

**The Palmetto Sharpshooter
Camp 1428, Anderson, SC
January 2010**

Newsletter Editor: (Open)

www.palmettosharpshooters.org

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To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit 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 which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Reporting for Duty

Last November, you selected me as the next commander of the Palmetto Sharpshooters.

I am humbled, and at the same time encouraged, by all the support I have received from fellow camp members. I look forward to a great year. With your help, input and participation, we will all share in a great year.

Before we go any further, we all need to say a big thanks to Jamey and his leadership group for all their sweat and work over the past years. We look forward to seeing them at our meetings and their continued involvement in our camp.

Since I am not from around here, I would like to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Maryland. My wife and I moved here from Wisconsin where we lived for 37 years. We lived in Madison where I earned a Mechanical Engineering degree at UW Madison. I love green and gold. I hate purple. Don't get me going on the Packers and Vikings. I am an army veteran, serving from 1966 to 1968. My folks and two sisters live in Georgia, where my dad was Camp Commander of the Currahee Rangers for 2 years. My Confederate heritage includes over 50 grandfathers, uncles and cousins who fought to preserve their independence in the infantries and cavalries of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Arkansas. I joined the SCV under the service of my ggg grandfather, Goody McManus from Edgefield County who served with the 7th South Carolina Infantry Battalion (Enfield Rifles).

I also have grandfathers who fought with the South Carolina Militias during the War of 1812 and the Revolution. Another grandfather was one of the mountain

Camp Leadership

**Commander:
Jim Whiteside**

**Adjutant:
Tim Medlin**

**Lieutenant
Commander:
Open**

**Executive
Committee
Open
Open
Open
Open**

men at the battle of King's Mountain. I'm not from around here, but my family heritage is from around here.

So what am I considering for our camp this year? Here is an outline of what we discussed at our recent planning meeting.

Theme: I would like to center our activities this year around a central theme. I did not have to look too far - no further than General Dill's Charge. Take a good read of it at the top of the first page. It's the reason for our existence. This year, I suggest our activities focus on the confederate soldier: guard his history, emulate his virtues, and perpetuate his principles. Towards that end, we will begin each meeting with two segments. First, I will read a letter from a confederate soldier to his wife to help us better understand this soldier, why he fought and become more aware of the hardships he endured. His emotions were probably no different than yours or your confederate ancestors. Second, our own Dan Snipes will tell us at each meeting what the Palmetto Sharpshooters were doing that month during the war years. If we are Palmetto Sharpshooters, we should know what our namesakes endured during each meeting month. As we search for speakers during the year, I would like to hear about the struggles of the common soldier. Instead of hearing about trench warfare tactics at Petersburg, I would rather learn about the miseries of trench life endured by our ancestors. I want all of us to leave each meeting with an increased appreciation and awe for our ancestors.

Initiatives: At our recent planning meeting, we discussed two initiatives for this year. The first initiative is a joint activity with local UDC and SCV camps. My first thought is an easy, informal event such as a summer picnic – just a get together for a meal and conversation at a county park. Ideally with both Anderson County UDC chapters and the other two SCV camps. The second initiative is camp sponsorship of one or two cemeteries. The work of the grave registration committee is explained below. They have discovered hundreds of graves of confederate veterans, and in some cases, cemeteries that need attention. How do you eat an elephant? Answer: One bite at a time. I would like us to pick one or two cemeteries and honor the veterans buried there. Remember the Charge phrase about “guardianship of his history?” John Grey has done an admirable job of restoring Willis Chapel cemetery. The committee has identified five confederate veterans buried at this cemetery. John is close to finishing, but it would be great to help him realize his dream and have all five graves standing tall. These veterans deserve at least that much from us. Who else can look after them other than us – descendents of their brothers in arms? Also, the landowner of the Lewis/Morehead family cemetery has contacted us. There are confederate graves in that cemetery, and the family has asked for help in restoring the cemetery. By the way, have you found your confederate ancestor's grave? Do you know what shape its in? Do him honor and thank him for his service. Are you sure he rests in a setting he would be proud of?

Communication: Another planning meeting item was communication. I would like the camp to realize three big upgrades this year. The first upgrade is the Newsletter. Your camp needs a newsletter editor. This newsletter edition is

strictly from the commander, but you and I are going to get very tired of reading my thoughts each month. We need someone to answer the call for a newsletter editor. The second upgrade is the camp's website. The existing site has been stagnant for too long. A great website is always changing, constantly including new info and deleting old info. Julia and Mike Barnes are considering updating the website. If they take on the challenge, they will need suggestions about what we want on our site. The third upgrade is to square away our membership roster and get everyone's contact and membership information up to date. Mike Graham and Tim Medlin have tackled this one. So if they ask you for updated info, please help them out.



- 6:00 Commander's Staff Meeting
- 6:30 Sharp: Dinner is served.
- 7:00 Meeting begins: Flag Pledges and Reading of the Charge
- 7:05 Reading from Letter To Amanda
- 7:10 This month in the life of a Palmetto Sharpshooter
- 7:15 Business Meeting
- 7:30 Guest Speaker
- 8:00 Adjournment

Guest Speaker:

As we begin our search for speakers during the year, our thanks go to Mike Graham for stepping up to be our speaker this month. Mike will present "The Founding of America and the Constitution."



The committee includes Mike Graham, John Grey and Jim Whiteside. The committee is surveying all of the nearly 100 cemeteries northwest of Hwy 29 within Anderson County. The committee began work in February of 2009. The

committee has surveyed about 70 cemeteries and located/verified 471 confederate veterans and 623 possible veterans. The project is nearing completion as they primarily have smaller, family cemeteries left to survey and verify. All of the findings will be sent to South Carolina SCV for processing.

Tuesday of each week, the committee typically surveys three cemeteries. Each fourth Tuesday, they meet at the main library to verify names within published rosters.

When the committee finishes, they hope to present a report to the camp during one of our future meetings. They have many interesting stories and sights to tell us about. You won't want to miss this one.



I believe one of the better-kept secrets is that the National SCV Convention will be held in Anderson in July. Even though Manse Jolly is the host camp, we may be called upon for "warm body" assistance (an old army term). And we could be tapped for more significant roles as planning gets to the final stages. This can also be a great awareness / marketing opportunity for our camp. Check it out at <http://www.mansejollycamp6.com/convention.asp> We will keep you informed at the event draws closer.



This period of transition opens up several opportunities to help your camp. There are several open positions just waiting for your initiative, ideas and talents. Take another look at this newsletter's first page. Dave Crowe is considering the Lieutenant Commander's position. Thanks Dave. Which of you is next? In addition, there are several other positions that I need to recognize. More to come at the January meeting.

At Ease till the 21st

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