



The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293 SCV

*Sons of Confederate Veterans*September, 2017*

What You Are Likely Missing

Sam Davis Camp's August meeting was a great one, with Brandon Beck of Mississippi joining us for a talk on Streight's Raid. You'll recall that event as when the Yankees came down to tear up our railroads and cause havoc, yet ended up being chased all across Alabama by N.B. Forrest and his troopers. Mr. Beck gave a great talk, very informative, and Southern tinted. He's a prolific author, and the camp purchased one of his books on Streight's Raid for our library. So did I, and have to say it's well written.

In the past year or two we've continued to have great speakers and events at our camp meetings, and I always enjoy our programs. I can't think of one exception. One thing, though, is missing. What's missing, sadly, is so many of you, and I want you to consider this as an invitation to come back.

I understand it's easy to miss a meeting, then another, then a few months later we don't even remember that it's meeting night. But we do have 15 or 20 stalwarts who are always there, and when you walk in you'll see familiar, smiling faces. My face is on the ugly side, but on the other side we always have Gene Andrews, John Bridges, Bill Powell, Tony Rochietti, Allen Sullivant, Monte McDearis, Jerry Raymer, the Tackers, Dennis Mann, and others that I'm leaving out only because I'm in a rush to make deadline on this article. Just kidding, but you get the picture. And if you are new and don't know any of us, come on anyway. We want

you there, we need you there, and we'd like to know you better. We need attendance and we need participation.

Commander McDearis is trying to address some of the reasons we feel that people might not show up, so I wanted to mention what we're doing. Our meetings will start at 7:00, we will have a prayer, the pledge and salute, a playing of Dixie, and then we will introduce our speaker/program. After the speaker has finished, then we will enter into the business session of the meeting. Many of our speakers are authors, so there might be a slight break for a book signing, if the speaker needs to leave early.

sure, we'll all have time to discuss anything relevant, and plenty of things that aren't, but you will not be held captive to a late meeting.

I want to ask, in particular, to try and attend when we have a guest speaker. These folks go to a lot of effort to spend time with us, and they often travel quite a distance. As someone who sometimes gives little talks, I promise you that the nicest thing that a group can give is an engaged, larger audience. Enjoy the program and sneak out after, if you need to, That's fine, and understandable when you have commitments.

One final note. On meeting nights we have a supper that starts around 6:00, but you can drop in anytime before 7:00 and grab a quick bite. Meals range from cold sandwiches, BBQ, pizza, or who knows what. You can drop a few bucks on the table to help the camp cover the expense, and it's always fun catching up before the meeting.

To reiterate, the meetings start at 7:00, we'll have the program first, business second, and you'll be heading home by 9:00 - probably earlier. None of us can be at every meeting, it's impossible. But when you can be there, you'll enjoy seeing friends, you'll learn something from a great speaker, and you'll be supporting a heritage that deserves to be remembered and supported. As my Daddy says, "Y'all come back, now."

James Turner

Past Commander, Sam Davis Camp -



Some do travel quite a distance to come visit with us. This also gives some of you the opportunity to leave. While we do believe the business session is relevant and important, we also understand that some have jobs or commitments that require them to be up early the next day. Finally, Commander McDearis has emphasized that he wants meetings to end at a reasonable hour, at least by 9:00 - earlier when possible. We're going to be careful not to let business meetings turn into general "bull sessions" that never end. To be

Samuel Davis

Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, September 28th

Oglesby Community Center

Supper around 6:00, Meeting starts at 7:00

Confederate Calendar

September 28th ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 7:00 p.m., Oglesby Community Center. The Center is adjacent to the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ on Edmondson Pike, 1/2 block South of the intersection of Edmondson Pike and Old Hickory Blvd.

September 30th ~ Work Day at the Oglesby Community Center

October 26th ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 7:00 p.m.

November 11th ~ A Saturday, Nashville Veterans Day Parade

Understanding the War on Monuments

Agitation, Abstraction, Disruption, Distraction...

These words are the most primal reasons that southern, and arguably mainstream American, history is under attack throughout the country. On August 16, 2017, I attended a protest to remove the John C. Calhoun monument in Charleston, South Carolina. While I was at this protest, I gained a lot of insight on how these “protestors” think and how to combat this movement. It was a moment of clarity.

The first thing that needs to be realized is that there is hope for southerners and people that are tired of seeing this wanton destruction of history. These “protestors” are not putting together organic, true protests—rather, they are staging political dramas that the masses can consume through media obsession.

I attended this rally to understand the other side and hopefully open a dialogue about the history that was being protested. My friend and I (both young men in the Sons of Confederate Veterans), attended with an open mind and a positive outlook. Being a teacher, I was hoping to engage in a truly productive discussion. We walked around the protest and tried asking people basic questions about Calhoun and American history. Among the questions we asked were:

“Did you know that John C. Calhoun served as Vice President twice?”

“Are you aware of John C. Calhoun’s theories on limiting government?”

“Are you aware John C. Calhoun served in the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate?”

“Did you know John C. Calhoun served as Secretary of State and Secretary of War?”

“What do you think about the Denmark Vesey monument down the street? (Vesey was a slave that plotted a massive slave rebellion and was later executed—he also has a monument in Charleston just a few blocks from Calhoun’s)

Not surprisingly, none of the people that were asked these questions knew of these facts or would even acknowledge them. At one point, protestors asked my friend to speak but then became aggressive with him. They were posturing as if they were going to hit him because he brought up the fact that Calhoun fought the National Bank, as other members of the crowd began shouting over him with megaphones.

It was at this point that I saw how weak these “protestors” really are in their devotion and cause. Rather than dealing in reality and facts, they are dealing in abstractions. They would not open a dialogue with anyone else because

they know they cannot win a logical argument. The truth is that these “protestors” are just trying to confuse people. They gather at the base of a monument, shout things like “f*** Donald Trump,” “f*** the Confederacy,” “all cops are racist KKK,” etc. There were even transgendered women with excessive armpit hair telling stories about “white nationalists” attacking them in the past. Their ultimate goal is to try and convince people, through aggressive screaming and rhetoric, that southern history and the civil war are nothing more than evidence of intolerance.

Everyone attending keeps their phones on at all times because, deep down, they are hoping someone will be attacked and they will catch it on video. In addition, they lump a lot of other confusing symbols of hate in with their protest. What do Black Lives Matter, the Green Party, homosexuals, and transgender groups have to do with John C. Calhoun? Nothing. It’s just a ploy to agitate people and start violence, so that these “protestors” can take the moral high ground and claim the monuments are causing violence.

Make no mistake, this movement to destroy history is entirely political. The people running the protests were waving Green Party flags and were speaking openly about making runs at political office. My friend and I both felt as if there were people in the crowd that were simply being paid to disrupt. When we tried engaging the people that were the most boisterous, there were organizers in bright orange vests pulling the “protestors” around and steering them towards media outlets.

Where was all of this moral outrage over monuments just a few years ago? As a young native southerner, I can safely say that in my lifetime there were no move-



ments to remove this history until after the Dylan Roof shootings in 2015. Could this just be the Democratic Party working secretly to rewrite their own past? It certainly seems that way.

Moving forward, how can good Americans deal with this social and historical crisis? One option is to counter the “protestors” in a positive and peaceful way. Most of the people advocating the monument removals are not truly educated on the past, they are acting on emotion and hoping to catch a video that will get lots of “likes.” Many are just spoiled college kids living on their parents’ dime, who have been indoctrinated with ideas about social justice and the “bad” influence of southern history on America. Some are absolutely being paid and are sticking to a script. They are not ready to be challenged intellectually.

A simple solution my friends and I are considering is to attend more rallies and distribute positive information. For example, next time “protestors” get any ideas about removing the Calhoun monument, we can distribute free information on exactly what Calhoun did and did not do. We can explain that Calhoun advocated a more limited government that might have better protected individual liberties today. Most importantly, when these revisionists continue to be aggressive and use profanity, we can take the moral high ground, stick to facts, and stand together strong.

The rally to remove the Calhoun monument was not a large one, probably not over one-hundred-twenty people. We need more intelligent people in attendance—people who want to see real change. The politicians are not going to help, they are in the mindset to remove monuments in the dead of night without popular support just to get some attention. We can stop this nonsense if we work together, act peacefully, and think logically.

Monuments are not the problem in society today. They are doing their job, and bringing people together to discuss issues. The real problem are these liberal, historical

revisionists who will not be happy until America is burned to the ground. ~~ Michael Martin

Fifty Years of the Sam Davis Camp

Some years back, I had the good fortune to come into possession of two collections of Sam Davis Camp records, and spent some enjoyable hours going through this material, some of which dated back nearly fifty years.

Credit for keeping these records originally goes primarily to two gentlemen: the late Robert N. Herbert, our camp's last Real Son, and long-time member and mentor Robert E. "Doc" McArthur. Without their diligence, our camp's history would be mostly scattered to the winds -- lost with the passing of older members or gone with past members who are no longer a part of the camp. The records have passed through several hands in the intervening years. All who have had custody of the records in past years are to be commended for their stewardship.

The best information available indicates that our camp was first chartered in 1967, a time when there were only two other active camps in the entire state: the Joseph E. Johnston Camp No. 28 in Nashville and the N. B. Forrest Camp No. 215 in Memphis. The Knoxville Camp No. 1294, since renamed and re-numbered as the Longstreet-Zollicoffer Camp No. 87, joined the ranks in 1968. Today, there are dozens of camps in the Tennessee Division.

Other than a few items that dip back into the 1970's, the records pick up about 1980 and cover the rest of that decade, the 1990's, and forward from there. Compatriots Herbert and McArthur kept minutes of meetings, and sign up sheets for those attending as well as copies of the monthly camp bulletin, which served as our "newsletter" in those days. These bulletins were more like a letter,

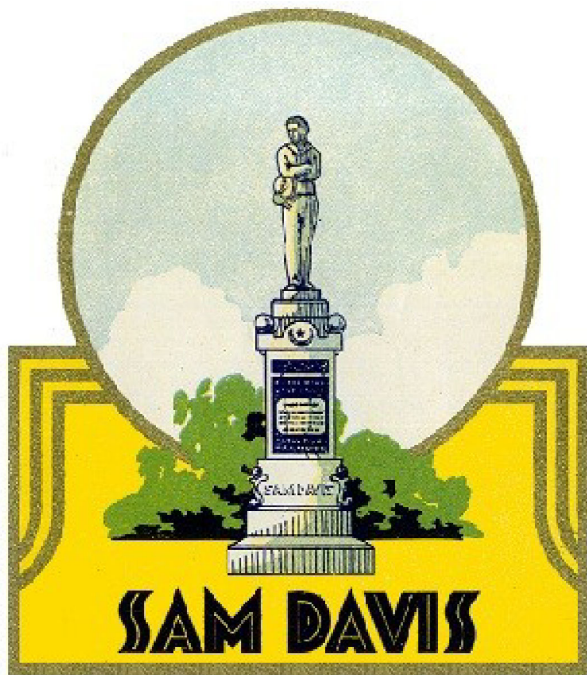
and had a few brief comments on the last and upcoming meetings and some camp news items. Beginning in 1990 or so, a newsletter that went by the name of *The Sam Davis Courier* was being produced by Gene Andrews, and usually stretched out past a single page. James Turner continued the format during his term. Credit for establishing *The Hero's Herald* goes to Mark Choate, who published issue No. 1 in January of 1994 as he began his term as camp . Lin Tacker took over the editor's duties in January of 1996, and the current editor, Allen Sullivan, in January of 1998. In 2003, the name of the newsletter reverted to *The Courier*, thus restoring the original selection. The camp archives have copies of every single newsletter since early in 1993, and the great majority of those for the previous three years.

In looking over our records, one topic stands out head and shoulders above any other in occupying the camp's time and effort -- Winstead Hill. We first took title to the property in 1982, and within two years were in the process of transferring it to the national organization as the site on which to build a grand, new international headquarters facility. All the grandiose plans came to naught, however, and by 1988 the hill was ours again. In 1989, we leased the park to the City of Franklin for \$1. a year, in return for their promise of complete maintenance without disturbing its nature as an exclusively Confederate memorial. The City soon broke its word, and amid a flurry of controversy resulting in dozens of newspaper articles we cancelled the lease in 1992. The hill has been our "baby" ever since, and anyone who visits now will see visible evidence of all the time and hard work which has been invested by our members in recent years. A detailed account of the history of our ownership of Winstead Hill would make for very interesting reading, and may well appear in a future edition of *The Courier*.

Over the years our camp has benefitted from the services of many hard-working individuals.

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Commander ~ Monte McDearis

Lt. Commander ~ Gene Andrews

Adjutant ~ Allen Sullivant 971-7454

Treasurer ~ James Turner 335-6944

Chaplain ~ Tony Rocchietti 399-1606

Newsletter Editor ~ Allen Sullivant 971-7454

Web Address ~ <http://www.samdaviscamp.org>

The Courier

Sam Davis Camp #1293

Sons of Confederate Veterans

P. O. Box 3448

Brentwood, Tenn. 37024



First Class Mail Dated Material

Quite a number have served quietly from within "the ranks", and others have assumed positions of leadership. From the records available, I have been able to compile the following list of those men who have served the camp as commander and adjutant. It is worth noting that we apparently elected officers once a year, in January, until 1990 when the terms were extended to two years. Since I've been a member, starting in 1993, elections have been held in October or the combined November/December meeting, but I couldn't tell you why they were moved to those months from January. Perhaps a long-term member can tell us that, and supply some names which are missing from this list:

(Note: Commander named first, Adjutant second. The Camp has always had other officers (treasurer, chaplain, lt. commanders), but commander and adjutant are the only two required by the SCV Constitution and Standing Orders)

1968 ~ Hal R. Swann, Jr., John L. Heflin, Jr.

1976 ~ Buford Gotto, Robert N. Herbert

1977 ~ Hal R. Swann, Jr., Robert N. Herbert

1978 ~ Robert A. Ragland, Robert N. Herbert

1980 ~ William M. Coates, Robert N. Herbert

1981 ~ Jack A. West, Robert N. Herbert

1982 ~ George Spence, Robert N. Herbert

1983 ~ John T. Herbert, Robert N. Herbert

1984 ~ James Knox Trigg, Robert N. Herbert

1985 ~ Robert E. McArthur, Robert N. Herbert and George Spence

1986 ~ Carl McCarver, George Spence

1987 ~ Van Herbert, George Spence

1988 ~ Frank N. Davis, Hume Parks

1989 ~ Frank N. Davis, Hume Parks

1990 ~ 1991 -- Gene Andrews, Hollice Gilliland

1992 ~ 1993 -- James K. Turner, Gordon Pickrell

1994 ~ 1995 -- Marty Crain, Mark Choate

1996 ~ 1997 -- Mark Choate, Lin Tacker

1998 ~ 1999 -- Lin Tacker, Allen Sullivant

1999 ~ 2001 -- Allen Sullivant, Gene Andrews

2001 ~ 2003 -- James Galloway, John Paysinger

2003 ~ 2005 -- Jerry Raymer, Chris Sollmann

2005 ~ 2007 -- Gene Andrews, Chris Sollmann

Dec. 2007 ~ July 2008 -- Richard Rust, Chris Sollmann

July 2008 ~ February 2011-- Larry Cockerham, Chris Sollmann

Note: Larry Cockerham passed away while in office...

February 2011 ~ December, 2013-- David Eagan, Chris Sollmann

December, 2013 ~ December, 2015-- Nelson Boren, Allen Sullivant

December, 2015 -- Monte McDearis, Allen Sullivant

Any list of camp officers would be incomplete without mentioning John Thurman, who has acted as our camp treasurer for 11 years between 1990 and 2003. Thank you, John, for all your work and dedication!

Additional Note: We became the "Sam Davis Camp No. 1293, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc." on October 28, 2009, a Tennessee Chartered Corporation.