



THE GILMOR BLADE

Those who allow the surrender of their history,
also surrender their future!



Official Newsletter of

THE COL. H.W.GILMOR CAMP, No. 1388, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

June 2017

June 14 Camp meeting: Part II of "The Maryland Campaign"

The Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388 will hold its next meeting June 14, 2017 at 7:30 PM at the Baltimore County Historical Society, 9811 Van Buren Lane, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

Thanks to Bob Wagster, Bruce Null, Mike Williams and Stephen Adamski for doing the clean-up at Loudon Park on May 15th. Due to their hard work, we were able to cancel the re-scheduled work day on May 20th. Again, thank you very much.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on November 4, 2017 for the Annual Gilmor Candlelight Dinner. More information to come.

Our guest speaker this month, Frank Armiger, is a native of the Baltimore area. He was born in South Baltimore and grew up in northern Anne Arundel County. He currently resides in Timonium with his wife Susan. Frank is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins University where he earned a BA degree in Business and Industrial

Engineering. He is currently self-employed as a health care antifraud consultant specializing in Medicare and Medicaid fraud detection and prevention.

Frank is a long time Civil War buff dating back to the Centennial celebration. He is particularly interested in the Battle of Gettysburg and has visited the battlefield many times over the past 50+ years.

Frank is the Editor of the *Maryland Line*, the newsletter of the Maryland Military Historical Society (MDMHS). He is also the President of the Curtis B Vickery Round Table of Military History where he has been a regular speaker. Frank has also spoken at the Baltimore Civil War Round Table on the Battle of Gettysburg.

Frank's presentation tonight is on "The Maryland Campaign, Part II" and Frank will cover the remainder of the Battle of See "June 14 Camp meeting", p.3

The Charge
"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

Minutes: May 10, 2017 Camp meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31 p.m. by Commander Dan Pyle. Chaplain Bob Wagster offered the Invocation. Commander Pyle led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Salute to the Confederate Flag. Commander Pyle read The Charge of General Stephen Dill Lee. Twenty-four members and guests were in attendance.

Commander Pyle recognized a number of guests

including: Terry Klima, Maryland Division SCV Commander, and Deborah Piel, President of the Maryland Division, UDC. Commander Pyle introduced our guest speaker, Frank Armiger. Mr. Armiger gave an excellent talk and Power Point presentation on "The Sharpsburg Campaign and the First Phase of the Battle of Sharpsburg."

BREAK
Adjutant Elliott Cummings

summarized the Minutes of the April 12, 2017 Gilmor Camp meeting.

MOTION: To approve the Minutes as summarized.
PASSED

1st Commander Gene Leasure reported that the guest speaker for the June 14, 2017 Gilmor Camp meeting will be Frank Armiger. He will speak on "Phase II of the Battle of See "May minutes," p.2

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June 2017

Confederate Memorial Day ceremony slated for June 3, 2017



The UDC & SCV invite you to participate in this important annual event to celebrate the birthday of President Jefferson Davis and honor the thousands of soldiers who served the Confederacy during the War Between the States!

- WHAT:** Confederate Memorial Day
- WHEN:** Saturday, 3 June 2017
- TIME:** 10:30 a.m.
- WHERE:** Loudon Park Cemetery (3800 block Frederick Rd. in Southwest Baltimore)

Please let Elliott Cummings (basilduke@comcast.net) know if your chapter or camp will bring a floral tribute!

For more information about the event, contact Kathy Arth (kathyarth@rocketmail.com), Chaplain, Maryland Division UDC!

The Harford and James R. Wheeler UDC chapters will provide refreshments!

May minutes *Continued from p.1*

We need YOU!

Saturday
June 3
*Confederate
Memorial Day*

8:00 Help us set up and install flags

9:00 Military units arrive and meet

10:30 Ceremony and program

Cleanup afterwards

Sharpsburg." Our November 8, 2017 guest speaker will be Past Maryland Division, SCV Commander Jay Barringer. Jay will speak on "The Titanic and the Confederacy."

Commander Pyle has rescheduled to Saturday, May 20, 2017 9:00 a.m. the clean up day at Confederate Hill, Loudon Park that had previously been scheduled for May 13, 2017.

Commander Pyle would like to receive information on years of SCV membership in five years increments from members.

Confederate Memorial Day will be held on Saturday June 3, 2017

at Confederate Hill, Loudon Park Cemetery. Show up time for set up is 8:00 a.m. with the ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

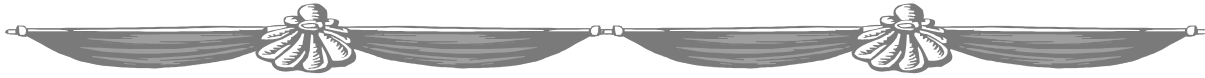
Announcements:

May 20, 2017 - Captain Henry Wirz Ceremony, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington D. C.

June 1, 2017 - Battle of Sharpsburg Camp. Speaker, Past SCV Cmdr-in-Chief Kelly Barrow.

June 10, 2017 - 100th Anniversary of the Virginia Monument at Gettysburg. Guest Speaker Susan Hathaway of the Virginia Flaggers.

June 17 - Confederate Cross dedication at the grave of Sergeant Tucker, Loudon Park Cemetery. See "May minutes," p.3



The Confederacy's Secret Service

By Joan Wenner, J.D.

From the June, 2017 issue of *Civil War News*

Intelligence gathering during the Civil War by both sides had the same goals; basically determine as best as possible each other's activities, and disrupt or entirely thwart those operations. There were a number of "firsts" in the Civil War and although using spies had always been a part of warfare, unique to this war was the creation of special 'secret' agencies within the governmental and military structures of both the Union and the Confederacy.

Gordon Jones, Senior Military Historian and Curator of the Atlanta History Center wrote, "Yes there was a loosely organized Confederate 'secret service' which was especially active in Canada promoting raids and other disruptive activities in Union territory." As examples of several perhaps lesser known instances he explains, "Some escaped Confederate prisoners pulled off a bank heist in St. Albans, Vt.; there were fires set in New York City; a doctor attempted to infect Union troops by shipping them clothes worn by yellow fever victims (nobody knew it was spread by mosquitoes, unlike small pox); John Wilkes Booth and Dr. Samuel Mudd supposedly had ties to groups; and there was also quite a bit of similar activity aided and abetted by sympathetic northern 'Copperheads' in the summer and fall of 1864, just before the elections."

In a book authored by Kate Clifford Larson, she claims John and Mary Surratt, as early as 1861, years before the Booth connection, had revealed themselves as ardent Southern sympathizers. He used his

position as local postmaster and the strategic location of their newly purchased tavern for assisting in the illegal distribution of letters and

contraband smuggled to and from Virginia, which their son continued upon the father's death in 1862. See "*Confederate spies*," p.5

June 14 Camp meeting *Continued from p.1*

Sharpsburg. The next phase will revolve around the "Bloody Lane," a sunken farmer's road that served as a natural entrenchment for the Confederates as they turned back successive Union assaults under General French. John B. Gordon and Robert E. Rodes will play important roles at this juncture of the battle as Confederate forces fought to avoid a Union breakthrough.

The focus will shift to the final phase of the battle around the lower bridge, to henceforth be known as "Burnside's Bridge," where a small unit of Georgians under Robert Toombs held the bridge as the IX

Corps made multiple assaults before finally breaking through.

As the Union troops moved on Sharpsburg and the Potomac, Lee's army was in dire straits, staring into the face of a disastrous defeat when the "Cavalry Came to the Rescue" in the form of A P Hill's Light Division. The day was saved but Lee was forced to abandon the campaign and retreat back to Virginia. Frank will discuss the aftermath of this horrible battle and impact that it had on the Civil War.

Please join us for this interesting and informative presentation!

May minutes *Continued from p. 2*

August, 26, 2017 - Potomac River Crossing sponsored by the Col. William Norris Camp.

September 16, 2017 - Clean up at Benner's Hill, Gettysburg.

October 28, 2017 - Semi -annual Maryland Division, SCV Meeting at the Pasadena Library.

November 4, 2017 - Annual Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp Candlelight Dinner at the MD Country Club.

November 18, 2017 - Remembrance Day, Gettysburg.

2nd Lt. Commander Mike Williams reported that a very large "witness tree" that was struck by lightning and severely damaged at Confederate Hill, Loudon Park Cemetery has been removed. One other such tree was able to be saved.

Adjutant Elliott Cummings summarized highlights of the April 15, 2017 Maryland Division, SCV Convention. Maryland Division Commander Terry Klima reported on some of the on-going Heritage issues in Maryland: the Rockville Confederate Monument and General Robert E. Lee Park in Baltimore County.

Mike Williams further reported, as he discussed at previous meetings, that the Stonewall Jackson Monument at Confederate Hill is unstable because of erosion.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer 9:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Elliott Cummings
Adjutant



June 2017

Confederate Hill cleanup prepares site for June 3 ceremony

Pictures courtesy of Bob Wagster



Being retired doesn't stop this group! On Monday, May 15 a work team composed of (L to R above) Mike Williams, Steve Adamski, Bob Wagster and Bruce Null labored to spruce up Confederate Hill at Loudon Park Cemetery. The team straightened tombstones, repaired stones and cleared away winter debris.

The team appreciated the generous support given to the project by the cemetery staff.

Don't forget: we need your presence and your help on the morning of June 3. Starting at 8 AM, we'll be setting things up and placing flags. Hope you can join us!

Important message from your Adjutant: Major change in collection of SCV dues

For a number of years, the SCV fiscal year has ended on July 31. Camps were given until November 1, a three month "grace period" or window, to collect and remit dues.

In practice, because it takes Camp Adjutants and Treasurers a few days to prepare the report and payment for Headquarters, dues needed to be paid by about October 27. In a normal year, maybe 12 or so people did not pay "on time", but most of these were made up as reinstatements later with the addition of a \$5 Headquarters' fee. **This procedure has been completely changed.**

Under the new procedure, anyone who has not paid dues by September 1, only a one month grace period, will be dropped from SCV membership.

This gives Adjutants and Treasurers a window of only about 27 days to collect all dues. *Keep in mind that there is no "Gilmor Blade" published in the months of July and August to remind members that dues are due.* What I would respectfully ask is that each of you considers paying your SCV dues starting June 1. Dues are \$45 (\$30 National Dues + \$15 Camp Dues).

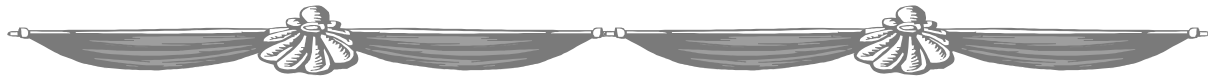
Life Members are asked to pay only Camp dues of \$15.

Please send your check, payable to The Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp, to our treasurer:

Bruce G. Null
2600 Masseth Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21219

Thanks for your help and cooperation in this matter. Please consider paying your dues for 2017-2018 in June to avoid delinquency fees in September.

Sincerely,
Elliott Cummings, Adjutant



June 2017

Confederate spies *Continued from p. 3*

The area was well-known for its large number of Confederate agents who, for the most part, successfully avoided Union authorities for three years while providing support to Richmond’s war effort.

Historical records confirm the Confederate Congress assembled to write a permanent Constitution allowing less power than the U.S. Federal government to the new government, while the states not unexpectedly retained slightly more. The respected historian Robert H. Jones wrote that on February 4, 1861, thirty-seven of the thirty-eight delegates chosen by the seceded states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina met in Montgomery, Ala., to form a new

nation because the individual states had never intended to set themselves up as small independent countries adjacent to the United States. In March 1861, after legislation established the War Department a month earlier, and one day before the provisional government was established, the Confederate Army was created and organized, and its ‘secret service’ branch formed.

By early 1862, the southern War Department was issuing specific orders for various cities including Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., to “imprison persons against whom there is well-grounded suspicion of disloyalty.” Monitoring supposed threats, ferreting out spies and those individuals suspected of giving “aid,

countenance or counsel or encouragement to the enemy” along with conducting “secret missions” were critical functions for the stabilizing of the Confederacy.

At the outset the Confederacy’s P.G.T. Beauregard had written President Jefferson Davis proposing a “detailed strategic plan” be prepared though Davis warned of the unpredictable moves by the North, noting, “The present position and unknown purpose of the enemy require that our plan should have many alterations.” Spies in Washington and news reports would soon make many Federal intentions known.

Look for Part II of this article in the September issue of the Blade!

THE GILMOR BLADE

Bruce and Nancy Null
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The Gilmor Blade is the monthly publication of the Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388, Sons of Confederate Veterans.



SAVE THE DATES:

Confederate Memorial Day at Loudon Park 6/3/17

- *Come early and help us set up for this event!*
- June Camp meeting 6/14/17***
- *Speaker: Frank Armiger*
- *Topic: The Maryland Campaign, Pt. II*