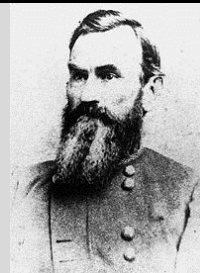




The Delta General

October, 2014 Volume 17, Issue 10

Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Thursday October 2, 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, MS
- October 17-19 – Fall Muster at Beauvoir in Biloxi, MS
- JEFFERSON DAVIS STATUE - 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION AND REDEDICATION – Saturday, October 18, 2014 - 11:00 A.M. Confederate Park, Memphis Front Street at Court

Camp News:

Commander's Message – Joe Nokes

Friends and compatriots,

Fall has finally "fallen" on us. Temperatures are starting to cool down somewhat. I for one am thankful, as I have had enough of Mississippi's summer heat.

In the coming months, there are a variety of activities related to the War Between the States. We are fresh off the Battle of Iuka/Farmington where our own Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard was a major part of that event. The first weekend in October, we are planning to attend the Pilgrimage/Pioneer Days in Carrollton, MS. Hopefully, we can interest and recruit some new members.

This event brings me to a point that I have been mulling over in past months. I feel that our camp needs to find some new activities with which to get involved. I realize we are all stretched thin with work, family, etc, etc. But if we add one new event, living history, parade, whatever say every 6 months, we would and could get our name out to the public that much more. In effect, I am asking for your input.

What are some events (not necessarily with the War Between the States as its primary focus) in which we can participate? If we generate 5% more interest twice a year (yes, even for a "non-math" guy like me that is 10%), our numbers would grow. I know there are always commitments and people who have excuses not to join with us. But I also know there are people out there who do not know, or barely know, that we exist.

I say, let us try to reach some of those people. Let me know what ideas you have. Let First Lieutenant Commander Dillon know. Let Second Lieutenant Commander Mitchell know. Of course, we cannot do everything. But we can try something. Just remember, if we try and fail, we at least tried. If we try and succeed, we are geniuses.

I remain your friend and respectful servant,
Joe Nokes

Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

October's speaker will be Ron Kelley. Ron is from Helena, Arkansas and will give us insight on the Confederate Generals buried in Helena.

In November Dr. Larry Mangus, from Corinth, will be bringing some of his items from "around the house" that he has collected. At this point nobody knows -- not even Larry -- what he will bring. The last time he visited he brought items worth tens of thousands of dollars.

December will be a planning meeting for the Lee Jackson Banquet.

Mechanized Cavalry Report: Richard Dillon, Cpl

Our semi-annual meeting was held on September 13th. Due to family commitments and other SCV responsibilities, Bert King decided not to run for Captain again. Stephen "Gunner" Rutherford was the lone nominee, so I expect he will be our next Company Commander.

Captain Bert expressed his disappointment with the poor attendance of the Northwest Squad, and I must say I was a bit embarrassed for all of us. We need to make a better showing.

Our next semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17, 2015. Please, schedule your activities around that date and let's make a good showing.

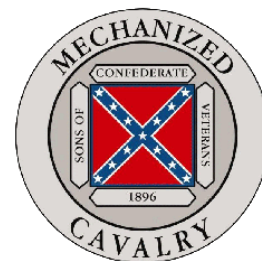
As you have probably heard, the Mississippi Division, SCV, has filed a lawsuit to prevent the name change of Confederate St. at Ole Miss. "Hooray for our state leaders!!"

One way we can show our support is by wearing our vests every time we get an opportunity. Remember, when we wear our vests we become moving billboards for the SCV. A word of caution, though. Where you wear your vest and how you conduct yourself while wearing it reflects not only on you, but our entire organization as well as our ancestors.

Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President

First, I want to remind everyone of our up and coming Chapter meeting on October 2. We will be renewing our drawings and the Capture the Yankee which is way up over \$200.00. We have some new and interesting items for the drawings as well which helps in paying for the meals. Thank you everyone in advance that participates.

Ladies, we will be discussing who will be participating in the Pioneer Day Festival at Carrollton, a great recruiting opportunity for our Chapter.



Adjutant's Report for October, 2014 – Dan McCaskill

Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Compatriot Dan McCaskill. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Jimmy Alford led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. Following the pledges, Jimmy read "The Charge" given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

Program: The program for the evening was presented by the Medicine Lady, Diane Bohnert. Diane's program covered the down home medicines used by the army and civilians during the 19th century. The "miracle" drugs of the time were onions, vinegar and charcoal. The uses of these ingredients are too numerous to list here. Diane also told the story of the "Black-eyed Peas" and use of acorns, sassafras roots and onion seeds as an opiate.

Announcements: Some upcoming events are Fall Muster at Beauvoir October 17-19, Wirt Adams' Raid at Old Jefferson College November 7-9 and Celtic Festival at Beauvoir November 15 & 16.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Richard Dillon was absent. 2nd Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell's report was Recruit, Recruit, Recruit; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that he has received 34 paid renewals so far this year. Of the 34, Dan reported that 2 were past members. He received 30 renewals in July but only 4 in the past 5 weeks. There are still 26 members who have not renewed. All dues received have been forwarded to National and Division. The Camp has \$ 3,239 in the checking account and has spent only 31% of its annual budget with 5 months left in the fiscal year. We collected \$ 29 for our Confederate Headstone Project. We still need \$ 135 to reach our goal of \$ 475. As Camp Editor, Larry inquired if anyone had problems receiving the Camp Newsletter and apologized for the errors in the newsletter; As AOT Commander, Larry informed the Camp that the Army has a recruiting tent that can be used by Camps upon request. Also, there will be a Leadership Conference at Beauvoir the same weekend as Fall Muster. The cost to attend the Conference is \$ 20 which includes Fall Muster; OCR President Sandra Stillman although early, wanted people to start thinking of items to donate for this year's Lee – Jackson Banquet.

Camp Business: There was no Camp business to be considered. Brent Mitchell and George Brumfield were the raffle winners and the Yankee continues to elude capture. Attendance for the evening was 16.

Remembering Our Confederate Veterans

As a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans there are many ways we can honor and remember our Confederate Ancestors. We fly the Flag, teach others the truths about the Cause for which they fought, put on living histories depicting the way they lived during the War and participating in re-enactments, fighting as they fought. Another way we remember our Veterans is by locating their final resting place, recording it, taking pictures of the headstones for our posterity. Sometimes we locate a Veteran in a cemetery that has an unmarked grave. In years past, anyone having knowledge of the Veteran could apply to and obtain a Confederate Headstone from the Veterans Administration at no cost because the VA would mark the grave site of any U. S. Veteran which includes Confederate Veterans whose grave site was unmarked anywhere in the world. Everything changed with the election of Obama. Under his administration, the VA changed its rules to where only the next of kin or designated representatives of the next of kin could request a VA headstone at no cost. This rule applies to any Veteran who died prior to World War I. Because of this rule change, it makes it almost impossible to obtain a VA marker for a Confederate Veteran.

Our Camp has adopted one solution to this problem, raise the money ourselves to purchase a Confederate Marker from a monument company, in our case it would be the Columbus Monument Works in Columbus, MS who do VA markers. The cost of one upright white marble headstone will be \$ 475. The Camp has committed \$ 150 toward the stone and will be soliciting the additional \$ 325 from our members. To date we have received \$ 157 from our members but still need \$ 168 to reach our goal. I want to thank all of those who have donated thus far. I want to give members who have not been able to come to Camp Meetings a chance to donate to the cause by considering to send a donation to Camp Adjutant Dan McCaskill at 205 Cypress Street; Leland, MS 38756. We need to reach our goal by years end in order to place the headstone by the next Confederate Memorial Service in April, 2015. This stone will be the first of four to go in the Greenville Cemetery. If we, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, do not mark our Veterans grave sites, then who will?

If anyone has any questions, please call or contact me by the following: 662-822-1096 (cell phone) or email: danmccas@tecinfo.com.

Your Servant,
Dan A. McCaskill



Mississippi Division News

FROM DIVISION COMMANDER ALLEN TERRELL

As the commander of the Mississippi Division SCV, I mailed the letter today via certified mail to the chancellor at Ole Miss letting him know of the Division's displeasure with his actions and asked to be included in any further discussions on our history.

I also sent copies to Hank Bounds, head of the State Institutions of Higher Learning and to a Donald Cole, head of the diversity committee at Ole Miss. Now we wait and see what happens

GROUP FIGHTS RENAMING UM'S CONFEDERATE DRIVE

Daily Journal

OXFORD — A Confederate history organization is asking Lafayette County Chancery Court for an injunction and temporary restraining order to keep the University of Mississippi from making changes to Civil War memorials on its Oxford campus. The Sons of Confederate Veterans Mississippi Division's petition was filed Sept. 18 by attorney Holmes Sturgeon of Natchez. It claims the university's Diversity Plan indicates that the Confederate Monument at the entrance to University Circle may be "moved or repositioned or otherwise damaged or desecrated in some manner."

An Aug. 1, 2014, article on www.olemiss.edu, "UM Announces Plan for Leadership on Issues of Race and Diversity," states that the Confederate monument is one of several "buildings and symbols that will be evaluated for plaques adding context and perspective."

The same article adds unequivocally, "Confederate Drive, which enters Fraternity Row, will be renamed 'Chapel Lane.'"

Ole Miss alumnus Allen Terrell, SCV Mississippi Division's commander, represents the organization in the petition. He acknowledged the possibility of relocation or other major change to the Confederate soldier statue on the Circle is remote but said the street renaming is a more immediate concern.

"Our main push is that they would just not rename Confederate Drive," he said. "We are not going to let them break state law." The law to which he referred prohibits removal or alteration of war memorials on state property.

Terrell said that the Sons of Confederate Veterans asks that the existing Confederate memorials be left intact.

"Obviously, our organization doesn't have a problem with adding other monuments," he said. "We didn't protest when they added the James Meredith statue. We don't have a problem with renaming Coliseum Drive for Chucky Mullins. There's no problem with adding things that define your history."

University Attorney Lee Tyner said Tuesday that the institution had not yet been served with a summons in the matter but would respond to the petition as needed. "We're committed to following the law in all that we do," he said. Tyner mused at the variety of groups that intend to influence the university's direction. "One week we hear from the Freedom From Religion Foundation, and the next week we hear from the Sons of Confederate Veterans," he said. "You never know what you're going to deal with." A hearing on the dispute is set for Oct. 27 at 9:30 a.m. in Lafayette County Chancery Court.
errol.castens@journalinc.com

Ole Miss (Article by John Echols, *Southern Comfort*)

This is one young man whom the miscreants at Ole Miss seek to dishonor. Your God is watching you Mr. "Missionary"...

"...on August 18th an 19th the University Greys suffered these casualties:

Wounded: Robert S Adams, William D Alley, W. F DeGraffenreid

Killed: Willis Monroe Lea

We have the following letter from Miss Lea's collection about his death:

My Dear Cousin Nat,

...May God strengthen and support you while you read and enable you to say, "It is the LORD, let Him do what seemeth Him good...On Saturday, September 24th, we received a telegram...written from Staunton...of the fall of your dear brother Willis-who in terrible clash of arms near Winchester on the 19th received a mortal wound, the ball entering the brain and causing almost instant death....we learned all the particulars-Willis was in command of his company and at the moment he received his death wound was cheering on his men in a desperate charge.

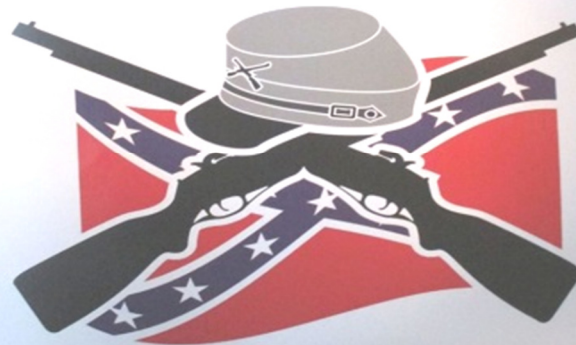
...Only the night before... conversation turned on the fate of those present in the coming battles Willis expressed his willingness to die...saying "Cousin John...I could ascend the scaffold with unfaltering step if my execution could free my bleeding country." ...one is almost tempted to doubt God's goodness and mercy when such bereavements come but we should remember that God says, 'What I do thou knowest not now'. Willis was a soldier of the cross, having on the whole armor of God. He has finished his course and now wears a crown of rejoicing....God's ways are not our ways..."

HISTORICAL REENACTMENTS & LIVING HISTORY

OCTOBER 18-19, 2014

9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

SPECIAL CRAFT AREA FOR KIDS



William Lea

THE UNIVERSITY GREYS
Maude Morrow Brown - 1940
Photo: Class of 1861 Ole Miss



*120th Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
and the 21st Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose Reunions*



June 05-07, 2015 in Columbus, Mississippi
www.genbarksdale.org

2015 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

SCV MEMBER NAME: _____ CAMP: _____

OCR MEMBER NAME: _____ OCR CHAPTER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL: _____ TITLE: _____

GUEST'S NAME FOR BADGE: _____

SCV EARLY REGISTRATION (PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2014)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$30.00 _____

SCV REGULAR REGISTRATION (JAN. 1ST, 2015 TO MAY 22ND 2015)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$35.00 _____

SCV LATE REGISTRATION (POST-MARKED ON OR AFTER MAY 23RD 2015)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$45.00 _____

OCR REGISTRATION ON OR BEFORE MAY 22ND, 2015, \$10.00 EACH. AFTER MAY 23RD, 2015 \$15.00***** _____

ADULT SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$30.00 PER ADULT _____

CHILD'S PLATE (12 AND UNDER) SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$15.00 PER CHILD _____

ANCESTOR MEMORIAL (COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$10.00 EACH ANCESTOR _____

VENDOR TABLE (AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE, COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)**QTY. _____ (X'S) \$20.00 EACH TABLE _____

REUNION PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT (SEE BELOW RATES / COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)***** _____

STARKVILLE CIVIL WAR ARSENAL MUSEUM SATURDAY AFTERNOON TOUR
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)*****QTY. _____ **FREE TO REUNION ATTENDEES!**

STEPHEN D. LEE HOME AND MUSEUM AFTERNOON TOUR
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)*****QTY. _____ **FREE TO REUNION ATTENDEES!**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

All Registered SCV / OCR members will receive a Name Badge, Reunion Medal, Reunion Program, and a "Reunion goodie bag".

Late Door Registration will receive the same only as long as supplies last.

OCR Registrants will have a Ladies Tea in lieu of a Reunion Medal.

All registrations submitted for the amounts specified above must be post-marked appropriately within the specified time-frame.

No refunds to be distributed for cancellations on or after June 01, 2015.

For your convenience, ALL events except for the optional tours, will be held on-site at the host hotel

**Barksdale's
Headquarters Hotel:**

Recommend rooms be
reserved ASAP as it is
summer and they will
become booked.
ASK for the SCV Rate.

Courtyard Marriott
1995 6th Street North
Columbus,
Mississippi, 39701
662-245-1540

Reunion Contact Information: Make Checks Payable to:

Host Camp Commander:

Jim Strickland, Jr.
jmsj@cableone.net
Phone: 662-570-1581

SCV Camp 1220

**Mail Registration Form
and Payment To:**

Host Camp Adjutant:
Shawn Kyzer
camp1220adjutant@yahoo.com
Phone: 662-722-1738

2015 MS Division Reunion
P.O. Box 404
Aberdeen, MS 39730

**Reunion Program
Advertisements:**

\$100.00 for Full Page
\$50.00 for Half Page
\$25.00 for Quarter Page

Please submit
advertisement information
and order form prior to
May 1st 2015.

Beauvoir was 'Orange Grove': Reunion spotlights little-known first chapter of South Mississippi landmark

Orange Grove, a 162-year-old beachfront house hewn from giant timbers of cedar, cypress and hardwood pine, is one of only two National Historic Landmarks on the Mississippi Coast, where storms and passing time are unkind. The other is the Rocket Propulsion Test Complex at NASA's Stennis Space Center.

Tourists visit both and are amazed at the sites' roles in local and national history. But don't look in any guidebook for "Orange Grove." That name was changed long ago to Beauvoir. It is best known for being the retirement estate of Jefferson Davis, who carved a niche in history as a U.S. statesman, hero of the Mexican War, and later as president of the Confederacy.

Orange Grove, however, predates Davis' involvement there by 25 years and stands as an example of how to build for longevity. Under the better-known name of Beauvoir, the house has survived 22 hurricanes and is today a museum dedicated to the life and times of its most famous resident. But that resident is not James H. Brown, the Madison County planter who in 1852 finished Orange Grove for his wife and soon-to-be 11 children. The Brown's modern descendants appreciate the house's longevity -- even if it has long been out of their hands and they haven't unraveled all the 19th-century family mysteries. For the first time, they will hold a reunion today at the estate the first Browns named for their thriving 16-acre satsuma orchard.

The early chapter of the 53-acre, oak-graced home just east of the modern Coast Coliseum & Convention Center gets little reading. Most researchers have skirted the Brown chapter, or presented passed-down stories with little or no documentation.

Piecing together the truth of James, his wife, Sophronia, and their many offspring is no easy task. Historical mysteries abound.

Brown bought the site in 1848 and at that time it was 87 acres. Four years later, he had bought more acreage and completed the antebellum home, a 3,000-square-foot Greek Revival raised cottage. The Brown chapter lasted 25 years, until the widowed Sophronia was forced in 1873 to sell the estate for taxes. The Civil War and its aftermath had ravaged the Browns' finances.

Today, about 60 of James and Sophronia's descendants will come from as far as Canada and as near as Louisiana and the Mississippi Delta to admire Beauvoir and to walk the grounds, the gardens, the beachfront, the lagoon and Oyster Bayou so cherished by the Orange Grove Browns. And museum visitors can meet the descendants.

The 21st century Browns will dine on a Southern-style picnic and listen to stories about Beauvoir, renamed for its beautiful view by the new 1873 Louisiana owner, Sarah Ann Dorsey, a Southern writer of note. Most important, these modern-day Browns will get acquainted and swap stories. "A lot of people won't know each other, so this will definitely be a meet and greet," said Jim Heathman, the retired diet-therapy specialist from Canton who began organizing the reunion in April. "When I contacted one of my cousins in New Orleans, he emailed me and said, 'I don't know you. Who are you?' "There will be people we won't recognize, and a lot of them have never been to Beauvoir."

Because James and Sophronia had mostly girls, the Brown name is rare among descendants, who now include Shaws, Lovelaces, Fishers, Crawfords, Knights, Popes, McDonalds, Woods and Hills. Heathman is a great-great-grandson, with connection through Lilly Brown, the 10th child, born at Orange Grove.

The idea for a Brown reunion was launched after Heathman returned from an annual reunion for his mother's side of the family. He called a cousin, Merle LaMastus of Cleveland, to ask if she knew of any past Brown family reunions. "No," she told him. "But you could do one." Heathman and LaMastus worked with another relative, Lou Poole of Richardson Texas, to create a list of known descendants, and they began snail-mailing, emailing and phoning. They've found a few more they didn't know about.

One of the new contacts is Gulfport architect Philip Shaw Jr. "I didn't grow up with any stories about the Browns at Beauvoir," said Shaw, who is connected through his grandmother, Olive Brown Shaw of Sunflower County. "We just knew the Browns had lived there. "When I was in the Cub Scouts, all the li'l ole ladies at Beauvoir who knew our connection would never make us pay an entrance fee. We thought that was cool." Shaw, Heathman and the other Brown descendants don't have a complete family history, although at least one cousin has done significant genealogy research. Their biggest mystery centers on the man who started this family line.

Where was James H. Brown born? Who were his parents? One fact they do know is he became one of the wealthiest Southerners before the Civil War, owning plantations, fruit and vegetable farms and other substantial land holdings. He was widowed twice before marrying Sophronia, but what happened to his two children from one of those earlier marriages? "As far as we know, James Brown was found under a cabbage leaf by a rabbit," Heathman joked.

They wonder if two Kentucky brothers, James and Samuel Brown, who in portraits have a striking resemblance to James of Orange Grove, might be related. Was James illegitimate, possibly reared by relatives connected to the famous Liberty Hall in Frankfort, built by noted Colonial statesman Sen. John Brown? Speculation abounds.

Was he reared in Virginia, as some undocumented early histories suggest? When James H. Brown's headstone was discovered 25 years ago in a neglected Craig family cemetery in mountainous Christiansburg, Va., they at least learned he was 60 when he died July 3, 1866. "And we wonder, when his health was failing, why did Sophronia take him to the health resort in White Sulphur, W.Va., instead of Hot Springs, Ark., which was so much closer to Mississippi?" Brown family descendants hope their reunion might answer some questions.

The early Browns are mentioned in a number of Beauvoir histories written in the century after the widowed Varina Davis sold Beauvoir to the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. SCV agreed to operate it as a home for Civil War veterans and as a monument to her husband.

Today, Beauvoir, stabilized and restored to the tune of \$4 million after Hurricane Katrina ravaged it in 2005, is open for tours. The grounds and buildings, including a new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library, are open. White peacocks and goats walk the lawn, as they did in the Davis times. Varina's gardens are back in Beauvoir's latest move toward living history and community involvement.

As more is learned about the pre-Davis history, that information is incorporated into what tour guides say and what books and the media report about Beauvoir's past.

"It's an honor to have the Browns come back and assemble here for a reunion, and it gives us another opportunity to talk about the early history of the Coast, not just Beauvoir's," said Greg Stewart, the recently appointed Beauvoir director. "Every bit of the 53 acres we now have at Beauvoir were within the original Brown property."

"All the back-stories are fascinating and part of our history. The Browns built Beauvoir. It was their retreat. They did a lot of the first work to get the land tamed."

Kat Bergeron, a veteran feature writer specializing in Gulf Coast history, is retired from the Sun Herald. Reach her at BergeronKat@gmail.com or c/o Sun Herald Newsroom, P.O. Box 4567, Biloxi MS 39535-4567.

FROM ARMY OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

LARRY MCCLUNEY

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The Army of Tennessee and Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be hosting a Leadership Workshop in Biloxi, MS at Beauvoir in conjunction with the annual Fall Muster on the **18th of October 2014**. The meeting will be held in the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and will begin at 8:30am on Saturday morning. Those attending are invited to a meet and greet Friday the 17th from 6pm to 8pm in the Museum and on Sunday the 19th at 10am we will be given a private tour of the Archives lead by a member of the staff.

The total cost for this workshop is \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple. This will be your admission for the entire weekend and allow you to attend the re-enactment and private tours. Please pre register by contacting Ms. Cindy White at 800-380-1896 ext. 209 or go to www.scv.org. There will also be an opportunity to pay at the door on the date of the event.

Rooms if needed for the Leadership Conference:

SEASHORE UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY

1410 Leggett Dr. Biloxi, Ms. 39530

228/436.6767

(This place has rooms starting at \$70.00 a night, and suite with 4 double beds at \$150.00)

SOUTH BEACH BILOXI HOTEL

1735 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, Ms. 39531

228/456.9007

(ask for Angie McMurphy, tell her you are here for the Leadership Conference at Beauvoir, she has agreed on a cheaper price for your group)

Robert E. Lee descendant supports flag decision, Washington and Lee president says

By Carmen Forman carmen.forman@roanoke.com 981-3334 Wednesday, September 10, 2014

LEXINGTON — Washington and Lee University's president used the words of Robert E. Lee's great-grandson to support him as he discussed an old controversial topic at the beginning of a new semester.

Most of W&L's new freshmen intermingled with campus seniors just outside Lee Chapel on Wednesday as university President Kenneth Ruscio brought up the Confederate battle flags that have been stirring arguments of history, tradition and respect on and off campus since the spring.

In his convocation speech, Ruscio said his decision over the summer to remove Confederate battle flags from Lee Chapel was a way of building a community of diverse views and respect on campus.

Ruscio talked about the letters of support he received over the summer, but he read Robert E. Lee IV's letter in full. "It is clear to me that president Lee would wholeheartedly support your goals of making Washington and Lee a welcoming environment for all students who choose to come there today," Lee's great grandson said in his letter. "As a proud alumnus, I, too, support those goals."

Robert E. Lee was president of the university after the Civil War until his death. Many of his innovations, starting in 1865, are credited with saving what was then called Washington College. The college was renamed after his death.

The flag controversy started in the spring when a group of W&L law students asked the university to stop glorifying the Confederate general. The students called the Committee complained because they had to pledge an honor code in the presence of the flags, something they said glorified Lee's actions.

Ruscio informed students and faculty in a statement this summer that these reproduction battle flags would be removed and the university will instead rotate flags on loan from the American Civil War Museum in Richmond in its Lee Chapel Museum. The Committee advocated for other changes on campus, including observance of Martin Luther King Day by canceling classes and not allowing those observing Lee-Jackson Day to "march" on campus and use it to espouse their statements. "In my view, removing the flags from the statuary chamber is overdue," Lee's great-grandson said. "I am proud of my alma mater. I am certain that my great-grandfather would be proud of the institution he once led."

It was unlikely that members of the Committee heard Lee's great-grandson's supportive words at the convocation, as law students don't normally attend, law professor Joan Shaughnessy said. Some of the Committee were law students in their last year of school and would have graduated in the spring. Others, still at W&L, have been in class for two weeks and were likely preparing for mock trials later this week. "I felt that it was absolutely the right thing to do, and I felt that it was done very thoughtfully and with good explanation after looking into the history," Shaughnessy said of removing the flags. "I was 100 percent behind the decision." The decision seemed to be more controversial off campus, rather than on campus, she said. Even though some of the freshmen may not have known what Ruscio was talking about, most probably knew about the flag controversy because it was all over the news, W&L student body president Lucy Wade said. "I was glad he brought it up," Wade said. "I think a lot of people are afraid that people push away criticism, but I don't think he does that. I think there are still things that need to be addressed. He's facing it head-on." Brandon Dorsey, commander of Camp 1296 of the Lexington-based Stonewall Brigade of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said it doesn't matter that a distant relative of Robert E. Lee supported taking down the flags because it wasn't right in the first place.

To him, Lee deserves to have flags of the nation he fought for hang in a building memorializing him. "It's disrespectful," Dorsey said. "There wouldn't be a Washington and Lee University if there hadn't been a Robert E. Lee. He deserves to have that recognition remain there." Dorsey heard about the letter from a W&L student about a week before convocation.

"Just because you have a family member that takes a position doesn't mean that has any reflection on the father or grandfather's views," Dorsey said. "It's neat that he's a descendant, but he didn't know Robert E. Lee." Undergraduate W&L students, whether they understood what the university president was talking about at convocation or not, start classes today. "No matter the differences across time, across generations and across the many individuals who live here today, a common unifying thread binds us all," Ruscio said at the end of his speech. "This is a community based on trust and respect. One that seeks common ground and celebrates our differences."

THE ROANOKE TIMES

Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence Articles:

This is WHY we won't ever Forget...ever!

"Sherman's march through Georgia, in which he consumed twenty million dollars' worth of property and destroyed four times as much, is vividly portrayed in some histories and encyclopedias as a "triumphal march;" and Northern poets surprised Sherman by singing him into immortality.

All this is written in letters of blood and agony upon the hearts of Southern women. Their sufferings, their fears, their unutterable dread, no pen can describe, and imagination itself turns pale with despair when asked to depict these horrors. As to whether Halleck and Sherman intended that their plan of campaign should be so interpreted and executed, an omniscient God has already rendered his verdict; but no one can either deny or palliate the pilferings and the plunderings, the bullyings and the brutalities, the oaths and the execrations, committed, uttered, and gloried in by Sherman's "bummers" and Wilson's and Kilpatrick's "raiders," in their "triumphal" march through Georgia into South Carolina.

"But for these women, the rebels would have surrendered long ago," was a favorite ejaculation of the doughty warriors.

"Get up, old woman; praying will do you no good now," said an officer to an old lady that was saying her morning prayers as the crowd burst in upon her. A few chivalrous Federal soldiers tried to stop these fearful brutalities; and some, secretly bringing food to those who had seen the last crust snatched from the hands of crying children, apologized for the brutalities.

Graves were opened in the hope of rinding treasure, and the bodies of the dead white and black literally left to dogs and to vultures."

HALF HOURS IN SOUTHERN HISTORY

John Lesley Hall Ph D, Professor History

College of William and Mary 1907

Battle of Alatoona Pass

After losing the city of Atlanta, Confederate General John Bell Hood attacks Union General William T. Sherman's supply line at Allatoona Pass, Georgia. Hood's men could not take the Union stronghold, and they were forced to retreat into Alabama.

Hood took charge of the Rebel army in late July 1864, replacing the defensive-minded Joseph Johnston. Confederate President Jefferson Davis had been frustrated with Johnston's constant retreating, so he appointed Hood, who was known for his aggressive style. Hood immediately attacked Sherman's larger army three times: at Atlanta, Peachtree Creek, and Ezra Church. All of the attacks were unsuccessful, and they destroyed the Confederate army's offensive capabilities.

After evacuating Atlanta in early September 1864, Hood planned to draw Sherman back northward. Hood did not have the troop strength to move against Sherman, so he swung west of Atlanta and moved against the railroad that supplied the Yankee army from Chattanooga, Tennessee. At first, this worked well. Retracing Sherman's advance on Atlanta, Hood's men began to tear up the Western and Atlantic Railroad. Starting on September 29, the Rebels destroyed eight miles of track and captured 600 prisoners. Hood sent General Alexander Stewart's corps to secure Allatoona, site of a large Federal supply depot.

Sherman realized the threat to his lines and dispatched a brigade under General John Corse to secure the area. Corse's 2,000 men arrived at Allatoona before one of Stewart's divisions, led by Samuel French, attacked on October 5. French had over 3,000 troops, but the Yankees overcame the difference with their new Henry repeating rifles. French attacked and pushed the Federals back at first, but Allatoona was easily defended. By midday, French realized that he could not take the depot. He withdrew and rejoined Hood's army. French lost 897 men, while the Union lost 706. Realizing that his army was in no shape to fight, Hood took his force west into Alabama. In November, he would invade Tennessee.

Military Order of the Stars and Bars: Commander General's Message

Every year the Military Order of the Stars and Bars makes charitable donations for projects that help to preserve our Confederate heritage. Each year, we receive requests for money for a variety of projects.

These applications are reviewed by our Donations Committee who then makes recommend-ations to the General Executive Council, (GEC). Final approval for all projects rests with the GEC.

This year we received a particularly heartwarming request from the Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery, (FOSHC), in Richmond, Virginia. This organization has an ongoing project to determine the names of the soldiers who are buried there and to provide headstones for them. There are roughly 250 Confederate soldiers who are buried there in unmarked graves, as well as an unknown number of Union soldiers. Most of the graves were provided for the patients of the Richmond Alms House – a military hospital located directly across the street from the cemetery.

The first challenge that confronted FOSHC was to determine the names of the men who were buried there. That was just the first obstacle to be overcome. Once the name of a deceased soldier was known they then attempted to determine the individual's next-of kin. As you may know, the Department of Veterans Affairs will only provide a headstone if the request is made by a family member. In cases where the next-of kin cannot be determined, FOSHC asks organizations such as ours to "adopt a soldier" and provide the funding to purchase and install a headstone. That is exactly what MOS&B did through our Charitable Donations program. The FOSHC program is particularly redeeming because they will match any donation and provide a second headstone for another soldier who is buried there.

This year MOS&B purchased a headstone for Pvt. Jacob Seither, Company K, 14th Louisiana Infantry Regiment. A second monument was also installed in our name for an unknown soldier who died from drowning in 1862. We are indebted to the members of the Friends of Shockhoe Hill Cemetery for their unselfish and heartwarming work. Memories of the war continue to inflict a measure of pain on all of us. We salute the members of FOSHC for their dedication to preserve the memories of those individuals who fought for our cause. This program gives all of us a measure of closure for the souls of these brave men.

Deo Vindice!

Wm. Howard Jones, Commander General



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**Get to Stepping Over to the Camp Meeting on
October 2!!**