much information about these men. I wanted to know more, their rank, unit, what battles they fought in, and most of all, what was their story.

The Bible says that God created man in his own image and that God has placed eternity on the heart of a man. One of the problems we have understanding life is it seems so random, sometimes it's hard to make sense of it all. Yet if we are ever to understand the life God has meant for us to live and our own story, we need to understand more of the One in whose image we are created and the heart that He gave us.

I've begun researching information on Confederate soldiers buried at First Church. One in particular stands out to me, Col. William Davie DeSaussure of the 15th SCVI. His grave was hard to find. At First Church, the downtown property is about one city block and consists only of narrow sidewalks, buildings, and the churchyard cemetery. I found his marker, which was adjacent to

the Church wall and near a door. I've passed his grave hundreds of times and never knew who was buried there. DeSaussure first worked as a lawyer in his father's practice, William Ford DeSaussure, who would be a signer of the Ordinance of Secession. He fought in the Mexican War and was wounded at Churubusco. After the war, he returned to practicing law and also served in the legislature. He became bored with being a lawyer and legislator and applied to US Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, to join the Cavalry and fight against the Indians in the West. Here was a man willing to take risks. Not content with playing it safe as a career lawyer, he knew he was meant for more. He joined the 1st US Cavalry where he held the rank of Captain and was stationed in Kansas, serving under Lt. Col. Joe Johnston and Major John Sedgwick. Other notables serving were, Capt. George McClellan and 2nd Lt. JEB Stuart. Preparation for the WBTS would come by enduring the heat and cold of the western plains fighting against the Comanche and the Kiowa. When SC seceded, he returned to Columbia and was elected Colonel of the 15th SC and led his regiment in battles at 2nd Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg.

On day 2 of Gettysburg, the 15th SC was attacking the Federals at Rose Woods, near the Peach Orchard and Wheat Field. While in front some paces and leading his men with sword drawn, Col.

DeSaussure was shot in the chest and died soon after. General Kershaw wrote to DeSaussure's father, "Your son fell at the head of his regiment, leading it in the fearful charge of this brigade... His drawn sword lay extended just beyond his extended arm. The light of battle was still in his eye, and the firm compression of his lips indicated the heroism of this heart at the moment of death."

Col. DeSaussure was a Christian and a courageous warrior. The story of his life awakens something in my own heart. How about you?

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

Gentlemen:  
Gentlemen, as of June 7<sup>th</sup>, we have 184 regular paid members and 16 paid associate members. See you at the next meeting and remember, RECUITE A NEW MEMBER.

—Ricky Badger

CAMP CALENDAR

- June 17 – Camp meeting.
- July 4 -9 - Sam Davis Youth Camp, Camp Kinard, Batesburg – Leesville, SC
- July 21 – 25 – 2010 Annual SCV National Reunion, Anderson, SC

Brown, who lives in Tellico Village (TN) with his son, plans to be here for the celebration. So does Tom Bruce, 85, who lives in Knoxville with memories of a Confederate father he barely knew.

Bruce was born in Morristown to a 77-year-old former Virginia cavalryman and was just 6 years old when his father died in 1930. Levi Bruce served with the 7th and later the 11th Virginia Cavalry through fighting in what's now West Virginia.

"I'm part of a dying breed, I guess," Bruce said. "The only thing I can remember distinctly about my father is when he bought me a bicycle once. My mother had his sword and a picture of Robert E. Lee he had framed, but she sold them one piece at a time for enough money to get by."

Brown can claim memories a little clearer. He was born in 1912 to a 71-year-old father who survived battles from Gettysburg to the Siege of Knoxville. Brown knew his father for the next 11 years, until the veteran's death at age 82.

James Henry Harrison Brown joined the 8th Georgia Infantry's Company K at age 20 when war erupted in 1861. Records show his regiment saw action from the war's first major battle at Manassas, through the cornfields of Antietam, Md., in 1862 and across the bloody ground at Gettysburg, Pa., in 1863.

The father followed Gen. James Longstreet to East Tennessee in the fall of 1863 for the Confederacy's attempt to recapture Knoxville, including battles at Campbell Station near present-day Farragut and at Fort Sanders, where the Siege of Knoxville ended in a 20-minute failed assault near the University of Tennessee campus. He returned to Virginia for the last days of the war, all the way to the surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

Brown plans to stand where his father fought next month when he helps celebrate the placement of a Civil War Trails marker near the Campbell Station

site. He still shares some of his father's stories in talks to groups such as the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable, where he spoke Tuesday night.

Most of those stories dealt less with glory and honor than with hunger and hardship.

"He'd talk about what he endured," Brown said. "He'd talk about marching barefoot through the snow in the East Tennessee winter and leaving bloody tracks behind."

He believes his father would be proud to see the nation that emerged from that struggle.

"He was doing what he thought he had to do," Brown said. "But I never heard him say a harsh word about anyone, Yankees or anyone else. I just wish I could have listened to him more."

Source: *Knoxville News Sentinel*. Knoxville, TN. 17 April 2010 (www.knoxnews.com)

## WARRIORS

Blacks – slave and free – fought with Confederate forces long before the Union recruited African Americans. According to the 1860 census, North Carolina's population of 992,000 included 334,000 slaves.

"Before there were U.S. Colored Troops, there were Colored Confederates," said Earl Ijames, curator of the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh.

With Colored Confederates serving in roles ranging from intelligence to infantry, the Union took notice and formed all-black units. Black warriors on both sides fought for the same goal: the emancipation promised them with victory.

"They weren't pro-Confederate or pro-Union," he said. "They were pro-freedom."

In addition to the Union County marker campaign, historians are looking for the burial places of the pensioners. The last of the known survivors, Ned Byrd, died in 1942. Historians and genealogists are scouring official records and newspaper

accounts in hopes of finding more. "If we can find them, we'll be requesting grave markers for others in the group," Way said.

Wary Clyburn may be the best known of Union County's Colored Confederates. Born a slave in South Carolina, Clyburn ran off the plantation to join his master's son, Frank Clyburn with Company E, 12th South Carolina Volunteers. Wary, a bodyguard, twice saved Frank's life by removing him from the battlefield. After the war, Wary moved to North Carolina and applied for a Confederate pension. In 2008, the town of Monroe and the Sons of Confederate Veterans declared July 18 Wary Clyburn Day, with the dedication of a monument at his gravesite with Clyburn's daughter, Mattie Clyburn Rice.

The senior Perry settled in Anson County after the war, then moved to Wingate, where he was superintendent of Gulley School, an academy for black students. He died in 1930 at age 90. Perry's

great-grandson is in the process of refurbishing his gravesite at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Wingate for a headstone.

"It's a good time now for them to get this recognition," the junior Perry said. "We must carry this thing forward."

Ijames, an African American, agrees, adding the War Between the States – which will be marked by observances next year for its 150th anniversary – should have special meaning for African Americans.

"We automatically equate ourselves out of this equation when we are the seminal theme," he said. "We freed ourselves and (President Abraham) Lincoln followed suit. We have more reason to celebrate the Civil War than anyone else."

Source: *The Charlotte Post*. Charlotte, NC. 13 May 2010 (www.thecharlottepost.com)

Note: The Charlotte Post's byline is "The Voice of the Black Community." How come they know their history and the larger news outlets do not? —Ed.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

"There was no surrender at Appomattox, and no withdrawal from the field which committed our people and their children to a heritage of shame and dishonor. No cowardice on any battlefield could be as base and shameful as the silent acquiescence in the scheme which was teaching the children in their homes and

schools that the commercial value of slavery was the cause of the war, that prisoners of war held in the South were starved and treated with a barbarous inhumanity, that Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee were traitors to their country and false to their oaths, that the young men who left everything to resist invasion, and climbed

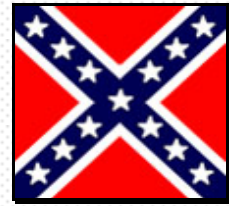
the slopes of Gettysburg and died willingly on a hundred fields were rebels against a righteous government."

— Rev. James Power Smith, last surviving member of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's staff, 1907.

## Important Dates in the War For Southern Independence:

- Jun. 03, 1808: Birthday of Confederate President Jefferson Davis  
Jun. 06, 1862: Battle of Memphis, TN. Brig. Gen. Turner Ashby killed in action near Harrisonburg, VA  
Jun. 07, 1862: Union Gen. Butler hangs citizen William B. Mumford for tearing down Union flag over New Orleans Mint.  
Jun. 08, 1862: Valley Campaign. Confederate victory at the Battle of Cross Keys, VA  
Jun. 09, 1862: Valley Campaign. Battle of Port Republic.  
Jun. 16, 1862: Battle of Secessionville, James Island, SC  
Jun. 25, 1862: Seven Days' Battles begin with fighting at Oak Grove.  
Jun. 01, 1863: Battle of Cold Harbor, VA begins  
Jun. 09, 1863: Battle of Brandy Station, VA  
Jun. 15, 1863: Battle of Winchester, VA. The British House of Lords debate the seizure of British ships by U.S. vessels.  
Jun. 20, 1863: Vicksburg Campaign. The Confederate city comes under intense shelling from Federal batteries.  
Jun. 24, 1863: Gens. Longstreet and Hill's corps cross the Potomac.  
Jun. 28, 1863: Gen. Lee orders Longstreet, Hill, and Ewell to march towards Gettysburg.  
Jun. 10, 1864: Gen. N.B. Forrest leads his cavalry to a brilliant victory at Brice's Crossroads  
Jun. 11, 1864: Gen. N.B. Forrest's men follow and attack beaten Federals as they struggle back towards Memphis, TN  
Jun. 12, 1864: Gen. J.E.B. Stuart begins his four day "Ride Around McClellan"  
Jun. 13, 1864: After maneuvering around McClellan's right flank and passing through Hanover Court House, Gen. Stuart and his men fight at Haw's Shop, VA  
Jun. 14, 1864: Atlanta Campaign. Gen. Leonidas Polk killed at Pine Mountain, GA  
Jun. 23, 1865: Ft. Townsend. Gen. Stand Wate surrenders his Indian command in the last formal surrender of a large Confederate force.

**Next Camp Meeting**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 17TH**  
**6 O'CLOCK P.M.**



**SEAWELL'S**  
**RESTAURANT**  
**1125 Rosewood Drive**  
**Columbia, SC**

SPEAKER  
**Gene Hogann**

TOPIC  
**Nathan Bedford Forrest**

**Y'ALL COME!!!**

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