

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582

“The Sharpsburg Sentinel”

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The Sharpsburg Camp and the SCV denounce racism, racial supremacists, hate groups, and any group or individual that misuses or desecrates the symbols of the Confederate States or the United States.



December 2016

“Youth’s Hour of Glory”



Commander’s Notes

I want to thank everyone who came out to our November meeting. Mr. Doug Batson gave an excellent presentation of General D.H. Hill who talked about his life during reconstruction.

Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party and will be held on Saturday, December 10th, 2016, 6:00 P.M. in the private room at Hoffman’s All American Grill, 18203 Mason Dixon Rd., Hagerstown, MD, www.hoffmansallamericangrill.com. Our guest speaker will be local author and historian Eric Buckland who will be doing a presentation on “Col. John Singleton Mosby”. Space is limited, so please R.S.V.P. to me at mike24745@aol.com or 301-992-3122-C no later than Monday, December 5th, 2016.

As of now, I have speakers lined up until February of next year. If you would like to speak to the camp or know of anyone who might, please let me know.

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I wish each and every one of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I want to thank each and every one of you for being a member of the SCV. Remember, this is your camp and I encourage all of you to participate fully.

Yours in the cause,

Michael David Wasiljov
Commander
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MINUTES

The November 2, 2016 meeting of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 was held at the Sharpsburg Town Hall. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with 14 members and Friends and 3 guests in attendance. Commander Wasiljov opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and the Salute to the Confederate flag. The invocation was offered by Camp Adjutant, Jan Hiett.

- Membership in the Camp at this time is 34 members. Two members are now delinquent with their dues. The Camp has five Lifetime members. There are six current Friends of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp. Richard Sodergren is our newest Friend and was presented with his certificate and lapel pin at the meeting.
- All membership dues have been sent to National and our Camp is waiting for official verification of our numbers and their status. We expect to receive additional membership cards so that they can be distributed. If you have not received your membership card they will be made available in person at our next meeting. If they are not picked up at that time they will be mailed. With only three members electing to receive mailed newsletters, the additional mailing at this time will involve over 15 members at the current postal rate. Please consider attending our Christmas party and picking up your card.
- Compatriot Don Goodwin asked the Camp officers to consider reinstituting our Camp's recruitment efforts at local events. This effort was handled by Russ Smith years ago and produced some of our current members. We will continue to explore this suggestion with the hope of offering this service during 2017. Consider helping in this Cause.
- The Camp was asked to keep Chaplain Toby Law and his wife in our thoughts and prayers. Due to health reasons for both of them Toby was not able to attend tonight's meeting.
- The Camp meeting and Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Hoffman's All American Grill in Hagerstown. RSVP Commander Wasiljov by December 5th as seating is limited. We will have a private room for this meeting and our speaker will be Eric Buckland. Topic of the evening will be Colonel John S. Mosby.
- It was announced by Commander Wasiljov that the Maryland Division Fall meeting will be held in Pasadena, Maryland on Saturday November 5, 2016. All current members were invited to attend this meeting. Camp Commander and Adjutant plan to attend. The Division holds these meetings twice per year to help with planning and coordination of various activities, projects and responses to heritage attacks.
- Membership was reminded to review the Upcoming Events section of the newsletter and consider attending some of the events that are listed.

The Adjutant offered the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2016

Our guest speaker for the month was author, historian, and compatriot Douglas Batson, a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp #726 SCV. He presented a very unique post-war first-person impression of General Daniel Harvey Hill CSA. Hill was certainly a brilliant and focused individual with strong Southern values. He was raised according to compatriot Batson in “genteel poverty”. He was deeply religious and possessed a very dry and sarcastic sense of humor. A graduate of the 1842 West Point Class which included such notable classmates as Longstreet, McLaws, R.H. Anderson, and future Union generals Rosecrans and Sykes. Prior to the War of Northern Aggression he fought in the Mexican War, was a college professor, author, and founding Superintendent of the North Carolina Military Institute. During the war he was known locally for his rear guard action at South Mountain and his fighting at Sharpsburg’s “Bloody Lane”. He unfortunately is remembered best for the “Lost Dispatch-Order 191” which reported the numerous positions of the Confederate army in and around Maryland. His role in the lost orders and lack of tactfulness resulted in his dismissal from command of two Confederate armies. Because he was not part of the elite and Virginia “crowd” perhaps he received unfair treatment. Compatriot Batson portrayal of General Hill’s life after the war and during the Reconstruction Era in which he expressed the Southern view of the war. Most noteworthy, Hill was editor of *The Land We Love* from 1866 to 1869 and *The Southern Home* which provided a good platform for expressing the Southern view of the war. He was also critical of the Union army and its’ commanders. His magazine was published for four years and was extremely popular. Eventually, he sold the contents of his magazine to a Baltimore newspaper. In addition, he was fond of poetry which was extremely popular at that time. Hill used poems to note abuses by the soldiers and citizens of the North in the South. Frequently he noted “that many northern men lined their pockets from the Southern pockets that they plundered”. While General “Beast” Butler was made a scapegoat for his poor treatment of the South, Hill suggested that Butler was the rule rather than the exception. After the war Hill was a proponent of the Granger Movement which encouraged improvement in agricultural practices. He also became President of the Arkansas Industrial Institute (now the University of Arkansas) and Middle Georgia Military and Agricultural College. General D.H. Hill crossed over in 1889.

Thanks to compatriot Batson for his very informative portrayal of a true Southerner. His post-war presentation was refreshing.

ADJUTANT COMMENTS

The Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 is finishing another successful year. We have experienced a steady growth in SCV membership during the past year and a half. I would attribute much of our growth (24 increased to 34) due to the Confederate bashing and unwarranted attacks on our heritage. Our Friends membership has also grown and we appreciate the support and dedication of our Friends. A tip of the kepi to all!

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After our November meeting I called Camp Chaplain Toby Law. Humble as always, Toby reported that health issues with him and his wife would probably limit his ability to perform his duties as Chaplain. He will continue as a SCV and Camp member and promised to keep all of us in his prayers. In conjunction with this information the membership was notified by e-mail of the need for a Chaplain. Several members including Toby recommended Past Adjutant Steve DeFreytas. I cannot think of a better choice. Thankfully, Steve has given this matter some prayerful consideration and will assume the position of Chaplain of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582. To contact Chaplain Steve DeFreytas the following e-mail address can be used: sdefrey@myact.net He will serve the remaining portion of Toby Law's term. Again, a tip of the kepi to Steve for taking on this challenge.

Commander Wasiljov and this writer attended the Maryland Division Fall meeting. There were several exciting topics discussed and I will review my notes and make them available to the Camp in our January, 2017 newsletter.

I was able to attend the November 19th Remembrance Day Parade with the Maryland Division Color Guard. We were joined by several members of the Pennsylvania Division. We were kept in high spirits and in step by three drummers and the crowd pleasing bag piper and our Past Division Commander, Jay Barringer. We were also accompanied by several of our Confederate women including at least one Confederate Rose. We had perhaps thirty marchers for this event. As usual our unit was greeted with enthusiastic cheers and a number of comments were made about the precision and spirit of the Guard. Where were the small group of haters that faced us with masks and loudspeakers, yelling profanities during our Confederate Flag Day ceremony in March? Missing like their knowledge of history and respect for other's opinions. We continue to see their daily efforts to disrupt America in "brown shirt" fashion. They believe they have been to the mountain and have all the answers. DEO VINDICE!!

WAR YEARS-CHRISTMAS IN THE CONFEDERACY

Christmas in the Confederacy was observed with conflicting emotions. Nineteenth-century Americans embraced Christmas with all the Victorian trappings that had moved the holiday from the private and religious realm to a public celebration. Christmas cards were in vogue, carol singing was common in public venues, and greenery festooned communities in both the South and the North. Christmas trees stood in places of honor in many homes and a poem about the jolly old elf who delivered toys to well-behaved children captivated Americans on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line.

Christmas was an especially difficult time for soldiers and their families left at home. On the home front many women and children widened their responsibilities and suffered hardships caused by the absence of their husbands, fathers, and sons. Southern children suffered the most while enduring meager living

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conditions. Three year old Robert Martin remembered he was “tired of war” because Santa Clause forgot to visit the Shenandoah Valley. Many Southern children were told that “Santa was a Yankee” and the Confederate pickets would not let Santa through. Soldiers accustomed to “bringing in the tree” and caroling in church were instead scavenging for firewood and singing drinking songs around the campfire. A Confederate soldier from Dranesville, Virginia in 1861 wrote his family, “You have no idea how lonesome I feel this day. It’s the first time in my life I’m away from loved ones at home.” During the same year Sallie Putnam of Richmond wrote, “We had neither the heart nor inclination to make the week merry with joyousness when such a calamity hovered over us.”

The sad year of 1862 brought the war’s impact full force with battles throughout Virginia and in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Some Virginia citizens were homeless since they fled their towns just prior to Christmas. Officers of a Tennessee regiment gave their men a barrel of whiskey to mark the day. “We had many a drunken fight before the day closed.” There were also a grim account of soldiers being forced to witness an execution for desertion on Christmas day.

The year 1863 saw major battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg. This noted the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. Holiday boxes and barrels from home containing food, clothing, and small articles of comfort were highly anticipated by the soldiers in the field. Depending on their location and duty some men had Christmas dinner that consisted of only crackers, hard tack, rice, beans, and a casting of lots for a single piece of beef too small to divide.

In 1864 the final wartime Christmas was observed. Lee’s Army was entrenched in Petersburg and Richmond while the city of Savannah, Georgia was presented to the Union president by telegram as a “gift” from General Sherman. A soldier from Kentucky expressed the following sentiment: “Peace on Earth, good will to men should prevail. We certainly would preserve the peace if they (the North) would go home and let us alone...” General Gordan CSA wrote from his Headquarters near Petersburg, “The worn-out railroad running to the far South could not bring us half the necessary supplies. Even if it could have transported the Christmas boxes of good things, the people at home were too depleted to send them.”

With the war ending in 1865 that particular Christmas found many Confederate soldiers dead, wounded, or missing. Those that survived had taken the Oath of Allegiance and/or were paroled. Soldiers and civilians alike were ready to reunite and continue to embrace the Victorian holiday customs.

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THE INFAMOUS CAMP DOUGLAS

While Andersonville is frequently cited for its reputation, the Union had a share of poorly run prisoner-of-war camps in the North. Camp Douglas located in Chicago, Illinois was at the top of the list. Like many Northern camps it was originally built to house new recruits. After it served that useful purpose it was converted into a POW camp with Confederate soldiers arriving following the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee. By the end of February 1862, approximately 4,300 captives had arrived. The camp was a series of 64 crude wooden buildings located over 60 acres and was enclosed by a six foot high fence. An unusual feature of Camp Douglas was an observatory that was erected outside the gate of the camp. To add insult to injury spectators were permitted for a fee of ten cents to ascend to an elevated platform, where with the aid of spy or field glasses which were furnished by the proprietors, the Northern public could look down upon the caged Confederates as if they were objects of curiosity or as animals in a zoo. Typical of many camps it had poor drainage that created many pools of standing water that became a breeding ground for many diseases. Even the United States Sanitary Commission noted these conditions and called for its closing. By the spring of 1863 the mortality rate was ten per cent per month. This was higher according to the research than any other POW camp in the North or the South! Among the common diseases that caused death were Malaria/Typhoid, Pneumonia/Pleurisy and Diarrhea/Dysentery. While food was not an issue it was withheld as a form of punishment and crowd control. With the camp not being designed as a prison there were over 300 escapes as our men were not happy about their accommodations. With the end of the war and the surrender of the Confederate armies, some remaining inmates were willing to take an oath of allegiance to the United States. They were released and provided with transportation home. Those 1,700 Confederates that refuse to take an oath of allegiance were later released but had to find their own way home.

THE WAY IT WAS

Here are some interesting facts that I was able to locate that address how the War for Southern Independence was fought:

- Most of the soldiers on both sides were laborers and farm boys that were unaccustomed to handling firearms. Once mustered in they were often poorly trained in marksmanship, because the drills tended to emphasize marching instead. As the result of this it has been calculated that some 900 pounds of lead and 240 pounds of powder were needed for each enemy killed.
- To further prove a point it was discovered that of the 27,500 rifles recovered on the fields of Gettysburg more than 12,000 contained 2 charges. Due to the poor training and fierce fighting these weapons were loaded but not fired, then loaded again. Another 6,000 rifles contained 3 to 10 charges and balls. One poor soldier managed to stuff 23 rounds into his weapon.

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- Every Camp member should be familiar with Benjamin “Beast” Butler and his iron rule over New Orleans. After the war ended chamber pots featuring the face of Butler located on the inside of the pot bottom were popular in many Southern homes.
- Stand Watie was a mixed-blood Cherokee tribal leader from Georgia who became a Confederate general. At Pea Ridge his troops captured vital Union artillery positions, effectively covering the Confederate retreat. General Watie was the last Confederate general to surrender his troops in June, 1865.
- At the outbreak of the war Richmond, Virginia was just a middling city. Once it was declared the capital of the Confederacy the population doubled almost overnight. As the war continued inflation became a serious issue. In 1863 a Richmond newspaper estimated that the cost of feeding a small family in the city was \$68.25 per month. Prior to the war the same meals would have been only \$6.55 per month. In December, 1861 a Confederate dollar was worth 80 cents. By April, 1865 a Confederate dollar was worth 1.5 cents. After the surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865 it took approximately \$1,000 Confederate dollars to purchase one United States gold dollar.
- The tradition of the vanquished commander surrendering his sword is so appealing that rumors soon circulated that Lee surrendered his sword to Grant but Grant graciously handed it back. UNTRUE! In his *Personal Memoirs*, Grant observed that “the much talked of surrendering of Lee’s sword and my handing it back, this and much more that has been said about it is the purest romance.” It did not happen.
- General Philip Sheridan the successful Union general was named military commander of Louisiana and Texas. He was so harsh in his treatment of Southerners and punitive in his Reconstruction efforts that President Andrew Johnson soon removed him from that post. Sheridan reportedly said, “If I owned both Hell and Texas, I’d rent out Texas and live in Hell.”

ALL HEROES

Shelby Foote, a Southerner as well as an expert on the War wrote an article titled “*Men at War*”. Here is some little-known facts about the democratic practices of the Confederate army.

There were no medals awarded in the Confederate army. Not one in the whole course of the war. The Confederate reason was that they were ALL HEROES. It was unacceptable to single out any one soldier. When it was suggested to General Robert E. Lee that there be a roll of honor for the Army of Northern Virginia, Lee disallowed it. The highest honor you could get in the Confederate army was to be mentioned in dispatches and that was considered absolutely enough.

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AID SOCIETIES

While many well-to-do women hesitated to go out to work or do hospital nursing they were still eager to serve the Cause. They often found many ways to provide for the needs for the soldiers that the Confederate government could not or did not supply. More than one thousand soldier's aid societies were formed in the Southern cities during the war. Their numbers and their member's talents varied, but they were usually well-organized and highly effective. Rural women spent many hours cutting and sewing jackets, trousers, haversacks, and even mattresses. While they sewed, others put their efforts into knitting socks, gloves, winter scarves, and small blankets. Reportedly, some of these loyal ladies could complete one complete sock every day. This rate of production even overwhelmed the rebel soldiers. "One poor man said he had dozens of socks and just one shirt. He preferred more shirts and fewer stockings." There was a constant need for money to purchase supplies for the army. Women in these aid societies organized concerts or plays and sold tickets to these performances. Some of the more popular forms of performances were known as tableau vivants, or living pictures. Even the shyest of ladies participated in non-speaking roles. Thousands of dollars were raised by these societies with the funds being used for everything from supporting needy families to the creation of new hospitals and even the purchase of gunboats to protect their cities. Our Confederate Roses!

FATHER ABRAM JOSEPH RYAN

Several months ago I discovered a poem written by Fr. Abram Joseph Ryan titled March of the Deathless Dead. This long but touching poem was written about the Confederate soldiers and their sacrifices. Ryan was born in Hagerstown, Maryland in 1838. He received a Christian education and was ordained as a priest in the Vincentian order in 1860. During the early part of the war Fr. Ryan taught at several seminaries and may have made an occasional appearance with the Confederate troops, free-lancing as a chaplain to our men from Louisiana. His first formal full-time clerical duties began probably in late 1863 in Tennessee. While never formally joining the Confederate army he served as a chaplain to the Confederate soldiers during the last two years of the war. His brother served the South and lost his life serving the Cause. The death of his brother served as an inspiration for many of his pro-Confederate poems. At the war's end he moved from parish to parish throughout the South and wrote extensively. He founded the *Banner of the South*, a religious and political weekly in which he republished much of his earlier poetry along with works by fellow Southerners James Randall, Paul Hayne, and Sidney Lanier, as well as an early story by Mark Twain. He continued to write poems for several decades. Among the more memorable are: *C.S.A.*, *The Sword of Robert E. Lee*, and *The South*. All centered on themes of

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heroic martyrdom by men pledged to defend their native land against a tyrannical invader. As one line states, "There's grandeur in grave, there's glory in gloom." For the Southland and the Catholic Church in the United States no poet was more popular. Fr. Ryan died in 1886 with his body interred in Mobile's Old Catholic Cemetery. In recognition of his loyal service to the Confederacy, a stained glass window was placed in the Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans, Louisiana in his memory. I have to wonder if it is still there.

Here are the first few verses of the poem written by Father Abram Joseph Ryan that inspired my research.

MARCH OF THE DEATHLESS DEAD

Gather the sacred dust
Of the warriors tried and true
Who bore the flag of a Nation's trust
And fell in a Cause, though lost, still just,
And died for me and you.

Gather them one and all,
From the private to the chief;
Come they from hovel or princely hall,
They fell for us, and for them should fall
The tears of a Nation's grief.

Gather the corpses strewn
O'er many a battle plain;
From many a grave that lies so lone,
Without a name and without a stone,
Gather the Southern slain.

We care not whence they came,
Dear in their lifeless clay!
Whether unknown, or known to fame,
Their Cause and country still the same;
They died and wore the Gray.

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FINAL VERSE

And the dead thus meet the dead,
While the living o'er them weep;
And the men by Lee and Stonewall led,
And the hearts that once together bled,
Together still shall sleep.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“A reckless and unprincipled tyrant has invade your soil. Abraham Lincoln, regardless of all moral, legal, and constitutional restraints, has thrown his Abolitionist hosts among you, who are murdering and imprisoning your citizens, confiscating and destroying your property, and committing other acts of violence and outrage, too shocking and revolting to humanity to be enumerated.

All rules of civilized warfare are abandoned, and they proclaim by their acts, if not on their banners, that their war-cry is “BEAUTY AND BOOTY.” All that is dear to man-your honor and that of your wives and daughters-your fortunes and your lives, are involved in this momentous contest”.

Pierre G.T. Beauregard, who ordered and led the attack on Fort Sumter, took command of a Confederate army guarding a train junction at Manassas, Virginia. He issued the above proclamation aimed at rousing the citizens to defend old Virginia on June 1, 1861.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| December 10, 2016, Saturday, 6:00 p.m. | Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582
Meeting and Christmas Party at
Hoffman's All American Grill
Hagerstown, MD |
| January 4, 2017, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. | Camp Meeting Sharpsburg Town Hall |
| February 6, 2017, Monday, 7:00 p.m. | Washington County Library,
Hagerstown |
| March 6, 2017, Monday, 7:00 p.m. | Washington County Library,
Hagerstown |

Listed above are several Sons of Confederate Veterans events. Please consider attending these events and supporting the Cause. Further information about these events can be obtained by contacting the Adjutant of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 at the Camp meeting, telephone: 302-797-1021 or by e-mail at bsc1582@aol.com

Thank you!