

Patriotic & Progressive™

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



ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD—SEPTEMBER 17TH, 1865

BATTLE OF SHARPSBURG

The Commander's Corner

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

Mailing Address:

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

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



Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN.

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Compatriots,

I write this message after spending the afternoon with fellow compatriots staining the new building at Elm Springs. We worked two afternoons getting two coats on the building and it looks great. I feel a sincere debt of gratitude to those that worked very hard on this project and they are Compatriot Steve Wyatt, Lt. Commander Jack Taylor, Compatriot Jackie Boshers and his wife Linda, and my wife. A special thanks to Adjutant Jay Smith who furnished the stain and all the tools it took to get the job done including brushes, rollers, etc. All the rest of us provided were a few ladders and sweat.

One of the pleasures I got from staining the building, besides the joy I got from doing something good, was the camaraderie I got to experience with fellow camp members. It was especially pleasurable to pick on Jack. Those who were not able to attend, you missed a good time.

We are a very fortunate camp in the fact that we have a place to meet and that place is not only the headquarters for our organization but is also a very grand and historical mansion. We owe Elm Springs for allowing us to meet at their location. We are not going to allow them to pay us for supplies. As a camp, we are on our back leg when it comes to finances. So we have decided to reach into our own pockets and make this happen. It took about 12 gallons to cover the building twice. If any of you have bought stain and brushes you are aware of the cost. Please contact Jay smith or myself if you wish to make a contribution.

The next two months meetings are going to be something because of our speakers. Our speaker this month will be Tim Morrison. Tim is the Camp Commander for SCV Camp #152 John R. Massey Camp in Fayetteville, TN. He will be speaking on War Between the States first. The War Between the States was the first modern war and contained a whole bunch of first. Tim has also worked with Rippavilla and the Forrest Boyhood Home. And that brings us to next month speaker who is Gene Andrews. Gene is over the Forrest Boyhood Home. Both meetings will be fun and full of information.

We have several things coming up in the next few months. If you want more information on these events either come to the camp meeting or contact me.

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Commander's Corner—continued from previous page

Sept. 28 – Cemetery dedication hosted by UDC Chapter and Rawdon-Spears

SCV Camp in Athens Al

Oct 18 - Chili Cook-off to be held at Elm Springs. We are going to cook some chili and set up a booth to pass out information about the SCV and our camp

Oct. 25 - Cemetery Dedication in Williamsport, TN. Our camp has been asked to host event. We need full camp support. We have been asked to fire the volley and possibly fire a cannon. This is in our back yard guys, we need to step up.

Nov 1 - Monument dedication for the 20th TN infantry in Tullahoma

Dec 6 - Army of Tennessee Christmas party to be held at Elm Springs

Fundraiser. JAG Charles Bates and Lt. Commander Jack Taylor have been busy working with Applebee's about setting a date for the pancake breakfast. We will need at least 15 people to serve the pancakes. Once we get the date set, we will start contacting individuals. Come on folks, the camp needs your help. Let's step it up.

Dues. Dues. Dues. Dues. Dues. Compatriots, your dues are due now. Please get your payment to Adjutant Jay Smith..

See you at the meeting.

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



Camp 29,

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Please take note that camp dues ARE NOW DUE! Please remit 47 dollars for your dues as soon as possible. We are also asking that if you are able, to please make a special donation in excess of your dues to help with our fund raising campaign. Please see below with updates form SCV headquarters. Dues have gone up an additional 10 dollar per year now

If you are a life member of the SCV, you only need to remit 17.00 dollars. It would behoove many of you to choose a life membership.

The final deadline for dues payment will be October 1st, 2008.

All camp communication, inquiries and payment of dues to :

Adjutant, James Smith

PO BOX 309

Mount Pleasant, TENN 38474

Judge formally dismisses Hunley lawsuit

Associated Press - September 10, 2008

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) - A federal judge has formally dismissed a lawsuit over who found the sunken Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley off the Charleston coast.

Senior U.S. District Judge Sol Blatt Jr. issued an order Tuesday ending the case.

Underwater archaeologist Lee Spence said he found the Hunley in 1970. But the state gave shipwreck hunter Clive Cussler credit for finding the sub in 1995.

Cussler's National Underwater and Marine Agency later sued Spence, arguing his claim damaged the agency's reputation. Cussler asked last month that the suit be dismissed, saying it had caused Spence mental trauma and physical ailments.

The Hunley became the first submarine to sink an enemy warship when it rammed a black powder charge into the Union blockade ship Housatonic in 1864. The Hunley sank about the same time.

The Battle of Sharpsburg (*Antietam*)

(on the cover)

The Webfoot

Tuesday, September 09, 2008

By Jack Taylor

"A converging storm of iron slammed into the batteries from front and flank. Wheels were smashed, men knocked down, horses sent screaming, to stay in the field was to sacrifice units needlessly." General Stephen Dill Lee

The Battle of Sharpsburg (A.K.A. Battle of Antietam) has gone down as the bloodiest day in American history with approximately 23,000 casualties recorded between both sides. It was hard fought and tumultuous event like no other and turned out to be a draw even though the Army of Northern Virginia did retreat back over the Potomac river. Union Major General George B. McClellan who was head of the Union forces was later chastised by Abraham Lincoln for not perusing Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia across the river and later relieved McClellan of his duties just two months later. Sharpsburg was Robert E. Lee's first offensive maneuver into the North.

The twelve (12) hour battle began in the early morning hours of the 17th of September 1862. In a series of independent attacks on the Confederate advance, savage yet uncoordinated combat took place in numerous spots throughout the cornfields, east and west woods and the infamous 'Bloody Lane'.

In the first eight hours of fighting over 15,000 fell. That's about 30 men per minute or one man every two seconds.

Over one hundred thousand men engaged in battle between both sides and both stubbornly held their ground. The landscape was a blood bath of destruction and mayhem. The wailing cries of the dying and wounded men mingled with that of wounded and dying horses created a scene straight out of hell that would sear images in the mind that very few people today could comprehend.

The next day on the 18th, both armies gathered up their wounded, buried their dead and the South retreated across the Potomac River into Virginia thus

ending the Army of Northern Virginia's first Northern invasion under the Command of Robert E. Lee.

Continued next page



Gen. George McClellan



Lincoln meets with McClellan after Antietam to discuss future plans - note captured confederate flag thrown on the ground on the left side of the tent.

The Battle of Sharpsburg

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Antietam, Maryland Confederate Dead in a ditch on the right wing photograph by Alexander Gardner

Sharpsburg would mark a needed change in warfare with the transition from Napoleonic tactics to that of modern warfare. No longer would Americans tolerate such carnage in such a short amount of time. The battle was so shocking to both sides that inventors and those wanting to end the unnecessary bloodshed began striving to create more accurate and powerful weaponry and better fighting tactics that would hasten the end of the war. Sadly, the war would not end for almost another three years and thousands more brothers would die in the name of what they believed to be right. Sharpsburg was Lee's answer to make Lincoln sue

for peace and sadly, it failed. He would fail again at Gettysburg the following year.

There are many books on Sharpsburg and I urge you to take some time and study up on this battle. Put the neighborhood committee requests aside, disregard buying that must have luxury item for one more day. Forget the yard work or laundry for an hour or two. Reflect upon what your ancestors went through and died for and be thankful you have friends that remember it for you when you just don't have time to contribute or participate.



Confederate Dead and horse near Dunker Church –Sharpsburg

Some interesting tidbits on the Battle of Sharpsburg:

Sharpsburg? I thought it was called Antietam? Simply put, most of the battles during the War for Southern Independence were named for towns while Northerners named battles after landmarks or streams (E.g., we called it the Battle of 1st Manassas and they called it 'Bull Run').

Battle opened at dawn around 5:30am on September 17th, 1862

Total Casualties – approx 22,539

Union Casualties – 12,401 (25% of the Federate force)

Confederate Casualties – 10,138 (31% of the Confederate force)

Over nine times the number of men died at Antietam than on the Jun 6, 1944 D-day invasion during WWII

Twice as many soldiers were killed and wounded at the Battle of Antietam than the deaths of War of 1812, Mexican War, and Spanish-American War combined.

Abraham Lincoln relieved McClellan of his Command on November 7th, 1862 because he felt he didn't do his job after Antietam and follow Lee back into Virginia. McClellan would later run against Lincoln on the Democratic ticket for the office of the President in 1864. Lincoln beat him in the election with 55% of the popular vote. It has been suggested that if McClellan had won the election that he would have called a truce between the Confederacy and the United States.

The photograph on the front cover was taken by famed photographer, Alexander Gardner on September 17th, 1862 at the Battle of Sharpsburg. The photo has a little fame to it... It is the first time a battlefield was photographed during the battle itself!

Many of General A.P. Hills men were wearing Union Blue uniforms that they had picked up at Harpers Ferry previous to Sharpsburg thereby adding confusion to the battle.



Confederate dead along Hagerstown Pike at Sharpsburg

August 19, 2008 Camp Minutes

On August 19h the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 assembled for the eighth time for the year. Camp focused on business and future events and fundraising.

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

Commander Boshers introduced camp guest, Erik Lazarescu.

No speaker or program for this month.

The General Camp Meeting followed:

Reading and acceptance of the minutes from last meeting as posted in the camp newsletter, motion made by Lovett and seconded by Bullock.

Adjutant Smith gave the treasurer's report and reported that dues should be submitted by October. This year dues are \$47. (\$30 – national, \$5 – TN Div, \$12 – camp). As of now, the only monthly bill is postage.

Special Communications – Maudie Cantrell White Hopkins, last confederate widow died Sunday, August 17, 2008, at age 93. She married William Cantrell Confederate army veteran 67 years her senior in January 1934. He died in 1937.

Standing Committees – Contact Commander Boshers regarding Color and Honor Guard

Special Committee Reports –

Fundraising Committee- Lt. Commander Taylor discussed Applebee's pancake breakfast fundraiser. The ticket cost is \$5. Will need 15 volunteers from 7:00am – 10:00am to serve and clean tables. Two dates proposed is November 1st or November 8th.

Old Business –

Adoption of event/marker/cemetery – Several members are researching into Rose Hill, Zion Cemetery, Hunter Cemetery and Elm Springs for some form of adoption.

New Business –

Plans for Sesquicentennial Commemoration – Middle TN will be heavily involved during the year 2014 with battles including Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville. Commander Boshers will share information as received.

Announcements –

September 27 – Blue and Gray Ball at Spencer Mill

October 18 – 23rd Annual Maury County Chili Cook-Off - Elm Springs

October 25 – Wilkins dedication Williamsport Cemetery

October 25 – Hunter's Cemetery Walk

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 7:52p.m.

Benediction by Taylor.

General Minutes were taken by Camp Committee and associates; submitted by Camp Commander, Jason Boshers with minor editing made by Lt. Commander Jack Taylor



Next camp meeting is on Tuesday, September 16th 2008 at 7PM

Guest speaker will be Mr. Tim Morrison of Camp #152

Morrison will be speaking on 'Civil War Firsts'