



TRAVELLER

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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

DEO VINDICE!

March 2020



CAMP MEETING

March 9, 2020

**Speaker: Dore Dorris and
Lani Burnette Rinkel**

Topic: "Black Confederates"

**6:15 p.m. BBQ dinner from the
Germantown Commissary
complements of Dr. Hubert Dellinger.
(Bring a desert if you like.)**

7:00 p.m. Meeting

**Germantown Regional History and
Genealogy Center**

Don't miss our next meeting!

enthused about the idea from the start when I approached him about it. Always the gentleman, he was prepared for us with coffee and custom maps of the various lots he owns. Collectively we found several relics from the Battle of Collierville and other interesting items from the late 1800s. Also very enjoyable, especially for those who had not seen it before, were brief tours some took of John's library. It truly is an amazing collection and well appointed house as well. It is a tremendous resource for those doing historical research which John generously makes available by appointment. On the subject of field trips for the Camp, the next one is already in the works. Long time Camp member and volunteer guide at Elmwood Cemetery Donald Harrison has offered to host Camp members on a custom interpretive tour. This will be a very interesting event that you will not want to miss. Donald is extremely knowledgeable about this very historic cemetery and its famous "tenants". An exact time is not set yet but we anticipate it being sometime in May. More details to follow.

Commander's Corner

Welcome to March fellow Compatriots! Soon we will finally "spring forward" the clocks making it again daylight beyond our meeting times. This I hope will help our members that are challenged by driving at night and thus have not been able to attend since last summer. Then of course there are those who just want to be at home after dark and I admit to being in that category and more so the older I get!

Saturday, February 29, we had our first Lee Camp "field trip"; a morning relic hunt and Gus's Fried Chicken lunch. It was a beautiful day and well attended by SCV members as well as some folks from a local metal detecting club. Most of the guys from the club were not SCV members but I hope their getting acquainted with us will inspire them to come to some of our upcoming meetings. We all certainly share an interest of the past so I feel pretty confident they would enjoy our group.

Many thanks to John Green of the Wigfall Grays Camp who hosted us at his library property. He was very



The BBQ dinner at 6:15 prior to our February meeting was a big hit and we will be doing it again at the same time prior to our March 9 meeting so mark your calendars to attend. It is a fun social time and relieves the stress and trouble of making dinner after work before coming to the monthly meetings. As we had hoped, I think it immediately had a positive effect on attendance and overall enjoyment. I'm very grateful to report that we have a volunteer sponsor in Dr. Hubert Dellinger for this month's dinner! Make plans to come enjoy the new

format and give Dr. Dellinger a hearty thank you for his generosity.

The Lee Camp has a lot of momentum and I hope you can sense it too. I'm very appreciative for the dedicated support of your officers in helping me make the Robert E. Lee Camp of Germantown as good as it can be. Attendance is definitely on the upswing and I have been so delighted to see faces recently that I have not seen in quite a while. If you are reading this and have not been to a Lee Camp meeting in some time, I encourage you to come back and join the fun. As you can see from the docket Lieutenant Commander Bruce Lynch has put together, we have very exciting speakers and programs coming up that I'm confident you will enjoy.

Take care, call on me if I can be doing anything for you and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday March 9th for dinner at 6:15 and meeting at the usual 7 pm.

Sincerely,

Shane Miller
Commander
smillerucl@aol.com
901-748-3602 Work
901-848-8757 Cell



Relics from Collierville unearthed at the
Lee Camp "field trip"

Confederate States Marine Corps

By Thomas Crawford

When the American Civil War broke out, hundreds of commissioned officers in the service of the United States armed forces tendered their resignations and went south. These men had surrendered their futures to the vagaries of the new Confederacy. Some of these officers would lead vast armies in the field, while others would command from the decks of ships at sea; but only a few,

perhaps justly proud, carried the esteem, tradition, and unique title of a Confederate States Marine Officer.

During the next four years, the Confederate States Marine Corps, though small, evolved into an effective, offensive service of the Confederacy. During the course of the war the Marine Corps increasingly participated in joint operations with forces from the Confederate States Army and Navy. Employing effective military and naval tactics, the Marines established an informal amphibious doctrine which yielded several military successes, a rare commodity in southern naval circles. Despite some severe handicaps, the participation of the Confederate States Marine Corps in these joint operations created an increasingly effective multi-faceted amphibious assault force. The

Structure of the Confederate States government closely imitated that of the United States in both its political and military institutions. As in the United States, the Commandant of the Confederate Marine Corps reported directly to the Secretary of the Navy and was subject to his authority, but the Corps itself operated as a separate entity with its own chain of command, list of promotions, duties, and assigned operational tasks. Those Marine detachments assigned to the numerous ships and naval stations of the Confederacy, though temporarily under naval command, did not belong to the navy, but rather carried out their duties as if on loan to the navy. The exploits of the Confederate States Marine Corps, largely forgotten for more than a century, deserve a closer examination.

After four years of fighting, few Marine Corps records remained. Despite scant documentation, Confederate Marines established a rich military legacy. Immediately following the Civil War, the true extent of Confederate Marine activities and accomplishments virtually evaporated. Most works on the Civil War give scant attention to the southern Marine Corps, or ignore them completely. J. Thomas Scharf's impressive and comprehensive work, *History of the Confederate States Navy*, the standard works on the subject for more than a century, and still heavily consulted, summed up the activities of the Confederate Corps in only four pages.

One history focusing primarily on the United States Marine Corps performed the same task in less than five paragraphs.

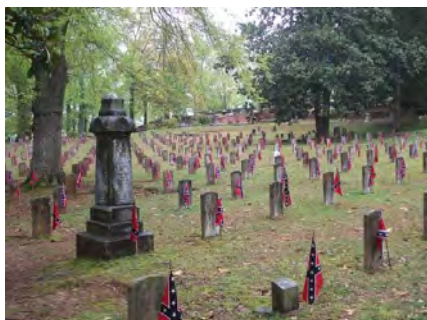
Recent scholarship, most notably Ralph Donnelly's 1990 book, *Rebel Marines: The Confederate States Marine Corps*, and several journal articles by David Sullivan, not only established an excellent factual foundation for the Corps, but also dispelled the Southern Corps' image as that of a paper tiger. These works found that the Confederate Marines performed their duties well, set

some operational precedents for the twentieth century U.S. Marine Corps, and may have quite possibly outperformed their northern counterparts on occasion.

One area worthy of greater focus is the Confederate States Marine Corps' successful evolution into a unique force which specialized in joint amphibious operations. These successful amphibious operations occurred as a result of a collaboration which took place between aggressive naval and marine officers, and creative interlopers, men both inside and outside the Corps, whose bold creativity and leadership grasped the potential of the Confederate Marine Corps and determined to maximize its effectiveness.

Do Confederate Veterans Count?

By **James Rutledge Roesch**



The following is excerpted from a letter which I sent to my State Senator

At the Florida State Fair, Governor Rick Scott and his Cabinet tabled the question of whether Confederate soldiers – in particular, Samuel Pasco, David Lang, and Edward A. Perry – were eligible for admission to the Veterans' Hall of Fame, requesting the legislature's "clarification." The apparent problem – that Confederates are technically not U.S. veterans and thus ineligible for admission – actually has an easy solution. In 1958, while raising pension rates for widows of U.S. veterans, Congress stated that "the term 'veteran' includes a person who served in the military or naval forces of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War." Confederate veterans may also be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, which is reserved for U.S. veterans. Therefore, Confederate veterans, strictly speaking, are U.S. veterans. In fact, U.S. Presidents such as Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan have all publicly honored Confederates. That should settle the technicalities of the issue, although there is a more fundamental question that needs answering: were the Confederates American heroes or traitors?

Both sides in the War Between the States were proudly American. Both sides believed with total sincerity that they were the heirs of the American Revolution, defending the fundamental principles of their country's freedom. Pulitzer-winning historian James M. McPherson studied 25,000 letters and 100 diaries from

Federal and Confederate soldiers in an exhaustive effort to understand why Northerners and Southerners fought. "What were they fighting for? If asked to define it in a single word, many soldiers on both sides would have answered: liberty," explained McPherson. "They fought for the heritage of freedom bequeathed to them by the Founding Fathers. North and South alike wrapped themselves in the mantle of 1776, but the two sides interpreted that heritage in opposite ways." Looking backward from the present, it is simple to scoff at the Confederates for fighting for a lost cause. Looking forward from the past, however – which is how history should be studied – the reason Confederates fought makes sense.

Indeed, Confederates were Americans fighting for their own America, not traitors betraying their country. William C. Davis, acclaimed historian and three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award, noted that 90% of the "Johnny Rebs...never owned a slave, had no stake in the slave economy, and were not at all fighting to preserve slavery." Instead, said Davis, "They were fighting for purely American values that millions of other men and women, North and South, white and black, have fought for for generations – defense of home and hearth and what they perceived as their country." According to Davis, the motives of the Confederate soldier "represent the best that all of us have to give – courage, patriotism, self-sacrifice." Regardless of the flag to which they pledged allegiance, such Americans are worthy of respect.

Not only are Confederates U.S. veterans by law, but also are authentic American heroes who should be remembered rather than forgotten.

About James Rutledge Roesch

James Rutledge Roesch lives in Florida. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, as well as the author of *From Founding Fathers to Fire-Eaters: The Constitutional Doctrine of States' Rights in the Old South*.

Civil War Father - Son Tragedy: General William J Hardee

By **Norm Dasinger**

On March 23, 1865, three weeks before Robert E Lee surrendered to U.S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse Virginia, 16-year old Willie Hardee was killed. Willie was one of nearly 750,000 Americans that died in the War Between the States. His story, however, is overly tragic.

The son of Confederate States Army General William J Hardee, Willie was in school in Marietta, Georgia in 1864 when Terry's Texas Rangers rode into town. The boy was in awe of them and immediately tried to join the

rough but fun-loving Texas cavalymen. Knowing Willie was not a normal recruit, the commander of the unit found Willie's father and turned the boy over to him. Willie was disappointed. General Hardee appreciated the bravery and enthusiasm of his son and decided to make him an officer on his staff. Willie was in the thick of the fighting around Atlanta and was present with his father at Savannah as he tried to defend that town against Sherman in December of 1864.



William J. Hardee

By March of 1865, the Confederate Army of Tennessee had moved to North Carolina. This once proud organization was reduced drastically in number and their commander, General Joseph E Johnston, had little hope of stopping the massive Federal Army led by Sherman. The Hardees followed orders and met the enemy in battle around Bentonville.

General Hardee had a spectacular reputation as a hard fighter and master tactician. He was nicknamed "Old Reliable" by his comrades and had been in the War from the very start.



Those fun loving Texas Rangers!

On March 21, 1865, Old Reliable faced an especially difficult assignment. He oversaw the defense of the Confederate left flank. Also, he was pre-occupied by the recent actions of his young son. Willie had become bored with the life of a staff officer. He encountered the men of Terry's Texas Rangers, again, and begged his father to let him rejoin his old friends. The apprehensive father agreed. On this day, General Hardee personally led an assault on the Yankees, and he was joined by, among several units, Terry's Texas Rangers. In a dramatic move, the two Hardee's tipped their caps to one another as the assault began.

Soon, Old Reliable returned with a bright face and feeling of triumph as his charge had slowed the Union advance. Quickly, however, his exultation changed to sorrow as he noticed his son was hurt. Shot in the chest, Willie was removed from his horse and his father ordered he be placed in an ambulance and taken to the Kirkland home, Ayr Mount, in Hillsborough, North Carolina. There Willie's stepmother and sister were staying with a niece. Willie lingered but died two days later. He is buried in the Matthews Episcopal Church Cemetery, Orange County, North Carolina.



Field where Willie fell charging against the Union line

Photos from the February R.E. Lee Camp meeting:

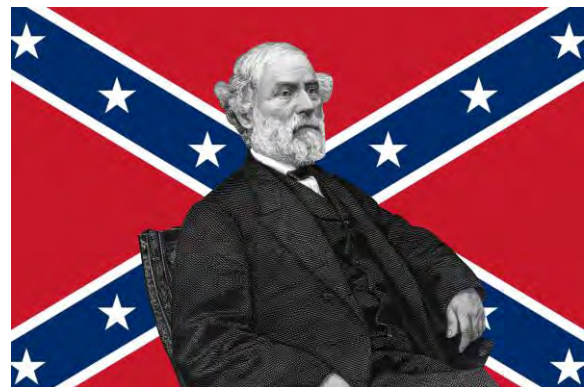


Mark Your Calendar!

Make plans to bring guests to our future camp meetings to hear these excellent presentations:

April 13: Randy Bishop - Tennessee Battlefields

May 11: Bruce Lynch - Confederate Flags - National, Army, Corps and Regimental



**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>

MID-SOUTH MILITARY HISTORY & CIVIL WAR SHOW

Relics
Cannons
Antique Bottles
Historical Speakers



Prints
Weapons
Uniforms
Military Vehicles

www.midsouthmilitaryhistory.com

NEW LOCATION

Landers Center

I-55 & Church Road, Southhaven, MS 38671

Only 15 minutes from Downtown Memphis

**Quality Relics from the American Revolution
Through Vietnam Era**



Like us
on facebook

Friday (1st Lookers) - March 6th, 2020 (5pm-8pm)

Saturday - March 7th, 2020 (9am-6pm)

Veterans Tribute and Opening Ceremony at 10am

Admission is \$10 • Children 12 & Under FREE

SPONSORED BY: = Mid South Military History & Civil War Show
P.O. Box 171251 Memphis, TN, 38187 Midsouthmilitaryhistory@gmail.com
901-832-4708 or 662-279-0538 • www.midsouthmilitaryhistory.com

53rd Mid-South Military History & Civil War Show Speaker Series

Presented By



Saturday, March 7, 2020

11am—**Larry Daniel**, author of 7 books of Civil War History. His topic his recent book, *Conquered, Why The Army of Tennessee Failed*.

12:00 pm—**Ed Frank**, retired library-archivist and head of Special Collections at the University of Memphis. His topic, **"Little Bugs Speak: Letters, Diaries and Memoirs of the Civil War"** at the University of Memphis, Mississippi Valley Collection.

1pm—**Lt. Col. Cecil Brunson**, highly decorated pilot, and daughter **Angela** talk about his experience as a **POW in the Vietnam War**.

2pm—**Willy Bearden**, a documentary film producer and author who had a major role in developing the Elvis Presley Birthplace Museum in Tupelo. His topic, **"Military Service of Elvis Presley and His Family."**

3pm—**Louis Intres**, retired History Professor from Arkansas State University and President of the Sultana Museum in Marion, Arkansas. Topic, **"The Villainy of Reuben Hatch and His Relation to Lincoln."**

Music by the **52nd Regimental String Band** on Friday, March 6 from 5pm-8pm and at 4pm Saturday, March 7.

Landers Center, Southaven, Mississippi located at Exit 287, the intersection of I-55 and Church Road.

www.midsouthmilitaryhistory.com

<https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryHistoryCivilWarShow> 662-279-0538-
midsouthmilitaryhistory@gmail.com 901-832-4708-dwharrison@aol.com

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



Traveller is the monthly newsletter of:

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

Memphis, Tennessee 38187

Steve M. McIntyre, Editor

Next Camp Meeting ** March 9, 2020

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