

Patriotic & Progressive™

# THE WEBFOOT

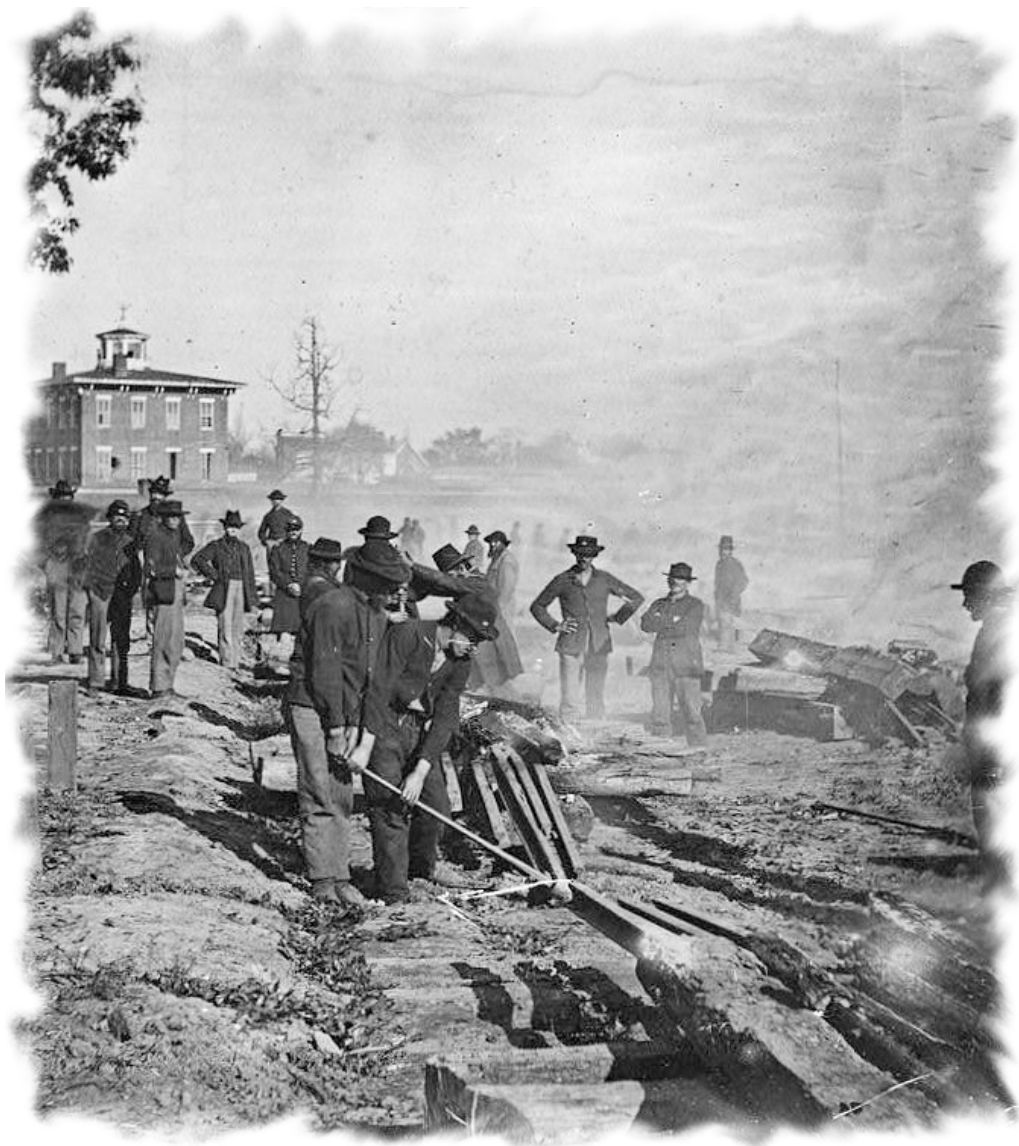
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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION IN THE INTEREST OF  
CONFEDERATE VETERAN DESCENDANTS AND KINDRED TOPICS

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

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Gen. William T. Sherman's Men Destroying Railway outside Atlanta, Georgia—1864

**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.  
Wednesday, November 12, 2008

The event in Williamsport for Pvt. James Marion Wilkins was a really good event and had a great turn out. There were a great number of family members present and the main speaker was his great, great, great grandson and namesake. We also had a great turn-out from the Sam Watkins camp. We had Chaplain Mike Bullock, Adjutant Jay Smith and myself firing the volley. And Chaplain Mike Bullock, Judge Advocate Charles Bates, Chaplain Mike Bullock, Compatriot Jackie Boshers and myself posted colors. Lt. Commander Jack Taylor and Compatriot Russell Cothran were also present. It was a good time.



Adjutant Jay Smith, Judge Advocate Charles Bates, Chaplain Mike Bullock and myself attended the unveiling of the monument to the 20<sup>th</sup> TN at the Confederate Cemetery Park in Beech Grove. The Confederate Cemetery Park is a very nice area that is owned and maintained by the Tullahoma camp. Union and Confederates used it as high ground. It was used before the war as a burial ground for locals. The event had 2 cannons firing and 8 people firing the volley. About 75 people were in attendance. Dr Michael Bradley, our TN Division Commander, was the main speaker.

Carter Cemetery, which is located high on a hill about 500 yards from a very rural road in Giles County, was the last event that Adjutant Jay Smith and myself attended. It is the final resting place of 7 Confederate soldiers, all who were born and raised within a few miles of the cemetery. It was a WONDERFUL turnout. There were about 75 people present with most being family members. The speakers doing dedications were a granddaughter, great granddaughter, great-great grandson and a great-great-great-great granddaughter. The wind was blowing and it was a cold, cloudy day. But it was a wonderful event. They are working hard on bring the cemetery back to life. It was inspirational.

November 30<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the Battle of Franklin and they have announced plans for the upcoming event. November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:30 they will gather in the Second Avenue parking lot in Franklin to assemble luminaries.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE:

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

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## Commander's Corner (continued)

November 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:30 they will begin placing luminaries in front of the Carter House, at 2:30 they will start lighting the luminaries and at 4:30 they will have the ceremony. They need volunteers for all pieces of the event. There is talk about gathering at Winstead Hill and marching to the Carter House. I will do the march if that happens. I will definitely attend the ceremony at 4:30 and will arrive to help place and light luminaries if they do not have the march and time permits.

Our speaker this month will be Gene Andrews. Gene Andrews is the head of the Forrest Boyhood Home. Gene Andrews will be speaking on the Confederate States Marine Corps. It is a subject that is not spoken about much and will be an interesting subject.

Elections. Elections. Elections. Elections. Please read the minutes and the article by Lt Commander Jack Taylor concerning nominations for camp officers and their positions. If you cannot be at the meeting, you can send in written nominations or call a camp officer with your nominations. The elections will be held in December..

**Do not forget about the pancake breakfast. It is our major camp fundraiser and will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM and will be held at Applebee's. We need at least 15 people to work as servers and they will need to be there from 7 AM to 10 AM.** How much money the camp raises depend on how many tickets we sell. The tickets are \$5 and you can get them from Jack, Jay or myself. ALL of the money goes to the camp. All we have to do is sell tickets and wait tables (pour milk, coffee, pass out butter and syrup, etc....) All we are asking for is 3 hours of work and fellowship to raise money for the camp.

**And very importantly, don't about the Army of Tennessee Christmas Party. It will be held at Elm Springs at 6 PM on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. All you have to do is bring a dessert, side dish or drink.**

Dues. It is that time of the year when dues need to be paid. If you have not paid your dues you are late but you still have to the end of the year. Please submit your payment to Adjutant Jay Smith.

See you at the meeting.

In Holy Bonds of the South,

Jason Boshers

Commander, Sam Watkins Camp #29





## **PAY YOUR DUES!**

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29  
Columbia, TENN  
Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Camp 29,

**CAMP DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE! ABSOLUTE deadline war November 1st. You are now considered in arrears if your dues were not paid in at that time.**

Please remit 52 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.

*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.*

PLEASE write on you check what members the dues are for and any extra you're donating. We are striving for a fund raising goal of 10 thousand dollars this time next year! We can do it!!!

Camp, it behooves you to stay current with your dues...we are in turbulent times now and it is important that we stay strong!

**All camp communication, inquiries and payment of dues to :**

**Adjutant, James Smith**

**PO BOX 309**

**Mount Pleasant, TENN 38474**



November 11th, 1918.

Germany signed the armistice officially  
ending the hostility known as the "Great War". That day become known officially as Armistice Day.

Later, U.S. Congress changed armistice Day to Veterans Day and every  
November 11th we honor the Soldiers who fought and served for our great nation.

The Samuel R. Watkins Camp salutes the brave men of our camp who served our blessed Nation with distinction along with the  
25 million other U.S. Veterans who were ready to defend freedom at all costs...

**It is because of you that we have the freedom to write this newsletter—Thank you!**

**October 21, 2008 Camp Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:05p.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.

Commander Boshers introduced our newest member, Charlie Rash. Charlie attends University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Commander Boshers introduced our guest speaker, Tim Morrison. He spoke on the War Between the States ushered in a new era in warfare.

The General Camp Meeting followed:

Reading and acceptance of the minutes from last meeting as posted in the camp newsletter.

Adjutant Smith gave the treasurer's report of \$1,235.46. It was reported that 35 members are paid in full. Six lifetime members have not paid their camp portion of \$12. After discussion, it was decided that members not paid will be listed in next month's newsletter.

Special Communications – Taylor spoke of Jim Russell. Please pray and send a card.

Standing Committees –

-Color and Honor Guard going well. Bullock went to Rose Hill Cemetery for Bicentennial on October 11.

-Fundraising Committee- Lt. Commander Taylor has scheduled the Applebee's pancake breakfast fundraiser for January 17. Will need 15 volunteers from 7:00am – 10:00am to serve and clean tables. Tickets are \$5. Please see Taylor regarding tickets.

Old Business –

Adoption of event/marker/cemetery – A decision will be made in January/February.

New Business –

-Dedication for Judge Advocate Charles Bates will be in spring 2009.

-Annual Elections and Nominations-

Nominations for camp officers were as follows. Elections will be at the December meeting.

Camp Commander—Jason Boshers and Jack Taylor (Taylor declined nomination)

Lt. Commander—Jack Taylor

Adjutant—Jay Smith

Judge Advocate— Charles Bates

All other positions in the camp were noted as being appointed positions and that the elected Camp Commander would install them.

Announcements –

October 25 – Cemetery Dedication in Williamsport at 1:30pm

October 25 – Hunter's Cemetery Walk 4:00pm – 6:00pm

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Army of TN Christmas party at Elm Springs – 6:00p.m.

Commander Boshers officially inducted Charles Rash into the Sam Watkins Camp.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 8:40p.m. Benediction by Bullock

*(The following story taken out of Co. Aytch first appeared in the Webfoot in the Oct-Nov 2006 issue. I felt it fitting to reprint it as a reminder of the Battle of Franklin)*

## Co Aytch; Chapter XVI—Battles In Tennessee

By Samuel R. Watkins

### Franklin

"The death-angel gathers its last harvest."

Kind reader, right here my pen, and courage, and ability fail me. I shrink from butchery. Would to

God I could tear the page from these memoirs and from my own memory. It is the blackest page in the history of the war of the Lost Cause. It was the bloodiest battle of modern times in any war. It was the finishing stroke to the independence of the Southern Confederacy. I was there. I saw it. My flesh trembles, and creeps, and crawls when I think of it today. My heart almost ceases to beat at the horrid recollection. Would to God that I had never witnessed

such a scene! I cannot describe it. It beggars description. I will not attempt to describe it. I could not. The death-angel was there

to gather its last harvest. It was the grand coronation of death. Would that I could turn the page. But I feel, though I did so, that page would still be there, teeming with its scenes of horror and blood. I can only tell of what I saw.

Our regiment was resting in the gap of a range of hills in plain view of the city of Franklin. We could see the battle-flags of the enemy waving in the breeze. Our army had been depleted

of its strength by a forced march from Spring Hill, and stragglers lined the road. Our artillery had not yet come up, and could not be brought into action. Our cavalry was across Harpeth river, and our army was but in poor condition to make an assault. While resting on this hillside, I saw a courier dash up to our commanding general, B. F. Cheatham, and the word; "Attention!" was given. I knew then that we would soon be in action. Forward, march. We passed over the hill and through a little skirt of woods. The enemy were fortified right across the Franklin pike, in the

suburbs of the town. Right here in these woods a detail of skirmishers was called for. Our regiment was detailed. We deployed as skirmishers, firing as we advanced on the left of the turnpike road. If I had not been a skirmisher on that day, I would not have been writing this today, in the year of our Lord 1882. It was four o'clock on that dark and dismal December day when the line of battle was formed, and those devoted heroes were ordered forward, to

"Strike for their altars and their fires,  
For the green graves of their sires,  
For God and their native land."

As they marched on down through an open field toward the rampart of blood and death, the Federal batteries began to open and mow down and gather into the garner of death, as brave, and good, and pure spirits as the world ever saw. The twilight of evening had begun to gather as a precursor of the coming blackness of midnight darkness that was to envelop a scene so sickening and horrible that it is impossible for me to describe it. "Forward, men," is repeated all along the line. A sheet of fire was poured into our very faces, and for a moment we halted as if in despair, as the terrible avalanche of shot and shell laid low those brave and gallant heroes, whose bleeding wounds attested that the struggle would be desperate. Forward, men! The air loaded with death-dealing missiles. Never on this earth did men fight against such terrible odds.



**Continued Next Page**

**Franklin Continued (Co. Ayitch Chapter XVI—Battles in Tennessee):**

It seemed that the very elements of heaven and earth were in one mighty uproar. Forward, men! And the blood spurts in a perfect jet from the dead and wounded. The earth is red with blood. It runs in streams, making little rivulets as it flows. Occasionally there was a little lull in the storm of battle, as the men were loading their guns, and for a few moments it seemed as if night tried to cover the scene with her mantle. The death-angel shrieks and laughs and old Father Time is busy with his sickle, as he gathers in the last harvest of death, crying, More, more, more! while his rapacious maw is glutted with the slain. But the skirmish line being deployed out, extending a little wider than the battle did--passing through a thicket of small locusts, where Brown, orderly sergeant of Company B, was killed--we advanced on toward the breastworks, on and on. I had made up my mind to die--felt glorious.

We pressed forward until I heard the terrific roar of battle open on our right. Cleburne's division was charging their works. I passed on until I got to their works, and got over on their (the Yankees') side. But in fifty yards of where I was the scene was lit up by fires that seemed like hell itself. It appeared to be but one line of streaming fire. Our troops were upon one side of the breastworks, and the Federals on the other. I ran up on the line of works, where our men were engaged. Dead soldiers filled the entrenchments. The firing was kept up until after midnight, and gradually died out. We passed the night where we were. But when the morrow's sun began to light up the eastern sky with its rosy hues, and we looked over the battlefield, O, my God! What did we see! It was a grand holocaust of death. Death had held high carnival there that night. The dead were piled the one on the other all over the ground. I never was so horrified and appalled in my life. Horses, like men, had died game on the gory breastworks. General Adams' horse had his fore feet on one side of the works and his hind feet on the other, dead. The general seems to have been caught so that he was held to the horse's back, sitting almost as if living, riddled, and mangled, and torn with balls. General Cleburne's mare had her fore feet on top of the works, dead in that position. General Cleburne's body was pierced with forty-nine bullets, through and through. General Strahl's horse lay by the roadside and the general by his side, both dead, and all his staff. General Gist, a noble and brave cavalier from South Carolina, was lying with his sword reaching across the breastworks still grasped in his hand. He was lying there dead. All dead! They sleep in the graveyard yonder at Ashwood, almost in sight of my home, where I am writing today. They sleep he sleep of the brave. We love and cherish their memory. They sleep beneath the ivy-mantled walls of St. John's church, where they expressed a wish to be buried. The private soldier sleeps where he fell, piled in one mighty heap. Four thousand five hundred privates! All lying side by side in death! Thirteen generals were killed and wounded. Four thousand five hundred men slain, all piled and heaped together at one place. I cannot tell the number of others killed and wounded. God alone knows that. We'll all find out on the morning of the final resurrection. Kind friends, I have attempted in my poor and feeble way to tell you of this (I can hardly call it) battle. It should be called by some other name. But, like all other battles, it, too, has gone into history. I leave it with you. I do not know who was to blame. It lives in the memory of the poor old Rebel soldier who went through that trying and terrible ordeal. We shed a tear for the dead. They are buried and forgotten. We meet no more on earth. But up yonder, beyond the sunset and the night, away beyond the clouds and tempest, away beyond the stars that ever twinkle and shine in the blue vault above us, away yonder by the great white throne, and by the river of life, where the Almighty and Eternal God sits, surrounded by the angels and archangels and the redeemed of earth, we will meet again and see those noble and brave spirits who gave up their lives for their country's cause that night at Franklin, Tennessee. A life given for one's country is never lost. It blooms again beyond the grave in a land of beauty and of love. Hanging around the throne of sapphire and gold, a rich garland awaits the coming of him who died for his country, and when the horologe of time has struck its last note upon his dying brow, Justice hands the record of life to Mercy, and Mercy pleads with Jesus, and God, for his sake, receives him in his eternal home beyond the skies at last and forever.

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN

Thursday, November 13th, 2008

Dear Camp,

Firstly, I want to remind everyone to please get your dues in ASAP. Now is not the time to falter on your dues or become complacent with preserving our history and heritage. Most of you are fully aware of the disaster that took place at Rippavilla. They would not waiver on the planned development and all but an area around the plantation home will be saved. Whether the decline in the economy will slow this down does not matter. It seems the deal has been signed.

Okay, elections are to take place on December 16th. Nominations are as follows:

*J. Boshers—Commander*

*J. Taylor—Lt. Commander*

*J. Smith—Adjutant*

*C. Bates—Judge Advocate*

Commander Boshers has informed me that he will be allowing nominations by telephone or by writing up until election time. We will also be allowing mail in votes.... Just remember we need them in before elections which take place on DECEMBER 16TH.

You can nominate someone for office or make motion for office for someone else if they cannot attend the meeting...

Please do your best to attend the next meeting on this Tuesday, November 16th to make your voice heard. This is your camp and we need your support.

Yours Truly,

Jack Taylor

Lt. Commander