



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

November 2008

Baltimore, MD

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 12 CAMP MEETING

The next meeting of the Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp will be on November 12th at 7:30 PM. We will meet at are normal location - The Baltimore County Historical Society. The beginning of the meeting will feature a

SHOW and TELL

Always a favorite when we have had them in the past and I have no doubt that our meeting will once again bring out the truly great stuff we as SCV members collect. We've seen the gamut at previous meetings with terrific weaponry - rifles, pistols, swords. Period ammunition, flags, uniforms and accoutrements. And then there is the ephemera with newspapers, photos, cartoons, paintings, prints, envelopes and letters.

We are looking forward to seeing what you have to share with us.

Since we are having our meeting only a week after the elections, I'll be bringing a print from the period that was drawn by Adalbert John Volck. This particular print was his illustration of the rigged election of 1862 in Baltimore under occupation by Federal Troops. I'll have more to say on that and several other items to share with you.

My bringing items does not eliminate your responsibility to also bring and share. As I said, we have really seen some great stuff in the past and I doubt if I'll be disappointed this time.

Come join us! SHOW and TELL, November 12th starting at 7:30 PM - See all of you then!

Receive this newsletter via E-Mail

Would you like to have the Gilmor Blade days earlier in you e-mail inbox? In an effort to reduce production and mailing costs, we are now offering the option of receiving this newsletter in a PDF format. If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter in electronic format, please contact Steve Smith at mosby43@verizon.net.

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans:

"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."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,
United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana,
1906

Save the date! The Annual Harry W. Gilmor Bull Roast will be held February 7, 2009.



COLONEL HARRY W. GILMOR CAMP #1388
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
OCTOBER 8, 2008

MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 7:32 p.m. by Commander Michael K. Williams.

Commander Williams offered the Invocation.

Commander Williams led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and the Salute to the Confederate Flag.

10 members and guests were in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commander Williams summarized the meeting of September 10, 2008.

Compatriot Steve Smith reported 343 adoptions / 332 markers from the Adopt A Confederate Program.

Commander Williams reported on the findings of the SCV General Executive Council regarding the April 12, 2008 Maryland Division election for Division Commander.

-Kirk Lyons, the ANV Inspector conducted an investigation of the election.

- The SCV General Executive Council ruled that it would not overturn the April 12, 2008 Maryland Division election and that Donald Beck is the duly elected Commander of the Maryland Division, SCV.

-The GEC recommended that the Maryland Division, SCV Constitution be updated to conform with the National SCV Constitution regarding elections.

Commander Williams announced that the Maryland Division, SCV Semi Annual meeting will be held on October 11, 2008 at the Broadneck Library near Annapolis.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Commander Williams led a discussion of plans for the 2009 Maryland Division Convention to be hosted by the Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp on Saturday April 25, 2009.

Former Gilmor Camp member Steve Ashe from the Florida Division, SCV joined us for the meeting.

Elliott Cummings reported that the John Hopkins University the Clipper Room at Shriver Hall is not available for the January 17, 2009 General Lee and General Jackson Birthday Ceremony

The St. Phillips and James Church and the Baltimore Museum of Art were visited as possible alternate locations for the after Lee/Jackson ceremony social gathering.

St. Phillips and James has a wedding scheduled for Jan. 17, 2009.

The BMA will rent us the Hess Board Room.

Commander Williams will visit the BMA to determine if the Hess Board Room is acceptable, or if alternative rooms are available.

Commander Williams announced that an Army of Northern Virginia, SCV meeting will be held near Point Lookout on October 25, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

There was a discussion of the Point Lookout flag pole fund. This fund was established in 2001 to purchase a flag pole and Battleflag to be placed at the Federal Cemetery for Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland. The funds are being held for the Maryland Division, SCV by the Col. William Norris Camp. Since the possibility of such a pole after 7 years is very unlikely, and since the Norris has refused to revert the fund to the Maryland Division, the Gilmor Camp asked for and received a refund of its 2001 contribution of \$300.

There was a discussion about sending the \$300 donation to Jim Dunbar of the Point Lookout Memorial Committee for a pole for the Maryland flag at the Point Lookout Memorial.

MOTION: To wait before sending the \$300 to the Point Lookout Memorial Committee until the situation regarding a Maryland Flag pole is clarified PASSED

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Commander Williams announced the Annual Hopkins Candlelight Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008.

The Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008.

The 10th Annual Col. Harry W. Gilmore Birthday Bull and Oyster Roast will be held on Feb. 7, 2009. Door prize and silent auctions items, particularly wines and liquors, are needed.

Compatriot Dan Pyle was appointed Chairman of the Gilmore Camp Nominations Committee.

Compatriot Bruce Null read a new National SCV directive authorizing Friends of the Camp.

Guest Jason Jess showed us a D guard Confederate knife and other artifacts from his collection.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 8:50 p.m.



Confederate of the Month

James LeMates, born in Baltimore circa 1832, enlisted at Harpers Ferry on May 21, 1861. He was present September 1861 through April 1862. He then reenlisted in Co. E, 2nd Md. Inf. on September 14, 1862. Pvt. LeMates was wounded in action (left shoulder) and captured at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Sent to David's Island, N.Y., he was exchanged in November of 1863. Pvt. LeMates was admitted to a Richmond hospital on November 24, 1863 and furloughed on December 2, 1863. Pvt. LeMates was then captured at Weldon R. R. on August 19, 1864 and sent to Point Lookout. Exchanged again on March 14, 1865, he was paroled at Richmond on May 8, 1865. Pvt. LeMates was a member of the Army & Navy Society, Maryland Line Association. He entered the Old Soldiers' Home, Pikesville, Md. on June 6, 1899 at age 67. James LeMates died there on April 20, 1901 age 69. He was interred on Confederate Hill (Plot G-32), Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore.

Biker's present check for Confederate Cemetery upkeep

By Michele Page Helena-West Helena, Ark. -

Bo Corder and Kathy Gravenmier of the Maple Hill Cemetery Association were presented a check by Jeff Steele and Wayne Webb of the local Blackjack District 21 Arkansas Bikers Aiming Towards Education (ABATE) at the club's weekly meeting Wednesday night. ABATE has spent months raising funds through various endeavors and events to help restore the Confederate Cemetery.

"Not many people would do this," said Corder as he and Gravenmier expressed their gratitude.

"We can't say thank you enough," remarked Corder.

Gravenmier said that since ABATE's efforts commenced, people have been sending funds to the cemetery association. She said that Wednesday, the association received a \$100 contribution in the mail for the confederate cemetery.

"It takes a lot for the upkeep," said Corder.

Corder said that the paving of the road, which is in terrible shape, would begin Tuesday and also said the added funds granted from the Helena-West Helena Advertising & Promotions Commission would provide would help restoration efforts. Corder also said the association was installing a small parking area for the many tourists who visit the historical gravesite.

At the gathering, ABATE members and guests participated in a 50/50 drawing in which Corder was the winner. He donated his winnings back to the restoration project.

ABATE's members said they were proud to help restore such a historical site for area. ABATE, a nonprofit organization meets Wednesday nights and is gearing up for their annual Toys for Tots drive and invites anyone interested to come down to The Queen of Clubs and join the organization. The winners of the ABATE Horse Shoe Tournament were awarded plaques for their efforts. The event held Saturday, netted over \$400 for the restoration project and ABATE member James McCall and Webb awarded Michael Hadder and Chad Huling with their plaques.

<http://www.helena-arkansas.com/news/x1288572250/Bikers-present-check-for-Confederate-Cemetery-upkeep>



Adopt-a-Confederate Program

Confederate Hill, Loudon Park Cemetery

Baltimore, Maryland

Over one million of our ancestors served their nation, and we who are linked to them are duty bound to preserve their memory. Each one is to be recognized and given the due *honor* that, for many, was denied them in life.

We cannot rewrite our *history*. We must seek to fully preserve it in any form. Part of our written and visual history is the final resting places of those who sacrificed all for the Cause in which they believed.

Each prior generation has given us a very precious *heritage*. With that heritage comes the responsibility to protect and preserve the memories and monuments of all who served their nation.

Confederate *Hill* embodies the zenith of our duty to honor our ancestors, preserve our history, and respect our heritage. Confederate Hill contains the earthly remains and historic stones of 610 Soldiers, Sailors, and one Marine.

In their name, we are asking for your *help*.

Why Adopt a Confederate?

Most of us understand why it is so important to preserve and maintain sites like Confederate Hill. You might have a few questions about why we are going about it as we are. Let me anticipate some of your concerns.

Why aren't you using replacement stones provided free of charge by the Veterans Administration?

V.A. (Veterans Administration) stones are shaped differently from the original markers found on Confederate Hill. There are already a few on the Hill and the difference is very obvious. In an effort to preserve the historic look of Confederate Hill, we chose to use 12" x 12" granite stones placed level with the ground in front of any existing original marker. V.A. stones that can be placed level with the ground are too large for the available space in most cases. In addition, the Veterans Administration will only provide a marker in cases where no marker exists.

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Can I adopt any Confederate on the hill?

Yes. Exceptions: *Those interred in private burial plots, those with existing V.A. or other special markers, or those who have already been adopted, will be unavailable.* As a result, if you have a particular soldier you would prefer to adopt, I would advise you to get your selection in soon. ***When making your selection, please keep in mind that we would like to see new stones go first to those with a missing or unreadable marker.***

How do I adopt a Confederate?

Simply select a soldier that has not yet been chosen and make a **\$200.00 tax-deductible donation** to cover the cost of the engraved marker. This donation amounts to just 55 cents a day over the course of a year. Loudon Park Cemetery is producing these stones at cost and the friends and members of the Gilmor Camp, SCV, are installing the stones themselves in order to reduce the cost further.

What happens when I adopt a Confederate?

You will receive a certificate of thanks that will include your name or the name of you organization, the name of the soldier you've adopted and the unit(s) in which he served. You will also receive a letter indicating the amount of your donation, which is **tax-deductible**. You will also receive an invitation to attend the dedication of your marker at a ceremony conducted annually at Confederate Hill, Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore.

To Adopt a Confederate:

Contact Adoption Coordinator [John Ross](mailto:JohnRoss58@verizon.net) via email at JohnRoss58@verizon.net *or* via U.S. postage at: 2104 Dalewood Court, Timonium, MD 21093 as soon as possible. If you use email, please enter "**Adopt a Confederate**" in the subject line. Emails without this phrase in the subject line might not reach John.



GETTYSBURG, Pa. -- In 1863, eleven major roads converged on this town. Which is why history did, too.

The founding of the American nation was the hinge of world history: Popular sovereignty would have its day. The collision of armies here was the hinge of American history: The nation would long endure. Which is why 200 or so generous private citizens recently gathered here for a quiet celebration of their gift to the nation -- a sparkling new Museum and Visitor Center that instructs and inspires.

In 1997, Bob Kinsley, a contractor in York, Pa., decided that something should be done about the decrepit facilities for explaining the battle and displaying its artifacts. His determination survived more than 50 public meetings and three congressional hearings, and two years of resistance from rival bidders, some Gettysburg merchants, and people who think the private sector takes up space that the public sector should fill.

He started the Gettysburg Foundation and hired Bob Wilburn, who had administered Colonial Williamsburg. Wilburn raised the \$103 million that built the new center, which includes a theater for the scene-setting film narrated by Morgan Freeman, and the Cyclorama, the circular painting that depicts Pickett's Charge on the battle's third and final day. Americans today are so constantly pummeled by the sensory blitzkrieg -- the sights and sounds of graphic journalism and entertainment -- they can hardly fathom how the Cyclorama dazzled viewers when displayed in 1884. Magnificently restored and presented, it is still stunning.

The battle here was fought in and around a town that continued to grow. At one point there was a Stuckey's restaurant where the second day of fighting raged. The Gettysburg Foundation's work includes recovering battle sites from urban encroachments.

It recently bought the 80-acre Spangler farm. The house, which was behind Union lines, was used as a hospital for both sides. Gen. Lewis Armistead of Virginia died there. He received his mortal wounds during Pickett's Charge, leading the deepest penetration of Union lines on Cemetery Ridge at the spot now known as "the high-water mark of the Confederacy."

Recently, a Gold Star mother finally visited Gettysburg, after driving by it often en route to visit the Arlington, Va., grave of her son, who was killed in Iraq. She was especially moved by these words from a Gettysburg newspaper published four days after the battle: "Every name ... is a lightning stroke to some heart, and breaks like thunder over some home, and falls a long black shadow upon some hearthstone." Gettysburg still stirs, but not as it used to, or should.

In "Intruder in the Dust," William Faulkner wrote: "For every Southern boy fourteen years old, not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it's still not yet two o'clock on that July afternoon in 1863, the brigades are in position behind the rail fence, the guns are laid and ready in the woods and the furled flags are already loosened to break out and Pickett himself with his long oiled ringlets. ..." Faulkner's sentence continued; you have just read less than half of it. To continue in his style:

Ours would be a better nation if boys and girls of all regions, and particularly the many high school and even college graduates who cannot place the Civil War in the correct half-century, could be moved, as large numbers of Americans used to be, by the names of Gettysburg battlefield sites, such as Devil's Den, the Peach Orchard, the Wheatfield, Culp's Hill and Little Round Top, instead of being like the visitor here who said it is amazing that so many great battles, such as Antietam and Chickamauga and Shiloh, occurred on Park Service land; and another visitor who doubted that the fighting here really was fierce because there are no bullet marks on the monuments.

Ten years ago, this column asserted that disrespect for the national patrimony of Civil War battlefields should be a hanging offense, and said: "Given that the vast majority of Americans have never heard a shot fired in anger, the imaginative presentation of military history in a new facility here is vital, lest rising generations have no sense of the sacrifices of which they are beneficiaries." Today, at an embarrassing moment of multiplying public futilities, private efforts, in collaboration with the National Park Service, have done something resoundingly right that will help a normally amnesiac nation to long remember.



Restoring history

http://www.starexponent.com/cse/news/local/article/restoring_history/22012/

By Nate Delesline III

BRANDY STATION — After 150 years of sustaining history, the walls of the Graffiti House are getting some much needed support of their own.

On Wednesday, the first of several phases of anticipated restoration and repair work began to stabilize the upstairs walls of the modest landmark.

“Today, we are taking the first step to preserve and protect an amazing Civil War artifact in Culpeper County,” said Della Edrington, a volunteer with the Brandy Station Foundation, a nonprofit preservation group.

Built in 1858, the house was used as a Confederate hospital following the cavalry battle at Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. Union troops later occupied the building, strategically located at a major rail depot.

After the war, homeowners whitewashed and wallpapered over the graffiti.

The house was set for demolition in the early 1990s, but those plans were halted when the writings were uncovered.

The foundation purchased the building in 2002 and has worked to preserve it since.

Frederick Ecker and Gregory Cowan of Fredericksburg-based Tidewater Preservation Inc. are handling the restoration work, which is expected to continue today.

Cowan said the work must be performed with painstaking care to prevent further damage to the horsehair plaster walls that are covered with charcoal and pencil graffiti from Union and Confederate soldiers.

The walls were formed by pressing wet plaster into a wooden lath, creating “keys” that held up the plaster.

But time and 150 years of vibration from passing trains has put much of the plaster in need of immediate repair to prevent collapse. Edrington said the removal of a chimney has also caused the house to shift.

“Some of (the sections) are literally hanging by one horsehair,” said Cowan.

Cowan and Ecker will restore smaller areas by removing dust and debris, then injecting a custom adhesive behind the plaster to rebind it to the lath.

Larger areas will be strengthened by drilling holes into cracks and injecting the plaster-stabilizing materials.

“We have to be super careful not to slop any of these chemicals,” Cowan said.

Total restoration of the house is expected to cost about \$1.2 million, with funding from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources defraying some of the costs.

The work is slated to include replacing the missing chimney, repairing the foundation and installing a heating and cooling system.

Ecker said maintaining a moderate interior temperature and humidity will help preserve the plaster.

Edrington said earlier this year that more than 400 square feet of historic writings and drawings may still be hidden under 19th-century whitewash.



Scientists have new clue to mystery of sunken sub

By BRUCE SMITH – Oct 17, 2008

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — It's long been a mystery why the H.L. Hunley never returned after becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship in 1864, but new research announced Friday may lend credence to one of theories.

Scientists found the eight-man crew of the hand-cranked Confederate submarine had not set the pump to remove water from the crew compartment, which might indicate it was not being flooded.

That could mean crew members suffocated as they used up air, perhaps while waiting for the tide to turn and the current to help take them back to land.

The new evidence disputes the notion that the Hunley was damaged and took on water after ramming a spar with a charge of black powder into the Union blockade ship Housatonic.

Scientists studying the sub said they've found its pump system was not set to remove water from the crew compartment as might be expected if it were being flooded.

The sub, located in 1995 and raised five years later, had a complex pumping system that could be switched to remove water or operate ballast tanks used to submerge and surface.

"It now really starts to point to a lack of oxygen making them unconscious," said state Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston and the chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission, formed to raise, conserve and display the sub. "They may have been cranking and moving and it was a miscalculation as to how much oxygen they had."

In excavating the sub, scientists found little intermingling of the crew remains, indicating members died at their stations. Those bones likely would have been jumbled if the crew tried to make it to the hatches in a desperate attempt to get out.

"Whatever occurred, occurred quickly and unexpectedly," McConnell said. "It appears they were either unconscious because of the concussion (from the attack) or they were unconscious because of a lack of oxygen."

Archaeologist Maria Jacobsen cautioned that scientists have not yet examined all the valves to see if the crew may have been trying to surface by using the pumps to jettison ballast.

"Can we definitely say they weren't pumping like mad to get water out of the tanks? No we cannot," she said. "I'm not really at a point where I think we should really be talking about what these guys were doing at the very end because we simply don't know all the valve settings."

But she said scientists can definitely say the valve that would have been used to remove water from the crew compartment was closed.

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hGu8-osVyTVV0EyAa8A3ImTnmaegD93SE8585>

THE GILMOR BLADE

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Important upcoming dates!

*November 12, 2008 Harry W. Gilmor
Camp meeting 7:30 at the Baltimore
County Historical Society, Cockeysville.*

*February 7, 2009 Annual Harry
Gilmor Birthday Bull Roast*