

~ Official Newsletter of the DILLARD-JUDD CAMP 1828 ~

HIGHLANDER

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DISPATCH



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Sons of Confederate Veterans

June, 2007

GENERAL FORREST

Retired Air Force member Brent Lokey has volunteered to be the speaker at the June 26 meeting of SCV Camp #1828, Cookeville, TN. Brent served in the USAF for 25 years and then taught geography at Motlow College for 11 years. He has also worked with the Epilepsy Foundation. His SCV connections include membership in the Major-General B. F. Cheatham Camp #72 in Manchester for 15 years, where he has served in many posts, including Commander.

Brent has had a long term interest in General Forrest. Brent researched General Forrest's ride across north Alabama. To deepen his understanding of the campaign, Brent traced the path of Forrest and his men, taking pictures along the way of important locations. This research led to the publication of a book, "Riding With the Wizard of the Saddle". The book tells the story of the campaign, including the capture of the "Mule Brigade".

Brent has another book in the works, "Riding With the Wizard of the Saddle, Part 2". Brent will talk with us about his findings on General Forrest and discuss his books. The meeting will be Tuesday, 26 June, 2007 at the Golden Corral Restaurant, with dinner at a special rate at 6PM and the meeting starting at 7PM.

FORREST PICNIC

The Dillard-Judd Camp of the SCV will host its annual picnic on Saturday, the 21st of July. The camp will provide Hamburgers and Hotdogs. Members of the Highland Brigade and their friends are invited. Please bring a dish to share with the group.

The picnic will be at the property of Compatriot Mike Williams, a new member of Dillard-Judd. DIRECTIONS- From Cookeville, go north on 136 (Washington) to Hardy's Chapel. Turn LEFT on Poplar Springs Road. Go about 4 miles to 1320 Poplar Springs. From Gainesboro—Take 135 toward Dodson's Branch. Turn LEFT on Spring Creek Road. Take the first LEFT onto Poplar Springs Road. Proceed to 1320 Poplar Springs Road.

The speaker at the picnic will be Gregg Biggs of the Clarksville camp, who will enlighten us on cavalry tactics and why General Forrest was so successful. More in the July newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 23, 2007- Annual fundraiser for the Forrest Boyhood Home. Speakers, music, events from 9AM till about 4PM. Go south on I-65 from Nashville, exit west at Exit 37 and go 7 miles on Highway 50. Turn left on Mooresville Pike. Elm Springs is the first right.

June 26, 2007- Regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral.

2007 TENNESSEE DIVISION REUNION

The following report was submitted by Compatriot Ed Butler, member of Dillard-Judd Camp #1828 and Councilman, Army of Tennessee.

A tip of the kepi goes to the members of the Murfreesboro Camp #33 for planning and hosting the 2007 Division Reunion. They certainly did an excellent job! A Reunion/Convention is a time to conduct business, renew friendships and to enjoy entertainment. All three ingredients were included in this year's agenda in generous proportions. Friday evening the Murfreesboro Chapter of the OCR provided an exquisite assortment of sandwiches, finger foods and goodies.

At seven o'clock Brother David Chaltas, Chaplain of the Kentucky Division, presented a program on General Robert E. Lee. Brother Chaltas adamantly states that the role of General Lee chose him; he did not choose it of his own free will. It is uncanny how much Brother Chaltas favors General Lee and how well he portrays "The General"! He has spent several years studying the words, actions and mannerisms of our greatest Southern Gentleman, Christian leader and Hero. Had you closed your eyes and listened, you would have been transported into yesteryear. The near sterile environment of a motel meeting room was transformed that evening by this dedicated Christian Compatriot into a tent in the Army of Northern Virginia. After an earnest plea to his maker for guidance and courage to face the rigors of warfare, "General Lee" spoke of his troubles and triumphs, his desires and wishes, and his beliefs and concerns for this life and the next. I dared not look around to see if others in the audience felt the passion and concern expressed by this great leader lest the reflection of the lights in my own eyes betray a slight moistness that was more than usual.

After a short break, our very own Marlin Rood and his group of "pickers" tightened their strings, loosened their joints and muscles, and commenced to play some of the most pure "period music" ever performed in the twenty-first century! Marlin Rood is a member of the John Hunt Morgan Camp #270 in Springfield. He owns a music store in downtown Springfield and plays music the way "it used to be played"! Marlin had arranged for a caller to be in attendance so those that desired could dance to some of the period dances that entertained our ancestors so completely. Phew---a little dancing goes a long way with a slightly overweight, over sixty, Southern Gentleman!

Saturday morning was consumed with the business of the Tennessee Division. I shall not reiterate details of the meeting as the next "Forrest Escort" will include a summary of the business meeting. A tip of the kepi also goes to Division Commander Bradley for conducting an excellent

business meeting that was on schedule and actually adjourned a few minutes early. The “Men of Murfreesboro” had arranged for a delicious dinner of Southern delicacies with all the trimmin’s. We were entertained during the dinner hour by Compatriot John Bridges of the Sam Davis Camp who related the story of “Three Cousins from McMinnville”. This is the title of his next book. It tells the story of Thomas Benton Smith, DeWitt S. Jobe, and Dee Smith. The story of these three cousins is a tale of bravery and honor and the cruelty inflicted on these men by the invading “blue bellies”! After the book review, a musical group, “The Coleman Scouts”, led by Compatriot Bridges, entertained all with their rendition of several period songs.

The afternoon passed quickly as we were bussed to Oaklands Mansion for a tour of the actual location of the meal of sweet potatoes and black-eyed peas that General Forrest and his men enjoyed after freeing the town of Murfreesboro on July 13, 1862. It was quite a birthday celebration for “The General” and his men. Sweet potatoes and peas may not sound like much of a meal by today’s standards. To men that had been in the saddle for four days and had little to eat other than hardtack, possibly some dried side meat and some parched corn, this was definitely a feast! Whuppin’ all those Yankees must have made everything taste even sweeter!

After Oaklands, Park Ranger Jim Lewis gave a very informative and thorough tour of the “Battle of Stone’s River”. Saturday evening featured another fine meal arranged by the fine Murfreesboro camp. The first speaker was the always stirring H. K. Edgerton, who recounted some of his experiences carrying the Battle Flag across the South. H. K. was followed by Compatriot Thomas Cartwright of the Carter House in Franklin. Mr. Cartwright spoke on “Comedy in the Confederate Ranks”, and he has no equal in facts about the Confederate Armies, especially the Army of Tennessee. Thomas is a valiant warrior in the struggle to preserve our Confederate Heritage and the good name of our ancestors. He is admired and appreciated by all for his dedication and perseverance.

After a brief interlude, Compatriot Jeff Evans of the Shiloh Church Camp won the Oratory contest with a description of the events at Fort Pillow. The evening ended in fine fashion with the talents of Compatriot Ross Moore, who entertained with period and Celtic songs. Ross not only sang, but wrote some of the songs presented. In addition, he plays some thirteen or so instruments. He is truly a talented and gifted individual. His recently released album of Celtic music, “Appalachian Sunset” contains some of the songs he played that evening.

The Murfreesboro Camp has been working over a year to replace the posts and flag pole at Confederate Circle in Evergreen Cemetery in Murfreesboro. This portion of the city cemetery is the final resting place of about 1500 Confederate soldiers, most of whom were killed in the Battle of Stone’s River or succumbed to their wounds in the weeks after the battle. These casualties were interred in various parts of the city where their remains were in danger of being forgotten. Many spend eternity known only to their Maker. In the 1890’s a concerted effort was made to exhume the remains of all Confederate soldiers and place them in a portion of Evergreen Cemetery. Thus, “Confederate Circle” was established.

On Sunday morning a Memorial Service was held at “Confederate Circle” to dedicate the new limestone posts that divide the circle from the balance of the cemetery, as well as dedicating the new flag pole, flying a 5’X8’ Battle Flag. Thirteen of these posts have the names of one of the Confederate States on them. The others are engraved with a Battle Flag. A very touching service was conducted, complete with prayer and scripture reading, an address, a volley, and period music by the “Caudells”, a husband and wife duet. WOW, what a wonderful weekend. EB