The Sharpsburg Camp and the SCV denounce racism, racial supremacists, hate groups, and any group or individual that misuses or desecrates the symbols of the Confederate States or the United States.

Commander’s Notes

I want to thank everyone who came out to our October 5th meeting. Greg Clemmer switched up his original topic a bit and gave us a presentation on the Confederate Medal of Honor. A very fascinating topic and I encourage you all to read his book, “Valor in Grey” if you haven’t done so yet.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2016, 7:00 P.M., Sharpsburg Town Hall, 2nd Floor, 106 East Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Douglas Baston who will be portraying General D.H. Hill.

Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party and will be held on Saturday, December 10th, 2016, 6:00 P.M. in the private room at Hoffman’s All American Grill, 18203 Mason Dixon Rd., Hagerstown, MD, www.hoffmansallamericangrill.com. Our guest speaker will be local author and historian Eric Buckland who will be doing a presentation on “Col. John Singleton Mosby”. Space is limited, so please R.S.V.P. to me at mike24745@aol.com or 301-992-3122-C no later then Monday, December 5th, 2016.

So far, I have speakers lined up until January 2017. If any of you have any suggestions for speakers or would like to make a presentation to the camp, please let me know.

I want to thank each and every one of you for being a member of the SCV. Remember, this is your camp and I encourage all of you to participate fully.

Yours in the cause,

Michael David Wasiljov
Commander
Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582
Sons of Confederate Veterans
301-992-3122-C
mike24745@aol.com
MINUTES

The October 5, 2016 meeting of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 was held at the Sharpsburg Town Hall. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with 10 members and Friends and 3 guests in attendance. Commander Wasiljov opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and the Salute to the Confederate flag. The invocation was offered by Camp Adjutant, Jan Hiett.

- This meeting was the last night to make a timely payment for National and Camp SCV membership renewal. It was reported that 34 of our 36 members have renewed their membership. The two missing members will be required to pay an additional $5 late fee if they elect to return.
- Our newest Camp membership application was submitted by Christian Bikle, son of Camp member Tim Bikle. His application was based upon their Confederate ancestor, Lewis Albert Bikle, who served as Chaplain in the 20th North Carolina Infantry. This application and payment will be forward to National for final approval.
- The Camp would also like to welcome our newest Friend to the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582, Richard Sodergren, Jr. He will be presented with his membership certificate and lapel pin at our November meeting. At this time our Camp has six Friends with one non-renewal. We thank each one of our Friends for their support.
- Our Camp wreath made its first appearance at the Howard County Monument Ceremony on September 23, 2016. Compatriot Don Goodwin had the honor of presenting it and offered a flawless performance!
- The Maryland Division Fall Meeting will be held in Pasadena, Maryland. All current members and Friends are invited to attend this meeting. One of the issues to be discussed will be replacing our current non-logo SCV license plates and adding an appropriate emblem to represent our Cause. Suggestions regarding the plate should be brought to our November Camp meeting.
- Commander Wasiljov noted that our November Camp meeting will feature Douglas Baston, He will be presenting a first person portrayal of General D.H. Hill CSA.
- Commander Wasiljov gave an update about our Camp Christmas party which will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Hoffman’s All American Grill in Hagerstown. Our guest speaker will be Eric Buckland with his presentation about Colonel Mosby. See Commander’s Notes for further information.

The Adjutant offered the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582

SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER 5, 2016

Our guest speaker for the month was author and historian Greg Clemmer. He presented a talk on “Why the Civil War Still Matters”. For those of you unable to attend the meeting you missed a truly inspiring talk about our Confederate history and in particular our Confederate heroes. Much of Mr. Clemmer’s presentation was based upon his book Valor in Gray. This well written book has stood the test of time and sets the bench mark for books written about the war. As our speaker noted, most people today when asked to name a hero usually name some sports star, musician, or politician. Such a shame. The SCV and our Camp constantly strive to recognize and honor those that fought for the Cause. Here is the best I can do to put this idea into context and it comes from one of my favorite movies Kelly’s Heroes in 1970. “Crapgame” played by Don Rickles says to “Oddball” played by the long-haired Donald Sutherland…”Hey Oddball this is your hour of glory. And you are chickening out”. To which Oddball replies, “To a New Yorker like you, a hero is some type of weird sandwich…..” Well this describes most of today’s society in regards to the war and our Southern heroes. Mr. Clemmer described the stories behind the men that earned the Confederate Medal of Honor. During the war despite this medal being approved by the Confederate Congress no medals were issued, because simply the South had more important issues to deal with. Our heroes went unrecognized for many years and a great deal of research by the author was necessary to document each story. Included in this group were men like Sgt. Kirkland, Robert Gains, and includes one woman that sacrificed their all for the good of the Cause. Confederate soldiers were fighting for the Constitution, their state, and their belief in what our founding fathers expected as a government. Discontent with the status quo they took up arms for AMERICA. The true history of the South needs to be presented to the future generations. As Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee said in 1906, our purpose is to defend the Confederate soldier’s good name and we are the guardians of his history. A special thanks to Mr. Cleemer for his inspiring message.

ADJUTANT COMMENTS

Last month’s newsletter was lacking this column. I noted no complaints about it being missing. Usually it is one of the first sections of our newsletter that I write. With the ADJUTANT COMMENTS returning this month we will determine the column’s fate. Since the Commander Notes are written by Commander Wasiljov separately and submitted later in the month I never know what or how winded he will get. It is not my intent to make my section more important but many of the items in the ADJUTANT COMMENT section are issues that I find difficult to place in the Minutes as they were not discussed. Much of what is placed in my section are issues, announcements, information that has come available since our last Camp meeting. Despite the real purpose I still use my section to stand on the “soap box” about something that has bothered me. So for better or worse here is the November 2016 ADJUTANT COMMENTS.

- The Camp will be presenting to Bender’s Tavern an “Advance the Colors” certificate for their support of the Camp and the Cause. This will be done after our meeting so as not to interfere with their “wing night” special. We are grateful for their support. Last year we gave the same award to Jim Kehoe of the Antietam Gallery.
Disappointedly, the Maryland Division Color Guard will not be marching in the Hagerstown Mummers Parade at the end of the month. Nether Color Sgt. Ray or John were able to attend and without good leaders we would be just a bunch of “Rebel reenactors” as we were announced several years ago. The Color Guard has earned several second place finishes in this parade. There is always tomorrow, someone said.

Retirement and Recruitment: While two members have yet to renew their membership for 2016-2017 we remain hopeful that they will return to the Camp. In the mean time we have one new membership pending and another referral interested in joining the SCV. Our current total membership is 34 members and 6 Friends. Not too bad!!

Occasionally I will get some feedback from Camp members regarding the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582. Thankfully, our Camp is strong financially and well-lead. The Commander makes sure that we great speakers. IF our Camp is weak in one area it seems to be involvement in some form of honoring our Confederate ancestor’s event. Several of our members are regulars at other Camp’s events or with the Maryland, Pennsylvania, or West Virginia Division programs. Recently, I have been asked if we could explore having such a program. While these events can require a lot of planning and speakers, there may be a solution. A Confederate Canteen Ceremony. It is a simple ceremony that doesn’t require a speaker, is brief, yet meaningful. The basis of this ceremony was noted several issues ago when I addressed Sgt. Kirkland’s brave actions at Fredericksburg. If the Camp is interested please contact your Adjutant.

Deo Vindice!!

A WAR BY ANY OTHER NAME

I will travel down this road again just briefly to make a point. When in 1860 the state of South Carolina reasserted her sovereign state independence, that action was on much firmer ground than Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence when he noted that the individual colonies were sovereign states. He was wrong. They were British colonies and not as asserted by Jefferson “free and independent states”. That is why the states individually and not the mass majority collectively did not vote for independence. South Carolina’s declaration of independence was a less radical idea than Jefferson’s original work as a cornerstone of America’s political philosophy.

So to my point. Most of us have grown up calling the war from 1861 to 1865 the Civil War. I have issues with that term and a check of the dictionary is proof. Definition “civil war”-A war between two groups of people in the SAME country. The good people of South Carolina and the other states that seceded established a new government and were no longer part of the United States of America thus not part of the same country. The nation they formed was the Confederate States of America.
So despite the inaccuracy of the term Civil War, that is how that bloody conflict is known. But all of us have heard different authors, historians, and even SCV members refer to the war by different names. I compiled a least of the ones that I have heard. Perhaps you have a few you would like to add.

The War for Constitutional Liberty  The War for Southern Independence
The Second American Revolution  The War for States’ Rights
Mr. Lincoln’s War  The Southern Rebellion
The War for Southern Rights  The War of the Southern Planters
The War of Rebellion  The Second War for Independence
The Brother’s War  The War to Suppress Yankee Arrogance
The War of Secession  The War for Nationality
The War for Southern Nationality  The War Against Slavery
The Civil War Between the States  The War of the Sixties
The War Against Northern Aggression  The Yankee Invasion
The War for Separation  The War for Abolition
The War for the Union  The Confederate War
The War of the Southrons  The War for Southern Freedom
The War of the North and South  The Lost Cause

In a more jocular vein the war is also remembered as The Late Unpleasantness, The Late Friction, The Late Ruction, The Schism, or The Uncivil War. One should note that most of these names of that war are Southern origin.

With the above-noted names for the war it is no wonder that America was a house divided. There are a number of examples of families that had brothers, fathers, uncles, cousins, friends, etc. fighting for both the North and the South. This notion was especially true for the common soldier in Border States such as Kentucky, Maryland, West Virginia, and Missouri. It should also be noted that thousands of men switched sides during the war, usually by desertion. In some cases by resigning in order to change uniforms.

- Captain Frank C. Armstrong fought in the 2nd U.S. Cavalry at First Manassas. He resigned the following month and went South to become a Confederate brigadier general.
- Lt. Manning M. Kimmel also fought in the 2nd U.S. Cavalry and resigned shortly after Captain Armstrong. He became Assistant Adjutant General to General Earl Van Dorn, CSA. Lt. Kimmel was the father of Admiral H.E. Kimmel of December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor fame.
- At Manassas Frederick Hubbard and Henry Hubbard, brothers met for the first time in seven years. The former fought with the Washington Artillery of New Orleans and the latter served with the 1st Minnesota Infantry. They were both wounded during the battle and by coincidence placed side-by-side in a stable that served as a hospital.
Albert Bledsoe, a West Pointer, Episcopal clergyman and lawyer had an office next door to Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois. Bledsoe became Assistant Secretary of War, CSA.

During the battle of Gettysburg John Wentz, an 87 year old farmer, hid in the cellar of his home while his son was fighting for a Louisiana artillery unit in the yard above the cellar. The younger Wentz entered the cellar, finding the father asleep, left a note pinned to his coat.

The Federal fleet captured Port Royal, South Carolina. Commander for the defenses was Confederate General Thomas Drayton. A captain of one of the attacking ship, the USS Pocahontas, was Drayton’s brother.

General Patrick Cleburne, CSA had one brother in the Southern army and one in the Northern.

Captain John Inglis, an Englishmen with the Confederacy, led his Florida Company on a valiant charge, overran the Federal gun, and accepted the surrender of their commander, his brother.

Commodore Franklin Buchanan, first head of the United States Naval Academy, went South to command the old Merrimac when she was converted into the ironclad Virginia. One of Buchanan’s battle victims was the USS Congress, on which his brother was an office.

One can only image issues that occurred after the war with family and friends that were once enemies as life returned to “normal”. I am sure that while there were some resentment and loathing, in many cases healing took place. This exhibits itself best when veterans of both sides met at various battlefields after the war for reunions. If those men that spent years trying to kill each other could come to the table of brotherhood, why is it so difficult for those that oppose the SCV, Southern heritage and history cannot find the goodness in their hearts to reach out to those of us whose ancestors served so honorably? We are at the table, only to be recognized, while our statues, schools, and way of life remains the target of their vindictive hearts. Deo Vindice.

SLAVERY REVISITED

Owning another human being should be universally condemned. Without a doubt slavery is the world’s oldest, most despicable institution. Egyptians used slaves to build the pyramids. Africans enslaved other Africans after tribal wars. While slavery is widely considered to be exclusive to the South, all thirteen original colonies allowed slavery. In New England the slaves were sometimes Native American Indians. Over 500,000 African slaves were transported to Southern plantations by Northern owned and financed shipping companies. There is a famous photo of a slave named Gordon. A runaway slave from Mississippi whose shirtless back displayed a grotesque mass of criss-crossing scars. These injuries were the result of repeated whippings from an irrational, cruel, perhaps psychotic or sadistic owner. Yet despite the volumes of photographs taken during that era, where are the photographs of other badly whipped slaves? If whippings were that prevalent on Southern plantations why are there no other photos of men and women like Gordon? Yet 150 years past the end of the war, Gordon’s photo is the only one
regularly reproduced. Interesting enough during the 1930’s the federal government commissioned writers to interview former slaves and record their reminiscences for posterity. Published as Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves, more than 70 percent of the blacks interviewed reported dominantly positive recollections of their time in captivity. Some went so far as to say that their slave days had actually been among the happiest and most secure of their lives. A selection of quotes would include Issam Morgan, Alabama former slave. “Massa never whipped none of his slaves. None of his slaves ever run away. They all knowed they were well off. The Yankees offered me a hoss iffen I would go north with them, but I just couldn’t leave the Massa even though I wanted that hoss mighty bad.” Mary Rice, also of Alabama, stated this about her owners: “Massa Cullen an’ Mistis Mary Jane was the best master and mistress in the world. Once when I was awful sick, Mistris Mary Jane had me brung in the Big House and put me in a room that sat on the other side of the kitchen so she could take care of me herself’ cause I had to be nursed day and night. I was happy all time in slavery days, but there ain’t much to get happy over now.” Another Alabamian Simon Phillips commented, “People has the wrong idea of slave days. We was treated good. My Massa never laid a hand on me the whole time I was with him.” Again while not justifying slavery, I wonder what the opinion of the immigrants that worked endless hours in the North for a company without a soul? What was their health care like? Who looked after them during the bad times? Would 70 percent recall their work experience with positive recollections? Just saying.

“LEFT OUR CITIES LEVELED”

The Northern armies devastated our beloved Shenandoah Valley. At the same time Union General William Sherman was doing the same thing to northern Georgia. He had encountered considerably more military resistance on the road to Atlanta than his counterparts had in Virginia. His large army eventually surrounded the fortified city and vowed to “make the inside of Atlanta too hot to be endure”. When the Confederate commander appealed to him to stop bombarding the citizens of Atlanta, Sherman announced his intended plans not only included continued shelling but to evacuate and make homeless the city’s survivors once they surrendered. “I have deemed it to the interest of the United States that the citizens now residing in Atlanta should be removed, those who prefer it to go south and the rest north. I give full credit to your statements of the distress that will be occasioned by the evacuation, and yet shall not revoke my orders, simply because my orders are not designed to meet the humanities of the case”. After the battered city fell Sherman drove miles of top-heavy wagons, emaciated mules and horses, and barefooted, straggling families onto the roads south. He punctuated the desolation by burning most of Atlanta to the ground. Homes, businesses, railroads, telegraphs, boats, roads, and bridges were all fair game. He then began, with the same harshness, his sixty-mile swath through Georgia seeking the same results.
FREE AT LAST...OR WERE THEY?

In this war often the first people to be dislocated were the blacks. Many sought out the Union army. Yet the Federals failed to convince the slaves that they had not come down South to take care of them. General Sherman reported, “We bring in some five hundred prisoners, a good many refugees, and about ten miles of Negroes.” While initially the slaves were jubilant to be free the realities of homelessness sobered most of them up quickly. A slave named Jake Goodrich recalled, “The Yankee soldiers give out news of Freedom. They was shouting around. I just stood around to see what they was gonna do next. Didn’t nobody give me nothin’. I didn’t know what to do next. Everything’s gone. Tents all gone, no place to stay and nothin’ to eat. That was the big freedom to us colored folks. I got hungry and naked and cold many a time. I had a good master and I thought he always treated me a heap better than that. I wanted to go back, but I had no way.” Other articles noted that the black slaves, the very people the Yankees had supposedly been sent down South to rescue, oftentimes received the harshest treatment of all. The raping of black women made its way into the Union army’s own official records far more often than reports for punishment for it. Telling phrases document “debauching females,” “prey of lust,” “abused by scoundrels,” and “committing rapes on negroes” appear throughout these reports. Looting and robbery of blacks did not go unmentioned either. “Depredations,” “stealing,” “destruction of personal property,” “indiscriminate pillage,” and “robbing them of their money,” are also represented in these reports. A Union general concluded: “I found the prejudice of color and race here in full force, and the general feeling of the army of occupation was unfriendly to the blacks.”

RETURNING HOME

Remembering their return home after the war many Confederate soldiers were confronted with the smell of everything burnt and the layers of soot. The woods, sky, fields and many of the towns reeked with this awful smell. They noted the haze that hung over the landscape that possessed a familiar putrefied smell. It was the stench of dead and dying flesh that even nauseated the most battle-hardened veteran. The smell of the battlefield had found its way back to their homes. As the war reached its conclusion many Confederate soldiers decided to get an early start on their journey home. The roads they walked were filled with Union cavalrymen. The men in blue were hoping to add to their final count of prisoners of war. Forced from the roadways the tired and hungry Rebels attempted to hide from their potential captors. They sometimes found freedom but they rarely, if ever, found food. The following account is taken from Shelby Foote’s The Civil War: A Narrative. “One bare-footed, filthy skeleton of a Confederate met just that fate near Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Chased down and surrounded by mounted Yankees, he held up his hands to surrender. We’ve got you now, shouted a well-fed Yankee. He and the other cavalrmen drew their pistols to contain this dangerous man. But the foul-smelling Rebel gave up without a fight. Collapsing to the ground in fatigue, he replied weakly, Yep you got me, all right. And a hell of a git you got.”
QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Dr. George R.C. Todd, Mary Lincoln’s brother, was a volunteer Confederate soldier. He was noted as saying that “Lincoln was one of the greatest scoundrels unhung.”

“He is too cautious and weak under grave responsibility…wanting in moral firmness when pressed by heavy responsibility and is likely to be timid and irresolute in action.” This was General George McClellan’s assessment given to President Abraham Lincoln regarding the command abilities of Confederate General Robert E. Lee!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 28, 2016, Friday 11:30 a.m. General Lee’s Headquarter Unveiling. Buford Avenue Gettysburg, PA

October 29, 2016, Saturday Alsatia Mummer Parade Hagerstown Color Guard Event Participation CANCELLED.

November 2, 2016, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Camp Meeting Sharpsburg Town Hall. Douglas Baston portraying General D. H. Hill CSA

November 5, 2016, Saturday 9:00 a.m. Maryland Division Fall Meeting at Rivera Beach Library Pasadena MD


December 10, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Camp Christmas Party and Meeting at Hoffman’s American Grill Hagerstown.

Listed above are several Sons of Confederate Veterans events. Please consider attending these events and supporting the Cause. Our Camp now has an official presentation wreath which will be used during appropriate ceremonies. Further information about these events can be obtained by contacting the Adjutant of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 at the Camp meeting, telephone 301-797-1021, or e-mail: bsc1582@aol.com

Thank you!