

THE LEGIONARY

September 2006

A Publication of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp #273

Columbia, S.C.

www.wadehamptoncamp.org

"A Fraternal Organization of Southern Men"

Visiting the Grave of the Stranger in Gray

A small contingent from the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp traveled north recently to visit one of the few Southern shrines north of the Mason-Dixon line.

Gray, Maine, is the final resting place of an unknown Confederate soldier, killed in Virginia in 1862. How he got there is an interesting story.

On Aug. 9, 1862, at the Battle of Cedar Mountain (a precursor to Second Manassas), the 10th Maine Infantry lost 30 men to Stonewall Jackson's attacks. One was Lt. Charles H. Colley of Gray, a town of about 1,500. Three weeks later Lt. Colley died of his wounds in a hospital in Alexandria, Va.

Word was sent back to his parents in Gray that their son had died, and the body would be shipped back if they chose to pay for it. The Colleys sent the money and weeks later a pine box was delivered to the

grieving family.

However, the coffin was found to contain the body not of Lt. Colley, but of an unknown soldier in a gray Confederate uniform. The U.S. government refused to pay to have the body shipped south.

Believing that the young man's family would want him to have a proper burial, the citizens of Gray purchased and prepared a plot in the town cemetery. Later, the body of Lt. Colley arrived in Gray and now lies in the Colley family lot, not far from the Southerner's grave.

That no ill will was borne the unknown Confederate is evidenced by the wording on the tombstone over his grave:

Stranger

**A soldier of the late war
died 1862**

Erected by the Ladies of Gray

This is especially poignant considering Gray sent proportionally more sons to the Civil War than any other town in Maine. Gray's Civil War monument lists the names of nearly 200 men from the community who served in the Union army. (Interestingly, the monument, which is just a stone's throw from the graveyard, also lists the unknown Confederate.)

Even today, it's unclear how the Confederate ended up so far away from home. Maine historians have speculated that both Lt. Colley and the Confederate might have been wounded in the same battle, hospitalized together and both must have died about the same time.

Members of Gray's GAR post decorated the Southerner's grave beginning in the 1870s, a tradition that was later continued by the Sons of Union Veterans, which is, of

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Ga. Heritage Group Appeals Decision to Remove Flag

ATLANTA — A Southern heritage group is fighting a judge's decision that the city of Augusta acted appropriately when it removed the Confederate flag from a pedestrian mall.

In an appeal to the state Supreme Court, the Georgia Heritage Council argues that then-Mayor Bob Young violated state law protecting memorials when he lowered the Confederate flag from the Riverwalk Au-

gusta public mall.

The Confederate emblem has been at the heart of heated debate throughout the South, honored by some as a signal of white Southern heritage and reviled by others as a symbol of slavery.

But the wrangling over the Augusta flag has been focused more on the legal definition of a memorial than the raw emotion tied with most flaps over the flag.

Richmond County Superior Court Judge Duncan D. Wheale ruled the Riverwalk is not a memorial because it "does not honor the past or present service of military personnel."

The heritage group has appealed the ruling, arguing that Augusta violated a section of state law that prohibits altering monuments that honor veterans — regardless of

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September Speaker to Remember 'The Immortal 600'

Bruce Blackmon of the Sons of Mars Camp 1632, Laurel Hill, N.C. will be the guest speaker at the September meeting of the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp. Compatriot Blackmon's topic will be The Immortal 600.

The Immortal 600 were a group of 600 Confederate officers who were held at Morris Island and used as human shields to protect Union positions. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. on Sept. 21 at Seawell's on Rosewood.

A note for camp members: The October meeting has been moved to Wednesday, Oct. 25 due to a conflict with the State Fair. Our speaker will be Dr. John Griffin who will talk about the execution of Abe Lincoln.

Also, our November camp meeting has been moved to Nov. 16, because our originally scheduled meeting would have fallen on Thanksgiving. Our speaker will be Kristina Dunn, Education Co-ordinator for Historic Columbia Society.

It's Time to Stand Tall and Re-Up with the SCV

Compatriots, I have a few items of note to pass on this month.

First, dues are due. Past due, actually. If you've not paid yours, this may be your last issue of The Legionary. Don't let that happen.

Send in your dues today or bring them to our meeting this month. The sooner, the better.

The SCV is the only organization today that is willing to stand and fight the enemies of the Confederate soldier on any field at any time.

If you truly care about protecting and defending the Confederate soldier's good name, YOU belong in the SCV! Now get those dues in and help take up the fight!

Our meeting this month promises to be a good one. Chaplain Slimp has the battle brief and he has assured me it'll be as good as his last.

Our guest speaker will be Compatriot

Commander's Corner

Tommy Rollings

Bruce Blackmon of Camp 1632 in N.C. He'll be showing and telling us all about the Immortal 600. We'll also have a special surprise guest who will be telling us about a new monument to be erected in Washington, D.C., to one of South Carolina's greatest heroes.

Remember to bring the name and address of at least one recruit you'd like to invite to our recruiting meeting.

You can also e-mail the info to me at whcommander@aol.com.

Each of you needs to make special note that our October meeting will not be held on its regular date.

We will meet the following Wednesday, Oct. 25. The State fair falls on our usual night this year and Seawell's will be closed. Our speaker will still be Dr. John Griffin. Please help spread the word to any Compatriots who may be "out of the loop."

Additionally, our November meeting date has changed.

We will not meet Thanksgiving day. We will meet on Nov. 16, one week earlier than usual. Our speaker will be Miss Kristina Dunn.

By popular demand:

Pledge to the South Carolina flag: "I salute the flag of South Carolina and pledge to the Palmetto State love, loyalty, and faith."

Pledge to the Confederate flag: "I salute the Confederate flag with affection, reverence, and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands."

See y'all on the 21st! Bring a friend.

Sam Davis Youth Camp Helps Educate our Young

I had the privilege of attending and being a speaker and staff member of our Sam Davis Youth Camp at the Shepherd of the Hills Christian Camp in the Ozarks near Harriet, Arkansas in July.

I was excited because this was our first co-ed SAC Youth Camp. It was so successful that it was decided that all future Sam Davis Camps will be co-ed. This only makes good sense to educate our young women as well as our young men, pointing out how supportive Southern women were of our cause during our War for Southern Independence.

The campers themselves like this idea because they all said that a co-ed camp is more fun. Mrs. Cassie Barrow, the director of all the girl's activities was outstanding. Our faculty was made up of Field Directors Jack Marlar and Chris Edwards, Pastor John Weaver, Ron Wilson, Attorney Kirk Lyons, myself, and, of course, Mrs. Barrows.

The campers were enthusiastic. Some of

Chaplain's Pulpit

Robert Slimp

them were real leaders and all were talented and motivated. They came to have a good time, but they also wanted to know all they could about the South. They love Dixie and fully understand that the preservation of our Southern distinctives and heritage will soon be up to them.

Each day began with reveille at 7 a.m. There was a Confederate flag raising at 7:45 a.m. followed by a Devotion from the Bible by Pastor John Weaver. Next came breakfast.

The morning consisted of three classes on such subjects as Sam Davis, the Truth about Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Is Secession legal today? The Battle of Sabine Pass, The Great Revival that swept

the Confederate Armies and other pertinent subjects.

In the afternoon, there was recreation time. There were interesting activities. There was a beautiful creek that flowed right through our Camp. There were two crystal clear swimming holes, one big enough for snorkeling. There were good fly fishing spots down stream. In addition there were challenging hikes to "Goat Cave" high above the Camp, which was challenging enough so that a guide was provided by the Camp staff. The views from the Cave were spectacular. There was horse back riding and canoes were available.

In the evening we had supper at 6 o'clock followed by a Confederate flag lowering. Later the boys were taught the manual of arms and drilling to encourage them in becoming re-enactors. This was taught by Kirk Lyons.

At the same time, the girls were being taught about Southern fashion and etiquette

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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."

-Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, New Orleans, La., April 25, 1906.

The Legionary

is the official publication of the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp, No. 273, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Columbia, S.C. Individuals interested in joining the Camp or the SCV should contact the following individuals:
Commander Tommy Rollings (803) 791-1130
Adjutant Layne Waters (803) 798-2429

Stonewall Jackson's Horse Back in Museum at VMI

LEXINGTON, Va. - Little Sorrel, Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's horse, was out on the streets this week.

"The journey was a short but historical one," said Col. Keith Gibson, executive director of Virginia Military Institute's museum programs.

The legendary steed was simply moving from one "stable" to another on the VMI campus.

After Little Sorrel died in 1886 at age 35, his hide was mounted on a plaster of Paris mold. Since the end of World War II, Little Sorrel has been at VMI.

For the past two years, he had been at the George C. Marshall

Research Library while his normal quarters at Jackson Memorial Hall underwent renovation. With the renovations complete, Little Sorrel was moved back home Thursday afternoon.

The half-mile journey was a bit tricky.

"Beyond the obvious danger of simply toppling him over is the need to minimize vibration," Gibson said. "Vibrations can be very damaging to the hide and to the plaster that's under the hide."

The horse was ensconced in a heavy wooden frame, then a 10-man crew carted him to a flatbed truck.

Now that his surroundings have been renovated, Little Sorrel is scheduled for a makeover.

Chaplain

in the ante-bellum and Confederate periods. Then both groups came together and Attorney Kirk Lyons and Cassie Barrow taught period dances such as the Virginia Reel, the White Cockade, Strip the Willow and the Prince Albert Jig. The boys had to bow to their partners, and the girls curtsied.

On Friday night we had a Confederate Ball, preceded by an oratorical contest for the boys and an essay contest for the girls. On Saturday night parents and friends were invited to attend the special awards ceremony.

These campers were very special young people. The young ladies will grow up to be Southern belles, and the young men will strengthen the ranks of our SCV.

About half of the male campers were al-

ready members of the SCV and four more joined by special arrangements with our International Headquarters in Columbia, Tenn.

Several of the young ladies were already members of the UDC and three of the younger girls were members of the Children of the Confederacy.

The Sam Davis Youth Camps are a wonderful way of educating our young people. This is the most effective teaching and recruiting tool, I have ever experienced. They will be continued.

They are a guarantee that future generations will continue to live up to General Stephen Dill Lee's Charge.

We will have two more Sam Davis camps in 2007. They will be held in

South Carolina and Arkansas. I hope that our Camp alone will give scholarships to at least one deserving young man and a Southern belle.

The exact times will be announced at our September meeting and in the Legionary.

Since this is the Chaplain's Pulpit I want to say that we had one devotion and one worship service every day, chock full of the Bible.

I found that virtually all of our campers were church members and attended their churches regularly.

One of the verses memorized by our campers was: "Study to show Thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." - 2 Timothy 2:15

Gray

course, the northern counterpart to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Over the years, Southern groups have sent Confederate flags to be placed on the unknown's grave. When a member of the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp visited the cemetery last month, there were no fewer than three Confederate battle flags flying. Flowers have also been planted at the gravestone.

With the Confederate flag under attack in so many parts of the old South by individuals attempting to stir up trouble to benefit their own personal agendas, it's touching to see folks in a small northern town willing to remember and honor a man who once fought against their ancestors.

The fact is, spineless politicians, greedy business leaders and anti-Southern academ-

ics and media types are increasingly stepping up attacks on Confederacy, with a goal of eradicating all public reminders of history they find distasteful.

It would be sadly ironic if, in the long run, that unknown Confederate, buried 500 miles from his homeland, was treated with more reverence than his counterparts resting in southern climes.

Flag

which side they battled for during the Civil War.

Because the Riverwalk sports all the banners that have flown over Augusta, it must also display the Confederate emblem, said Jeff Davis, the council's chairman.

"They're all there. The Spanish, the British, right on down the line," he said. "But there's a big gap missing — four years. That's what you call a revision of history."

The flag, known as the "Stainless Banner," features the Confederate battle emblem atop a field of white. It was first used to drape the coffin of Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, who died in 1863 at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Young removed the banner from the Augusta mall in September 2004 after the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter asked for it to be taken down.

Research Problems?

The SCV can help. For complete assistance in all aspects of lineage & genealogy contact:

Jim Harley

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(803) 772-8080

Important Dates in the War of Northern Aggression

- Sept. 2, 1861: Confederates whip Yankees in Battle of the Mules, in Southwestern Missouri.
- Sept. 8, 1863: A storming party of 400 marines and sailors attempt to surprise Fort Sumter but are rebuffed by Confederate defenders.
- Sept. 8, 1863: A small Confederate force of 44 men at Fort Griffin, Texas, under command of Lt. Richard W. Dowling, held off a Union flotilla and captured the gunboat Clifton and about 200 prisoners.
- Sept. 12, 1862: General McClellan defeated General Lee at South Mountain and Crampton's Gap in September, but did not move quickly enough to save Harper's Ferry, which fell Sept. 15, along with a great number of men and a large body of supplies.
- Sept. 13, 1861: Confederates consolidate their control of Missouri Valley with victory at Battle of the Hemp Bales, in Missouri, under the leadership of Sterling Price.
- Sept. 16, 1862: More than 23,000 Union and Confederate troops fall at Antietam, near Sharpsburg, Md., in one of the bloodiest battles of the war.
- Sept. 19, 1863: Confederates stop Federals at Chickamauga, Ga., in a key Southern victory.

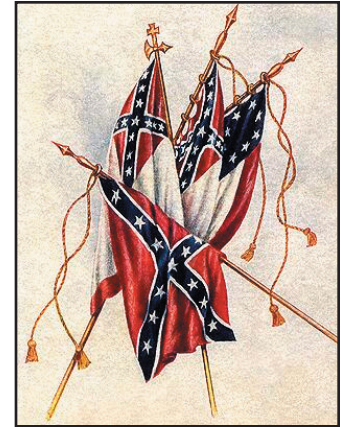
Words To Remember

"We were not rebels; we did not fight to perpetuate human slavery, but for our rights and privileges under a government established over us by our fathers and in defense of our homes."

-Col. Richard Henry Lee

Next Camp Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 21



6 p.m. at Seawell's
Restaurant, on Rosewood

Scripture Thought

"Any story sounds true until someone tells the other side and sets the record straight."

-Proverbs 18:17

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THE LEGIONARY
Official Publication of the
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp #273
A Non-Profit Organization
September 2006 Issue
205 Coopers Hawk Circle
Irmo, SC 29063