

JANUARY 15—FEBRUARY 19TH 2008 ISSUE

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



2008 is
The Year of Davis

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN

Monday, February 11, 2008

Compatriots of Sam Watkins Camp # 29,

Once again members of Sam Watkins Camp # 29 have stepped up. I would like to thank Mike Bullock for taking the position of Camp Chaplain. I would like to thank Ronald Shelton for taking the position of Camp Surgeon. And I would like to thank Josh Boshers for taking the position of Sergeant-at-Arms. Their would not be a Sam Watkins camp without people stepping up and doing the job. We all owe these men a tip of the old slouch hat for taking on these psotions. Thank you gentlemen.

Jack Taylor, our Lt. Commander, has been busy getting speakers for upcoming meetings. This month we have Greg Biggs. Greg is the former Associate Editor of the Blue and Gray magazine and the current president of the Friends of Fort Donelson Campaign. In the month of March we will have Ruth Hill McAllister. Ruth Hill McAllister is the great-granddaughter of Sam Watkins. She has written a new Company Aytch book that has Sam Watkins' changes. He edited one of his copies and was planning a second edition. He passed before it came to be. She has completed his work. She will have copies of the book for sale and will autograph. Mrs. McAllister was signing books at Heritage on January 25th. It was a geat turn out for the 3 hours signing. The line stayed pretty full. Jackie Boshers, my dad and myself were also in uniform. We had several members of our camp show. Past Commander Kenny Lovett, Lt. Commander Jack Taylor, Judge Advocate Charles Bates and compatriot Joe Shannon and got the paperwork for a new member, David VanDyke. I would like to thank Andy Hall for coming to the book signing in uniform. Andy is a former member of our camp. He left our camp and joined the Rawdon-Spears camp in Summertown. It was awful nice of him to show up.

In the coming months we will be getting ready for Mule Day. We need people to step up and help with the events at Elm Springs, the parade and the table at the fairgrounds.

Color Guard and Honor Guard. We will start training in the month of March. I will have an example of the \$200 suit from Crescent City Sutler and the \$80 suit from Hamilton Dry Goods at the meeting. We have several people showing interest but we need several more. I would like to thank the ones who have stepped up: Jay Smith, Jack Taylor, Jackie Boshers and Mike Bullock. They do not have all their stuff yet but they are showing interest. Thanks gentlemen. If you are interested in joining in the fun; please see me.

Recently, then state of Tennessee was hit with some violent storms. Lives were lost and property was damaged. My prayers are with the ones who were hit by the storm. Losing all your property and having to start over is very tramatic. To lose loved ones at that time is devastating. If someone or someone who touches the life of someone in our camp was affected please let us know so we can help do whatever needs to be done to help. Let's keep everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

See you at the meeting.

In holy bonds of the south,

Jason Boshers

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 774

By DuBois, McDaniel, McDonald, Maggart, Lynn

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr., of the Rock Bridge community.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened and deeply moved to learn of the untimely passing of Mr. Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Devereaux Cannon was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, from which he earned both a Bachelor of Science degree and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence, Mr. Cannon was admitted to the Tennessee Bar and served with acumen and alacrity as Assistant Vice-President and State Counsel for Old Republic National Title Insurance Company, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Devereaux Cannon bravely served his country and State as a former commanding officer of the 201st Military Police Battalion and rendered sterling service as the Staff Judge Advocate of the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the Tennessee State Guard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon further demonstrated his commitment to patriotic service by assiduously working to preserve the illustrious history of this nation through his active participation in the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars; and

WHEREAS, Devereaux Cannon was a staunch political activist and created the TaxFreeTennessee web site that proved to be very beneficial during the State Income Tax protests; and

WHEREAS, extremely knowledgeable in the fascinating history and symbolism of flags, Devereaux Cannon shared his expertise by penning several books on the subject, including The Flags of the Confederacy: An Illustrated History, Flags of Tennessee, and The Flags of the Union: An Illustrated History; and

WHEREAS, he also demonstrated his superb writing skills as the author of The Wit and Wisdom of Robert E. Lee and as a member of the Board of Advisors of Southern Partisan magazine; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart member of the community, Devereaux Cannon was an esteemed Fourth Degree member of the prominent Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Devereaux was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is preceded in death by his mother, Nancy Yancy Adair Cannon, and his brother, Ty Cannon; and

WHEREAS, Devereaux Cannon enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Nora; he was the proud parent of Nancy Katherine Cannon and Second Lieutenant Devereaux D. Cannon III and the doting grandfather of Devereaux D. Cannon IV and Brian Boru Cannon; and

WHEREAS, Devereaux is also survived by his father, Devereaux D. Cannon, Sr., his daughter-in-law, Joleen Cannon, his brother, Cooper Cannon, and his sister-in-law, Candy Cannon; and

WHEREAS, Devereaux Cannon leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

January 15, 2008 Minutes

On January 15th, 2008, the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 assembled for the first meeting of the 2008 year. Camp meeting focused on new camp officers taking their seats, color guard preparation and Camp Commander Boshers officiating for the first official time...

7:00 Call to Order– Commander, Jason Boshers

7:03 Welcome guest from the Rawdon-Spears Camp in Summertown

Mike Spears- Commander, Teddy Bearden-Adjutant, Eric Walker, Brent ? – Chaplin and Vicky Garland- Commander's Secretary

7:05 Jack Taylor spoke about speakers he was lining up for the year. An announcement was made about Ruth Hill MacAllister doing a book signing at the Heritage Bank on Friday January 25, 2008 from 2:00 to 5:00 would like people in period dress to show up.

7:12 Minutes were amended to correct the wording of Greg Atwell and Jack Taylor running as Lt. Commander.

7:18 Adjutant's Report - Jay Smith went to bank signed papers over.

7:21 Special Communications - Jason Boshers spoke on getting everything in for the newsletter 10 days before the meeting with the newsletter to be mailed a week before the meeting. Add a For Sale and Wanted column for camp members.

7:25 Standing committee reports - N/R

7:25 Special Committee Reports - N/R

7:26 Old Business - N/R

7:26 New Business - Appointments :

Camp Chaplin - Mike Bullock, Camp Surgeon - Ron Shelton, Sergeants at Arms - Josh Boshers (Josh volunteered)

7:30 Camp spoke and discussed Color Guard and Honor Guard and Mule Day:

Jason Boshers spoke of the importance of having a Color Guard and Honor Guard. He spoke strongly for supporting the UDC and their event Rose Hill. Everyone was reminded that April is Confederate History Month. Mike Spears from the Rawdon-Spears camp spoke of the Rose Hill event. Then Mike and Teddy Bearden spoke of Hamilton Dry Goods and their clothing. Color Guard needs four people in period clothing.

Honor Guard needs 7 people to fire a 21-Gun Salute. All that is needed is period clothing and a period firearm. Drilling to begin in March.

Mule Day: The camp needs marchers and people to ride and man the floats during the parade. The camp will also have a booth at the park and we need people to man the booth and pass out information about the SCV, Elm Springs and the encampment at Elm Springs going on during that weekend. Jason Boshers spoke at length about the permits and regulation we would have to go through to have an event at Elm Springs. A discussion began about Elm Springs being in the city limits. Ben Sowell later entered the room and confirmed that Elm Springs is in the city limits. Mike Spears spoke about firing the cannons and small arms and the difference of a living-history and small skirmish. Discussed having a day for school kids. Having a place for parade participants to camp. Feeding the the encampment people and spectators. UDC-OCR has offered to help feed people and the ladies of the Rawdon-Spears camp offered to help Elm Springs with tours. Jason Boshers to work on getting a permit to discharge firearms. A motion was made and passed to proceed.

8:18 Announcements were made of upcoming events. Ross Moore will be performing April 12th at the Mt. Pleasant Middle School. This is a benefit hosted by The Marshall Rangers and they have asked for our help. Skirmish held in Centerville, TN on March 28th.

8:20 Motion to adjourn

8:20 Benediction

General Minutes taken by Adjutant, James Smith with information supplied by Commander, Jason Boshers and minor editing by Past Adjutant and current Lt. Commander J. Taylor

Words of a Confederate soldier added to Texas archive – AP 1/28/08

The Texas General Land Office said Friday it has obtained the private correspondence of a Texas Confederate soldier to add to the agency's archives.

Thirty-four handwritten letters of Texas Confederate Pvt. Dudley Ward were purchased at a Dallas auction for about \$11,000 with private donations made through the Land Office's Save Texas History Program.

The recently purchased letters were written by Ward, who joined Company G, 2nd Texas Infantry of the Confederate Army at age 17.

Early in 1863, Ward became a prisoner of war at Vicksburg, Miss. Upon parole, Ward's unit returned to Texas and was ultimately assigned duty on Galveston Island. Ward died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1864.

"I am honored to preserve this important glimpse into Texas Confederate history," Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said.

"Whether or not you agree with the causes of the war, Ward put his life on the line for his family and for Texas, and his story should be shared with future generations of Texans," Patterson said.

Ward offered a view of daily life for a Confederate soldier, writing in one of the high hopes of the South.

Mock trial to decide Confederate's fate

Published: Jan. 22, 2008 at 9:13 PM (SCV Update on Page ----)

PETERSBURG, Va., Jan. 22 (UPI) -- The U.S. National Park Service has announced plans to hold a mock trial to determine whether a Confederate soldier's remains are buried in the wrong grave.

The service plans to hold a mock trial Feb. 13 near Petersburg, Va., to determine whether the remains of Confederate Sgt. Ivy Ritchie were mistakenly buried in a Union soldier's grave with an incorrect headstone, The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer reported Tuesday.

Members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' Ivy Ritchie Camp 1734 in Albemarle, N.C., contend the soldier's remains were removed from the battlefield at Appomattox Court House -- where the final Virginia battle of the Civil War was fought -- and buried in a graveyard for Union soldiers under the name of Sgt. J. Richie of Company H, 14th New York Infantry.

"To know he's laying up there in a Yankee grave just tears me up. He hasn't rested in a hundred years or more," said Jim Harwood, a member of the group.

The park service refused to exhume the remains, but agreed to hold the mock trial at the pre-Civil War-era Dinwiddie Court House, south of Petersburg, to allow the group to make its case.

Something I found interesting—by Commander, Jason Boshers 2/10/08

I found the following from an article titled Unlocking History - Treasures of Robert E. Lee Discovered by John E. Ross. It was in the Winter 2008 edition of American History magazine.

In 2002, Robert E. Lee deButts Jr., the great-great-grandson of Robert E. Lee and commercial and securities lawyer in New York who bears a striking resemblance to the general, was conducting family research and contacted Burke and Herbert Bank and Trust in Alexandria, Virginia, to see if they retained any financial records of his great-grandaunt, Mary Custis Lee. After the war, Mary Custis Lee, the wife of Robert E. Lee and great-granddaughter of Martha Washington, spent much of her life traveling abroad and used the bank as a permanent address. Mary Custis Lee passed away on November 5, 1873

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CIC

16 January 2008

Compatriots:

I wanted to let you know about a decision I have made. After prayer and careful consideration, I have decided that I will not be a candidate for a second term as Commander-in-Chief. Although the duties are challenging, I consider it one of the great honors of my life to have served as our CINC.

I also want to thank the many of you who have encouraged me to seek a second term; I am deeply grateful for your trust and the confidence you have in me. I had hoped to be able to serve a second term but, as I am still in full-time employment and the demands of serving as CINC are significant I must regrettably step aside.

My term as CINC has allowed me the opportunity to travel across the South and see first-hand the work of the SCV. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities this job has presented and the many friends I have made during this time.

During my more than 25 years of membership in the SCV, I have spent almost 14 years in a leadership position. I am very proud of the work of our Confederation, and I look forward now to continuing my service in a less demanding capacity.

I wanted to go ahead and make this announcement now so that any Compatriots who may desire to offer themselves as a candidate may have ample time to do so.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you, and I look forward to seeing you all at our General Reunion in July (if not sooner).

Regards,

Christopher M. Sullivan

Commander-in-Chief,
Sons of Confederate Veterans

SAM WATKINS CAMP LAPEL PINS! - Only \$7.50 each!

Please note that we still have camp lapel pins. For all of you that haven't purchased one or two, you really should do so. Once they are gone, it may be sometime before we do a re-order. They are only 7.50 each and are quite attractive. Furthermore, the sale of the pins benefit our camp.

These pins will be something that will forever immortalize who we are and will be something someone 100 years from now will be able to hold or see.

SCV Camp Seeks Proper Stone for NC CSA Soldier *But now NPS wants to hold mock "trial"*

By Terry W. Ayers

Adjutant SCV Camp 2068, member SCV PR/Media Committee

There is such a thing as being in the wrong place at the wrong time. For Sgt. Ivy Ritchie, CSA, the problem is he has been in the wrong place for a long time.

According to Joel Fesperman of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Ivy Ritchie Camp # 1734 Albemarle, NC the namesake of their camp, one of the last soldiers – and perhaps the last - to die in the battle of Appomattox Court House, has been lying in a grave at the National Park Service's Poplar Grove Cemetery in Petersburg Virginia for almost 150 years with the name of a fictitious Union soldier, Sgt. J. Ritchie, Co. "H", 14th New York Infantry, on his tombstone.

Ritchie, from Stanly County, North Carolina fought with the 14th NC in nearly every major battle of the war in Virginia. The end was in sight when he was killed on the morning of April 9, 1865.

Fesperman and members of his camp have been trying for years to get Sgt. Ivy Ritchie's remains moved to North Carolina or at least get his tombstone corrected. They say that his remains were removed from Appomattox after the war and buried at a national cemetery for Union dead by mistake.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans feel that a DNA analysis is the best means of determining that the soldier in grave #4824 is Sgt. Ivy Ritchie. But the National Park Service has refused to exhume the remains.

Fesperman says despite the refusal, the National Park Service seemed to be cooperative. "We have a letter from them (NPS) telling us the stone would be changed. Then they decided to have (a) mock trial."

According to Fesperman, without warning the NPS suddenly changed their mind and decided to invite three experts to hear testimony on whether or not Ritchie is buried with Union soldiers. So they scheduled a mock trial to be held on Wednesday February 13th at Dinwiddie Court House and both sides – Fesperman and the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Chris Calkins, a historian from the National Park Service, will present evidence to the three-man panel. Calkins has written a book that reveals that there is compelling evidence that Ritchie buried in that grave. Now Calkins has changed his mind, citing mysterious new evidence that he says he will reveal at the trial.

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Camp seeks stone for soldier—continued from Page 7

It all seems very suspicious to Fesperman and his SCV camp. He says he has a letter written by Ritchie's brother positively identifying the remains as Ritchie and has a newspaper article that indicates the body was moved to Poplar Grove Cemetery. "It was him" the newspaper article says, according to Fesperman.

"We have done our research," indicates Mr. Fesperman, a process that has taken years and many hours of time for the camp, the largest in the state of North Carolina. "We contacted the National Archives.

There is no other Ritchie that it could be other than Ivy Ritchie. There are no spelling variations from New York, New Jersey or any surrounding states. We pulled all the records with an "I" or a "J" in their name. Then we determined if they survived, when they were discharged and accounted for every one of them. The only "I" Ritchie it could be is him (Ivy Ritchie). We are convinced it has to be him."

For Fesperman and the camp members, this is about more than just correcting a mistake in history. "This is personal. He's my double cousin. Twenty members of our camp share blood (with Ritchie)."

So Joel Fesperman and members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1734 will don their Sunday best and attend the hearing on February 13 to plead their case. They are confident of victory but say "If they (the National Park Service) are playing games, it won't stop at that courthouse. If we have to do an environmental study (the next step in the process) we'll do an environmental study." The study would cost an estimated \$5,000 dollars but Fesperman and his camp are willing to do it.

"We've come this far, we're not going to stop now. This is personal."

The NPS mock trial is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday February 13th just west of Petersburg at Dinwiddie Court House. It is hoped that members of the Sons of Confederate Soldiers will show their support for their Compatriots in Camp 1734

Something I found...continued from page 5

The officers of the family-owned bank checked their inventory and decided to look in their rarely used "silver vault", which safeguards items too large for safety-deposit boxes. Their they found two wooden steamer trunks. The larger one bearing a piece of tin patching and the stenciled letters, M. Lee."

Luckily for us, Mary Custis Lee was the family archivist and a pack rat. Opening the trunks revealed more than 4,000 letters, postcards, documents, photographs and artifacts. Mr. Debutts took the contents to the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, which houses the nation's largest collection of Lee's papers. The earliest letter in the trunk dates to 1694. It is a letter from John Custis II, the family's first English immigrant, to merchants back home discussing tobacco crops and shipbuilding. Also found was a 1766 manifest of 266 African American slaves owned by John Parke Custis, the stepson of George Washington. There were also various accounts from the 1760s and 1770s kept by George Washington. Also found was an 1860 letter from Robert E. Lee to the Secretary of War about relations between Mexico and the United States.

The collection includes several hesitant attempts by General Lee to chronicle his military in the war. The documents contain a few battlefield secrets. He wrote to his daughter on September 23, 1862 just after the Sharpsburg campaign, "We had two hard fought battles in Maryland and did not consider ourselves beaten as our enemies supposed. We were greatly outnumbered and opposed by double if not treble our strength and yet we repulsed all their attacks, held our ground and retired when it suited our convenience."

Early in the war when the South was doing well, Lee wrote to his daughter Mary, "I send you some sweet violets that I gathered for you this morning while covered with dense white frost that glistened in the bright sun like diamonds and formed a broche of rare beauty and sweetness..."

Also found was the original handwritten draft of the 1863 General Order notifying his troops of the death of General Stonewall Jackson, Generals usually dictated orders so the fact that he handwrote this spoke of the importance of General Jackson and his value to Lee and the cause

Elizabeth Brown Pryor, a Lee biographer and the first scholar to read the letters thinks perhaps the most significant material in the trunks are the unfinished post-war essays General Lee wrote on the government, war and the evils of majority rule. The traditional view is that Lee holds no hard feelings after the war but these essays show his struggle to come to terms with defeat and the disastrous results for the south.

I am sure his letters about the war would be most interesting for those of us interested in what really happened during the planning stages before the battle and what he determined changed the outcome of the battle either good or bad. I would be very interested in the true Gettysburg story.

On a personal note, one of the things they found in the trunk would be a true treasure. One envelope contained three cloth stars of gold thread, identified in a note as those that General Lee cut off his uniform after his surrender to Grant at Appomattox.