

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



I want to thank everyone who came out to our March meeting. John Powell who is a long time supporter and friend of the camp gave an excellent presentation on John Brown. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 5th, 2017, 7:00 P.M., Sharpsburg Town Hall, 2nd Floor, Sharpsburg, MD. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Steve Hatleberg, President of the Washington County Historical Trust who will be talking about the recently republished book, "The Rebel of 61" by Joseph R. Stonebraker. Annotated and edited by Sandra D. Izer for

WCHT (2016).

We have a lot of events coming up that I hope you're able to participate in. The Maryland Division Convention hosted by the Orphan Brigade Camp #2166 will be occurring on Saturday, April 15th, 2017, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Maryland Veterans Museum in Newburg, MD. Our adjutant emailed the registration packet out to all members.

Our June meeting will be our annual chartering dinner and because of our speaker's schedule it will be hosted on Thursday, June 1st, 2017, 7:00 P.M., Hoffman's All American Grill, 18203 Mason Dixon Rd., Hagerstown, MD 21740. Our guest speaker will be former SCV CIC Kelly Barrow. We will be meeting in the private dining room and ordering off a limited menu. Please R.S.V.P. no later than May 1st, 2017 to Camp Commander Michael Wasiljov at mike24745@aol.com or 301-992-3122-C. The room only holds about 50 people and I'm sure this will be a very popular event.

I want to announce to the camp that your Commander has been appointed by the Washington County Commission and sworn in as the newest member of the Antietam Battlefield Advisory Committee. We meet about four times a year to discuss issues dealing with the community and the battlefield. Our first meeting is on the afternoon of the day of our meeting, so I will let you know what goes on.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for your support and for being a member of the SCV.

Yours in the cause,
Michael David Wasiljov
Commander
Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582
Sons of Confederate Veterans
301-992-3122-C mike24745@aol.com

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MINUTES

The March 1, 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 ten members and Friends and one guest in attendance. The meeting was opened by Commander Wasiljov with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag followed by the Salute to the Confederate flag. The invocation was offered by our Camp Chaplain, Steve DeFreytas. Prior to the meeting a sympathy card was signed by those in attendance acknowledging the passing of Linda Rooks, the wife of Maryland Division Color Sergeant Ray Rooks. It was announced that the Camp had donated \$25 to the Virginia Litigation Fund. This fund was established to pay for legal fees in our fight to stop the removal of the General Lee statue located in Charlottesville, Virginia. It was also noted that several of our Camp members and Friends individually donated money to that worthy Cause. The Adjutant reported that the Maryland Division's Navy-Marine Corps Day ceremony scheduled for March 4, 2017 at St. Anne's Episcopal Cemetery in Annapolis was canceled for unknown reasons. (See Adjutant Comments for an update). With that event being canceled the Camp was reminded that the SCV-Berkeley County Border Guards Camp of Martinsburg, West Virginia was holding a Confederate Day parade on March 4, 2017. Details were provide regarding that event. Reminders were also made for the Division Convention, the Sharpsburg Parade, and our Chartering meeting on June 1, 2017 with SCV Past Commander-in-Chief Kelly Barrow as the speaker. Al Davis was thanked for his reminder to the Camp of Alex Rossino's presentation at the Keedysville Library. Also noted and discussed was a generous offer by Compatriot Lee Toms for the purchase of a vending space on June 2, 2017 for SCV recruitment tent at the Williamsport Redmen's Club. In the past our Camp has tried to reinstitute a public recruitment event but it has been hard to locate volunteers for such an effort. Commander Wasiljov indicated that the Camp would revisit this offer at the April meeting. The Camp was informed that one membership application was awaiting final approval at the National level and that there were four outstanding membership requests. As noted at the Division meeting only 18% of those individuals requesting information about SCV membership actually attend a meeting and submit an application. This continues to be the case with our Camp. The speaker for our March meeting was our Friend John Powell. He presented "John Brown: Truth and Legend, Then and Now". His historically correct presentation of John Brown was probably not the same version a visitor would hear from him while wearing his brown park service uniform. We got the true story not the politically revised version. Powell confirmed that today's school children have little knowledge of history and even less understanding of true history. Chaplain DeFreytas offered the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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SPEAKER FOR MARCH 1, 2017

Our Camp was honored to have Friend of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582, John Powell presenting his interpretation of John Brown and his role in history. Taking off his official park service uniform we were offered up the untainted version of John Brown. In this age of political correctness and historical revisionism, truth prevailed in his presentation. As noted, the South was not attempting to conquer the North, the South simply wanted to gain its independence from a tyrannical leader and a government that repeatedly failed to honor the Constitution. Harpers Ferry, the focal point of his talk is located where the Potomac River cuts through the Blue Ridge. It was chosen as the site for a United States Armory early in this country's history. It was here in this nestled area where the production of weapons embraced the Industrial Revolution. No longer were skilled workers required to individually assemble muskets and rifles. The use of machinery, the assembly line process, along with the use of interchangeable parts resulted in the production of over 100,000 rifles at the local armory. Rail and canal transportation made this area even more desirable. John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry in 1859 was the ominous beginning to the year leading up to the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln.

John Brown, as early as 1837 publically announced that he was dedicating his life to the destruction of slavery. Powell presented the history of John Brown in a fair and accurate manner. He offered many details that would culminate Brown and his gang's attack on Harpers Ferry. His Calvinist up-bringing, his contact with abolitionists, his family's criminal behavior in Bloody Kansas and his involvement in the "Liberty Battles" all lead to this plan to attack the Harpers Ferry Armory on October 16, 1859. Surprising the town in the early morning Brown and his men captured some prominent citizens and later seized the federal armory and arsenal. His belief was that the local slaves would join his raiding party and with the supplies from Harpers Ferry they would gain their freedom. The United States Marines under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee attacked the engine house where Brown and his men had barricaded themselves. The attack resulted in the death of many of Brown's men and Brown's capture. A trial in Charles Town, Virginia found him guilty of treason against Virginia, murder, and slave insurrection. As required by law he was hanged on December 2, 1859. To some individuals he is considered a martyr. It is difficult to understand that logic. Imagine today if any group would attack a town, capture citizens, take over an armory, and then attempt to defend themselves and their actions. I would hope that most of us would condemn such an action.

Some other noteworthy information included; the fact that pikes were collected for combat as they were easy to use. The training and use of firearms is a time consuming and difficult task and not something that could be readily taught to a slave in a short amount of time. The first casualty of the raid was a freed black man. Two of John Brown's sons were killed during this attack. During the War for Southern Independence approximately 85,000 weapons were sent South for use in the war. Harpers Ferry barely survived the war as the town changed hands eleven times and was cruelly occupied.

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In fairness to our Friend John Powell what you have just read is a poor attempt to capture the wonderful stories and insights he shared during his presentation. A great presentation by a great speaker and a true friend of the Cause.

ADJUTANT COMMENTS

As most of you are aware this is the “Confederate time” of the year. If there is any doubt look at the listing of the current events and try to pick a few you would like to attend. There are many listed that would be great choices for your attendance. I have to say, the Mt. Olivet Decoration Day ceremony scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017 in Frederick, Maryland would be a great choice. This has long been a favorite of mine because it includes both a meaningful service along with a color guard march through the historic cemetery. The ceremony concludes with the honoring of those fallen ancestors that were killed in local battles. Among those buried at Mt. Olivet include a relative of our Lt. Commander Stuart McClung. Please consider one of the listed events as an opportunity to honor your Confederate ancestor(s) and the SCV. It is time that we show the public that our heroes matter and this is not a statement of bigotry or hatred.

Thanks to those of you that contributed to the Virginia Heritage Fund. What a wonderful and inspiring letter the Camp and individual donators received from Executive Director, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Michael Landree regarding the importance of our donations. He quoting General “Stonewall Jackson noting, “Who could not conquer with such troops as these?” The fight continues with our donations. Deo Vindice!!

As noted in the Minutes, the Confederate Navy-Marine Corps Day at the Old St. Anne’s Episcopal Cemetery in Annapolis, Md. was canceled at the last minute under suspicious circumstances. A misguided political group took it upon themselves by requesting that Rev. Amy Richter of that church deny the SCV permission for a wreath laying ceremony at the grave of Capt. James Waddell, a Confederate naval officer. This event has taken place for a number of years with the sole purpose of honoring a Confederate hero. Using incorrect information this self-righteous group claimed that the SCV was on the “list” of groups monitored by the Southern Poverty Law Center for our known hatred and bigotry. As all members and Friends are aware, the Sons of Confederate Veterans denounce racism, racial supremacist, hate groups that misuses or desecrates the symbols of the Confederate States or the United States. For a church with a website that notes “Welcome to ALL”, they should make a caveat, “except those individuals that are descendants of Confederate soldiers and sailors”. This denial of entry for a legal assembly at a cemetery needs to be addressed by the Division, because this issue has presented itself before. It is my understanding that the law prohibits the denial of visitation no matter where the grave site is located during daylight hours. As far as the protesters, is there a military order to “fix bayonets”? I say let General Forrest lead the charge!! Deo Vindice!!

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One more important announcement needs to be made at this time. As Adjutant I recently received the revision to our policy regarding the collection of annual SCV dues. I will bring this to your attention at this time and will continue to present the issue as membership renewal time approaches.

The General Executive Council met at Elm Springs on March 11, 2017 and voted without objection to institute two changes regarding the renewal process for the SCV.

- 1) In the past the grace period of 90 days has been granted to members to allow for their renewal of dues. This period is now changed to ONLY 30 days. A member that fails to renew their membership by AUGUST 1, 2017 will now be considered DELINQUENT.
- 2) Prorates dues is no longer accepted for delinquent members. That benefit only applies to new members.

Bottom line is that your Camp Treasurer and Adjutant will be extremely busy during this BRIEF collection period. It will be most important that you renew your membership in a timely manner.

STARTING WITH A SHORTAGE

This report was prepared by the Ordnance Department of the Confederate Government and notes the stockpile, or lack thereof for supplies that are needed to wage a war. Their records reflect that initially the six arsenals located in the South had a total of 15,000 rifles and 120,000 muskets. The muskets were worthless flint muskets, relics from the Mexican War, and many of the rifles were old Hall's rifles and carbines. To this amount must be added the arms owned by the several States and by military organizations throughout the South. The total available muskets and rifles ready for military use was estimated at 150,000. Again, many of these weapons were useless flint muskets or caliber fifty-four Mississippi rifles. A number of Harpers Ferry manufactured caliber fifty-eight rifles were sent South to increase this supply. There were no revolvers according to the Ordnance Department and there were only a few boxes of sabers. What powder the South had was captured at Norfolk along with small amounts at each arsenals and most of this powder was old cannon powder. Percussion caps available did not exceed one-quarter of a million. There were about one million rounds of small-arm cartridges in the Confederacy. Missing was any supply of lead. The situation with the artillery was also deplorable. There were no batteries of serviceable field artillery at any Southern arsenals. There were a few old iron guns fabricated about the time of the War of 1812 which the Confederate States fell heir to. There were some serviceable batteries but they belong to the States or to volunteer companies. Also missing were harness, saddles, and bridles. There were no blankets nor other artillery or cavalry equipment. To summarize this initial report by Ordnance Department, "to furnish one hundred and fifty thousand men on both sides of the Mississippi on May 1, 1861, there were on hand no infantry accouterments, no cavalry arms or equipment, no artillery, and above all no ammunition; nothing save small arms, and these almost wholly smooth-bore, altered from flint to percussion".

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In an upcoming newsletter I will present information written about the status of the Southern arsenals, workshops, foundries, etc. at the beginning of the war. More will be revealed. Most of which is shocking.

A HORN AND A HORSE

The exploits of John Singleton Mosby are second to none. Any book or presentation on this great Confederate always draws attention. Yet, despite being the “home town favorite”, Mosby was not known for “getting along” with Robert E. Lee. At one point after the Battle of Manassas Lt. Col. Lee was assigned to the 1st Virginia Cavalry, commanded by Jeb Stuart. Once when Lee was waiting for his horse, Mosby sauntered by and said “Colonel, the horn has blown for dress parade.” Lee replied, “Sir if I ever again hear you call that bugle a horn, I will place you under arrest.” Mosby may have had the next laugh when on November 18, 1861 Lee’s unit was on a scouting mission near Falls Church, Virginia. Lee’s men faced a line of Federal pickets. Lee ordered his troopers to charge and the battle that ensued resulted in Lee’s horse Dixie, being shot and killed from under Lee. This mission was successful as several Yankees were killed and captured along with a number of Federal wagons. Mosby surely grinned when he saw Lee land face first in the mud after his horse was shot. Lee, attired in plumed hat, later made famous by Stuart, issued some orders in “very bad language” while he was covered with the mud in which he had landed. This account was noted by Captain Frank Ball of Company A. Thanks to the *Officer’s Call of the Military Order of the Stars & Bars* for this story.

NO ONE

Nathan Bedford Forrest was much like Lincoln in the sense that he had no formal education. He taught himself mathematics, a method of record keeping, as well as how to read and write. Nonetheless, he could be considered successful at an early age since he became a livestock dealer at the age of sixteen using his personal record keeping system and skills. Forrest was able to earn enough money from the cattle trade to support his family and soon had enough capital to enter the slave trade. As his wealth grew he purchased more tracts of land and eventually became a cotton planter of significance. By the time Mr. Lincoln attacked the South, Forrest had accumulated a large amount of wealth. When he enlisted in the 7th Tennessee Cavalry, he probably was the Confederacy’s only millionaire private! He raised his own cavalry battalion which resulted in his promotion to lieutenant colonel. Again, as with his education, he became a self-taught cavalry leader. His raids are famous and still studied at military academies to this day. Forrest did not surrender until he learned that General Lee had capitulated at Appomattox. While the uneducated connect him with the Ku Klux Klan, evidence is overwhelming that he left that group when he found their methods unacceptable and not helpful for the healing of the nation. Wealthy beyond the imagination of most Southerners, Forrest is the only man, either Union or Confederate, that can claim that he enlisted as a private and surrender as a lieutenant general. No one!

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FAREWELL ADDRESS OF GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia

April 10, 1865

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to the result from no distrust of them. But, feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen. By the terms of the agreement officers and men can return to their homes, and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you his blessing and protection.

With an increasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous considerations for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

R.E. Lee, General

THE LOST CONFEDERATE TREASURY

As most of you are aware there are numerous accounts of what “really” happened to the gold, silver and jewelry that remained in the Confederate Treasury at the end of the war. These valuables also included gold and silver assets from Richmond banks. Much of the jewelry that was part of this wealth had been donated to the Cause by the loyal Southern women. Almost all the stories regarding the missing funds start with the fall of Richmond, Virginia, the capitol of the Confederacy. When the fall occurred President Jefferson Davis, his staff, and Cabinet, along with many other government officials departed Richmond on a special train. A second train was made available to move the Confederate Treasury. This train was guarded by Midshipmen from the Confederate Navy. The treasury train with its precious cargo moved from Danville, Virginia heading South. Eventually it arrived in Washington, Georgia. During this process the money was transferred from rail cars to wagons several times and stopped at various locations depending upon which version you tend to believe. Also, expenses for the guards of the train and various other army groups were taken from the train. Furthermore, at the end of the conflict the troops guarding the treasury were attacked by a group of men said to be locals, paroled soldiers, freed slaves, and others. According to one account by the next morning one-quarter of a million dollars was missing, carried off in any way possible by the unknown attackers. The original amount of the treasury varies greatly. I have

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seen figures as low as only tens of thousands of dollars to several million in 1865 dollars. There are so many incorrect statements that have appeared in print over the years the whole story seem unbelievable. Several factors need to be consider when it comes to the treasury. First, only about half of the money actually belonged to the Confederacy. Ownership belonged to many Richmond banks. Secondly, records that were kept in those final days of the war were not the most accurate. Furthermore, many of the records were lost in those final days of the war.

Until recently the location of the fabled “Confederate Treasury” has been unknown. It can now be reported that it was located two years ago by several individuals that have deep roots in the South. Using information left behind by their ancestors and having some unbelievable luck, the location of the legendary money was determined. Reportedly a large amount of items, having a value in excess of ten million dollars in today’s currency has been recovered. They also believe they have located a second “hidey hole” with the potential of containing a similar amount of loot. While the second location has not been revealed the men indicated that the first mother lode was discovered in an abandoned well near Shangri-La, Georgia. Their ancestors were among the elite of the Confederate Officer Corps and are honorable compatriots. These Southerners submitted their findings and claims to the Federal government and the Federal Courts. It was recently published that the Court agreed that the Federal government had NO claim to the money. The Court also determined that given the length of time involved in this matter there needed to be an accurate distribution of this treasury as soon as possible. The reviewing Court established a disbursement policy offering an official standard of fairness. Based upon a unanimous decision the Court has named all active members of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans as the sole beneficiaries of this money. Using SCV Camps active membership rosters from January 1, 2017 all SCV members will be entitled to portion of this money. As Adjutant I have been informed that no paperwork is necessary and that this money should be processed by April 1, 2017. While there is no official estimate the guess is two to three thousand dollars per member. So look for these Southern blessings to come your way! Remember the important date for this disbursement is April 1st. Enjoy!

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CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY

The marching armies of the past
Along our Southern plain,
Are sleeping now in quiet rest
Beneath the Southern rains.

The bugle call is now in vain
To rouse them from their bed;
To arms they'll never march again-
They are sleeping with the dead.
No more will Shiloh's plains be stained
With blood our heroes shed,
Nor Chancellorsville resound again
To our noble warriors' tread.
For them no more shall reveille
Sound at the break of dawn,
But may their sleep peaceful be
Till God's great judgment morn.
We bow our heads in solemn prayer
For those who wore the gray,
And clasp again their unseen hands
On our Memorial Day.

Thanks to the *Military Order of the Stars & Bars* for this poem honoring our Confederate heroes.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| April 5, 2017, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. | Battle of Sharpsburg Camp Meeting in Sharpsburg, Md. |
| April 15, 2017, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. | Maryland Division Convention hosted by the Orphan Brigade Camp in Newburg, Md. |
| April 29, 2017, Saturday, 2:30 p.m. | Decoration Day Ceremony at Mt. Olivet in Frederick, Md. |
| May 3, 2017, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. | Battle of Sharpsburg Camp Meeting in Sharpsburg, Md. |
| May 6, 2017, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. | Pennsylvania Division Memorial Day at the Virginia Monument in Gettysburg, Pa. Lunch to follow. |
| May 27, 2017, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. | Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade-Color Guard Event in Sharpsburg, Md. |
| June 1, 2017, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. | Battle of Sharpsburg Camp Annual Chartering Meeting and Dinner. Hoffman's All American Grill, Hagerstown, Md. Speaker-Past SCV Commander-in-Chief, Kelly Barrow. |

As previously noted this is a great time of year to be an SCV member. Above you will find a listing of several local events. I have a more comprehensive listing that includes Division-wide events in Washington, D.C., Arlington Cemetery, Westminster, Havre De Grace, Whites Ford Potomac Crossing, And Gaithersburg, Md. Check with me for additional dates. All these events are open to SCV Members, Friends, and the public. There is no better way to honor your ancestors, our Camp, and to follow the Charge of Stephen Dill Lee in which commands us to "perpetuate" the principles and ideals of our Confederate forefathers. Consider attending some of these wonderful events and support the Cause! Deo Vindice!!