

The Sentinel

Next Meeting: September 15
Knights of Pythias Building



Dinner served at 6:30
Meeting begins at 7:00

Secession Camp # 4 Charleston, SC

SEPTEMBER 2009

Winner of the 2005, 2006, and 2007 Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 9

OUR NEXT SPEAKER

A native of Greenville County, South Carolina, **Nicholas Butler** attended the University of South Carolina before completing a Ph.D. in musicology at Indiana University. He has worked as archivist of the South Carolina Historical Society, as an adjunct faculty member at the College of Charleston, and as an historical consultant for the City of Charleston. Since April 2005 he has been the manager of the Charleston Archive at the Charleston County Public Library.

Dr. Butler's first book, a history of the musical era of Charleston's St. Cecilia Society, was published by the University of South Carolina Press in November 2007. Currently he is researching Charleston's early cultural history from a number of perspectives, including African-American drumming, urban fortifications, public marketplaces and parks, and many other topics.

PLEDGES

It was suggested by one of our Compatriots that, since some apparently did not know the three pledges, that they be printed in the newsletter.

Pledge to the United States Flag

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
[Note no pause: "one nation under God".]

Salute to the South Carolina Flag

I salute the Flag of South Carolina
and pledge to the Palmetto State
love, loyalty, and faith.

Salute to the Confederate Flag

I salute the Confederate Flag with
affection, reverence, and undying devotion
to the Cause for which it stands.

The Charge

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

*Lieutenant General
Stephen D. Lee
Commander General
United Confederate
Veterans
New Orleans
1906*



NEW MEMBER



Chris Sosnoski was voted on and inducted as the newest member of Secession Camp.

H.K. HOLDS A CAMP MEETING



H. K. Edgerton, last month's speaker, held a standing-room-only crowd enthralled as he spoke about his walk across the Confederacy and how a Black man carrying a Confederate battle flag was accepted by Black people throughout the South. True to form, H.K. led everyone in singing "Dixie" – once at the beginning of his talk, and again at the end of the meeting. Thanks, H.K.

CAMP OFFICERS

Commander
Bill Norris 843-849-9924
1st Lieutenant Commander
John Genes 843-747-4439
2nd Lieutenant Commander
John Waring
Adjutant
Elmore Marlow
843-762-2430
Treasurer
Buck Perry

Chaplain
Gene Patrick
Color Sergeant
Loren O'Donnell
Judge Advocate
Fred Tetor
CHT Representatives
Randy Burbage
David Rentz
Charlie Hiers
Gene Patrick

CAMP GUARDIANS

Randy Burbage
Walter Carr
John Evans
Charlie Hiers
Clarence Kuykendall
Andy Langdale
Elmore Marlow
Philip Ramsey
Michael Ratledge
Clyde Rogers
Louie Warmouth
Jimmy Wheeler
Lee Wilson

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Awards
Clay Martin
Education / Historical
John Whatley
**Graves, Monuments
and Guardian**
John Evans
Highway Clean-up
Michael Dixon
Heritage Ride
Bryan Riddle

Media / Public Relations
Bill Norris
Recruiting / Retention
Andy Langdale
Genealogy
Andy Langdale
Convention
Open
Lee-Jackson
John Genes
Building Committee
Louie Warmoth

VOLUNTEERS

Mess Corporal
Don Pace
Mickey Davis Fund
Woody Weatherford
Webmaster
David Rentz
Engraving Engineer
Benny Slay
Quartermaster
David Rentz



The Sentinel

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Website: <http://www.scv4.org>

NEXT MEETING

Secession Camp will hold its next meeting on
Tuesday, September 15
Knights of Pythias Building
1968 Belgrade Avenue
(near Sam Rittenburg Boulevard (Hwy. 7))
Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM
Meeting will get started at 7:00 PM



The Sentinel

Commander Bill Norris
Adjutant Elmore Marlow
Editor John Whatley

Unless noted otherwise, all bylined articles in this newsletter are the responsibility of the author. Address all correspondence concerning the newsletter to:

athyriot@hotmail.com

FROM THE COMMANDER

My Fellow Compatriots,

It's football season already! Where has the year gone?

H. K. Edgerton. Anyway, was that a great speaker we had at the August meeting or what? Boy, ole H.K. Edgerton sure can get your motor running can't he? If you missed the August meeting you messed up because we don't have very many like that. H.K. brought out the crowd too. I think we had about 85 members there and I know there was 10 or 15 guests as well making up one of the biggest crowds we've had in a long while. Before he left H.K. was kind enough to donate several of his Dixie Outfitter teeshirts to be used as door prizes for our Confederate Heritage Ride in September. My thanks go to Lt. Commander **John Waring** for getting H.K. down for our meeting.

Honorary Membership. We are now headed full steam into the final quarter of the year and that's the busiest part for Secession Camp. Don't forget, if you plan to nominate anyone for Honorary Membership in Secession Camp, you need to submit your nomination in writing at the next meeting so that it can be published in the October newsletter and voted on at the October meeting.

Camp Office. Anyone wishing to run for Camp office, we will be taking nominations at the October meeting.

Highway Clean-Up. Please remember the next Highway Clean-up will take place on September 12th. Chairman **Michael Dixon** will need our help to take care of this project in a timely manner. so plan on coming out on Saturday morning.

Heritage Ride. After the clean-up will be the Camp's 5th Annual Confederate Heritage Ride. Compatriot **Bryan Riddle** and members of the ride committee are hard at work on this year's ride coming up on September 26. Twelve sponsors have been secured to help cover the cost and we are now putting ads in biker magazines and flyers in biker related businesses. As we get down to the home stretch for this event, we will be having meetings every Monday at 7 PM at the ODC Club on Dorchester Road. Pre-registration for the ride will take place on September 19th and we will need help with that. We are also in need of door prizes to be given away. We're looking for good prizes like free meals and similar prizes. Please come to the meetings or contact Bryan or me about helping out on these dates.

Confederate Ghost Walk. Also coming up is the annual Confederate Ghost Walk at Magnolia Cemetery in October. This event is sponsored by the CHT, and Secession Camp is always a big contributor to its success.

Battle of Secessionville. After the Ghost Walk will be the annual Battle of Secessionville reenactment at Boone Hall Plantation in November. Preparation for the battle includes wood splitting on 9-19, 10-24, and 11-7 so please try to come out to Boone Hall on these dates to help out. Again, this is a CHT-sponsored event and Secession Camp is always a big contributor to its success, so we'll need lots of volunteers to help with these events.

Camp Printer. The new camp printer has been ordered

and, after doing a little more research, we found one at a better price that will also be better for our purpose. We hope to have it up and running by the first of September. This printer should pay for itself in savings to the Camp for newsletter and Camp flyer printings.

ACC and Food Lion.

Everyone needs to be aware of the ACC's attack on our State because of the Confederate flag fling at the Soldier's Monument. We need everyone to write letters to the ACC and to Food Lion, who is an ACC sponsor (addresses elsewhere in this news letter). Remember we are not shopping at Food Lion, but we are saving our receipts to be sent to them by the SC Division. Save all grocery receipts (no Food Lion receipts) and bring them to the next meeting. The Division plans to continue this for some time to come, so don't forget to keep saving those receipts until you hear differently.

National Awards. Several Camp Compatriots received national awards at the recent convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and I will be handing those out at the next Camp meeting in September.

Mailing List. I am still trying to get it up-to-date and accurate. Anyone who is not getting the newsletter needs to let me know. When the new printer is up and running, everyone should be receiving the newsletter either by email or a hard copy.

In closing, don't forget, if you have any ideas or suggestions for the Camp, I'm ready to listen.

Your Compatriot in Southern Heritage,
Bill Norris
Commander



Meeting the President

Pvt. Ed Hull of Company C, 8th Georgia, had been knocked out by an artillery shell exploding near him at First Manassas. When he came to, he was surrounded by Yankees, who wanted to know if he were wounded. A Yankee captain told him to lie still until the ambulances came by. The Confederates counterattacked, drove the Yankees away, and Hull found he was not wounded, just badly bruised when shrapnel tore off his cartridge box and belt. Hearing the wounded crying for water, he gathered canteens and starting filling them at a nearby stream and taking them to the wounded. About nightfall a civilian rode up and asked for a drink. "No," Hull replied, "I am carrying this water to those who cannot walk. You can walk, and you may go to the branch and help yourself." Someone told him he was talking to Jefferson Davis, and Hull apologized and handed Davis his own canteen. —*Editor*

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Compatriots,

I would first like to start on a sad note. One of our new compatriots, **Dennis Martin**, had approached me with much sadness about the passing of his grandfather. Compatriot Martin's grandfather was Ralph Lee Owen, Jr. of Greenville, SC. Mr. Owen was 87 and had passed away Saturday, August 8, 2009. Dennis had shared with me that his grandfather was a WWII US Army veteran and had seen a lot of action overseas. Dennis was mostly proud of the fact that his grandfather had a true love of the Confederacy. I would ask the Camp members to pray for the Owen and Martin families in their time of bereavement.

Please continue to pray for **Gail Weatherford**. Gail is still having problems with her health. For those of you who don't know Gail, she is one of the many ladies who helped Secession Camp host the 2000 National Convention

in Charleston. Our convention would not have been so successful if it was not for the help of our ladies like Gail.

Continue to pray for our compatriots, **Andy Langdale**, **Jim Dickinson**, and **Willie Heidtman**. If any compatriot needs the assistance of the Chaplain, please do not hesitate to call me.

Yours in Christ,
Gene Patrick
Chaplain



South Carolina Soldiers Talk About Religion

By John Whatley, Editor

From his book *The Typical South Carolina Confederate*, Copyright 2008

Initially religion was not an important part of Confederate camp life, but later became important as Confederate reverses occurred. Indeed, a Confederate wrote, "very few of the commissioned officers were religious. The large proportion of the soldiers were wicked and many were reckless. For more than a year very few manifested any desire to become Christians save the sick or wounded."

"I used to feel a great dread [of death, but] the Almighty does what is best for those that love him.... You have no idea what a tower of strength this reflection is to me," Col. John Bratton, 6SC, wrote his wife December 10, 1862. Col. Bratton had enlisted as a private in Company C in April 1861.

"God rules all things.... [I]t would be very unsoldierly in me to beg that my life be preserved. So I trust all to him having little to say in the matter," a South Carolina lieutenant confessed to his fiancée.

Pvt. George Reid wrote the *Confederate Veteran* in 1920 that "The Palmetto Battery had 10 members, and all its lieutenants, who were sons of ministers, so the battery had little gambling, drinking, or other vices present. Prayer and Bible reading were instead a regular feature."

Once again the Yankees supplied a lot of the religious supplies. Also, special agents called colporteurs distributed bibles, religious tracts and religious publications to the troops.

Religious tracts were called "little preachers" by the *Confederate Baptist* and were read over and over again by the troops until they fell apart. One Baptist missionary noted, "The soldiers here are starving for reading matter. They will read anything." A South Carolina colonel said religious tracts were "of incalculable service in encouraging the soldier to a continuation of his hard duties, and making him feel contented with his lot."

The Soldier's Hymn Book, published by the South Carolina Tract Society, included 271 songs in its second edition. In the Keith M. Read Collection at Emory University in Atlanta, there is a list of 103 religious brochures published by the South Carolina Tract Society during The War.

In May 1864 a great revival occurred in the Army of Tennessee. In Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee there were 40 conversions nightly over a two-week period. Sixty joined the church within a week in Brig. Gen. States Rights Gist's mixed Georgia (46Ga, 65Ga, and 2nd Sharpshooters) and South Carolina (16SC and 24SC) brigade.

Pvt. Milton Barrett wrote his brother and sister November 5, 1861, that he "went in to a bapstis church. the house was crowded with sitseers and shoulgers and many a pair of perty eyes a pipen from under a straw hat drest with biron an artificial flowlers."

Lt. James F. J. Caldwell of the 1st SC said, "The most ordinary preachers drew large congregations. Scarcely a day passed without a sermon; there was not a night, but the sound of prayer and hymn-singing was heard. Often, two or three sermons were preached at once in the brigade, and if there was none among us, we went to the other brigades to hear."

The Confederate Baptist in November 4, 1863, reported that "most of our officers have undergone some change on the subject of chaplains.... [W]hen they first started out it made no difference with them what sort of man they had for chaplain, or whether they had any at all; but now you will not talk with an officer ten minutes about it until you will discover that he does not want a chaplain simply to 'hold service', but he wants a man who will promote the religious good of his regiment."

Pvt. J. W. Reid wrote his family July 7, 1861, that "An old Virginia preacher preached for us. He preached an excellent sermon. It made me think of home. I am truly glad that we can still hear the Gospel preached here, if we are in the army. God is everywhere. He is looking over us here, just the same as he would under our own vine and fig tree."

Pvt. Benjamin Barrett, C/2SC, wrote home, "i have just got in from meeting. we have it twice a week and Sunday for a Rerity. But he dont sweet us mountain boys for he is a Seceder. he preaches for the South and Prays for the South and dont mention the North any at all."

Secession Camp # 4

Minutes of Meeting of 18 August 2009

	Yes	No
Appropriate Flag Displayed	X	
SCV Charge Read	X	
Invocation	X	
Presentation of Colors	X	
Reading and Approval of Minutes		
Reading and Approval of Financial Report		
Remarks: 84 members and 21 guests for a total of 105 in attendance		

Program: H. K.'s Walk
Speaker: H. K. Edgerton

- **SCV Charge** was given by Commander **Bill Norris**
- **Invocation** given by **Gene Patrick**
- **Salute to the Flags** given by **Loren O'Donnell**.
- **The Cooks** were then recognized for the meal. Mess Corporal **Don Pace** was assisted by **Perry Patrick, Don Petty, Danny Pinson, and Walter Canady**.
- **Introduction of guests.** There were twenty-one guests, which included several members of the Ellison Capers Camp, several members from the Moultrie Camp and members from the John S. Bird Camp. Also present was **Rocky "D"**, local radio talk show host and honorary member of Secession Camp.
- **Bill Norris** introduced our speaker **H. K. Edgerton**. He gave us a night to remember. In his charismatic way he began his speech by leading the Camp in singing of the Southern national anthem, "Dixie." **Lucas Pinson** assisted H.K. by holding the Confederate Flag. H.K. touched on several legal and heritage issues including the court case of *Candice Hardwick vs. Latta High School*. He told about his March across Dixie and some of the people who confronted him. He mentioned the recent controversy about the President laying the wreath at the Confederate Monument at Arlington National Cemetery and ended his speech with the poem, "I Am Their Flag." He was given a standing ovation by the Camp.
- **Treasurers Report: Buck Perry** reported a beginning balance of \$7,307.43 Checks were written to the SC Division, SCV National. Deposits of over \$4,500.00 were made from the collection of dues. The closing balance was \$12,767.43, with several checks still outstanding.
- **Mickey Davis Fund: Woody Weatherford** reported a deposit for the July meal of \$165.00. A balance of \$2,165.08 as of the August meeting, with no pending expenses.
- **Highway Clean-up: Michael Dixon** report the next clean-up will be on Saturday, September 12.
- **Graves and Research: John Evans** reported that volunteers came to Magnolia Cemetery on Saturday August 15th to record the information on the remainder of the graves at the Soldiers Ground.
- **Heritage Ride Report: Bryan Riddle** reported that this year's ride will be on September 26 and the committee is working on a route. They are also in need of tents for the event and volunteers. He will also need door prizes to be given to participants.

- **New Business:** One candidate, **Chris Sosnoski** was voted on and inducted as the newest member of Secession Camp.
- Commander **Bill Norris** spoke about the NAACP demands to move the ACC Baseball tournament to Greensboro, N.C., due to the boycott. He encouraged members to write letters to the ACC and Food Lion, who is one of the sponsors of the ACC.
- **Sesquientennial T-Shirts: Paul Brown** said the shirts can be ordered through National Headquarters at 1-800 MY-SOUTH.
- **New Camp Officers:** Nominations for camp officers will be in October.
- **Honorary Membership:** Any candidates for honorary membership will be presented at the meeting in September. A candidate is a non-SCV member who has gone beyond the call to promote Southern Heritage.
- A motion made to adjourn and seconded.
- **The benediction** was made by **Gene Patrick** followed by the singing of "Dixie", which was started off by **H. K. Edgerton** waving the Confederate Battle Flag.



H. K. Edgerton



‘Artillery Well Handled’

By John Whatley, Editor

When it comes to arguments about the power of artillery in defensive operations, few battles can match the one fought at Spotsylvania on 28 May 1864.

General U. S. Grant and his Union troops fought through The Wilderness against General Robert E. Lee’s Confederates and arrived second at Spotsylvania. There these Union and Confederate troops engaged in the Battle of Bloody Angle, a furious fight for a bulge in the Confederate lines called the “Mule Shoe.” At the end of the fight the Confederates withdrew to new entrenchments some 800 yards to the rear.

After several days of maneuvering in front of the Confederate positions, most of them during torrential rainfalls, Grant had accomplished little. As he moved troops from his right to his left, Lee countered by moving his troops across the Confederates’ interior lines from left to right. Union General Horatio Wright believed Lee’s moves had weakened the Confederate left and proposed an attack to Grant. According to Wright, fresh Union troops should launch the attack through the old Mule Shoe position straight at the entrenched Confederates. General W. S. Hancock’s troops along with those of Wright would reoccupy the abandoned Mule Shoe position during the night of May 17th. At dawn on the 18th, supported by General A. P. Burnside’s diversionary attack to their left, Hancock and Wright would attack the new Confederate works. Any success would be exploited by General G. K. Warren’s troops in reserve. Grant liked the plan.

General R. S. Ewell’s troops held the Confederate left.

They had been in position in their new trenches for six days and had had ample opportunity to improve them. The position was naturally camouflaged by the forest. Good fields of fire had been cleared. Heavy abatis had been placed to the front of infantry positions. To get to these new Confederate trenches the Union troops would have to charge across a half mile of open, gently rising terrain. They would also have to contend with the 29 guns of Colonel T. H. Carter’s division of artillery dug in behind the Confederate infantry.

Early on the morning of the 18th, the Union troops moved through the Mule Shoe. But the leading divisions took too long and it was 8 a.m. – not dawn – before they were ready to attack. It was getting so light that the attack was launched before units in the rear were in position.

The Confederates had finished their simple breakfast and were standing around awaiting the events of the day. Ewell’s Confederates had been alerted early that an attack would probably be launched at them. The Union preparations the day before had been discovered by the Confederate cavalry and observers in the belfry in Spotsylvania. It was, therefore, no surprise when Unionists were discovered in their front preparing to attack.

Colonel W. E. Cutshaw, commander of a battalion of the artillery on the Confederate line, said he “could not believe a serious attempt would be made to assail such a line as Ewell had, in open day, over such a distance. Everyone on the Confederate side felt that such an attack was reckless and hopeless in the extreme. So when it was

found that a real assault was to be made, it was welcomed by the Confederates as an opportunity to pay off old scores.”

The Union artillery posted in the first line of works opened a covering fire. Under this fire the Union infantry moved out rapidly, “several brigades deep, well aligned and steady, without bands, but with flags flying, a most magnificent and thrilling sight, covering Ewell’s whole front as far as could be seen.”

The Confederate gunners held their fire. But when the blue line came well within range, the Confederate artillery opened with solid shot and shells. This changed to case and canister when the Unionists charged at the double quick. “On they came,” Cutshaw remembered, “shells and case (shrapnel) shot tearing great gaps in their ranks, the roaring guns and wavering lines of Federal infantry still advancing, the scene was wonderfully inspiring to the Confederates.”

The blue line, despite mounting losses, continued to press forward until the Union soldiers arrived at the edge of the abatis. There, well within canister range, the attack halted. Some units still tried to move forward; others tried to tear away the abatis. The Confederate artillery, however, was firing so fast that walls of steel met every movement. The outcome of the attack was now no longer in doubt. The Confederate gunners had the range and continued with canister at close range. The Union lines wavered, then broke and fled in confusion. The front lines were completely routed and fell back on supporting units. For most Union soldiers it was a disorderly retreat into the woods at their rear.

By 10 a.m. the attack was over. As the Unionists fled out of range, the Confederate artillery fell silent to conserve ammunition. The Union artillery continued its counterbattery fire for a time, but it caused no damage and finally stopped.

The cheering Confederate infantry this time had been mere spectators; the artillery alone had repulsed the Union attack. Although there were no casualty reports for this engagement, one Confederate report termed Grant’s loss as “very heavy; ours was nothing.” The official reports credit the Confederate artillery fire for the Union loss. “The repulse of the heavy assaulting columns of the enemy,” Cutshaw concluded, “was practically by the destructive fire of artillery alone. . . . This mass of infantry charging . . . in the face of entrenched, well-posted, and well-served artillery, could not hope to carry such a position as Ewell’s Corps held.”

“This attack fairly illustrates the immense power of artillery well handled,” reported General A. L. Long, Ewell’s Chief of Artillery. “A select force of 10,000 or 12,000 infantry was broken and driven from the field in less than 30 minutes by 29 pieces of artillery alone.”

The author is Editor of The Sentinel and a retired field artillery officer.



Voting on the Confederate Monument

A Black Man Sets The Record Straight

Former slave and legislator Richard Harris was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1890. On February 23, 1890, he delivered a speech on the floor:

“Mr. Speaker! I have arisen here in my place to offer a few words on the bill [raising funds for a Confederate Monument]. I have come from a sick bed, perhaps it was not prudent for me to come, but, Sir, I could not rest quietly in my room without contributing a few remarks of my own.

“I was sorry to hear the speech of the young gentleman from Marshall County. I am sorry that any son of a soldier should go on record as opposed to the erection of a monument in honor of the brave dead. And, Sir, I am convinced that had he seen what I saw at Seven Pines and in the Seven Days of fighting around Richmond, the battlefield covered with the mangled forms of those who fought for their country and for their country’s honor, he would not have made that speech.

“When the news came that the South had been invaded, those men went forth to fight for what they believed, and they made no requests for monuments. But they died, and their virtues should be remembered.

“Sir, I went with them. I too, wore the Gray, the same color my master wore. We stayed four long years, and, if that war had gone on till now, I would have been there yet. I want to honor those brave men who died for their convictions.

“When my mother died I was a boy. Who, Sir, then acted the part of a mother to the orphaned slave boy, but my “old missus”? Were she living now, or could speak to me from those high realms where are gathered the sainted dead, she would tell me to vote for this bill. And, Sir, I shall vote for it. I want it known to all the world that my vote is given in favor of the bill to erect a monument in honor of the Confederate dead.”

NEWS FROM THE REAL WORLD



SCV RACE CAR COMES IN THIRD

Saturday, July 25th, 2009, in Hickory, North Carolina, the SCV race car was driven by **Brandon Ward** of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Brandon is one of the top drivers in the USAR Pro Series circuit.

Our car finished the race in third place. The race was filmed and is scheduled to be telecast on Fox Sports Network on Sunday, August 23, 2009.

Commander **Irvin Shuler** added that he was approached by many men at the race interested in joining the SCV. He handed out applications and directed them to the website. Many more people came just to congratulate them and thank them for putting Southern heritage back into racing.

Our Compatriots spent time before the race with the driver, talking and taking pictures. After the race, they tried to get back to the car to congratulate Brandon but found that they could not get close because of all the photographers and TV crews surrounding our car.

The car would have come in first or second except for the flag boycott of South Carolina. —Editor

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Nominations are due *in writing* at the September meeting. Following are the guidelines:

1. The Honorary Membership Award will be presented by Secession Camp # 4 to members of the community who have shown an interest in the preservation of Confederate heritage through activities that promote a positive image of Confederate history to our community or the preservation of that history within the community. Recipients will have gone well beyond the ordinary in their efforts to show the Confederate soldier in a positive light to the community or in the preservation of Confederate history. Recipients will not be members of Secession Camp and need not be Southerners by birth, members of the SCV or any historical organization.

2. The award does not have to be given every year.
3. Nominations will be made at a previously announced Camp meeting once a year and any Camp member can nominate an individual for the award. Nominations should be accompanied by information which supports the nominee's qualifications in writing and nominees will be listed in the Camp's newsletter before the vote.

4. Nominees will be voted on by the Camp membership present at the meeting following the nomination meeting.

5. Nominations and voting should take place during the third quarter of the year and the award should be presented at a Camp meeting during the final quarter of that year.

6. The recipient will be presented with a certificate of appreciation, a plaque, a pin, and will be eligible to attend Camp meetings and events. They will be placed on the Camp's newsletter e-mail list or given a one year hard copy subscription to the newsletter.

7. The award is considered a lifetime award.

'TIS THE CAUSE . . .

"If I ever disown, repudiate or apologise for the cause for which Lee fought and Jackson died, let the lightnings from Heaven rend me and the scorn of all good men and true women be my portion. Sun, moon and stars all fall on me when I cease to love the Confederacy. 'Tis the cause, not the fate of the cause, that is glorious."

—Major R. E. Wilson, C.S.A.

DUES AGAIN?

Yes, it's time for dues again. If you have any problems or have not received anything through the mail, contact the Adjutant, who knows all about this.

Perfect Christmas gift for Yankees:

The Typical South Carolina Confederate

*As compiled from his correspondence
to the folks back home and from
his post-war reminiscences.
Illustrated with 17 photographs,
30 contemporary prints,
history of the Confederates quoted,
index and bibliography.*

\$7.50 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.
Sorry, Union funds only!

Order through athyriot@hotmail.com

Time to Flex Our Economic Muscles

The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) initially awarded their baseball tournament to Myrtle Beach, SC, but rescinded that after “concerns over the Confederate flag being flown on the State grounds of the South Carolina State Capitol.”

The 2011-13 championships were originally awarded to Myrtle Beach. The ACC’s decision to hold the tournament in this location was made with the stipulation that discussions be held, and agreements made, with all local and state organizations that had voiced concerns over the confederate flag being flown on the state grounds of the South Carolina State Capitol.

Since 2000, the conference has supported the NAACP’s statements concerning the flag issue and followed the NCAA’s policy of not holding pre-determined championships in the State of South Carolina. In 2005, the conference presidents agreed that the ACC would be willing to consider awarding league championships to venues in the State of South Carolina on a case-by-case basis, provided that the host-site proposal included a plan to work with the NAACP at the local and state levels to ensure a proper environment.

“Our baseball committee and institutional administrators awarded the championships to Myrtle Beach with the understanding that the event had the blessings of all parties within the state of South Carolina. It has become clear this was not the case,” stated ACC Commissioner John Swofford. “It’s unfortunate that this miscommunication occurred and since the original announcement, we have had productive conversations with members of the NAACP. In the end, given the conference’s commitment to diversity, equality and human rights, our institutions have determined that this change should be made.”

Gentlemen, this is not acceptable. This is nothing more than the same political correctness that appeared in 2006 when the NCAA considered stepping up the moratorium on South Carolina and Mississippi by not allowing certain championship events to be played in those states. You defeated the forces of political correctness then. We need to do it again.

Commander Burbage, here in SC, will be issuing a statement regarding our displeasure with this attack on our heritage. I am contacting you for your help because your division is within the footprint of the ACC. Here’s what I need you to do – notify the men of your division about this matter. Ask them to contact ACC Commissioner John Swofford; his contact information follows:

Atlantic Coast Conference
Attention John Swofford, Commissioner
P.O. Drawer ACC
Greensboro, NC 27417-6724
Phone: (336) 854-8787

IMPORTANT – be courteous and brief. These are our talking points:

- **It is an extremely poor business practice** to award an event, then rescind it

- To make this decision based on a disagreement with the commemoration of our history is discriminatory

- **South Carolina has record unemployment**; the tournament is a needed economic boost

- **South Carolina has a high minority population** – this sends the wrong signal; if the ACC wanted to do the right thing, it would encourage, not discourage, investment in South Carolina

- Today, South Carolina is the focus, but other states could also be victimized by the ACC’s economic coercion

ALSO — be sure that our men that are graduates of ACC-member schools say so when they contact the commissioner’s office.

FINALLY – send letters to the newspapers and call the radio talk shows – news **AND SPORTS**

We want this inequity corrected and we need to say so.

Thanks for your help – this will only work with your cooperation and the cooperation of your men.

It is now time to move on to Phase 2.

One of the ACC’s “Corporate Partners” is Food Lion. Food Lion LLC operates more than 1,300 supermarkets, either directly or through affiliated entities, under the names of Food Lion, Bloom, Bottom Dollar Food, Harvey’s and Reid’s. Therefore, we need all our men to contact Food Lion and tell them that we do not approve of their financial underwriting of the discriminatory ACC.

Contact information is as follows:

Food Lion LLC
Attention: Jennifer Speck
2110 Executive Drive
P.O. Box 1330
Salisbury, NC 28145-1330

Write a letter (don’t e-mail). The letter should include:

- **A statement of disappointment** with Food Lion for their financial support of the ACC

- **A brief recap of the ACC issue**, denouncing them for awarding, then taking away their 2011-2013 baseball tournaments from South Carolina

- **Your MVP Card** – returned to Food Lion

- **Recent sales receipts** from other grocery stores

Subsequent receipts from other stores need to be mailed in as well. Here’s the procedure:

- **Receipts should be collected at Camp** level on a monthly basis – forward to division collection point with total value of receipts

- **Division collection point** gathers and totals all camp batches monthly and sends on to Food Lion

- **Be prepared to do this for a while...**

IMPORTANT: This might be the only “chink in the armor” of the ACC — with a bad economy and the competitiveness of grocery stores, when we discipline ourselves to stay with this, we will be effective.

This is the poem H.K. recited at the last meeting:

‘I Am Their Flag’

In 1861, when they perceived their rights to be threatened, when those who would alter the nature of the government of their fathers were placed in charge, when threatened with change they could not accept, the mighty men of valor began to gather. A band of brothers, native to the Southern soil, they pledged themselves to a cause: the cause of defending family, fireside, and faith. Between the desolation of war and their homes they interposed their bodies and they chose me for their symbol.

I Am Their Flag.

Their mothers, wives, and sweethearts took scissors and thimbles, needles and thread, and from silk or cotton or calico - whatever was the best they had - even from the fabric of their wedding dresses, they cut my pieces and stitched my seams.

I Am Their Flag.

On courthouse lawns, in picnic groves, at train stations across the South the men mustered and the women placed me in their hands. “Fight hard, win if possible, come back if you can; but, above all, maintain your honor. Here is your symbol,” they said.

I Am Their Flag.

They flocked to the training grounds and the drill fields. They felt the wrenching sadness of leaving home. They endured sickness, loneliness, boredom, bad food, and poor quarters. They looked to me for inspiration.

I Am Their Flag.

I was at Sumter when they began in jubilation. I was at Big Bethel when the infantry fired its first volley. I smelled the gun smoke along Bull Run in Virginia and at Belmont along the Mississippi. I was in the debacle at Fort Donelson; I led Jackson up the Valley. For Seven Days I flapped in the turgid air of the James River bottoms as McClellan ran from before Richmond. Sidney Johnston died for me at Shiloh as would thousands of others whose graves are marked “Sine Nomine,” - without a name - unknown.

I Am Their Flag.

With ammunition gone they defended me along the railroad bed at Manassas by throwing rocks. I saw the fields run red with blood at Sharpsburg. Brave men carried me across Doctor’s Creek at Perryville. I saw the blue bodies cover Marye’s Heights at

Fredericksburg and the Gray ones fall like leaves in the Round Forest at Stones River.

I Am Their Flag.

I was a shroud for the body of Stonewall after Chancellorsville. Men ate rats and mule meat to keep me flying over Vicksburg. I tramped across the wheat field with Kemper and Armistead and Garnett at Gettysburg. I know the thrill of victory, the misery of defeat, the bloody cost of both.

I Am Their Flag.

When Longstreet broke the line at Chickamauga, I was in the lead. I was the last off Lookout Mountain. Men died to rescue me at Missionary Ridge. I was singed by the wildfire that burned to death the wounded in the Wilderness. I was shot to tatters in the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania. I was in it all from Dalton to Peachtree Creek, and no worse place did I ever see than Kennesaw and New Hope Church. They planted me over the trenches at Petersburg and there I stayed for many long months.

I Am Their Flag.

I was rolled in blood at Franklin; I was stiff with ice at Nashville. Many good men bade me farewell at Saylor’s Creek. When the end came at Appomattox, when the last Johnny Reb left Durham Station, many of them carried fragments of my fabric hidden on their bodies.

I Am Their Flag.

In the hard years of so-called “Reconstruction,” in the difficulty and despair of years that slowly passed, the veterans, their wives and sons and daughters, they loved me. They kept alive the tales of valor and the legends of bravery. They passed them on to the grandchildren and they to their children, and so they were passed to you.

I Am Their Flag.

I have shrouded the bodies of heroes, I have been laved with the blood of martyrs, I am enshrined in the hearts of millions, living and dead. Salute me with affection and reverence. Keep undying devotion in your hearts. I am history. I am heritage, not hate. I am the inspiration of valor from the past. Look Away, Dixie Land!

I Am Their Flag.

5th Annual Confederate Heritage Ride



Ride Iron Horses over the trails of Confederate Soldiers in Charleston

SEPTEMBER 26th



Follow the signs on the old Navy base to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center (home of the Hunley) at the end of Supply Street. Registration will start at 10 AM. First rider out at 12 noon. Last rider out at 1:30 PM.

You'll get some Southern history, a scenic ride, a tour of the H. L. Hunley submarine, a commemorative jacket pin, free beverage, and live music by HED SHOP BOYS. All for only a \$15 registration fee. Register early and

Presented by Secession Camp # 4
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Live Music by

**HED
SHOP
BOYS**

you'll get a free T-shirt. There will be a cash prize for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, door prizes, and a Best Bike award. Food will be available. Check it out at www.SCV4.org/HeritageRide.htm or call 843-849-9924 for info and registration forms or e-mail Heritageride@juno.com for questions. All proceeds will be used to preserve our Southern Heritage. Pre-registration will take place on Saturday, September 19th at American Biker, 679 Treeland Dr., Ladson and at the Knight's of Pythias, 1968 Belgrade Ave. in West Ashley from 10 AM till 4 PM. Register early!

Sponsored by

American Biker, Charleston County ABATE, Carolina Biker Monthly, Carolina Sound Communications, Carswell Construction Materials, Climate Masters Indoor Storage, East Cooper ABATE, George Naumann Waterworks Co., Low Country ABATE, Mike Dohoney's Barrier Is. Construction Specialist, Palmetto Motorcycle Customs. Randy Burbage Equipment Co.



Come Ride With Us and Support Confederate Heritage

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 9-12 Highway Clean-Up, Glen McConnell Parkway
- 9-15 Secession Camp Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 9-26 2nd Annual Secession Camp Heritage Ride *

October

- 10-6 Secession Camp Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 10-9 Confederate Ghost Walk at Magnolia Cemetery *
- 10-10 Confederate Ghost Walk at Magnolia Cemetery *
- 10-20 Secession Camp Meeting, 6:30 PM

November

- 11-3 Secession Camp Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 11-7 Highway Clean-Up, Glen McConnell Parkway
- 11-14 Battle of Secessionville at Boone Hall Plantation *
- 11-15 Battle of Secessionville at Boone Hall Plantation *
- 11-17 Secession Camp Meeting, 6:30 PM

December

- 12-1 Secession Camp Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 12-15 Secession Camp Meeting and Christmas Party, 6:30 PM
- 12-20 Secession Day

* Dates not confirmed

Meeting Dates for Camps of the 10th Brigade

- Secession Camp # 4, Charleston:
3rd Tuesday of the Month
- Moultrie Camp # 27, Mt. Pleasant:
3rd Thursday of the Month
- Pvt. John S. Bird Camp # 38, N. Charleston:
2nd Thursday of the Month
- Gen. Ellison Capers Camp # 1212, Moncks Corner:
3rd Thursday of the Month
- Star of the West Camp # 1253, The Citadel:
(irregular)
- Ft. Sumter Camp # 1269, Charleston:
(irregular)

In Memory of Compatriot

Gary Pruitt Stone

by Delores Stone

Confederate Ancestors:

W. H. Austin

and

O. G. Thompson

Gone but never forgotten

Deo Vindice

Mrs. Gary P. Stone

Summerville, S.C.

In Memory of Compatriot

Sy Mabie

by Delores Stone

Confederate Ancestor:

Pvt. Edward M. Mabie

Co. B, 10th Missouri Inf.

Gone but never forgotten

Deo Vindice

Mrs. Gary P. Stone

Summerville, S.C.



THE REBEL REVIEW

Review of the book

Prison Life of Jefferson Davis
by Lt. Col. John J. Craven, MD
Review by: John B. Waring

The two hundredth anniversary celebration of the birthday of Jefferson Davis passed with very little fanfare – even in the former States of the

Confederacy. Today's politically correct climate condemning all things Confederate is a major reason why Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee's bi-centennials were celebrated in silence.

Professor Edward C. Smith of American University mentions in the documentary *Jefferson Davis an American President*, "That to the average American Jefferson Davis was born in 1865 but before and after that time he simply does not exist."

The Book *Prison Life of Jefferson Davis* by John J. Craven is the first among others on Jefferson Davis I plan to review in the coming year. My favorite history books of choice are the publications that were written by eye witnesses of the subject events. The *Prison Life of Jefferson Davis* in my opinion makes this grade but with some inaccuracies. According to Dr. Edward K. Eckert, Professor of History St. Bonaventure University presents from the documentary *Jefferson Davis an American President* the book is not reliable. It was a brain child of Union General Charles J. Alpine and Dr. John J. Craven who was states rights Democrats with political motives to bring out to the general public how barbaric the central power can be under the Republicans in office. General Alpine could care less about the well being of Davis and his motives were truly political. Dr. Eckert states that the book was to gain sympathy for Davis, which was successful and to demonize the Republicans currently responsible for the treatment of Davis. *Prison Life* was written by Lt Col John J. Craven, MD, United States Army. Colonel Craven was the attending physician assigned to Jefferson Davis during his imprisonment at Fortress Monroe. However: Dr. Edward Eckert presents a photo of a page from the book marked by Davis himself saying this is fiction distorted fact. There were 180 such marks. This book was instrumental in gaining sympathy for Davis making him the scapegoat for the Confederate cause.

Jefferson Davis and his family with other members of his cabinet were aboard the *USS William P. Clyde*. The ship dropped anchor in Hampton Roads, Virginia, May 19, 1865. On May 23, 1865, Jefferson Davis along with Clement C. Clay was handed over to General Nelson A. Miles from the *Clyde* and taken to Fortress Monroe beginning Davis' imprisonment. Jefferson Davis would be imprisoned at Fortress Monroe for two years, May 23, 1865 – May 1867. Col. Craven was the attending physician duties for President Davis at Fortress Monroe ended December 1865 lasting

approximately seven months. Craven's diary gives heartrending accounts of a weary ill man shackled by a blacksmith under the orders of General Miles. Davis complained of this cruel indignity but to no avail. On the morning of the 24th of May Dr. Craven was notified that Davis was ill and he had been assigned as Jefferson Davis' medical attendant. This began the kindly ministrations and developed into respect and friendship between Dr. Craven and Jefferson Davis. Unable to move with great difficulty with ankles lacerated by the heavy chains and Davis' health deteriorating, Dr. Craven's confronted General Miles stating his medical opinions as strongly as possible. General Miles asked, "You believe it then a medical necessity?" to which Dr. Craven replied, "I do most earnestly." At the end of five days the shackles were removed from Davis and his health improved. Davis would continue to suffer from loss of sleep by a lamp and the constant foot steps of guards as well as being constantly watched. The conditions of the cell were "damp malarial atmosphere". This environment would contribute to Davis' falling seriously ill. It was through this treatment that Dr. Craven realized the admiration for Davis. Dr. Craven states in his dairy "that Mr. Davis as a man of highest of character and deep religious faith," and to admire him for his fine intellect and broad knowledge.

Dr. Craven sought every way to secure more humane treatment for Davis resulting in controversy with his commanding officer. Under Dr. Craven's watchful care, with food prepared and brought from his home, Davis was brought back to health. Dr. Craven had Davis removed to better quarters, known as Carroll Hall, where he remained waiting for the next 18 months for a trial that would never come. He was released May 1867, never being properly charged of crimes.

The book has twenty three chapters and 377 pages. It was first published in 1866 and republished 1905. Each chapter is subtitled by the subjects and events that Dr. Craven and Jefferson Davis shared. Davis' family, religious, political beliefs and many other topics are in the contents of this book. The book had been out of print for many years and is a real mythbuster or creator either in what we know as true or what we think is true. Jefferson Davis' own review had problems with what was true in the book. Without a marked up copy we will not know how to separate what is accurate and what is not. Even with errors I recommend this book and doing further research with more reliable material and sources. The book was reprinted in 1999 and is available through Confederate Reprint Company and can be purchased on line at www.confederatereprint.com

Other Sources: Documentary Jefferson Davis & American President, "A Marker to Jefferson Davis' Physician" By Parke Bolling

Soft Drinks: Made In The South

By John Whatley, Editor

The Yankees don't want you to think about it, but all the popular major soft drinks were invented in the South by Southerners:

In 1885 in Waco, Texas, pharmacist Charles Alderton invented the soft drink "Dr Pepper", making it the oldest of the soft drinks of America.

In 1886 Dr. John Pemberton, a pharmacist in Atlanta, Georgia, invented "Coca-Cola".

In 1898 Caleb Bradham invented "Pepsi-Cola" in New Bern, North Carolina.

Finally, in 1905 pharmacist Claud A. Hatcher began supplying his family's Columbus, Georgia, grocery store with his invention, "Royal Crown Cola", affectionately dubbed RC Cola.

Let's take a closer look at these products:

Dr Pepper (no period) began at Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store in Waco, Texas. Charles Alderton, a pharmacist working at Morrison's, sought to bring all the flavors and smells of the drug store into a soft drink. When he showed it to Morrison, Morrison also liked the taste. Introduced to the public in 1885, the public called it "Waco".

Dr Pepper soon had such a following around Waco that other soda fountain operators started ordering the syrup. Eventually, there were more orders than Alderton and Morrison could supply.

Enter Robert S. Lazenby, a beverage chemist. Since Alderton had no interest in soda fountain drinks, Lazenby and Morrison formed a company to manufacture Dr Pepper, and introduced the drink at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

When it was discovered that people experience an energy letdown at 10 and 2 and 4, these were added to the Dr Pepper logo. The period after Dr. was dropped in the 1950s.

Pepsi-Cola began at New Bern, N.C. Its inventor was Caleb Davis Bradham, who attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for three years, dropped out to study medicine at the University of Maryland, ran out of money, then finally returned to Maryland to study pharmacy. After graduation he opened a drug store in New Bern.

Like other pharmacists of the period, Bradham mixed syrup for drinks at his store. One of the favorites of his customers, "Brad's Drink", was made from pepsin and cola nuts. As he began selling more and more of it, Bradham hired a full-time manager for his drug store in 1902 and hit the road selling Pepsi-Cola.

By 1909 there were more than 250 bottlers in 24 states, and by 1915 the company was worth more than a million dollars. When the price of sugar skyrocketed during WWI, Bradham bought large amounts. Prices plunged and he was forced into bankruptcy. A Wall Street broker, Roy C. Megargel, bought the entire company for \$35,000 and formed the Pepsi-Cola Corporation, now PepsiCo.

Coca-Cola. Politically correct Coca-Cola very seldom mentions its inventor was a Confederate officer, but it's true. John Stith Pemberton was lieutenant colonel of the 3rd Georgia Cavalry Battalion, and almost killed in the fighting at Columbus, Ga., in 1865.

Born 8 January 1831 in Knoxville, Crawford County, Georgia, Pemberton attended Reform Medical College of Georgia in Macon and at age 19 was licensed to practice medicine and surgery. But he practiced medical chemistry as an expert, and formed the State of Georgia's first testing labs. They are still in operation.

In 1855 in Columbus, Ga., he established a wholesale-retail drug manufacturing business. Sometime before the WBTS he received a doctorate in pharmacy. In 1869 he moved his business to Atlanta.

Already producing a popular drink, "Pemberton's French Wine Coca", it became illegal due to prohibition in Atlanta, and Pemberton merely replaced the wine with sugar syrup, and Coca-Cola ("coca leaf and kola nut") was born.

Despite Coca-Cola's secrecy about the true formula, mixed in Pemberton's back yard in a three-legged brass kettle, and the fact the two people who actually know it can never travel together in case something happens, the formula is fairly well known. It consists of orange oil, lemon oil, nutmeg, cinnamon, coriander, and neroli in various percentages. Add some sugar or corn sweetener, caffeine, and carbonated water, and you have Coca-Cola. The actual formula appears in Mark Pendergrast's *For God, Country and Coca-Cola: The unauthorized history*.

Royal Crown Cola was first mixed by Claude Hatcher, a young graduate pharmacist in Columbus, Ga., in the basement of his family's wholesale grocery business in 1905 as Chero-Cola.

Other early products included Royal Crown Ginger Ale, Royal Crown Strawberry, and Royal Crown Root Beer. Sales grew, and in 1912 the Company began to sell syrups and flavor concentrates to franchised bottlers, which gave birth to the Royal Crown franchise system.

One of Royal Crown's biggest lines of fruit flavors was created in 1924 when Claude Hatcher overheard a salesman describing a competitor's bottle as knee-high. The words captured Hatcher's imagination, and the Nehi brand of Grape, Orange, Root Beer, and other flavors was launched.

In 1934, Chero-Cola was reformulated and launched under the name of Royal Crown Cola. The new product became an instant triumph. People loved the new cola taste calling it, "Pure. Delicious. Refreshing." Consumers soon began to affectionately call it by the nickname of RC Cola.

We are fortunate that RC Cola was invented, because what else would we drink with that other Southern staple, the Moon Pie?

Bliemel – cont’d.

ners went off to war in the Confederate 10th Tennessee. When Forts Henry and Donelson fell to Union troops in 1862, the 10th Tennessee was among the units surrendered. The victorious Federal army then moved southward and enveloped Nashville. The newly appointed Federal military governor, future Vice President Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, arrived in mid-March with one goal in mind: restore Tennessee to the Union. Anyone opposing this would be considered guilty of treason.

As the Union army pushed southward, Johnson requested replacement troops to counteract the threat of Confederates near Nashville. In October 1862 Union Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans arrived, swelling the city’s population to 80,000 soldiers, citizens, and camp followers. The new military administration included a military police force set up to combat the thriving black market in Nashville. Its commander, Col. William Truesdale, cracked down on the smuggling of contraband goods and military information to Confederates only 50 miles south of the city. A spy network was set up and secret agents patrolled everywhere. Many Confederate sympathizers were arrested, and Union authorities seized caches of medicine, clothing, and arms.

Despite all this and his pro-Southern disposition, Father Bliemel was allowed relative freedom. As casualties arrived in Nashville from all areas, he ministered to them at the military hospitals. On December 11, 1862, an informer told Truesdale that a man “gently dressed and wearing specks” had purchased medicine to take south to Confederates. The man arrested “for treasonable conduct” was Father Bliemel. He readily admitted his guilt and his belief “that the South had been deprived of rights which justified them in this rebellion.” Despite this admission, he stayed in Nashville, “visiting the poor and the sick wherever and whenever his services are needed.” Gen. Rosecrans, a Catholic himself whose brother would become bishop of Columbus, Ohio, had personally intervened, dismissing the charges.

In June of 1863 Father Bliemel was again arrested, this time for writing treasonable articles for the *Freeman’s Journal*, a pro-Southern New York Catholic weekly. (The real author was later revealed to be newspaperman Edward E. Jones of Nashville.) But this second arrest convinced Bliemel that he should leave Nashville and head south. The 10th Tennessee had been exchanged at Vicksburg, Miss., in September of 1862 and reorganized. Listed as chaplain was Father Emmeran Bliemel, even though he was still in Nashville. When the 10th Tennessee fought at Chickamauga, Ga., near the Tennessee border, in September 1863, Bliemel decided to join the unit. Procuring a good horse from Irish Catholics west of Nashville, and possessing a letter of recommendation from his vicar general (the former chaplain of the 10th Tennessee), Bliemel travelled a roundabout route but finally joined the Confederates in November. Formally nominated chaplain by 10th Tennessee commander Col. William Grace (pronounced GRAY-see) in January of 1864, he received his official commission on February 20.

During 1864 “The Bloody 10th” Tennessee was part of the Confederate Army of Tennessee falling back before Union Gen. William T. Sherman in north Georgia. Little is known of Father Bliemel’s day-to-day life in the 10th Tennessee. “[H]is life was really filled with danger, labor and fatigue,” his friend, the Rev. J. A. Bergrath of Knoxville, Tennessee, wrote. “But he never lost courage and his patience remained constant. Day and night, whether in the quiet of the camp or in the turmoil of the battlefield, he showed the same fatherly concern for all, always ready to dispense comfort and help everywhere.”

A member of the 4th Kentucky remembered Father Bliemel:

“His quiet demeanor, and frank, sweet face, suggested that self-reliant moral courage and intrinsic manhood, that draws one to another. He just seemed to drop in with us and go uncomplainingly along, helping this one to bear a burden, ministering to another who was sick, and ever keeping up with the infirmity corps [litter-bearers]. . . . But this young priest followed the line of duty as if he was used, all his life, to war’s direst alarms. Pushing along with the ‘litter-bearers’ he was the first on his knees over a wounded companion, and those of his own ‘faith and order’ were ministered unto as they would have been at home.”

On August 26, 1864, Sherman, with Confederate Gen. John B. Hood’s battered troops still holding Atlanta, sent the commands of Maj. Gens. John M. Schofield, George H. Thomas and O. O. Howard from west of Atlanta in a counterclockwise sweep toward the railroad towns of Rough & Ready and Jonesboro south of Atlanta. Their mission was to cut the Macon & Western Railroad, the last supply line still open to Atlanta. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan’s XV Corps of Howard’s command crossed the Flint River near Jonesboro on August 30 and found Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee’s Confederates positioned between him and the railroad. Hardee had been reinforced until his command reached 26,000, some three-fourths of the infantry of the Army of Tennessee. Logan entrenched on a ridge paralleling the Flint River and brought up his artillery to shell passing trains in Jonesboro, only 800 yards away.

On the afternoon of August 31, just as Logan was preparing to attack Jonesboro himself, Hardee threw his Confederates against the entrenched Union troops, attempting to drive them back on the Flint River. The attack was badly coordinated and lasted only a few minutes before falling apart. Among the attacking troops was the 10th Tennessee. As the Confederate lines advanced into heavy Union fire, stretcher bearers rushed about gathering the wounded behind the lines. Suddenly the Confederates were repulsed. The wounded and the stretcher bearers found themselves between the lines of battle, being shelled by Union artillery as the Confederates retreated. Among those ministering to the wounded was Father Bliemel. After helping to remove the mortally wounded Col. Grace, Father Bliemel knelt beside him to hear his confession. As Father Bliemel pronounced the words of absolution and raised his hands in prayer, a Federal artillery round struck Father Bliemel and beheaded him.

At 32 years of age Father Emmeran Bliemel, O.S.B., became the first American Catholic chaplain to lose his life in action while ministering to his men on the battlefield.

After the war the bodies of the Confederate dead around Jonesboro were moved to the Patrick Cleburne Cemetery by the Daughters of the Confederacy. The Holliday family, who had tended the graves of Father Bliemel and Col. Grace, identified the remains and had them reinterred. Father Bliemel’s old friend Otto Kopf still wondered what had happened to his old friend. In 1889 Kopf was assigned to the Benedictine Abbey of St. Marys in Tusculumbia, Ala., where he learned about a priest killed in the Battle of Jonesboro named “Bluemel” whose grave was marked and cared for.

Kopf went to Jonesboro to arrange to retrieve his friend. “Thirty years ago I last saw my friend in life, full of hope, filled with energy to preach the gospel. Today what is left, a few bones only, but they are precious to me.” Initially a small marker was placed on the Alabama grave reading: “Rev. P. Emmeran Bliemel, O.S.B. Died Sept. 1, 1864, R.I.P.” Today a large stone cross marks the grave.

On March 12, 1983, the General Patrick R. Cleburne Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans presented the Confederate Medal of Honor to “Father Emmeran Bliemel, O.S.B., the first American Chaplain of the Catholic faith to die on a battlefield.”

The author is the Editor of The Sentinel.



This issue especially for:

**NEXT CAMP MEETING – SEPTEMBER 15
NEXT SPEAKER – NICHOLAS BUTLER**

Father Emmeran Bliemel, O.S.B.

The first American chaplain of the Catholic faith killed in battle while ministering to his men was an openly Confederate priest originally from Bavaria.

By John Whatley, Editor

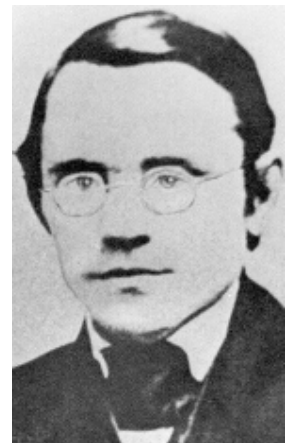
He was born in Ratisbon, Bavaria, on September 29, 1831, the feast day of the Archangel Saint Michael. At the age of 19 Bliemel and his fellow classmate Otto Kopf decided to become missionaries to German Catholics who had immigrated to the United States. Kopf later remembered that Bliemel was “a boy of grit and determination. We became bosom friends. We both determined to become candidates for the priesthood, and hence our lives were strangely thrown together.”

In June 1851, because of his strong abilities in mathematics and logic, Bliemel was accepted as a student in the Benedictine Abbey of St. Vincent in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Bliemel also taught mathematics at the college attached to the abbey. In 1852 he took solemn vows as a monk, and in 1856 he was ordained a priest, along with his friend Kopf.

Father Bliemel selected the active missionary life rather than the monastic environment. He served at rural parishes

in Hollidaysburg, Johnstown, and St. Marys, riding horseback sometimes 50 miles a day. In 1860 he transferred to St. Joseph’s in Covington, Kentucky, and then to Augusta, finally extending his missionary work into the German communities of southern Ohio. In the fall of 1860 Father Bliemel answered a call for priests to come to the diocese of Nashville, Tennessee, and was appointed pastor at the small German Parish of the Assumption.

With the firing on Fort Sumter, several companies of volunteers organized in Nashville. After Tennessee’s secession in June 1861, most of Father Bliemel’s male parishio



St. Vincent Archabbey Archives

This is the only known image of Father Bliemel, made at the time of his ordination.

(continued back on page 15)