

THE WEBFOOT

The Official Newsletter of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

SONS of CONFEDERATE VETERANS



Captured Confederate Cannon at Richmond, Virginia

April, 1865

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29
Columbia, TENN.

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

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Sgt. at Arms: Josh Boshers

Judge Advocate: K. LOVETT

Quartermaster: S. Wyatt

Ways and Means: VACANT



Dear Camp and others,

I do hope that all of you are enjoying your summertime, your excursions and possible vacation getaways. I personally have been quite involved in lots of things this year and working many separate gardens in my back yard. I suppose if we were in the United Kingdom, they would refer to the whole landscape as my 'garden', but I like to say I have six gardens in my yard.

I just returned from a cross country trip to Colorado to bury my mother. She passed on July 4th and was removed from life support on July 5th. Her death was sudden and was a hard blow to me and my two sisters. It was especially hard because her husband of thirty years passed just less than two months previous. For those of you that have gone through such a thing, you know very well how hard it can be and especially hard if you were not there to be with them when they passed. No one knows you better than a mother and those of you that have gone through such a thing know very well the whirlwind of emotion and nostalgia that floods your mind when they pass on. All I could think about after her death was growing up and hearing her call me for supper in the evening as I played outdoors. I do miss her dearly. Please pray for my family.

Do you have an ancestor you'd like to talk to the camp about? Remember, our whole purpose and being is to perpetuate the Confederate soldier's memory and good name. I feel we are getting out of focus with what our purpose is. Burning gunpowder and entertaining crowds about how it was during battle is a great thing. However, we must remember that we are to preserve their memory by doing other things as well. Among these things are preserving their records and their thoughts which were put down on paper. We are to defend those principals for which they fought and educate the community about the real reasons for the War. As the direct and sole heir to the United Confederate Veterans, it is up to us to preserve *why* they fought and not how they fought. Just look how hard the other side defends the Union for their invasion into the South; it's something we need to think long and hard about.

At our next meeting (July 20th) we will have Columbia State Professor, Thomas Flagel. He will share fascinating facts about Appomattox! You may also get to hear of about fighting tactics , actions, recons, scouts, battles etc. in what are often our own backyards.

Thomas Flagel is an instructor of History at Columbia State and talented presenter of many Civil War topics. He authored several books on the war. His "*History Buffs Guide to the Civil War*" and a similar work on *Gettysburg* have been well received by reviewers and historians. He holds a B.A. in History, a M.A. in European History and a M.A. in International History. An Iowan by birth, he has resided in Europe and has an ancestor who fought with the 2nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry. You may visit Thomas Flagel's website at www.thomasflagel.com

Respectfully Yours,
Jack Taylor, II
Camp Commander

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Below is a letter from a J.B Woodard who was captured and paroled at Vicksburg. However, he continued to fight after his parole. I think the attitude of J.B. Woodard is one many soldiers felt during the day and is reminiscent of Samuel R. Watkins in a way. If you have letters pertaining to the war, please send them in and share them with the camp.

Camp 46th Regt. Near Dalton, Ga.
March 2nd, 1864

Dear Wife

I make use of the present opportunity to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am in good health hoping they may reach you soon and find you enjoying the same great blessing. I arrived here the 28th. My regiment had just got back from the battle field. They were in the fight but in no general engagement. They were held in reserve but was exposed to the sharp shooters and bums. The boys say that the bums and bullets sized them very close a good many times. Jim Kidd of our company was slightly wounded in the leg with a piece of a bum. They were 7 or 8 wounded in the regiment. None killed.

March 4th. I commenced this letter the 2nd but as Tom Stewart and Bill Mobley had sent up for furlough I concluded to wait and send the letter by them as you will get it quicker than you would by mail. I will state something now about the fight. The Yankees fell back to Ringgold but buried their dead and carried off their wounded. I don't know what our los was but I don't think there was many killed. I heard about 175 wounded. All is peacible now so far as I know but I am expecting them to try us again shortly and I expect they will whip us the next trial. I dread the consequences of this spring's campain but I don't care how quick they whip us so none of the boys of the right grit don't get killed. The sooner they whip us the better it will be for us for this is the rich mans war and the poor mans fight. Office seekers and speculators is what keeps the war going on and God speed the time for this little Confederacy to go under for I know when it goes the leaders of this war has to go with it. I hope that I will live long enough to get to go to the hangings of these old Secesh.

Mary, I want you to save all the money under five dollar bills that you can - it is not taxed and will pop better than larger money also save all the five dollar bills that you can. I will send you ten dollars in money one dollars worth of stamps and two plugs of tobacco by Thos. Stewart. I will draw money in a few days and will send by the next boys that gets to come home which will after Tom and Bill comes back. I recond I can send you something over a hundred dollars when I draw. I want you to send me a needle and some thread by Tom Stewart when he comes back. I will come to a close for this time. Give my respects to all and reserve the greatest portion to yourself and write soon and all the news generally.

Yours affectionately,

J. B. Woodard

Upcoming Events

Evans Cemetery Dedication

July 24, 2010

3:00 P. M.

Joe Wheeler #291

Decatur, AL

Will hold a dedication for

Pvt. David A. Ridgeway

From Decatur go North on Highway 31 through Athens, pass Wal-Mart, McConnell Funeral Home. Turn Left At the Chevron Service Station onto Highway 99. Go to the 3rd red-light and turn right at the Victory Service Station and you are still on Highway 99 North. Go to mile marker 19 which is at the intersection of Good Springs Grocery. Take the 1st road past the 19th mile marker onto Flanagan Road. Go about 2 miles cross a little bridge go up a hill and turn left onto Mary Davis Hollow Road. The Evans Cemetery is about 1/4 mile on the left.

If coming from Pulaski, take Hwy 64 to Hwy 11, coming South. Cross the Ala/Tenn. State line which is through Minor Hill. Take the 1st road to the left onto Persimmon Tree road. Go all the way to the end of the road. At the end of the road turn right onto Hwy 99. Go to the 19th mile marker. Turn left on the first road pass the 19th mile marker onto Flanagan Road. Go about 2 mile, cross a little bridge, go up a hill and take the first road left onto Mary Davis Hollow road. The cemetery is about 1/4 mile.

5th Annual 'RONAROO'

20th Tennessee Infantry Regiment's Confederate Flag Benefit Concert

AUGUST 7th, 2010

21 AND OVER CONCERT

Featured artists include the Winters Brothers Band, Phoenix Rising Band, Darren Brother's Band
The Howling Brothers, Bad Habits Band, the Reed Hollow Band....

History Channel Commentator and local Historian Thomas Cartwright to speak.

BYOB—NO GLASS

Catering by Tommy Boy. Silent auction includes special limited edition Lynyrd Skynyrd guitar, vendors, re-enactors and the **WORLD'S LARGEST CONFEDERATE FLAG TO BE SHOWN.**

Cost: Tickets are 20 dollars

Place: Smithson antebellum home @ 4762 Peytonsville Road, near I-840 South-east of historic Franklin, TN

Camping encouraged—setup as early as Friday evening Gates open at 3PM, bands play at 4PM.
For more information call Ronny Mangrum at 931-374-8368 or E-mail: celticgranda2@yahoo.com