



THE GILMOR BLADE

**Those who allow the surrender of their history,
also surrender their future!**



Official Newsletter of

THE COL. H.W.GILMOR CAMP, No. 1388, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Join us on March 3 at the annual Bull & Oyster Roast!

February, 2012

If you haven't gotten your tickets yet for the annual Harry Gilmor Birthday Bull & Oyster Roast, do it soon! This event always sells out, and tickets are going fast.

You won't want to miss out on a great evening of food, fun and fellowship high-lighted by delicious all-you-can eat food, games, a silent auction, the usual Basket of Cheer, many, many door prizes, and the drawing for this year's beautiful Mort Kunstler print, "Ghost Column."

This is a great party, and it helps to support the activities and projects of the Camp. Get a group together and arrange for a table!

Date: March 3, 7PM-midnight

Place: Heritage Parkville Gardens, 7631 Harford Road
Price: \$34 per person (adults only, please)

Make checks payable to **The Harry W. Gilmor Camp**
Send payment to Bruce Null, Treasurer, 2600 Masseth Ave., Baltimore MD 21219. Do it today!!

*"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."*

February meeting focus: goals and direction

Our February Meeting is rapidly coming up and is on the 8th of February. The means it is not on Valentine's Day as it has been previously. Ergo - you can't use that excuse for missing the meeting. The location is again at the Baltimore County Historical Society and begins at 7:30 PM.

As we shake off the winter doldrums and prepare for the spring battles and skirmishes, we need a plan and we need the tactics and the methodology to accomplish the plan. That is the gist of our next meeting.

As a member, as a potential member, as a friend of the camp, your input and ideas are important and are highly valued. Put on your thinking cap, open up your vast knowledge resource and help us set out our direction for the next 10 months.

All are welcome to attend and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.
--Michael Williams, Cmdr.

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Sons of Confederate Veterans to file federal lawsuit against Lexington

http://www.rockbridgeweekly.com/rw_article.php?ndx=22722

(Editor's note: The SCV organization released the following news release about their intention to sue the city of Lexington. Here's its full text.)

“The Sons of Confederate Veterans hereby give notice of the intention to file a federal action against the City of Lexington, in the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke Division on Thursday, January 12, 2012.

“The Sons are represented by the law firm of Strickland, Diviney, and Strelka of Roanoke which has worked in conjunction with The Rutherford Institute, a Civil Liberties organization based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Attorneys Thomas E. Strelka and Correy Diviney are serving as lead counsel.

“Conference: The Sons and their attorneys will hold a Press Conference at the steps of the Federal Courthouse located at 210 Franklin Road in Roanoke at 3PM on January 12th. If weather is severe, the press conference will occur at the law offices of Strickland, Diviney, and Strelka located nearby at 23 Franklin Road, Roanoke.

“Background and Merits: This case is to be filed by the Sons in reaction to the City Council of Lexington’s adoption of a flag and banner ordinance. The Sons assert that the ordinance was adopted due to the sole reason of the City's disapproval of the Sons’ Constitutional rights to

display historic Virginia state and Confederate flags. The Sons requested that these flags be hung for the annual observance and ceremonies for Lee-Jackson day in January, 2011. The Sons advised the City Council that it believed the adoption of the ordinance would be a violation of a 1993 Federal Court Order and Consent Decree. The Court Order was entered subsequent to a prior dispute between the Sons and the City over the public display of Confederate flags.

“The Order, endorsed by a Judge of the Western District of Virginia, provides: ‘The City of Lexington ... [shall not] deny or abridge the right of the plaintiff organization or its members . . . to wear, carry display or show, at any government-sponsored or government-controlled place or event which is to any extent

given over to private expressive activity, the Confederate Flag or other banners, emblems, icons, or visual depictions designed to bring into public notice any logo of ‘stars and bars’ that ever was used as a national or battle flag of the Confederacy.’ The federal action to be filed will further contend that the ordinance is a violation of the Son's First and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the Constitution.

“The filing requests that the Court issue a Judgment against the City for equitable relief; find the City Council and officers to be of civil contempt; requests the awarding of attorney’s fees, costs and sanctions; requests compensatory, liquidated and punitive damages; and requests such other and further relief as may be just.”

Lee Jackson Day 2012 honors WBTS heroes

Beautiful blue skies and a crisp breeze provided the backdrop for the annual Birthday Celebration ceremony honoring Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson on January 14, 2012.

Jointly hosted by the Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Maryland Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the event featured remarks by Gilmor Camp Commander Michael Williams and MD Division Commander Jay Baringer as well as the traditional

wreath-laying honoring Gens. Lee and Jackson and all those who served the Confederacy. Thanks to all who attended and “showed the colors”!



Bruce Null and Mike Merling stand guard.



February, 2012



13th Annual Col. Harry W. Gilmore Birthday Bull & Oyster Roast: Saturday, March 3, 2012



Donate to the auction:
It's better than simply "re-gifting," and it goes to a good cause! Consider donating an item to the Bull Roast Silent Auction. Items do not have to be War Between the States related. Contact Bruce Null or Steve Smith.

Help us be Cheer-full!
Every year, a fully-loaded Basket of Cheer goes to a lucky winner at the Bull and Oyster Roast. You can help provide some cheer with the donation of a beverage or suitable accompaniment. Contact Bruce Null or Steve Smith.

Get your tickets now!
This event always sells out. Don't lose out. Tickets are now available—contact a Camp member to get yours. Requests for tables (10 seats) can be accommodated if received early enough.

Minutes of Camp Meeting, January 11 2012

The meeting was opened at 7:33 p.m. by Commander Michael K. Williams. Chaplain John Ross offered the Invocation. Commander Michael K. Williams led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Salute to the Confederate Flag.

The following Compatriots were sworn in as Camp officers for 2012:

- 1st Lt Commander: Steve Smith
 - 2nd Lt Commander: Dan Pyle
 - Adjutant: Elliott Cummings
 - Chaplain: John Ross
 - Historian: Gene Leasure
- Chaplain John Ross swore in Commander Michael K. Williams as Camp Commander for 2012.

MOTION : To waive the reading

of minutes of the December 14, 2011 meeting. PASSED

Adjutant Elliott Cummings summarized the Camp's financial status.

Compatriot John Ross reported that the Gilmore Camp has processed 532 adoptions represented by 521 markers for the Adopt a Confederate Program. There are three commitments for additional adoptions.

Elliott Cummings summarized preparations for the General Lee and General Jackson Birthday ceremony, January 14, 2012. All permits have been obtained, participants contacted and invitations sent.

The annual gathering to cele-

brate the birthday of Col. Harry Gilmore will be held at his grave on Confederate Hill, Loudon Park at noon, Tuesday, January 24, 2012.

Donations are needed for door prizes and silent auction items for the March 3, 2012 – 13th Annual Col. Harry W. Gilmore Camp Birthday Bull and Oyster Roast.

Announcements: January 28, 2012- Semi Annual Maryland Division, SCV meeting, Broad-neck Library.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Elliott Cummings
Adjutant



February, 2012

Tenth Alabama Regiment cemetery in Virginia uncovered 150 years later

By Mary Orndorff

The Birmingham News

Published: Thursday, December

29, 2011, 5:30 AM

http://blog.al.com/sweethome/2011/12/tenth_alabama_regiment_cemeter.html

BRISTOW, Va. -- About an hour west of Washington, D.C., on a scrubby plot of land overrun by pricker bushes and in the shadow of dense modern townhouse developments, an Alabama cemetery was born.

Civil War preservationists with no personal links to Alabama admit to muttering a "Roll Tide" or two as they walked across the newly cleared land, the final resting place of between 75 and 90 soldiers with the Tenth Alabama Infantry Regiment.

Historical documents and archeological study pinpointed the burial grounds, a desperate place in the late summer of 1861, when rampant disease claimed up to five or six Confederate soldiers a day at what was known as Camp Jones.

There are other signs. The area is devoid of stones, except for five large rocks dug deeply into the dirt, each cut on at least one side by a man-made tool. And the area is pockmarked by man-sized depressions, not in rows, but haphazardly, as if soldiers were buried right where they died.

That level of detail, however, was unknown until Dec. 3, when a crew of about 40 volunteers, led



Brian Smith, right, and his son Dane consult as volunteers help clean up part of a Civil War camp site where soldiers from Alabama are buried. The work is part of the project Dane Smith embarked upon to earn Eagle Scout status. Photo courtesy of The Birmingham News/Mary Orndorff

by a 16-year-old Eagle Scout candidate, descended with chain saws and strong arms and gave sunlight and a defined boundary to the cemetery.

"It's one of the better Eagle Scout projects I've seen," said Rob Orrison, site manager with the Prince William County Department of Public Works Historic Preservation Division. "I was blown away by the number of people that came out."

The Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park is a new, lesser-known addition to an area rich with Civil War historical sites; Manassas National Battlefield Park is about three miles away as the crow flies.

The Bristoe Station park opened in 2007 after a developer, Prince William County officials and the Civil War Preservation Trust

reached a compromise. The massive farm property is to be developed for residential and office space, save for a 133-acre passive park marking the Battle of Kettle Run in 1862 and the Battle of Bristoe Station in 1863.

The private owner who sold the land to the developer had farmed for decades around the unmarked cemetery, indicating he knew its historic value. But it was overgrown and inaccessible. So when Dane Smith of nearby Nokesville called up looking for an Eagle Scout project, park officials recommended clearing the cemetery.

Smith's father, Brian, recalls hearing the details about the project.

"When I heard it was an Alabama regiment, I was like, 'Great, I work for an Alabama bank,'" Brian

See "10th Alabama cemetery," p.5



A muddy trail leads to the section of Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park being cleaned up as part of Dane Smith's Eagle Scout project. Photo by Mary Orndorff



February, 2012

Confederate Heritage Rally set for February 25, 2012

In honor of the Sesquicentennial of the establishment of the Confederacy, the Sons of Confederate Veterans have planned a full schedule of events in Richmond, VA.

Starting on February 24 with the public display of the Virginia Ordinance of Secession at the Library of Virginia, events culminate in a grand parade down Monument Avenue. The Heritage Parade participants assemble at 9:30 AM on Saturday, February 25, and step off at 11:00. From 12-1:30 PM, a

Heritage Rally will be held at the Lee Monument on Monument Avenue.

Lectures and a revival service round out the schedule of activities.

Parade participants will include SCV Color Guard, re-enactor units, and state Divisions. Any Confederate flags, state flags, camp flags, re-enactor unit flags, and other historic flags will make for a great display of colors.

The date chosen 150 years ago for the establishment

of the permanent government of the Confederate States of America was February 22, the birthday of George Washington. Thus, this year's Heritage Rally is set for the closest weekend to that date.

For complete details, hotel information, parade rules and the order of events, go to: <http://confederate150.com/2012.html> This February, all roads lead to Richmond!

More Lee Jackson Day images...



Speakers Ralph Vincent, from the Friends of President Street Station; and Jay Barringer, Commander, MD Division, spoke of the proud heritage of Maryland Confederates.



10th Alabama cemetery

Continued from p.4

Smith said on his second straight chilly December Saturday at the site. He is lead Washington lobbyist for Regions Financial Corp.

The volunteers, under Dane Smith's direction, cleared the underbrush, cut down trees, put up a split-rail fence and built a bridge over a creek. Their work was approved by Orrison, who told them which trees to remove and how not to disturb the ground. Tree stumps were left intact. The stone grave markers--three of which Orrison knew were there plus two others uncovered during the work--were marked with bright pink tape. The park had earlier used radar to detect the disturbed dirt of the gravesites so they could estimate a cemetery boundary.

Soldiers marching by a nearby road in 1862 wrote of the row of cedar trees leading toward a clearing with wooden grave markers engraved with the names of the dead. Several years later, someone else wrote that the markers were in stone.

"Who knows when they were changed?" Orrison said. Old pictures indicate that some of the stones were engraved, but they are missing.

Eventually, mulch will be placed on the path to the cemetery, and Orrison wants to raise the money to pay for a memorial plaque at the entrance, listing names of the 40 or so soldiers known to be buried there. He's hoping to have that work done in time for a September

dedication ceremony. The gravesites will be mapped and the site open to tourists.

Park officials hope that by registering the cemetery, genealogists and historians will help them fill in the blanks of who else might be buried there, and descendants will visit their ancestors.

"It is a little sad that we won't be able to tell them exactly where they are," Orrison said.

The Tenth Alabama Infantry Regiment included companies from Jefferson, Shelby, Calhoun, Talladega, St. Clair, Calhoun, DeKalb and Talladega counties, according to the Alabama Department of Archives and History. A second overgrown plot across the pasture is believed to be where Mississippi soldiers are buried.



February, 2012

Happy Birthday to Harry!



Clockwise: decorations adorn the Gilmor grave monument; Cmdr. Williams shares conversation and libations with an attendee; the group poses for the camera.



Clearing skies and unseasonably warm weather combined to help make a festive event at the annual celebration of Col. Harry Gilmor's birthday, held at the gravesite on Confederate Hill, Loudon Park Cemetery. This event pays homage to Col. Gilmor, giving him the salutes he richly deserves and toasting him with some of his favorite beverages.

Strosnider Memorial Scholarship 2012 provides opportunity to HS Senior

The Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Pratt Street Patriots Camp #2134 is pleased to announce the 2012 Gerald "Cooter" Strosnider Memorial Scholarship Fund. A \$1,000 scholarship is available for a deserving graduating high school Senior from Maryland or Pennsylvania.

Gerald "Cooter" Strosnider was a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Maryland who was killed by an alleged drunk driver on December 23, 2005. Compatriot Strosnider was a strong supporter of our heritage and believed in the education of historical events and values during the conflict. He was also an avid motorcycle rider and would ride all year round except when there was ice on the road.

You are encouraged to distribute the scholarship information to any

interested high school Senior. The objective of the scholarship program is to help educate young people with the history of the War Between the States.

Eligibility: Any senior in a public high school, private high school, or home school who is also a resident of the state of Maryland or Pennsylvania may apply. The student must plan to attend college, university or trade school in the United States. Students planning to further their education through long distance learning programs are also eligible. Financial need is not a requirement. The recipient of the scholarship will have to sign an "affidavit of intent" prior to receiving the scholarship funds.

Evaluation of essays: The thesis should be well developed and a minimum word count of 2000 and

a maximum word count of 2500. Judges will be looking for clear, cohesive, well-expressed, and original essays.

The General Topic for 2012: John Merryman. Students are free to select any relevant subject that appeals to them within the theme given by the panel of judges. It is important for students to remember that essays should not impugn the honor of the citizens or soldiers who defended their homes in fighting for or against the South.

Essays will be judged "blind" with judges not knowing the identity of the contestant until the winner is chosen. The scholarship does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, religion, or creed in the awarding of this scholarship. For complete details, email cooterstrosniderscholarshipfund@verizon.net.



February, 2012

The Blade offers space within its pages for business advertising by SCV members and non-members. For \$5.00 per issue, an individual can purchase a business card-size space on the Blade's Ad Page. Remember: the Blade is sent to locations all across the country, though by far most readers live right here in Maryland. Wherever the Blade goes, your message can go with it!

Interested? Please contact Bruce Null, 2600 Masseth Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21219 410-388-0894.

Send a copy of the ad you wish to place in the Blade, a short letter of explanation, and a check payable to the **Col. H. W. Gilmor Camp #1388, SCV** amounting to \$5.00 for each issue in which you want the ad to appear. That's only \$50 for a whole year (we do not publish in July and August) of ads!

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SAVE THE DATE:
February Camp Meeting: 2/8/2012