

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582

“The Sharpsburg Sentinel”

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.



June 2017

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Commander's Notes



I want to thank Carl Sell for an excellent presentation at our May meeting on his new book, “Thank God He Survived Pickett’s Charge”, which is about his great grandfather, Private James Farthing four years as a Confederate Private.

Our June meeting will be our annual chartering dinner and because of our speaker’s schedule it will be hosted on Thursday, June 1st, 2017, 7:00 P.M., Hoffman’s All American Grill, 18203 Mason Dixon Rd., Hagerstown, MD 21740. Our guest speaker will be former SCV CIC Kelly Barrow who will be speaking about the history of the SCV and on recruiting. Due to limited seating, by the time this newsletter goes out, reservations will no longer be accepted for this meeting.

Monday, May 29th is Memorial Day, so please take time out of your schedule while you’re having fun to remember all of the veterans who are no longer here with us and thank them for their sacrifice.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for your support and for being a member of the SCV.

Yours in the cause,
Michael David Wasiljov
Commander
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MINUTES

The May 3, 2017 meeting of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 was held at the Sharpsburg Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. There were twelve members and Friends and four guests in attendance. The meeting was opened by Commander Wasiljov with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag followed by the Salute to the Confederate flag. The invocation was offered by Chaplain Steve DeFreytas. Camp members and Friends were reminded that our June meeting will be held on THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017. This annual chartering meeting will be held at the Hoffman's All American Grill at 7:00 p.m. Our special speaker for the evening is the SCV's Past Commander-in-Chief, Kelly Barrow. Reservations are required. There was a brief discussion about the current SCV policy that will be implemented this year for the collection of dues. See more about this issue in the Adjutant's Comments. Bottom line is our Camp needs to collect all dues and have them sent to Headquarters before SEPTEMBER 1, 2017. It came up in discussion that as a Camp we are fortunate to have the use of the Sharpsburg Town Hall. Everyone in this process has made us feel at home, plus they require no payment. We can thank our Friend Ed Beeler, Councilman for the town for his efforts on our behalf. It was agreed that the Camp would present the town a SCV Certificate of Recognition. I will look after this matter in the near future. Several members questioned the status of the Maryland DMV replacing our non-logo license plates with the Bottony Cross version. The answer from the Division Adjutant is that we are awaiting the bureaucracy to make the official approval. Don Goodwin gave us an update on the Mt. Olivet Cemetery's Annual Decoration Day Ceremony. Two of our members flagged the headstones of our Confederate heroes. The Confederate dead on the back row received 105 flags which was basically every other stone. In addition, 103 gravestones of Confederates that are interred throughout the cemetery were also flagged. Our Camp had five members and two guests attend the ceremony which was a good representation of our Camp. Compatriot Don Goodwin and Lt. Commander Stuart McClung presented our Camp's wreath during the program. Members were reminded that there are several upcoming events that are worthy of your appearance. Please consider supporting the Camp and our CAUSE.

The speaker for the evening was SCV member Carl Sell. Compatriot Sell did a wonderful job of presenting information regarding his Confederate ancestor, Private James Farthing who had originally joined the 38th Virginia Infantry and later was a member of the 53rd Virginia Infantry Regiment. Both of these units were raised in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. James Farthing served the Cause for four years. The marches, train rides, battles, illnesses, and wounds were part of his service record. All this information has been incorporated into Carl Sell's newest book "*Thank God He Survived Pickett's Charge.*" Private Farthing survived the war, married and raised one daughter. He was killed in a railroad accident more than 20 years after the war had ended. We are blessed to have our roots in the Southland and were further blessed by having Compatriot Sell share his family story with all its twists and turns.

Chaplain Steve DeFreytas offered the benediction and the meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Hiett- Adjutant

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ADJUTANTS COMMENTS

This is the busy time of year for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Please check the UPCOMING EVENTS section for possible activities that you may want to attend. It is also at this time that your Adjutant and Treasurer begin collecting the dues for the SCV, Division, and Camp. I have managed to review the revised SCV policy regarding dues and I believe what you will read below will be the final word on the subject. Incorporated into the SCV policy is our Camp's adjustment in collecting this money. The "grace period" for collecting dues has changed and we no longer have that 90 day period of time. To avoid a one month collection period, the officers of the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582 have agreed that we will begin collecting dues at once. This early collection will give the officers time to manage the paperwork and make the required payment in a timely manner. We also hope this method will help members avoid being considered delinquent. There is an addition \$5 fee for late payments.

The bottom line, our Camp must make one payment to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and that check will include all members that have paid their 2017-2018 membership fee. This check must arrive at SCV National BEFORE September 1, 2017. The collection process within the Camp will remain the same as it has been for several years. First, all dues will go to the Adjutant as I am responsible for keeping the roster. I will record your payment and forward it to Glen. Glen will cash your check at once and deposit into our Camp's checking account. At the end of the collection period Glen is allowed to send only one check for the entire Camp. Please realize that in the past our Camp and every other Camp was sending in multiple checks and it became a train wreck for those at National.

For most Camp members all the above-noted information means that you need to write a check payable to:

Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582-SCV

Membership renewal for most members will be \$35. That will cover National, Division, and Camp fees. You can bring you check to the Camp meeting. I really would prefer not taking cash. Please be kind and write a check! Your second option is to mail your check to me:

Jan Hiett-Adjutant
921 Dewey Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21742

As noted above, once received your payment will be recorded and I will forward it to Glen Stickel, our Treasurer. Given the fact that Glen sends only one check to National we need to have your payment by **AUGUST 23, 2017**. This date will give me time to record your payment, adjust the roster, forward the checks to Glen, and give him a week to get the Camp's check to National. I will not hold your check and will send all checks to Glen once a week. Let the payments begin NOW. An e-mail will follow to

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remind everyone of the deadline. For the past two years our Camp had the distinction of having every member renew their membership. I hope we can make it three years in a row.

***There is one exception:

If you are a Life Member of the SCV you owe only \$5. That covers both your Division and Camp fee. Again, a check to the Camp paid through the Adjutant.

FORT SUMTER-AN ACT OF DEFIANCE?

In December 1860 the newly elected Abraham Lincoln had not been sworn into office. President Buchanan was faced with the unraveling of the relationship between the northern and Southern states. Nearly a century of discord between these factions finally exploded with Southern states rapidly seceding from the Union. On December 26, 1860, six days after South Carolina seceded from the United States, Major Robert Anderson USA abandoned Ft. Moultrie located on Sullivan Island in Charleston, South Carolina. He deemed that fort indefensible. He relocated his 1st U.S. Artillery to the more defensible Fort Sumter. He did this without orders from his superiors. Fort Sumter was not completed nor did it have its required allotment of guns. This was due to President Buchanan's downsizing of the military in the South. On January 9, 1861 the Union attempted to resupply and reinforce Fort Sumter's garrison. This effort was repulsed when the cadets from the Citadel fired on the relief steamer *Star of the West*. South Carolina's Governor Pickens demanded that President Buchanan on January 21, 1861 immediately evacuate Fort Sumter. The governor noted that the fort was "not consistent with the dignity or safety of South Carolina". The governor promised safe transport out of Charleston harbor for Major Anderson's men, weapons and property. With no response from the United States government, South Carolina continued to press the federals to evacuate the fort, but no response was received. President Lincoln before being elected stated "that there was no reason for bloodshed in defending the fort". Yet, he ignored his own recommendation. Lincoln also stated publically before secession occurred, that "If Virginia will stay in I will withdraw the troops from Fort Sumter." Eleven days after his inauguration, Lincoln asked his cabinet for recommendations regarding Fort Sumter. Only one cabinet member suggested reinforcement of the fort. Even General Winfield Scott recommended that it be surrendered. To further placate the South, Lincoln sent one of his law partners to Charleston to assure all parties that Fort Sumter would soon be vacated. Included in this peace offering was a note from the president to South Carolina's governor assuring him that "no effort to throw in men, arms or ammunition would be made without further notice." By the spring of 1861 seven of the "deep South" states had already organized the Confederate States of America. On March 28, 1861 Lincoln changed his mind about the Confederate States. Overriding advice from his cabinet and military advisors, he ordered a relief

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expedition of ships to land at the fort. Included in this convoy were 200 troops. By April 11, 1861 South Carolina government continued to arbitrate the surrender of Fort. Sumter. Major Robert Anderson was again encouraged to surrender the fort. When he failed to surrender the fort by April 12, 1861 and 36 hours of bombardment of Fort Sumter began. The entire affair resulted in no battle casualties. It was at this time the visiting Southern delegation was able to convince Major Anderson to surrender the fort. His 90 man garrison was allowed to leave for New York City aboard one of the supply ships sent by Lincoln. By April 15, 1861 President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to invade the South. And you know the rest of the story. Lincoln's actions were never reasonable, legal, or rational. He noted before the war, "I never have been, am not now, and probably never shall be, in mood of harassing the people, either North or South." Thanks for not harassing the South!

"LONG GRAY LINES"

Of the 115 military colleges founded in the decades before the War for Southern Independence, 99 were in the South. In the above titled book by Rod Andrew Jr. he writes that Southerners, then as now, equate military service, honor, and patriotism with civic duty and character development.

DESTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

"Lincoln may have been right in thinking that he was bound to preserve the Union. But it was not the Union that was preserved. A union implies that two different things are united; and it should have been northern and Southern cultures that were united. As a fact, it was the Southern culture that was destroyed. And the northern that ultimately imposed not a unity but merely a uniformity."

From the *"Collected Works of G.K. Chesterton Volume XXXV, The Illustrated London News 1929-1931.*

DESTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION PART II

Here is a historical surprise you won't find many places. According to *The Political Incorrect Guide to THE SOUTH* by Clint Johnson, the Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens, the Emancipation Proclamation was up for negotiation even as late in the war as February 3, 1865. According to Johnson, Vice President Stephens CSA met with Lincoln aboard a ship at Hampton Roads, Virginia on the above

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date. Lincoln (insert Honest Abe here) stated that the Emancipation Proclamation was only a war-time measure. He further reiterated that as soon as the war ceased, the proclamation's effect would also cease. Lincoln had voiced the same thing to at least one congressman and a close friend before his meeting with Stephens. Even though the United States Congress had just passed the 13th Amendment, ending slavery, Lincoln wanted to keep his options open. He even offered to pay slaveholders up to \$400 per slave saying "it was wrong in the north to carry on the slave trade and sell them to the South."

TREASON YOU SAY?

The Frederick News-Post recently did an article on the Trimble Camp #1863 SCV 2016 Annual Decoration Day that was celebrated on April 29, 2017 at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, Maryland. For the most part the article accurately portrayed our event. The author was puzzled by our failure to mention "slavery". Instead she noticed we dwelled on our heritage and belief in the Cause. Again, we have confusion between one of the issues of the war and the actual cause of the war. One of the issues was slavery, along with taxation and tariffs, distribution of tax money, failure of the United States government to enforce federal laws, and the state's rights issue. All these were unresolved issues. The CAUSE of the war was the election of a tyrannical leader that refused to follow the Constitution that he swore to follow.

The Frederick newspaper article while generally accurate, offered the chance for their many uneducated readers an opportunity to make on-line comments-insults on our heritage. If you read these comments it is frightening how uneducated many individuals are about the war. In fairness this is Frederick, the town where only the Union state delegates managed to vote on secession. Our Confederate representative were arrested by the army, without cause and were being held in various Maryland jails and prisons. Does that seems fair? One odious on-line responder from Frederick wrote that our ancestors were traitors. Wrong!! NO CONFEDERATE LEADERS WERE EVER CHARGED WITH TREASON. A TRIAL WOULD HAVE SHOWN THAT SECESSION WAS CONSTITUTIONAL. Our ancestors warned us that the victors write and teach their version of history. Read history-Not revise history!

MAJOR-GENERAL FITZHUGH LEE REVISITED

Several months ago I managed to misquote the great General Robert E. Lee in a newsletter article entitled "*Horn and a Horse*". As several knowledgeable compatriots noted the quote was attributed to Fitzhugh Lee. I make amends with some additional words of wisdom from Fitzhugh Lee.

"It has been said that man is under no circumstances so independent as he is when the next step is for life or death. The men who were to be enrolled as the soldiers of a new Confederacy of States, to battle for its existence, knew they were taking a step which might bring to them a hostile bullet and a soldier's grave."

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“The existence of the slightest doubt as to the justice of the course of their States, or the presence of the smallest suspicion that their bayonets would glisten with treason, would have surely brought that independence of action spoken of, against which the pleading eloquence of their leaders would recoil as the waters are dashed back from a great rock.”

“No earthly mandate can compel men to leave their firesides, families and friends, and embrace death with rapture, unless their God-given consciences stamp with approval the motives which control their conduct.”

“With a free, fair and honest ballot, undisturbed by extraneous influences and untouched by the modern methods of bribery and corruption, the masses of the people, from which came unbroken ranks of gallant men, voted with practical unanimity to ratify the decision of their State Conventions. The movement to change the map of North America and make two republics grow where only one grew before, was enthusiastically received by the great body of Southern people.”

LINCOLN OUR WAR CRIMINAL

Last month I offered opening arguments regarding Lincoln’s numerous violations of laws that were in place prior to 1865. These international laws governed the conduct of the military during wartime. Here is my list of crimes that Lincoln committed by his continuous circumventing of the law and in many cases suspending the Constitution altogether. You may add your favorites.

- Lincoln waged a war that cost the lives of approximately 620,000 Americans including the murder of 50,000 Southern civilians
- Lincoln ordered the arrest of numerous politicians in Maryland including 30 members of the State legislature, a U.S. Congressman, the Mayor of Baltimore and most of the Baltimore city council. These political detainees were imprisoned at Fort McHenry and Point Lookout without trial in many cases for several years.
- Lincoln illegally shut down and confiscated the printing presses of dozens of newspapers that had spoken out against him.
- Lincoln invaded the South and blockaded Southern ports without the consent of Congress and without a declaration of war as required by the Constitution.
- Lincoln created two new states without the consent of the citizens of those states in order to artificially inflate the Republican Party’s electoral vote.
- Lincoln ordered the confiscation of private property, including firearms in violation of the Second Amendment. Furthermore, he effectively gutted the Ninth and Tenth Amendments.

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- Lincoln ordered his generals to attack Southern cities causing death of civilians and destruction of the South all to restore the Republic or was it to free the slaves?

Our Southern ancestors were committed to state's rights. It was their fervent belief that the United States Constitution had been ratified by a compact of independent states. Therefor the individual states had the option to leave the Union when it was no longer functioning as designed. State's Rights!!

DEO VINDICE!!

A LITTLE GIRL'S REMEMBRANCE

In a 1921 *Confederate Veteran* magazine a grown woman, Clara Maclean of Tampa, Florida recalled her youthful experiences of December, 1861. As a young girl living in Columbia, South Carolina she witnessed the birth of a new nation, The Confederate States of America. Here are a few of her recollections about the events and the enthusiasm of that time.

“No one who took part in the opening scenes of the war, or was even a spectator, can ever forget them. Though but a girl myself, I felt the tumultuous pressure of events and was overwhelmed by that wild, almost fierce, love of country which took possession of the women of the South when the tocsin sounded the first notes of battle. Like those of old Sparta, we were ready to string the bows of our heroes with locks shorn from our own heads or, like those of Rome, to bid them return with their shields or on them. No sacrifice was too heavy, no daring too great for the tender hands and high-beating heart. Alas! We lived to prove our faith by our works.”

PEACE DESTROYED

Clara Maclean, as noted above was a young girl at the outbreak of the War for Southern Independence. Like most young ladies of the time she kept a diary. I found one very interesting entry that is worthy of mentioning because of the irony.

“November 14, 1860. Great political excitement. Lincoln has been elected, and war seems inevitable. Visited the studio of Henry Kirk Brown, the sculptor, at work on the marble group for the pediment of the Statehouse. The central figure “Peace”, is ten feet high, beautifully proportioned. Mr. Brown gave me a paper weight, with his initials, made from the first chip from it.”

In 1876, Clara Maclean visited Mr. Brown at his home in Newburg, New York. He related to her that the “Peace” statue was shattered while in his studio by the first shot from Sherman's cannon in February, 1865. Image a Yankee destroying peace!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| May 27, 2017, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. | Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade-Color Guard Event. |
| June 1, 2017, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. | June Charter Meeting and Dinner. Hoffman's All American Grill, Hagerstown, Md. Speaker-Past Commander-in-Chief, Kelly Barrow. RSVP required. |
| June 3, 2017, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. | United Daughters of the Confederacy Decoration Day Ceremony, Elmwood Cemetery, Shepherdstown, WV. |
| June 3, 2017, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. | Confederate Memorial Day sponsored by the Maryland Division UDC and the Col. Harry Gilmer Camp at Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore. |
| June 10, 2017, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. | 100 th Anniversary Virginia Monument Rededication, Gettysburg, PA. Limited parking see Adjutant for parking arrangements. |
| June 24, 2017, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. | Corbit's Charge Ceremony for Lt. Murray. Westminster, MD. |
| July 4, 2017, Tuesday, Noon | Havre DeGrace Fourth of July Parade. Color Guard Event. |
| August 26, 2017, Saturday, Noon | Annual Potomac River Crossing at White's Ford. |

This is a list of the current local SCV events. Generally our Camp is represented by several members at these events. Whenever possible our Camp also places a wreath to honor our heroes. Please consider attending some of these meaningful events and support the CAUSE.

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