

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



Judah Phillip Benjamin
August 6, 1811 - May 6, 1884

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN

Wednesday, August 08, 2007

Dear Camp:

I would like to welcome our newest member, Burt Franklin. Burt has been a good friend for many years and will be a great contribution to our Camp.

The picture of the Walsh brothers, both of whom are real Sons graced our last issue of the Webfoot. What an honor it was for them to receive the medals and colors in honor of their father.

If you missed our last meeting, then you may not know how hard Compatriot Jason Boshers is working on the 100th Anniversary of the re-dedication of the Bigby Gray Monument coming up on September 30th in Mt. Pleasant. I hope we have a great turn out for the celebration. It will be an event for the whole family. There will be several dignitaries speaking at this momentous event. Please mark your calendars for this!

Guest Speaker:

Our next speaker for our August 21st meeting will be Dr. Michael Bradley. He will be speaking on Forrest's Escort. This will be a great talk and I encourage you to bring a guest.

Camp Expenses:

The camp needs your help. Member and Camp Attorney, Tom Dubois, has agreed to accept 1,500 to clear our legal fees with his firm, but it needs to be paid very soon. If every member could give \$15-20, we could clear this up quickly.

Mail your checks to:

701 Sugar Bend Dr.

Columbia, TN 38401-6001

Change in Leadership:

You may not know, but Jack Taylor has been our camp Adjutant for six years. Jack is very busy with his new job, and does not have time for another term as Camp Adjutant. If you are interested in this position, or know some one that would be a good candidate, please let me or Jack know. Incidentally, my second term as Camp Commander will end in December. If you really want to be involved, your time is coming! Take an interest! Let's move forward!

Don't forget about dues! Dues are still only 37 dollars for the 2008 year.

See you all on the 21st!

Kenneth Lovett

Camp Commander

200th Anniversary of the Birth of Gen. Robert E. Lee October 20th, 2007 ~ Sparta, Tenn.

In Honor of the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of General Robert E. Lee, The Gen. George Gibbs Dibrell SCV Camp #875, will be hosting a supper featuring Commander Butch Chaltas in the Persona of the Great General! This is a fund raising event for camp projects. We would like to invite everyone in the Division to come out and show the their support. Local entertainment, relic displays, and a good old fashioned Beans and Cornbread Supper! Contact: Joey Savage at hammer_joe3@hotmail.com

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Co. Aytch by Samuel R. Watkins

Chapter VIII, Chattanooga

PRESENTMENT, OR THE WING OF THE ANGEL OF DEATH



Presentment is always a mystery. The soldier may at one moment be in good spirits, laughing and talking. The wing of the death angel touches him. He knows that his time has come. It is but a question of time with him then. He knows that his days are numbered. I cannot explain it. God has numbered the hairs of our heads, and not a sparrow falls without His knowledge. How much more valuable are we than many sparrows?

We had stopped at Lee & Gordon's mill, and gone into camp for the night. Three days' rations were being issued. When Bob Stout was given his rations he refused to take them. His face wore a serious, woe-begone expression. He was asked if he was sick, and said "No," but added, "Boys, my days are numbered, my time has come. In three days from today, I will be lying right yonder on that hillside a corpse. Ah, you may laugh; my time has come. I've got a twenty dollar gold piece in my pocket that I've carried through the war, and a silver watch that my father sent me through the lines. Please take them off when I am dead, and give them to Captain Irvine, to give to my father when he gets back home. Here are my clothing and blanket that any one who wishes them may have. My rations I do not wish at all. My gun and cartridge-box I expect to die with."

The next morning the assembly sounded about two o'clock. We commenced our march in the darkness, and marched twenty-five miles to a little town by the name of Lafayette, to the relief of General Pillow, whose command had been attacked at that place. After accomplishing this, we marched back by another road to Chickamauga. We camped on the banks of Chickamauga on Friday night, and Saturday morning we commenced to cross over. About twelve o'clock we had crossed. No sooner had we crossed than an order came to double quick. General Forrest's cavalry had opened the battle. Even then the spent balls were falling amongst us with that peculiar thud so familiar to your old soldier.

Double quick! There seemed to be no rest for us. Forrest is needing reinforcements. Double quick, close up in the rear! siz, siz, double quick, boom, hurry up, bang, bang, a rattle de bang, bang, siz, boom, boom, boom, hurry up, double quick, boom, bang, halt, front, right dress, boom, boom, and three soldiers are killed and twenty wounded. Billy Webster's arm was torn out by the roots and he killed, and a fragment of shell buried itself in Jim McEwin's side, also killing Mr. Fain King, a conscript from Mount Pleasant. Forward, guide center, march, charge bayonets, fire at will, commence firing. (This is where the LL. D. ran.) We debouched through the woods, firing as we marched, the Yankee line about two hundred yards off. Bang, bang, siz, siz. It was a sort of running fire. We kept up a constant fire as we advanced. In ten minutes we were face to face with the foe. It was but a question as to who could load and shoot the fastest. The army was not up. Bragg was not ready for a general battle. The big battle was fought the next day, Sunday. We held our position for two hours and ten minutes in the midst of a deadly and galling fire, being enfiladed and almost surrounded, when General Forrest galloped up and said, "Colonel Field, look out, you are almost surrounded; you had better fall back." The order was given to retreat. I ran through a solid line of blue coats. As I fell back, they were upon the right of us, they were upon the left of us, they were in front of us, they were in the rear of us. It was a perfect hornets' nest. The balls whistled around our ears like the escape valves of ten thousand engines. The woods seemed to be blazing; everywhere, at every jump, would rise a lurking foe. But to get up and dust was all we could do. I was running along by the side of Bob Stout. General Preston Smith stopped me and asked if our brigade was falling back. I told him it was. He asked me the second time if it was Maney's brigade that was falling back. I told him it was. I heard him call out, "Attention, forward!" One solid sheet of leaden hail was falling around me. I heard General Preston Smith's brigade open. It seemed to be platoons of artillery. The earth jarred and trembled like an earthquake. Deadly missiles were flying in every direction. It was the very incarnation of death itself. I could almost hear the shriek of the death angel passing over the scene. General Smith was killed in ten minutes after I saw him. Bob Stout and myself stopped. Said I, "Bob, you weren't killed, as you expected." He did not reply, for at that very moment a solid shot from the Federal guns struck him between the waist and the hip, tearing off one leg and scattering his bowels all over the ground. I heard him shriek out, "O, O, God!" His spirit had flown before his body struck the ground. Farewell, friend; we will meet over yonder.

When the cannon ball struck Billy Webster, tearing his arm out of the socket, he did not die immediately, but as we were advancing to the attack, we left him and the others lying where they fell upon the battlefield; but when we fell back to the place where we had left our knapsacks, Billy's arm had been dressed by Dr. Buist, and he seemed to be quite easy. He asked Jim Fogey to please write a letter to his parents at home. He wished to dictate the letter. He asked me to please look in his knapsack and get him a clean shirt, and said that he thought he would feel better if he could get rid of the blood that was upon him. I went to hunt for his knapsack and found it, but when I got back to where he was, poor, good Billy Webster was dead. He had given his life to his country. His spirit is with the good and brave. No better or braver man than Billy Webster ever drew the breath of life. His bones lie yonder today, upon the battlefield of Chickamauga. I loved him; he was my friend. Many and many a dark night have Billy and I stood together upon the silent picket post. Ah, reader, my heart grows sick and I feel sad while I try to write my recollections of that unholy and uncalled for war. But He that ruleth the heavens doeth all things well.

July 17 MINUTES

On Tuesday July 17, 2007, the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 assembled for the seventh official meeting of the year. Business discussion focused on camp expenses and the Bigby Grays monument in Mt. Pleasant .

7:10PM- meeting called to order by Camp Commander, Kenneth Lovett. Meeting begins with prayer. Following prayer, the Camp says pledges to the U.S. Flag and salute to the Camp Confederate flag.

7:04PM– Lovett makes motion to accept minutes from last meeting as posted in the Webfoot newsletter—motion—no objections.

Reports:

Adjutant Jack Taylor goes over the Camp's latest bank statement and gives a balance of \$648.66. Announcement was made that the camp received a letter from the State department of revenue updating the Camp's 501c3 status. Lovett interjects and mentions a letter sent to his home from the Internal Revenue Service stating that all organizations need to file even if funds are under twenty-five thousand dollars.

Lovett makes motion that report be accepted—no objections.

Old Business:

7:15PM– Taylor mentions to the camp that Attorney DuBois has agreed to drop the final payment for the Liberty Cemetery expenses to 1,500 dollars. Camp discusses the issue and many suggestions were made concerning the debt. Lovett noted to the camp that the Camp was more than obligated to settle the debt and to strive to donate to the cause of it.

7:32PM—Lovett turns the meeting over the Sergeant at Arms, Jason Boshers so that an update can be given on the Mt. Pleasant, Bigby Grays monument re-dedication celebration.

Boshers speaks to the camp concerning details of the dedication. Mentions that the local UDC chapter will take a big part in the event and they will be choosing 13 girls as part of the unveiling. Commemorative lapel pin design was discussed...Boshers also brought up cleaning up the square before the event and some restoration of metal railing around the monument was proposed.

7:57PM– Lovett introduces and inducts Mr. Lowell B. Franklin Jr. as the latest member of the camp.

8:04PM - Motion made to adjourn; meeting adjourned.

The War for Southern Independence - Charleston, S.C.

By Jason Boshers

One the weekend of July 20th – July 23rd we traveled to Charleston, SC. Every year we travel somewhere historical. Last year we traveled to Savannah, GA and had a wonderful time but that is another story. This year was Charleston. This was my second trip to Charleston and I would go again.

The history this area has in phenomenal. From the Revolutionary War through the War for Southern Independence; the port of Charleston has played a vital role throughout U.S history.

South Carolina was one of the original 13 colonies and its port town of Charleston played a vital role in the ability of the colonist to receive war supplies from other European countries who wanted the new world for themselves. They believed that helping the colonist would weaken Great Britain to the point that even though the British would win against the colonist; the British would be too weak to protect themselves. As in the War for Southern Independence; France was a major supplier of goods during the Revolutionary War.



A wonderful place to visit is the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon. It has been called the Independence Hall of South Carolina and is considered one of the three most historically significant Colonial buildings in the United States. Pictures along the walls on all three floors tell a great story with quite a few then and now pictures. During the Revolutionary War a fake wall was built in what is now the basement of the building to hide gunpowder from General Cornwallis while he had control of the city. He never found it and the wall still stands. They did remove the gunpowder.

The Confederate Museum is a wonderful place to visit due to its amount of General P.G.T Beauregard memorabilia. The history they have in that building tells a wonderful story of the city during the Union bombardment. It delivers what the name implies. Their hours are funny. They are only open 11-3 Tuesday through Saturday so plan accordingly.

A trip to the Battery is very worthwhile. From the Battery you can see Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie. You can see the houses that have withstood earthquakes, fires...Charleston has had three major fires with one of the fires destroying over 500 buildings...and bombardment during the Revolutionary War and the War for Southern Independence.

The War for Southern Independence—Continued

A carriage ride is just about a must do. The city only allows so many carriage tours out at a time so you are limited to where in the city the carriage ride can go. We were lucky the first time we went and got to request where we were sent. This could have been due to us being there during the week. Over the weekends they are many times busier. The history tour was one of the most educational tours I have ever been on. You saw how the town has been built up over 300 years. What I thought was the basement was the original entrance to the house. The streets have rose and people have had to build walls around their property to the extent that their house looks like it is built in a hole. I learned about the widow's roost. It is the structure at the top of the house that looks out to the ocean and the "Lady of the House" would go there to watch for her man to return from sea. I learned why most porch ceilings were painted "Haint Blue". Haint Blue is a real color and is a very light blue. It was painted on the porches to keep ghost away. During very hot weather people slept on the porches to stay cool because the houses were turned so the wind would blow through.

A trip to Charleston has to include Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie. Fort Moultrie is across the Cooper River into Mt. Pleasant. Yes, Mt. Pleasant. It was the sight of one of the first forts built and was in use from the Revolutionary War through World War II when it was used to monitor the waters in the area. Seems to have been quite a bit of sub activity in the area.



Charleston in 1865—View of Meeting St. looking South

Fort Moultrie has been turned into a museum and is open for tours. Certain areas have been left as they were during war times.

Fort Sumter speaks for itself. What SCV member or historian would not want to visit? The first time we went only a few people were at the fort and it had a different feel than with a hundred screaming kids wanting something to drink and go to the bathroom. Don't worry they have facilities and a museum at the fort and facilities and drinks on the boat ride over.

Fort Sumter is about a 30 minute boat ride out of Charleston Harbor. The tours leave you at the fort for an hour.



Confederate Museum—188 Meeting ST, Charleston, SC

The War for Southern Independence—Continued

A park ranger will give a brief talk about the fort and then you are left to roam as you please. Look for the unexploded shells in the wall. From Fort Sumter you can see Fort Moultrie and vice-versa. The first time we went the fort was quiet and had a hallowed feel. To walk around and realize that this had once been a three story brick and mortar fortress and is now down to one story. The top two floors blown off by the Union sending an estimated 30,000 shells at its walls. We have all send the pictures of Sumter after the war. The feel of the place is very moving and inspirational.

The true perk of this trip was to get to see the Hunley. The Hunley is in a bath of chemical water that is suppose to remove the salt from

its metal at the Warren Lasch Conservatory just north of the city of Charleston. For a quick history lesson. The H.L. Hunley was the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel during wartime and it did so on the night of February 17, 1864. It was found on May 3rd, 1995 by author Clive Cussler and was recovered on August 8, 2000. The third crew was interred at Magnolia Cemetery on April 17, 2004. The crews from the previous two Hunley sinkings are also buried there. You can view the sub in its chemical bath. No picture taking is allowed. A park at the Battery called White Point's Garden has a memorial that list all of the names of the three Hunley crews.

Magnolia Cemetery is rich in its history with the War for Southern Independence. The cemetery has 2,200 war veterans buried along with 5 generals and 14 signers of the Ordinance of Secession. Did I mention South Carolina was the first state to succeed from the Union? It did so on December 20, 1860.

South Carolina is full of history. Take a trip and spend a few days in Charleston.



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THE WEBFOOT
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
SAMUEL R. WATKINS CAMP #29
SONS OF
CONFEDERATE VETERANS

All dues, notices and correspondence:
C/o
Adjutant, Jack Taylor
701 Sugar Bend Drive
Columbia, Tennessee 38401-6001

www.tennessee-scv.org/camp29

ON THE COVER:

Born to Portuguese Sepharic Jewish parents in the West Indies, Judah Phillip Benjamin was the CSA's first Attorney General. Later he would serve as Secretary of War and Secretary of State. He was noted as an excellent spokesman, orator and revolutionary thinker.

Benjamin was an outspoken advocate of letting any slave willing to bear arms for the CSA become emancipated. His plan was also backed by Robert E. Lee but wasn't implemented until war's end which by that time was too late.

Benjamin more than earned his spot in the pantheon of Confederate heroes.

The

Bigby Grays Confederate Monument

re-dedication Celebration

September 30th, 2007—2pm

MAXIMUM EFFORT ATTENDANCE REQUESTED!

THIS WILL BE A HUGE EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

Event hosted by numerous local groups. Keep checking back with the Sam Watkins camp to stay informed on the event. Times and events are now definite! YOUR help is appreciated!

Contact: scv29@charter.net

Jason Boshers @ 931-379-0426

Or Jack Taylor @931-505-1889



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