Letter to the Editor:

Unhappy on Handling of Textbook Controversy

By Bob Brewer

I am writing regarding the state of Virginia 4th-grade textbook black Confederate controversy.

This is related to the claim of 3,000 armed black Confederate troops serving under General Stonewall Jackson, and being observed marching during the Maryland campaign of 1862.

As you may recall, this was a confused mess and, in my humble opinion, handled poorly by all involved.

The author of the book claimed to have gotten the info from an SCV camp’s website; the state of Virginia did not do due diligence in proof reading what they paid for, the dismal news coverage, the so-called history professor who was quoted by so many of the news outlets and the SCV heritage defense folks.

A little background on the claim of seeing the 3,000 armed black Confederates.

I have seen this quote time and time again, and in some cases the website, etc., credits it to Dr. Lewis Steiner of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. OK so far. It took me some time, but I was able to find where the quote came from.

One, Dr. Steiner’s diary is available online at www.scribd.com/doc/39778860/Report-of-Dr-Lewis-Steiner-during-campaign-in-Maryland-1862.

Two, the book “Antietam and the Maryland and Virginia Campaigns of 1862,” from the government records, Union and Confederate, mostly unknown and which have now first disclosed the truth (1912), Author: Heysinger, Isaac W., can be found online here: www.archive.org/details/marylandvirginia-00heysrich.

Page 122 contains the famous “quote/claim” of the 3,000 armed black Confederates. The book goes on to detail Dr. Steiner’s background, how he came to watch Jackson’s troops march past his farm and the author’s credentials.

While I’m no historian, after reading through the diary and book, I think both authors have credibility. I encourage you to take the time to read through them and draw your own conclusions.

Since I have no idea what happened behind the scenes at SCV Headquarters, it’s only fair to say I am extremely disappointed with the SCV’s response to this incident.

Continued on page 7
What Ever Happened To:

General Winfield Scott Hancock?
Called the most “conspicuous” of all Union commanders by General U.S. Grant, Hancock remained a regular Army general until 1866. He was nominated for the presidency in 1880, losing to James A. Garfield by a small margin of votes. He died at Governors Island, N.Y. on Feb. 9, 1886.

Colonel Nelson A. Miles?
Promoted under Hancock, Miles received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his stand at Chancellorsville. He later became custodian of the prisoner, Jefferson Davis. Miles commanded the victorious U.S. forces during the Spanish-American War and retired in 1903. He was one of the United States’ most decorated soldiers. Miles became a pall-bearer for Hancock and died in 1925.

Confederate Gen. Pierre G.T. Beauregard?
Beauregard was involved in many pivotal events during the war that began at Fort Sumter. Davis blamed him for the defeat at Shiloh. He was relieved of command. He later was sent to Charleston, S.C., where he was given the responsibility of protecting the coasts. He returned to Louisiana where he went into railroading. He died in 1893 in New Orleans.

Major General Daniel Harvey Hill?
Hill was Stonewall Jackson’s brother-in-law. He became embroiled in a controversy with Bragg claiming Bragg was incompetent. He served in the rest of the war in command of Volunteers in North Carolina. In 1877, Hill became president of the University of Arkansas and later he headed the Georgia Military Academy, dying in 1889.

Dr. Hunter H. McGuire?
McGuire was Stonewall Jackson’s personal physician. He served with Ewell after Jackson's death and established the College of Medicine at the University of Virginia. He was a Professor of Surgery until 1878. McGuire was later named president of the American Surgical Association and then the American Medical Association. He died in 1900.

Union Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain?
Chamberlain, famous at Gettysburg, was injured twice during the war. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his role at Gettysburg. He returned to Maine, serving as its governor, became president of Bowdoin College, later a businessman and author. He died at Portland and is buried at Brunswick, Maine.
What Ever Happened To:

General In Chief Winfield Scott?
Scott is regarded today as one of the greatest soldiers this nation has ever produced. He spent most of the war years writing his memoirs, dying in 1866 and is buried at West Point.

Union Gen. George Gordon Meade?
Gen. Meade, who became famous at Gettysburg, was given a series of commands in the South during reconstruction. He tried to handle the difficult task fairly and with sensitivity. He died in 1872 in Philadelphia, Pa., after battling pneumonia and old war wounds. Meade served the post-war U.S. Army in command of various departments and divisions.

Captured near Atlanta, Wheeler was known for his desire to keep the war going. He entered politics and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1885. He served in the Spanish-American War in 1898, serving with such notables as Theodore Roosevelt and “Black Jack” Pershing. He served in the Regular Army as a brigadier general until 1900. It is said he occasionally forgot where he was in the Spanish-American War and urged his comrades “On, to fight the Yankees.” He lived and died in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Jan. 25, 1906. Because of his service in the later war, Wheeler is buried at Arlington National Cemetery—one of a few from the Confederacy so chosen.

Major General Darius N. Couch?
In 1863 Couch asked for a leave of absence telling the War Department that he could not lead his men any longer in the “senseless slaughter” under Joe Hooker. He was appointed commander of the new Department of the Susquehanna, which was organized to prevent a Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania. He ran unsuccessfully for governor of Massachusetts and served in the volunteer Army until his death in 1897.

Union Gen. Phillip Henry Sheridan?
A famous cavalryman of the Union, Sheridan went on to become the Military Governor of Texas and Louisiana. He was too harsh to last and was removed after a five-month stint. In 1884, he was made commander in chief of the Army. He devoted the remainder of his life to writing his memoirs, which were completed three days before his death in 1888. Sheridan was instrumental in helping to create and preserve the Yellowstone Park. “Little Phil” is Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
What Ever Happened To:

Confederate Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston?
Famous for fighting Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and always seemingly at odds with President Davis, Johnston made the House of Representatives for his native Virginia. President Grover Cleveland appointed him Commissioner of Railroads. Ironically, Johnston attended Sherman's funeral and refused to wear his hat in the extreme cold. He said, “If I were in his place and he standing here in mine, he would not put on his hat.” Johnston caught pneumonia and died shortly thereafter. He died in Washington, D.C., in 1891 and is buried in Baltimore, Md.

Confederate Gen. James Longstreet?
Gen. Lee's right-hand man settled in New Orleans after the war and became a successful cotton broker and insurance agent. Post-war, it is said, he was openly critical of Gen. Lee. He wrote extensively after the war, mostly defending his position at Gettysburg. He joined the Republican Party and had a long list of government appointments that included Postmaster, U.S. Marshal and Minister to Turkey. He died in Gainesville, Ga., in 1904.

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee?
Poor, homeless and suffering from a heart ailment, Gen. Lee accepted a position at the small Washington College in Lexington, Va. Lee signed the oath of allegiance necessary for the restoration of his revoked citizenship in 1865 but it was never officially recorded as Secretary of State Seward had given it away to a friend as a souvenir. Congress restored his citizenship in 1975. He died in 1870 in a coffin too short and without shoes. No flag draped his coffin. Thousands of Southerners traveled to Lexington to attend his funeral. Gen. Lee was admired in the North and revered in the South.

Confederate Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee?
This Lee, nephew of Robert E. Lee, and also Chief of Cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia, went on to be governor of Virginia, Consul General to Cuba and a writer.

Confederate Lt. General, Stephen Dill Lee, CSA?
No relation to the Lees of Virginia, this Lee went on to become a state senator in Mississippi, first president of Mississippi State College, commissioner to organize Vicksburg National Military Park and commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans. He died at Vicksburg in 1908, and is buried in Columbus, Miss.
What Ever Happened To:

Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant?
Two term President U.S. Grant, dying of throat cancer, labored to complete his memoirs in order to provide income for his family. Julia, his wife, would become a wealthy woman when the memoirs became an American classic. He completed the memoirs nine days before his death on July 23, 1885. He is buried in New York in upper Manhattan.

Union Gen. Ambrose Everett Burnside?
Gen. Burnside dabbled in business. Prior to the war he was an arms inventor. He later became governor of Rhode Island and then a U.S. senator. He died in Bristol, R.I., in 1881 and is buried in Providence, R.I.

Gen. Jubal Anderson Early?
Confederate Gen. Early, after the war, returned to his law practice, was the first president of the Southern Historical Society, was a supervisor of the Louisiana Lottery and became a lifetime opponent of James Longstreet—probably because Longstreet was critical of Lee. He died in 1894 and is buried in Lynchburg, Va.

Union General-in-Chief, George Brinton McClellan?
McClellan was an unsuccessful democratic presidential candidate in 1864, chief engineer of the New York City Department of Docks, governor of New Jersey from 1878-1881 and a writer. He died in 1885 and is buried in Orange, N.J.

Union Maj. Gen. John Pope?
Pope served in the U.S. Army in various department commands after the defeat at 2nd Bull Run. He blamed the defeat on his officers and their association with McClellan. President Lincoln agreed but felt “there was Army prejudice against him, and it was necessary he should leave.” Pope was sent to the West to campaign against Indians. He died at the Old Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Sandusky, Ohio, in 1892. He is buried in St. Louis, Mo..

Union Maj. Gen. William Starke Rosecrans?
Rosecrans resigned his commission from the U.S. Army in 1867, became minister to Mexico, a U.S. congressman from California, a register of the Treasury and a rancher. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Rosecrans died in Redondo, Calif., in 1898 on his ranch.
What Ever Happened To:

Union Maj. Gen. Lewis Wallace?
Wallace served on a commission that tried Lincoln’s conspirators, was president of a court martial that tried and convicted Henry Wirz—Commander of Andersonville Prison, became governor of the New Mexico Territory, U.S. minister to Turkey, author and speaker. It was his novel, “Ben Hur,” that gained him immortality. He died in 1905 at Crawfordsville, Ind.

Confederate Gen. (temp rank) John Bell Hood?
Hood succeeded J.E. Johnston, commander of the Army of Tennessee, CSA, and surrendered at Natchez, Miss., in May 1865. He became a merchant following the war. He died in August 1879 and is buried in New Orleans.

Confederate Lt. Gen. Richard Stoddert Ewell?
Ewell had no post-war achievements. He died Jan. 25, 1872, and is buried in Nashville, Tenn. Ewell was wounded twice and fell from his horse incapacitating him. After the war, he retired to a farm near Spring Hill, Tenn. Ewell was blamed for the defeat at Gettysburg because he chose not to capture Cemetery Hill—a questionable fact since some historians believe that position by itself could not have guaranteed a Confederate victory.

Union Maj. Gen. John Buford—Calvary?
Buford, reinforced by Reynolds, commanded the first unit to fight at Gettysburg. He died at the age of 37 of natural causes and is buried at West Point, N.Y.

Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg?
Victory at Chickamauga but a later defeat at Chattanooga caused Bragg to resign. He did become a military adviser to President Jefferson Davis. Postwar, Bragg returned to his civil engineer duties and died in 1876. He is buried in Mobile, Ala.

Union Brig. Gen. Robert Anderson?
Anderson lowered the flag at Fort Sumter in April, 1861, and raised it again on April 14, 1865. Poor health caused Anderson to retire from the military in 1863, but he returned to raise the flag in 1865. He died in 1871 and is buried in Charleston, S.C.

Union Maj. Gen. George Armstrong Custer?
From the First Manassas Campaign through to Appomattox, Custer took part in every battle of the Army of the Potomac except one. He was killed by Indians at the famous Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana on June 24, 1876. Custer and wife are both buried at West Point, N.Y.
What Ever Happened To:

Confederate Brig. Gen. Henry Heth?
Heth gained prominence at Gettysburg when he attempted to rout Buford and Reynolds on the opening day of battle. Postwar saw Heth as an insurance businessman and holder of minor government positions. He died in 1899 and is buried in Richmond, Va.

Confederate Brig. Gen. Stand Watie?
Watie was a famous Cherokee Cavalry raider and the last Confederate general to surrender. He died in 1871 and is buried in Delaware City, Okla.

Union Brig. Gen. James Harrison Wilson?
Wilson was Sherman’s cavalry commander who took Selma, Ala., with the largest cavalry ever assembled in America. He is also credited with the capture of President Jefferson Davis, resigned commission 1870 and went into a civilian career of railroading. He returned to military service to enter the Spanish-American War. Wilson retired and died at Wilmington, Del., in 1925—one of the last surviving Union generals.

Union Maj. Gen. Daniel Edgar Sickles?
Sickles became military governor of South Carolina, worked on establishing Gettysburg as a National Military Park, was U.S. minister to Spain, a U.S. congressman and chairman of the New York State Monuments Commission. He died in 1914 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Confederate General Leonidas Polk?
Polk was killed by a cannon round on top of Pine Mountain in Georgia. Polk’s remains and that of his wife lie beneath the altar floor of Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans.

Blockhouse Point Tour & Picnic

Date: May 12, 2012    Time: 9:00 a.m.

Join us for a tour of Blockhouse Point Park. There is no cost for the tour. Once the tour is complete, there will be a picnic dinner. The cost for the picnic is $15 per person.

Please RSVP Commander Frank Brown Jr. at fbrwnmcbrwn@aol.com or Adjutant Harold Ford at dept911@gmail.com if you will be attending the tour and picnic. Further information on the meeting place and directions to follow once the number of participants is determined.
Adjutant Activities

Minutes April 3, 2012

There were eight members attending including compatriots Tom Keefer, Don Beck, Bob Brewer, Steve Fernandez, Ray Parker, Dave Redden, Adjutant/Treasurer Harold Ford and Commander Frank Brown Jr.

- Compatriot Ray Parker picked up “The Civil War Guide to Montgomery County, Maryland” by Charles T. Jacobs at $9 each. Thus far, we have sold five of them at $15 each for a total of $75. This is an excellent reference for various locations in the county during the Late Unpleasantness. We have five more available.

- Compatriot Dave Redden was the only member present for the road cleanup on Saturday, March 24. Let us hope that he gets better support in the future for this noble effort.

- Compatriot Dave Redden will be leading the effort for the 2014 State Convention. The location will be at the Isaac Walton League in Poolesville.

In Memoriam


John was a Life Member and Historian of the William Kenyon Australasian Confederates, Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 2160 in Australia. He was also an Australian WWII veteran in his own right, being a Major in the Australian Defense Force; and in charge of the re-education of Japanese civilians in Japan under General Douglass McArthur after the war’s end.

Funeral services will be held May 1, 2012.

Letter to Editor

Continued from page 1

This appeared to be a golden PR opportunity for the SCV based on the diary and book I described above.

Also, any camp web page giving incomplete historic references is only hurting us. I don’t know if this is the case with the alleged source for the author of the Virginia state 4th-grade textbook, but if it is, it needs to be corrected as soon as possible.

This letter to the editor was written by Bob Brewer, a member of the Colonel William Norris Camp 1298 located in Gaithersburg, Md. It was printed in the January/February 2012 issue of Confederate Veteran.
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