

TRAVELLER

Award Winning Publication of the General Robert E. Lee
Camp, #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

DEO VINDICE!

April 2019



CAMP MEETING

April 8, 2019

Speaker: Mark Buchanan

**Topic: " Update on Status of Forrest
Statue "**

**7:00 p.m. at the at the Germantown
Regional History and Genealogy Center**

Don't miss our next meeting!

THE TRUTH CONCERNING CAPT. HENRY WIRZ AND ANDERSONVILLE POW CAMP

When the War Between the States (Civil War) ended in 1865, Capt. Wirz was paroled. However, shortly thereafter, he was arrested and carried to Washington, D.C. where he was placed in the Old Capitol Prison. His trial before a military tribunal lasted several months, and included the perjured testimony of a Yankee soldier, Felix Oeser, who was a deserter from the 7th NY Regiment, who falsely claimed to be Felix de la Baume, a great nephew of Marquis Lafayette of American Revolutionary war fame. For his false testimony against Capt. Wirz, he was given a position with the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. It was later learned that this key witness whose perjured testimony contributed considerably to the conviction had never been at Andersonville. The vast Majority of defense witnesses for Capt. Wirz were not permitted to testify. Many historians call his trial a farce and travesty of justice. After the war in 1908, James Madison Page, a Michigan cavalryman, who had been a POW at



Andersonville, wrote a book completely exonerating Wirz.

Capt. Wirz was falsely convicted of murdering 13 Union prisoners at Andersonville, although neither a single body, nor even the name of any of the 13 was ever produced. He was also falsely convicted on a second charge of conspiracy with high ranking members of the Confederate government to create the conditions that caused the high death rate. Wirz was made a scapegoat for the South. On Nov. 10, 1865, Capt. Wirz was hanged in the yard of the Old Capitol Prison. He declared his innocence to the end. The night before the hanging he was offered a commuted sentence if he would implicate Confederate President Jefferson Davis as a conspirator for Andersonville deaths. Wirz was an honorable man and would not lie to save his life.

After the hanging, the barbaric Yankees cut off his head and arms and other body parts, and exhibited them about the country. It took Capt. Wirz's attorney, Louis Schade, four years to collect enough body parts to have a Christian burial in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington.

The highly biased Northern version of Andersonville Civil War Prison (POW) Camp is well known however the true facts concerning Andersonville are not well known. The government of The Confederate States of America issued an order that a large POW prison should be constructed in early 1864 to alleviate crowding in existing camps in the South. The requirements were that it be constructed at a location further South away from the battle front and should be a healthy location with plenty of pure water, a running stream, close to grist and saw mills and if possible have shade trees. The location selected was in South Georgia in Sumter County and was officially named Camp Sumter although it became known as Andersonville. It was constructed to

house 10,000 Union POW's however numbers increased to as high as 45,000 due to a policy by the Lincoln administration to discontinue exchanges.

The average death rate at other POW camps in the South was about 9% as compared to 12% for POW camps in the North where Confederate POW's were incarcerated. In contrast the death rate at Andersonville was approximately 29% due to causes beyond the control of Confederate authorities and was unintentional. Also in contrast were the similar death rates at several Northern POW camps notably Elmira New York and Camp Douglas Chicago where the high death rates have been proven to be intentional. The U.S. Senate and House passed a joint resolution, SR97, stating the intent to kill Confederate POW's by starvation, disease, and exposure to inclement weather.

It is a well-known fact that the victor of a war writes the history from a biased perspective. Immediately after the end of the war absurd war crimes claims were made by Northern politicians, military authorities, newspapers, periodicals, and citizens that the decisions and conditions that caused the human disaster at Andersonville were intentional on the part of Confederate authorities. Demands for War Crimes Trials were made and the Commandant of Andersonville POW camp, Capt. Henry Wirz, was arrested, tried, and convicted in a farce trial by a military tribunal who had predetermined that a conviction would result. No War Crimes Charges against Northern POW commandants were ever made and no Northern POW camp has ever been enshrined by the U.S. Government as a memorial to Confederate POW's. Only Andersonville in the South has been enshrined and it has become a memorial to American POW's of all wars that have involved American veterans.

In defense of the Confederate government and Confederate prison officials in regards to Andersonville, a response was made in 1876, by the Southern Historical Society, consisting of 9 points that place the blame for deaths and suffering at Andersonville totally on Northern politicians and military authorities. Specifically President Lincoln, Sec. of War Stanton, Asst. Sec. of War Dana, and Gen. Grant shoulder the blame as noted in the following 9 points.

1. It is not denied that great suffering and mortality occurred but it was due to circumstances and conditions beyond CSA control.
2. If the death rate be adduced as "circumstantial evidence of barbarity" the rate of Confederate deaths was higher in Northern POW camps where there was an abundance of food, medicine, and shelter.
3. The Union POW's were given the same rations as Confederate guards and soldiers and equal treatment in

hospitals as required by the CSA government and the death rate of CSA guards was the same as POW's. The Northern Federal government did not have this humane policy.

4. The exchange of prisoners was refused by the North before the issue of black Union POW's became an issue.
5. The CSA government requested that Northern doctors and medicine be sent to treat Northern POW's and the request was denied.
6. The CSA tried to buy supplies including bowls and other utensils to use in feeding the POW's. They offered to pay with cotton and gold but the offer was refused by the Lincoln administration.
7. The Federal Government under President Lincoln made medicine contraband causing suffering and death of Union POW's and all Southerners military and civilian.
8. Prior to the period of greatest mortality the CSA authorities offered to release the Andersonville POW's without exchange but the offer was not accepted by the Lincoln Administration who was told by CSA authorities "we cannot feed or care for them-just come get them". Sherman's barbaric war crimes in Georgia consisting of stealing, destroying, and burning made food and supplies even scarcer and increased suffering and mortality.
9. The Northern press was furnished lies and propaganda by Union Sec. and Assistant Sec. of war Stanton and Dana claiming deliberate cruelties and war crimes by the South. The control of Northern POW camps was transferred by Stanton and Dana to vindictive partisan criminal elements and deliberate war crimes of cruelty, torture, and murder were committed against Confederate POW's as proven by a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House SR97.

Final proof that the human disaster at Andersonville was virtually 100% the fault of the Lincoln Administration comes from statements by Confederate Col. Ould who was in charge of arranging prisoner exchanges and Union Assistant Secretary of War in the Lincoln Administration Charles A. Dana. Col. Ould is quoted as saying "My government instructs me to waive all formalities in this matter of exchange. I need not try to conceal from you that we cannot feed and provide for the prisoners in our hands. We cannot half feed or clothe them. You have closed our ports till we cannot get medical stores for them. You will not send us quinine and other medicines, even for their exclusive use. They are suffering greatly and the mortality is excessive. I tell you all this plainly, and still you refuse to exchange. What does your government demand? Name your own conditions and I have authority to accept them. **YOU ARE SILENT! GREAT GOD, CAN IT BE THAT YOU PEOPLE ARE MONSTERS?** If you will not exchange, I will give you

your men for nothing. I will deliver ten thousand Union POW's at Wilmington. I will deliver five thousand here. Come and get them. If your government is so damnably dishonest to want them for nothing, you shall have them. You can at least feed them and we cannot."

Post-War in the New York Sun Newspaper Dana wrote "CSA authorities and especially Jefferson Davis ought not to be held responsible for Andersonville. We were responsible ourselves for the continued detention of our captives in misery, starvation and sickness in the South".

In 1906 former Confederate General Stephen D. Lee charged the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) organization with the duty to defend the honor of the South and the Confederate Soldier:

"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. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

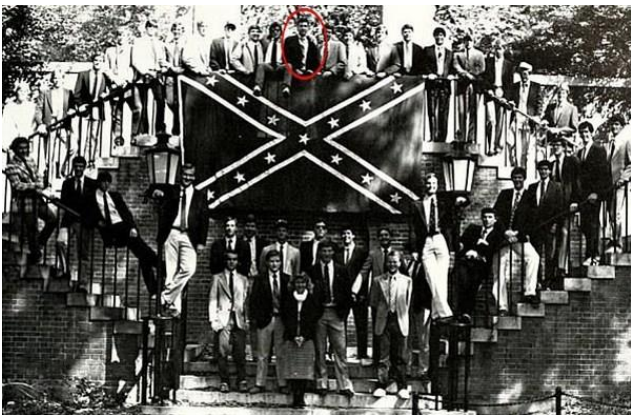
James W. King is commander of Albany Camp 141 Lt. Col. Thomas M. Nelson-Nelson's Rangers of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans organization and assists the Americus SCV camp in promoting the annual Wirz memorial service at Andersonville Georgia.

Ashamed of Dixie

Robert Hampton, American Renaissance

Politicians eat dirt to placate critics.

Southern politicians were once great defenders of their region's heritage and traditions. Now any past association with the Confederacy means groveling.



Republican Tennessee Governor Bill Lee apologized last week after reporters found a college yearbook photo of him in a Confederate uniform. He wore it as part of the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity's "Old South" ball, a

tradition the fraternity has—of course—abandoned. The men dressed up as Confederate officers and their ladies as southern belles.

Other Kappa Alpha men are taking a beating. The Nashville district attorney general Glenn Funk just had to bow and scrape because his 1982 Wake Forest University yearbook had a picture of him posing with frat brothers around a Confederate Flag.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's blackface photo scandal has also convinced him he must do more to stamp out "racism" and take down Confederate monuments. Gov. Northam, a Democrat, said he has read Ta-Nehisi Coates' *The Case for Reparations*, promised to promote racial "sensitivity" training, and vowed to take a "harder line" on Confederate statues in order to atone for his own racial offenses.

The Northam scandal inspired *USA Today* to hire an army of snoops to hunt through old college yearbooks. The first sentence in the *Clarion-Ledger's* report on the hunt reads, "A man waving a Confederate Army flag with the caption, 'Remember . . . the way we were.'" Horrors: young Southern men used to wave the flag.

The hunt for past wickendess at Wake Forest found old photos showing the university's current dean, Martha Allman, and the associate dean of admissions, Kevin Pittard, standing in front of Confederate flags. Mrs. Allman was with Kappa Alpha members in her photo, and Mr. Pittard was a KA himself. Both have crawled on their bellies and claimed they have tried to atone for their sins by making the university less white. Non-white students insist Mrs. Allman must resign.

In 2018, the Republican and then-senate candidate Chris McDaniel faced strong criticism for using the Confederate flag in some of his yard signs and for his support of the battle flag on the Mississippi state flag. When Mr. McDaniel ran in 2014, his opponent, Thad Cochran, attacked him for accepting donations from a "neo-Confederate." Mr. McDaniel returned the donations. In that race, he also was criticized for speaking to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant's membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans' has also generated criticism. Former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour was ripped by the national press in 2011 for refusing to denounce a push by the Sons of Confederate Veterans to honor Nathan Bedford Forrest.

In Alabama, Republican Roy Moore was roasted during his 2017 senate run over his association with an event that honored the state's secession day. In 2018, Alabama chief justice candidate Tom Parker was called "racist" and "confederate-obsessed" for honoring the Confederate

flag. Mr. Parker still managed to be elected chief justice.

That victory shows that the average southerner isn't bothered by the flag. In fact, most southerners want their politicians to defend their heritage. The previous Tennessee governor, Bill Haslam, learned that last year. After the Charlottesville riot in 2017, he said Confederate statues should come down, but less than a year later he signed a bill that would protect them. He had no choice: The bill had overwhelming support in the Tennessee house and senate

Polling shows 70 percent of Southerners want monuments to stay; only 28 percent think they need "new context" added to them. Only 5 percent of Southerners support total removal. The differences are even greater for whites: 78 percent of Southern whites wanting the statues to stay.

However, the same survey found that only 37 percent of Southerners have a favorable view of the Confederate flag. Most white Southerners still believe the flag represents regional pride, but only 44 percent view it favorably. (Fifteen percent of whites were "not sure" and 4 percent refused to answer.)

Legislators share the same difference in opinion about the flag and monuments. In 2015, South Carolina rushed to remove the flag from the grounds of the state capitol, but passed legislation to protect monuments. For whatever reason, the Battle Flag upsets more people than the monuments.

The Kappa Alpha Order is split over Southern identity. It recently banned events with "Old South" in the name and forbids members from wearing clothes that might be "objectionable to the general public." Still, the fraternity considers Robert E. Lee its spiritual founder and promotes the general's definition of a gentlemen.

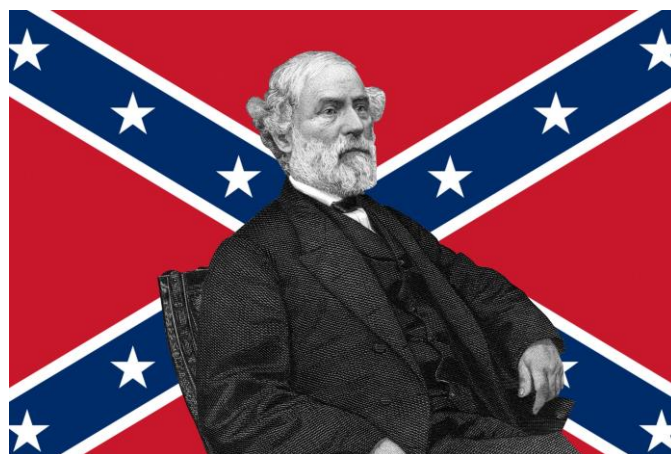
The new rules won't save older lawmakers who went to college when it was okay to be a Rebel. For years to come, we will witness new candidates for office beg forgiveness for waving the Confederate flag, dressing up as a soldier, displaying a "Colonel Reb is my Mascot" sticker, or even just belonging to Kappa Alpha.

The New South no longer tolerates this stuff. And, of course, the war on Southern identity is a war on white identity. The Battle Flag and the monuments connect millions of white Southerners to their ancestors. It instills pride in the men who fought to defend homeland and rights. Southerners always rebelled against distant elites who tried to push them around, and the Confederate Flag symbolizes defiance.

The South has changed dramatically, as it fills up with white newcomers and immigrants who have no ties to the

region. Their ancestors didn't fight under the Battle Flag, and they think Confederates were racist losers.

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee made a terrible mistake when he apologized for wearing a Confederate uniform. He invited future attacks on other leaders and added fuel to the war against Southern identity. Southern leaders should never apologize for honoring their ancestors. The voters—who are the people who matter—will respect them.



The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640 Sons of Confederate Veterans

Go to our website:

<http://www.tennessee-scv.org/camp1640/>

Or visit our Facebook pages at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BluffCityGraysMemphis>

<http://www.facebook.com/RELeeCamp1640>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SCV-Memphis-Brigade-Color-Guard/268457703293353>

SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

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T Tarry Beasley IV	Eugene Callaway
W. Kent Daniel Jr.	James Anthony Davis
Hubert Dellinger Jr., MD	H. Clark Doan
Gary Douglas	Robert Freeman
Eugene Forrester	Donald Harrison
Frederick Harrison	Frank Holeman
M. Gary Hood	William P Hunter, Jr.
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Osborn Turner, IV	Charles L Vernon
William C. Wilson	

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Help Save General Forrest



The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to remove the Forrest Equestrian Statue from Forrest Park and to dig up the graves of General Forrest and his wife MaryAnn from beneath the statue.

The SCV and the Forrest family descendants must raise money to fight the city in this second attack on General Forrest. We need your help.

Help us to save the graves and monument of General Forrest

Can you, or your camp or Division donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

Please sign me up as a supporter. No membership fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contribute through PayPal at our ally at : www.citizenstosaveourparks.org

Please donate to our cause: Amount \$ _____ check number _____

Forrest Park Defense Fund

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124

COLLECTOR'S

FORREST COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Solid bronze

**\$ 10 each — All proceeds go to
Parks Defense Fund**

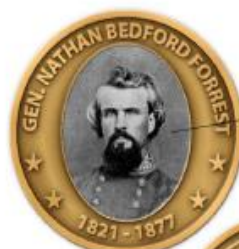
Contact: Harry Adams, Forrest Camp 215

harryadamscsa@gmail.com

\$10 each, plus \$1 each for shipping. Send your check to

Save the Parks

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124



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The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans

and

The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,

Order of the Confederate Rose

P.O. Box 171251

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Steve M. McIntyre, Editor

Next Camp Meeting ** April 8, 2019

Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN