

THE WEBFOOT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION IN THE INTEREST OF
CONFEDERATE VETERAN DESCENDANTS AND KINDRED TOPICS

Official Organ Of The
Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29
Sons of Confederate Veterans



"A Salute To Our Confederate Dead"

Rose Hill Cemetery, Columbia, TENN

April 2007

The Webfoot
An Official Publication
of the Samuel R. Watkins
Camp #29

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mailing Address:

Sam Watkins Camp #29
C/o PO BOX 309
Mount Pleasant, TENN
38474

Compatriots,

We have had a busy year and I would like to thank the members of this camp that have attended these events and supported the cause. We have some great members and I am proud to be associated.

I would like to thank Dr. Steve Murphee for coming and speaking at last months meeting. For those you who were unable to attend, he spoke on "Insects and Diseases in the War Between the States". It is an often overlooked but interesting subject that more men died due to disease than from bullets.

Officers:

Commander: Jason Boshers
Lt. Commander: J. Taylor
Adjutant: J. Smith
Chaplain: M. Bullock
Camp Surgeon: R. Shelton
Sgt. at Arms: Josh Boshers
Judge Advocate: C. Bates
Quartermaster: D. Walker
Ways and Means: K. Lovett

We made the cover of Historic Maury with the event at Rose Hill. The Confederate Memorial service held at Rose Hill with the Capt. James Madison Sparkman Chapter of the UDC and the Rawdon-Spears SCV Camp from Summertown was a great event. The Honor Guard was performed by Mike Bullock, Jay Smith, Josh Boshers and myself from our camp and Andy "Haystack" Hall from the Rawdon-Spears camp. The Color Guard was Jackie Boshers and Charles Bates from our camp and Mike Spears, Commander of the Rawdon-Spears Camp, and Pooh. We gathered at the Antheum afterwards and the food was great.

Also on Saturday afternoon in Giles County, I attended the marker service at Bradshaw Cemetery. Also at the service was Commander Spears and Pooh from the Rawdon-Spears Camp and the gentlemen from the Alabama Division who were at Mule Day and Elm Springs and they brought their cannon. It was a great service. I was in the honor guard firing the volley.

A tip of the slouch hat goes to Mike Spears, the commander of the Rawdon-Spears camp, as he has become our new Brigade Commander. He was elected at the Tennessee Division Reunion held in Knoxville the last weekend of April. Commander Spears will do a great job. He has accepted a great responsibility and I fully support him.

These are events coming up that your camp is involved in. Show some support. You do not have to have a uniform to participate. Just show.

Saturday, May 17th - Heritage Days in Dickson.

In Holy Bonds of the South,
Jason Boshers
Commander, Sam Watkins Camp #29



The Origin of Memorial Day

From the May, 1893 issue of "Confederate Veteran," the Origin of Memorial Day

It is a matter of history that Mrs. Chas. J. Williams, of Columbus, Ga., instituted the custom of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers, a custom which has been adopted throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams was the daughter of Maj. John Howard, of Milledgeville, Ga. She married Maj. C. J. Williams on his return from the Mexican War. As colonel of the First Georgia Regulars, of the Army in Virginia, he contracted disease, from which he died in 1862, and was buried in Columbus, Ga.

Mrs. Williams and her daughter visited his grave every day, and often comforted themselves by wreathing it with flowers. While the mother sat abstractly thinking of the loved and lost one, the little one would pluck the weeds from the unmarked soldiers' graves near her father's and cover them with flowers, calling them her soldiers' graves.

After a short time while the dear little girl was summoned by the angels to join her father. The sorely bereaved mother then took charge of these unknown graves for the child's sake, and as she cared for them thought of the thousands of patriot graves throughout the South, far away from home and kindred, and in this way the plan was suggested to her of setting apart one day in each year, that love might pay tribute to valor throughout the Southern States. In March, 1868, she addressed a communication to the Columbus Times, an extract of which I give:

"We beg the assistance of the press and the ladies throughout the South to aid us in the effort to set apart a certain day to be observed from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and to be handed down through time as a religious custom of the South, to wreath the graves of our martyred dead with flowers, and we propose the 26th day of April as the day."

She then wrote to the Soldiers' Aid Societies in every Southern State, and they readily responded and reorganized under the name of Memorial Associations. She lived long enough to see her plan adopted all over the South, and in 1868 throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams died April 15, 1874, and was buried with military honors. On each returning Memorial Day the Columbus military march around her grave, and each deposits a floral offering.

The Legislature of Georgia, in 1874, set apart the 26th day of April as a legal holiday in obedience to her request.

The Rebel 300 NASCAR race in Darlington, SC, was originally established in 1957 as a race held on Confederate Memorial Day weekend. In 2005, it returned to the Confederate Memorial Day weekend date, and the 2008 Dodge Challenger 500 will be held on May 10, the first time the race has run on Confederate Memorial Day since the race was reassigned from its Myrtle Beach Canadian-American Days date (March) in 2005.

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Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 - PO BOX 309, Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

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March 18, 2008 Camp Minutes

On April 14h, 2008, the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 assembled for the 4th meeting of the 2008 year. Camp speaker was Dr. Stephen Murphee, Chaplain of Murfreesboro Camp #33. He spoke on insects and disease in the War between the States.

April 14, 2008 Camp Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00p.m. by Camp Commander, Jason Boshers. Sergeants at Arms, Josh Boshers, secured the door. Chaplain Bullock gave the invocation. Following the prayer, Lt. Commander Taylor led the pledges to the U.S. Flag and salute to the Confederate flag.

Charles Petty, who recently moved from Florida to Columbia, visited our camp meeting. He spoke of his Civil War ancestors in the Dickson area.

Commander Boshers introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Steven Murphree. Dr. Murphree holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Entomology from Auburn University in 1990 and joined the Belmont Biology faculty in 1991. He is currently the Chaplain of Murfreesboro Camp #33. He is also the Past Commander and Lt. Commander of that camp. His program was on "Insects & Disease in the War Between the States".

After a short break, the General Camp Business meeting followed.

Reading and acceptance of the minutes from last meeting as posted in the Webfoot newsletter, motion made by Kenny Lovett, seconded and no objections carried.

Adjutant Smith gave a treasurer's report including account balance and expenditures of the month. Currently the camp balance is \$469.08.

Special Communications – N/R

Standing Committees Reports –

Color Guard and Honor Guard are both needed at Rose Hill and Bradshaw on April 19, 2008

Special Committees Report – N/A

Old Business –

A. Mule Day – Very rainy on Thursday and Friday. Kid's Day was cancelled on Friday due to the rain. Saturday was cold, but marching in the parade warmed everyone up. Sunday was beautiful. Re-enactors and spectator attendance was low.

B. Ross Moore – A big disappoint in participation, only 40 spectators. Gerald Moore emceed the event. Ross will write-off the event and each camp (Marshall Rangers and Sam Watkins) will received \$60 each.

New Business –

A. Fund Raising Committee - Commander Boshers would like to have a Fund Raising Committee formed. Lt. Commander Taylor volunteered to Chair and will recruit three members.

B. Dedication for ancestors for Judge Advocate Charles Bates on May 10- delayed until a later date.

Announcements of upcoming events –

A. April 19 – Rose Hill Dedication with Capt. James Madison Sparkman UDC Chapter
in Columbia at 10:00am.

Bradshaw Cemetery Marker Dedication at 3:00pm

B. April 20 – Peytonsville Cemetery Marker Dedication of Civil War and WWII vet at
2:00pm

C. April 26 & 27 - Tennessee Division Reunion

D. May 17 – Dickson County Heritage Days

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:00pm; Benediction by Chaplain Bullock

General Minutes were taken by camp associates with minutes submitted by Camp Commander, Jason Boshers. Minor editing made by Lt. Commander Jack Taylor

Announcement Reminders**Grand Reopening of Beauvoir**

The grand unveiling of the newly rebuilt Beauvoir will be held on June 3, 2008, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Jefferson with festivities beginning at 10:00 AM CDT. Make your reservations now as motel rooms in the Biloxi area will be scarce.

Contact info:

Beauvoir

2244 Beach Blvd, Biloxi MS 39531

For tax deductible donations, please send to:

Beauvoir Operations/Recovery

2244 Beach Blvd.

Biloxi, MS 39531

Jefferson Davis Celebration in Fairview KY

The Bethel Baptist Church in Fairview KY will be the site of the Kentucky Division Reunion the weekend of June 6 to 8, 2008 with numerous activities all weekend as thousands of Southerners come to the area to pay their respects to President Davis on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Nathan Bedford Forrest Boyhood Homecoming

The annual fund raising celebration will be held all day on Saturday June 21, 2008 at the Forrest Boyhood Home near Chapel Hill TN. Please come to this event to see the progress on the restoration of this unique early 1830s structure, join the fun, and help support the efforts to raise additional funds to speed up the restoration work.

DNA Service Offered to SCV Members

If you are interested in furthering your own genealogical research, the SCV has made arrangements to allow our members to do this research using their DNA through a company called Family Tree DNA. Genetic genealogy through the use of DNA is growing rapidly. It allows us to connect with other people who perhaps may have more information to add to your family mystery. Family Tree DNA has set up a group program, offering us discounts and profit sharing for the SCV. Please visit Family Tree DNA's web site <https://www.familytreedna.com> and look it over. If you decide you would like to join the project you can do so from this link: https://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.aspx?code=K17699 Family Tree DNA has offered excellent discounts to SCV members, and the process is very simple should you wish to participate.

SLRC SUES CITY OF RINGGOLD, GA, TO RESTORE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

Attorneys for the Southern Legal Resource Center will file suit Friday in Catoosa County (GA) Superior Court to compel the City of Ringgold to restore the Confederate Battle Flag it removed from a memorial display in 2005.

The SLRC represents the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and its local camp # 1859 in Ringgold.

The suit alleges that the City of Ringgold, which removed the flag from its pole shortly after the memorial display was completed, violated applicable Georgia state law protecting monuments and memorials.

The City removed the Battle Flag, one of four flags displayed in a commemorative area at the Historic Ringgold Depot, after some residents and members of the NAACP complained about its presence shortly after the monument was completed and threatened political and economic action if it were not taken down. The city replaced the Battle Flag with the relatively obscure "Hardee Pattern" unit flag, on grounds that the Hardee pattern was historically correct as it would have been carried by Confederates at the Battle of Ringgold Gap in 1863. The SLRC contends that this assertion is inaccurate based on documentary evidence and also irrelevant, since the Battle Flag has been established as the appropriate Confederate banner to be flown at memorial sites. Moreover, the SLRC says, the City had no authorization under law to take such action.

SLRC officials and SCV members will hold a media conference on the steps of Catoosa County Courthouse Friday morning, April 25, at 10:00 a.m., after the filing.

For additional information, contact:

Kirk D. Lyons, Chief Trial Counsel(828) 712-2115 Roger W. McCredie, Executive Director (828) 301-5452

Lee Chapel to Temporarily remove Confederate flags

Yes that is right, Lee Chapel the final resting place of Robert E. Lee on the campus of Washington and Lee University may have to temporarily remove the four Confederate Battleflags surrounding the famous recumbent statue of Robert E. Lee because of the Museum of the Confederacy.



Over a decade ago, the MOC fought to seize four original battleflags which were displayed in the Lee Memorial claiming they were legitimately the property of the MOC by virtue of a Congressional resolution ordering all captured flags to be returned to their respective states. Well, evidently Lee's grave was-

n't far enough South for the MOC and W&L acquiesced to the demands. However, the school retained four original flag staffs and the UDC made replica flags which were hung on them instead.

Now the MOC wants the flag staffs as well and has sent a demand to the school to turn them over in just a few weeks. The Lee Chapel staff has been working on restoring four original highly ornate flag stands which were donated to hold these four flags by Charles Pickney in honor of his father Capt. Thomas Pickney of the 4th SC Cavalry, Hampton's Legion in November 1915. The original flags were in these stand until 1963 when they were mounted high on the walls of the statuary chamber to help prevent people from touching the original flags. However the staff simply has not had enough time to have authentic looking replicas of the flag staffs produced and thus the flags may end up out of sight for several months until they can be procured.

If you know of someone who is skilled in woodworking, has experience making flag staffs, who is willing to travel to Lexington to examine the existing staffs or just one staff and reproduce it as a donation to Lee Chapel please contact:

Brandon Dorsey
sbcamp1296@comcast.net
 (540) 462-3969

Any financial donations for Lee Chapel to help out with this project can be sent directly to:
 Lee Chapel and Museum
 11 University Place

CAMP DOUGLAS "EIGHTY ACRES OF HELL" IN A CONFEDERATE PRISON CAMP

Camp Douglas, located on the south side of Chicago, became a place of brutal misery to many Confederate prisoners during the Civil War. Rumors of crowded and unhealthy conditions, along with death and disease, were widely circulated in the southern press during the war. The camp soon earned what many people would consider a fitting nickname... "Eighty Acres of Hell".

Camp Douglas was named in honor of **Stephen A. Douglas**, the famed Illinois legislator and Lincoln rival, who passed away in Chicago in June 1861. Douglas was still well known for his recent Democratic presidential nomination, which had had lost to Lincoln the year before, as well as his previous 25 years in Illinois politics. During the last years of his life, Douglas and his wife had resided at **Okenwald**, their south side estate. It was located just east of the present-day intersection of Cottage Grove Avenue and 35th Street.

Following Douglas' death, the government took control of his property and constructed a training camp and a prisoner-of-war camp that was named in his honor. In the early months of the war, the outpost trained thousands of Union troops under the command of General Joseph H. Tucker. Soon, however, the camp became a place of misery for the Confederate prisoners. The camp received its first prisoners in February 1862, after the Battle of Fort Dickson and soon overcrowding, starvation, scurvy and a complete lack of medical attention made the place into a living hell. The death toll for the camp, during the last three years of the war, has been estimated at as many as 6,129 men, which is slightly less than one-third of the entire prison population at the camp. Most perished from typhoid and smallpox, despite the best intentions of relief workers, who organized a fund to care for the men in 1862. In 1864 alone, 1,156 inmates died at the camp.

While many left the camp as corpses, others managed to escape. In November 1863, 75 very ragged prisoners managed to tunnel their way beneath the walls. In response, eight companies of the Veteran Reserve Corps and a regiment of Michigan sharpshooters were ordered to the camp for additional protection. There were no more tunnels dug out of the camp.

To make matters worse, a great fear of insurrection at the camp concerned Chicago city officials. The city was filled with copperheads, spies and southern sympathizers who might do anything to arm the prisoners at the camp. The compound was only guarded by 450 Union enlisted men and officers. This was not a number large enough to make most Chicago citizens feel safe. Somehow though, the camp managed to make it through the war without serious incident and it was closed down in the summer of 1865. The remaining prisoners were asked to take a loyalty oath to the United States and then set free. For a short time, the post was used as a rendezvous point for returning Federal troops, but by fall, it was deserted. In November, the government sold the property and Camp Douglas ceased to exist. The remaining buildings were demolished a short time later.

Today, the Lake Meadows condominiums are located on the site and a short distance away is a monument to Stephen Douglas that is located on the remains of Okenwald. The burial crypt is located between Lake Park Avenue and the Illinois Central Railroad tracks. The tomb was not completed until 1881 because of the failure to produce backers who would give private funds for its completion. The tomb was eventually funded by the state of Illinois and, as **Richard Linberg** in his book **RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME** notes... "the monument is the last visible reminder of Chicago's hidden role in the War Between the States".



The Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 is seeking new members to join us and help continue our effort. As current members of one of the greatest camp's in the entire organization, it is your duty to actively seek out quality members for the camp. Please do your part in recruitment and try to remember that we are trying to save our history and our heritage from an ever changing world. If not you, then who?

If you would like recruitment material or need help with someone's genealogy, the camp has many volunteers to help out. Please E-mail or send your request by the following means:

Commander Jason Boshers— jasonboshers@charter.net

All camp communication, inquiries and payment of dues to :

**Adjutant, James Smith
PO BOX 309
Mount Pleasant, TENN 38474**

**Next camp meeting is on Tuesday, May 20th, 2007 at 7PM
Come and join in the camaraderie!**