

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.



Commander's Notes



fascinating.

I want to thank Dr. Tom Clemens for speaking at our January meeting. I apologize for not being there, but was feeling a bit under the weather. Our February meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1st, 2017, 7:00 P.M., Sharpsburg Town Hall, 2nd Floor, 106 East Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD. Our guest speaker will be local author and historian Mr. Stephen Recker who will be talking about his new book, “Shadowing Grant”. Steve has talked to us several times in the past and his talks are always

“Inclement Weather Policy”

If Washington County Public Schools are closed or delay on the day of our meeting, the meeting for that month will be cancelled.

As of now, I have a speaker set for our June meeting, but need them for the rest of the year. If you would like to speak to the camp or know of anyone who might, please let me know. Our speaker for our Annual Chartering Dinner in June will be Past Commander In Chief of the SCV Kelly Barrow. Due to his travel schedule, that meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1st, 2017, 7:00 P.M. at Hoffman's All American Grill. Kelly is a great speaker, so make sure to mark this down on your calendars. More details will go out as the date approaches.

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
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MINUTES

The January 4, 2017 meeting of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 was held at the Sharpsburg Town Hall. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with 11 members and Friends and 9 guests in attendance. The meeting was opened by Lt. Commander Stuart McClung with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and the Salute to the Confederate flag. Camp Commander Michael Wasiljov was under the weather for tonight's meeting. The invocation was given by our Camp Chaplain Steve DeFreytas. The Camp now has 36 members with all 2016 members renewing for another year. That is a most gratifying response. Retention of members continues to be one of our Camp's strengths. Our Camp is also grateful for our 8 Friends that help support the Camp and the Cause. It was reported that at this time we have 3 pending SCV applications for membership. Each prospective member has been contacted and invited to attend one of our meetings so we can complete the application process. According to my records all membership cards have been mailed out. If for some reason you have not received your 2017 Camp membership card please contact me and I will make sure you receive a current card. We continue to keep in our prayers Toby Law and his wife as they deal with medical issues. It was also great to welcome back John Barone as he is recovering nicely from his surgery. Also keep our Friend Al Davis in your thoughts and prayers as he is dealing with eye-related issues. It was announced that on Saturday, January 28, 2017 the Maryland Division will hold its semi-annual meeting in Pasadena, Maryland. All current members and Friends may attend this open meeting. As I said before "this is where the rubber meets the road". Our speaker for the evening was Dr. Tom Clemens of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. A brief summary of his presentation will follow. A motion was made and seconded and approved by the membership to donate \$25 to this foundation as a way of thanking Dr. Clemens for his presentation. Chaplain DeFreytas offered the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

SPEAKER FOR JANUARY 4, 2017

Dr. Tom Clemens was our speaker for the evening and generously donated to the Camp a book entitled *The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War* and a white glass plate with the likeness of Jefferson Davis. These items have been turned over to the Camp for future use and/or distribution. Tom has been a regular speaker at our Camp meetings and has been giving tours of Antietam, Harpers Ferry, South Mountain, and Shepherdstown for many years as a professional guide. Plus, he has also written many articles about the Civil War campaign in our area. In addition, Tom has also been the President of SHAF since 1989 and was one of the original founders of this group in 1986. The purpose of SHAF is to preserve land and buildings in the Sharpsburg region. An effort that has been extremely successful.

The presentation was based upon his published work that appeared in the June 2016 issue of the *Civil War Times*. His premise based upon extensive research, pictures, and local knowledge is that the Pry House was not the headquarter location of General McClellan and the Army of the Potomac. McClellan's headquarter would have consisted of approximately 1,100 soldiers, nearly one thousand horses, 120 wagons and 6 ambulances. Based upon research Dr. Clemens has concluded that while McClellan may have spent time at the Pry location and even slept there on September 16-17, 1862, but he never

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established his headquarters at that location. He notes that the Prys in their property damage claims only mention staff officers and Generals Hooker and Sumner in their petitions. The Pry's do not mention the above-noted number of men, horses and equipment in their claim. Surely he contends that if this was the location of McClellan's headquarters the Prys would have mentioned this overwhelming number. The monetary amount of their claim also does not correspond to that number of soldiers being present during and after the battle. Instead Dr. Clemens indicates that McClellan's headquarters was established on the John J. Keedy farm located off of today's Mill Race Lane in Keedysville. Clemens cites Colonel David Strother (the staff topographer for McClellan), the New York Tribune's newspaper accounts of the battlefield, and the written history of the 93rd New York as his sources for this conclusion. To further validate this conclusion Mr. Clemens notes that Mr. Keedy filed a claim for the loss of 400 fence panels and 22 cords of wood. The family was granted their claim and paid about \$650 for their losses by the Federal government. They were paid this money because the "Commanding General had his Head Quarters near the claimant's place." While I am sure that not everyone will agree with this assessment it has resulted in a sign being placed in Keedysville noting the correct location of General McClellan's headquarters. That is good enough for me and an unbelievable piece of historical research. Thanks to Dr. Clemens for his fine presentation.

ADJUTANTS COMMENTS

Last year in Lexington, Virginia an "anti-racist" and "anti-Confederate" group C.A.R.E. filed for parade marching permit for Saturday, January 14, 2017, a day that had historically be used for our Lee-Jackson Day Ceremony. They purposely pre-empted the Virginia Flaggers and secured the city's sole permit for our parade day. Children! The Virginia Flaggers obtained a permit for MLK Day which was the following Monday. The C.A.R.E. group was offered to switch dates so they could honor MLK on his birthday. They refused that offer, clearly indicating that there true purpose was to disrupt our Lee-Jackson Day event. On Saturday, our traditional celebration date, while C.A.R.E. was holding their march through Lexington, the Virginia Flaggers and approximately 250 people attended a Confederate Flag raising ceremony on a parcel of private land west of Lexington. A 20'by 30' Confederate Battle Flag was raised on a 90' pole and the SCV National Executive Director, Michael Landree was one of the speakers. This is the 25th Confederate Flag raised in Virginia along major highways since the effort began in 2013. Latter in the day a memorial service attended by approximately 300 citizens and 200 Confederates was held at the Stonewall Jackson Cemetery. After the ceremony they stepped out of the cemetery and began a pre-planned march through Lexington. While some of the media coverage was accurate some of it was biased. The two misrepresentations were 1) the Virginia Flaggers Did Not march through Lexington on MLK day, 2) C.A.R.E. Did Not hold a march on MLK Day in Lexington. The Virginia Flaggers and those attending refused to be pushed out of our traditional celebration date and we will continue to push back! Deo Vindice!!

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I will pass one another bit of news. This was obtained from the *Civil War News* thanks to Lt. Commander McClung. The Confederate Memorial Hall located in New Orleans, Louisiana is a hidden gem that has been operating in that Southern city for 125 years. It houses the nation's second largest Confederate artifact collection. The museum has been trying to survive during these perilous times. It is not funded by any state or federal government. It operates solely on admissions, donations, and support from the Memorial Hall Foundation. On November 9, 2016 the Memorial Hall was the target of a crude firebomb attempt. Two thugs, possibly expressing dismay over the national election outcome or hoping to link the museum to the current monument dispute in New Orleans attacked our Hall. After unsuccessfully trying to break into the building they then attempted to set fire to the steel doors. (No one said these were smart people.) A car tire that they soaked with an accelerant was pushed beside the museum door and created a great deal of smoke. It managed only to crack one of the granite steps, charred the door, and scorched some of the paint. The New Orleans Fire Department responded to the incident and put out the fire. Even though the museum did have some smoke damage the invaluable collection of Confederate memorabilia was intact and undisturbed. The building was closed for one day for cleaning and security was upgraded. The fire is being actively investigated by the New Orleans Police Department, the FBI, and the ATF. Also, noted in the attack was the Robert E. Lee Monument around the corner from the Hall that was spray painted the same night. Description of the attackers...Two individuals concealing their identities with baseball caps, hoodies and gloves. Do I need to add anything else?

Mercy Street is the hit series that is returning for a second season. I watched most of the first season and was pleasantly surprised that PBS did a good job of portraying medical care and Civil War history in an accurate and unbiased manner. The action takes place in Northern Virginia and deals with many aspects and personal interactions of civilians, nurses, doctors and soldiers in that region. Due to publication delays of this newsletter the first episode already aired this past Sunday at 8:00 p.m. There are five remaining episodes which will be aired each Sunday until the season finale on March 5, 2017. I hope you find watching this worthwhile.

Finally, as much as I would encourage everyone to watch *Mercy Street* I would also recommend skipping Washington County Library's presentation on the "Music Scene at John Brown's Farm" listed in last month's newsletter as a February event. The Speaker Ed Maliskas will highlight sections of his recently published book *John Brown to James Brown-The Little Farm Where Liberty Budded, Blossomed, and Boogied*. As noted in our local newspaper the author contends that the Kennedy Farm in Southern Washington County should be considered a "top civil-rights site". While, according to the newspaper article the author "promises to confine himself to the topic "The Music Scene at John Brown's Farm", I will pass on this one. I think they call this bait and switch!

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CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

The Confederate Battle Flag has been a frequent topic in the newsletter. Recently, I located several new sources of information regarding this flag, its purpose, history, design, and meaning. I will try not to be redundant whenever possible and blend these multiple sources into a comprehensive history. Hopefully, this will be of interest to the reader.

Origin of the Confederate Battle Flag

During the Battle of First Manassas, when the fate of the Confederacy seemed trembling in the balance, General Beauregard, looked across the Warrenton turnpike and saw a body of troops moving toward his left and the Federal right. He could not determine whether these were Federal or Confederate troops due to the similarity of uniforms and the colors carried by the opposing armies. The cloud of dust generated by the troop movement made it almost impossible to decide. As the unknown troops were pressing on General Beauregard was in a great state of anxiety but was determined to hold his ground. The day was sultry and only at long intervals was there the slightest breeze. The colors of the mysterious column hung drooping on the staff. Suddenly a puff of wind spread the colors to the breeze. It was the Confederate flag-The Stars and Bars! It was General Early to the rescue. By that time his column of soldiers had reached the extreme right of the Federal lines. Beauregard turned to his staff saying, "See that the day is ours!" An immediate advance was ordered while Early began his charge along with Elzey. They dashed across the field and within one hour not an enemy was to be seen South of Bull Run. It was after the battle that Beauregard corresponded with Colonel William Miles, who had served on his staff during that day and had faced the similar problem of not being able to identify Early's troops. Between the two men they discussed the confusion regarding the flags. Colonel Miles proposed, contrary to the law of heraldry that the ground of the flag should be red, the bars blue, and the stars white. General Beauregard approved the change and discussed this matter with General Johnston. Other Confederate officers and units recognized the flag identification problem and submitted their own designs for a new Confederate flag. With the various designs before them, the officers at headquarter agreed on the flag proposed by Beauregard-Miles. The flag was submitted to the War Department and approved.

Making of the first Confederate Battle Flags

It was after the War Department's approval of the new flag, in the fall of 1861, that the first three flags were made by Hetty, her sister Jennie, and their cousin Constance Cary of Baltimore and Alexandria. These original flags were made from ladies dresses at their homes. "They were jaunty squares of scarlet crossed with dark blue edged in white, the cross bearing stars to indicate the number of the seceded states. "We set our best stitches upon them, edged with gold fringed", wrote Constance Cary. One of the three original flags was sent to General Beauregard, one to General Van Dorn, and the one flag made by Constance Cary was delivered to General Johnston. General Beauregard sent his flag at once to New

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Orleans for safe keeping. After the fall of New Orleans Mrs. Beauregard sent the flag by a Spanish man-of-war to Cuba, where it remained until the close of the war. It was then sent back to the General who presented it for safe-keeping to the Washington Artillery at New Orleans.

The Confederate Battle Flag in Service

As the result of the approval and sewing of the original three flags future flags described by the Order Of Confederate Rose as the “Southern Cross”, this flag served as the principal battle flags for the cavalry, infantry and artillery units in Northern Virginia from November 1861 until the surrender at Appomattox Court House in April 1865. A special thanks to the ladies of the Order of Confederate Rose for some of the above information. They continue to support the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the CAUSE.

General Beauregard and the Meaning of the Confederate Battle Flag

Again, some of the facts previously noted were taken from a speech by General Beauregard before a special meeting of the Louisiana Division, Army of Northern Virginia Association on December 6, 1878. Here are some excerpts from his speech that day regarding our Battle Flag. “This banner, the witness and inspiration of many victories, which was proudly borne on every field from Manassas to Appomattox, was conceived on the field of battle-lived on the field of battle-and on the last fatal field ceased to have place or meaning in the world. But the men who followed it, and the world which watched its proud advance or defiant stand, see in it still the unstained banner of a true and generous people, whose deeds have outlived their country, and whose final defeat but added luster to their grandest victories. It is not the flag of the Confederacy, but simply the banner-the flag-of the Confederate soldier. As such it should not share in the condemnation which our CAUSE received, or suffer from its downfall. The whole world can unite in a chorus of praise to the gallantry of the men who followed where this banner led”.

DEO VINDICE!!

THE CONFEDERATE TREASURY

A few months ago I presented an article of the Confederate Postal Service. After searching for a valid source I located enough information to address the Confederate Treasury.

One thing we know about war is that it is not cheap. It takes large sums of money to carry on a war. When the War for Southern Independence started with the opposition to the invading foes, we had an empty Treasury. What was developed by the new government was a “promise to pay” form of finance. Part of the original effort was the issuance of some kind of legal tender. Like most items that were needed to conduct the war the South lacked the ability to even produce Confederate bonds and notes. There were no engravers and no source of good bank paper to be found in the South. A great deal of effort was made to hide the engraving and printing of our first paper money. Arrangements were made to

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have this printing done in New York by the American Bank Note Company. Unfortunately word of this fell into Union hands and all the notes were seized before they left New York. When the Federal authorities found out about this printing in New York, through a tell-tale employee, the Confederacy was forced to rely on its own resources. A German engraver with the last name of Hoyer lived in Richmond, Virginia. He specialized in cards and posters. Mr. Hoyer along with Mr. Ludwig were employed to issue the first notes. The first batch was eight (8) one-hundred dollar bills. The paper for subsequent notes were smuggled through the lines from New York and given to Hoyer and Ludwig. The engraving stones for the original notes was of poor quality for engraving purposes as they had been previously used for printing placards. These first notes were faulty and full of errors. Under normal circumstances they would have been destroyed. Because something, anything, was needed to fill the void, these were accepted into the Treasury as legal tender. After seeing the new money the Secretary of Treasury stated, "When the money changers become familiar with these incoming bills it will be as difficult to pass a counterfeit as if they had been engraved on steel-perhaps more so." The process of printing money involved an old-fashioned press. It was out of date even for that time period! Each bill was printed by hand. A very slow and tedious process. As you can imagine these new bills found no buyers but were accepted in good faith by loyal Southerners. These crude and uncouth bills were just a pledge of a brave new nation and its people that they were accepted for barter. While they were not worth much on their face, thousands of men died to give them value and three times as many men died to make them worthless! As production increased the Confederacy became flooded with these new bills. The number that were circulated depended upon how fast the Treasury could produce them. Bills of small denominations soon went out of style. Nothing under \$100 left the Treasurer's hands while \$500 and \$1,000 bills were as numerous as \$5 bills are today. Inflation caused by numerous factors was extreme. A yard of flannel was \$200. A pound of coffee was \$300 or a pair of boots were \$1,000. A good horse could cost a man \$10,000. Popular engravings images included George Washington, Jefferson Davis, John Calhoun, R.M.T. Hunter-Secretary of State CSA and C.G. Memminger-Secretary of Treasury CSA. These printed bills also included farm scenes, famous buildings of the South and even trains. While these "promises to pay" became virtually worthless at the end of the war, they were issued with integrity, defended with honor, and bathed in the blood of our ancestors.

Deo Vindice!!

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PRESIDENT CARTER VISITS HISTORIC SITES

During July, 1978 President Jimmy Carter along with his wife Rosalynn, mother-in-law and esteemed historian Shelby Foote accompanied by their entourage started their morning by visiting Culp's Hill and toured the Gettysburg Battlefield extensively. As reported by the media, "No President reaches the White House without some knowledge of history, some sense of his own destiny." Looking over where Pickett and Pettigrew's men in masses charged across the rolling fields. President Carter remarked, "I wish that Jackson had been here that terrible day at Gettysburg. Ewell would have done better if Jackson had been here. Lee should have listened to the Georgian Longstreet that day." As we know Longstreet strongly urged General Lee not to fight around Gettysburg. Historian Foote told the President of the Confederate valor. Foote noted General Armistead who with his hat on his saber, reached for the muzzle of a Union cannon only to fall mortally wounded. Foote also told of the young Southerner going down the hill, walking backwards so he would not be hit in the back. The story continued how General Lee took blame for the failure of the attack and how Lee met his men with tears in his eyes. The President remarked how correct Lee was with that assessment and I am sure he pondered the lapses of his judgement on the bloody day. "Was Lee trying to save ammunition? Where is the wheat field? How far did Pickett have to come (nearly one mile)?" Lee has been given almost superhuman powers but what happened that day? Foote told the story of Lee eating some raspberries that were given to him by Maryland soldiers on his way to Gettysburg. Had Lee eaten them and the result was severe stomach pains? President Carter's remark was that "I had been in Mexico when for a couple of days I could not have led anything." Before leaving the battlefield the President asked the park officials to put a marker where Georgian Ambrose Wright had breached the Union line during the second day of the battle. Stopping at the monument to the Georgians which read "When duty called, we came, when country called, we died." President Carter noted that it was all so "sad and sobering yet men so brave." After his visit to Gettysburg he also stopped at Antietam and leaned on the Burnside Bridge. President Carter looked up the hill where General Burnside and four divisions had been stalled for hours by Robert Toombs with a few hundred of those beloved Georgian sharpshooters. Carter laughed about Hood's boys, how after starting breakfast, were interrupted by a Union charge. They were so mad that the Confederates stopped the superior Yankee force in its tracks. Carter was also tickled by the account of how the cannons at Antietam stirred up the hives of bees kept by a farmer. One Pennsylvania regiment had 127 bee stings. Later in the day he arrived at Harper's Ferry, the site of John Brown's raid. After touring the area he returned to Camp David. According to *Time July 17, 1978* Carter "went back to Camp David that night a wiser man. He cannot plan the future from what he saw and felt that day but he could not lead without it."

It is hard to imagine The President of the United States visiting and making such informed observations at a Civil War battlefield at this day and time. Oh, for the good ole days when history and heritage meant something, even to the President. Political correctness needs to be dumped into the trash where it belongs.

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THE REST OF THE STORY

I remember the day President Carter visited our local battlefields as if it was yesterday. There was a good reason to remember that day because my uncle, Charles Conard, made the national news. Since 1948 Uncle Charles would move his milk cows from the pasture field along West Virginia Route 230 outside of Shepherdstown, West Virginia to his milking parlor about one-half mile away. By mid-afternoon Uncle Charles' cows would be rounded up and headed down Route 230 to be milked. They would remain near the parlor during the night. Then Uncle Charles would milk them in the morning and return them to their pasture by the same route. Anyone living in the area knew Uncle Charles' routine and took that into account when planning their travels between Halltown and Shepherdstown. The twenty some Guernsey cows driven by Uncle Charles blocked both lanes of traffic for twenty minutes twice per day. The cows were always oblivious to the honking horns. After all this was their road and they were never in any hurry. While headed toward Harpers Ferry that day after their visit to Antietam, President Jimmy Carter, his wife, mother-in-law, historian Shelby Foote and the entire presidential motorcade got caught behind my uncle's cows. Secret Service agents jumped out of their cars to survey the situation. The unexpected delay was reported by various news services in print, on the radio, and even television. Uncle Charles was not sure what all the fuss was about. The only thing he realized it was too late in the day for a funeral procession!

THE DYING SOLDIER BOY

Upon Manassas' bloody plain a soldier boy lay dying!
The gentle winds above his form in softest tones were sighing;
The god of day had slowly sunk beneath the verge of day,
And the silver moon was gliding above the Milky Way.
The stars were shining brightly, and the sky was calm and blue;
Oh, what a beautiful scene was this for human eyes to view!
The river rolled in splendor, and the wavelets danced around,
But the banks were strewn with dead men, and gory was the ground.
But the hero boy was dying, and his thoughts were very deep,
For the death wound in his young side was wafting him to sleep.
He thought of home and kindred away on a distant shore,
All of whom he must relinquish, and never see them more.
And as the night breeze passed by, in whispers over the dead,
Sweet memories of olden days came rushing to his head:
But his mind was weak and deadened, so he turned from where he lay,
As the Death Angel flitted by, and called his soul away!

By A. B. Cunningham, Louisiana, CSA

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| January 28, 2017, Saturday 9:00 a.m. | Semi-Annual Maryland Division Meeting. Pasadena, Md. |
| February 1, 2017, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. | Battle of Sharpsburg Camp Meeting Sharpsburg, Md. With Stephen Recker. "Shadowing Grant". |
| March 1, 2017, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. | Battle of Sharpsburg Camp Meeting Sharpsburg, Md. |
| March 6, 2017, Monday 7:00 p.m. | "Hunting the Gray Ghost: Finding John Mosby in the Potomac Frontier" with Richard Gillespie. Washington County Free Library. |
| June 1, 2017, Thursday 7:00 p.m. | Camp Annual Chartering Meeting and Dinner. Hoffman's All American Grill, Hagerstown, Md. Speaker, Past Commander-in-Chief Kelly Barrow. |

The Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Sharpsburg Town Hall 7:00 p.m. 2nd floor, 106 East Main Street Sharpsburg, Maryland. Any changes to that schedule will be announced as soon as possible. Spring is a busy time with numerous color guard and Sons of Confederate Veterans events including Decoration Day at Mt. Olivet in Frederick, Maryland, Confederate Memorial Day at the Virginia Monument in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and the Maryland Division Annual Convention. Once information is confirmed about these events it will be placed in the newsletter and regular e-mails will be sent to inform Camp members and Friends. Please consider attending these events and supporting the Cause. If you are aware of Confederate-related events or want the most current information about events, please contact the Adjutant at telephone: 301-797-1021 or bsc1582@aol.com

Thank you!