

Palmetto Sharpshooters Camp 1428 Sons of Confederate Veterans

Anderson, South Carolina

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SHARPSHOOTERS SPEAKER IN APRIL:

Mike Barnes will be the speaker this month. His topic will be photography of the pre-war and war era. He will have some actual examples of carte de visites, ferrotypes (tintypes), and ambrotypes. One special treat is the ambrotype of Clem Maloney, the brother of Mike's grandmother's grandmother. Clem was a private in the CSA, and died at Point Lookout. This is a rare opportunity to see up close & personal these examples of photography from the past, and to hold them in your hand.

Dan Snipes will share activities of the Palmetto Sharpshooters during April of the War years. Jim Whiteside will read another letter to Amanda from her husband, Marion Fitzpatrick. We should be proud that such dedicated men and women served the Confederacy.

From the High Ground – by Commander Whitesides



This may be a bit premature since this is April, not May. However, by the time our May meeting rolls around, the opportunity will be gone - so its time to seize the moment. May 10th is a very special day in the calendar of the old South and its grand traditions. They have gotten a bit rusty is the current nauseating wave of political correctness. May 10th is Confederate Memorial Day. It's not the Confederate version of the National Memorial Day, but it's the original Memorial Day celebration. Regardless, we all are indebted to all those servicemen and woman who did not return from battles over the history of this country.

Nearly 20,000 of South Carolina's sons gave everything they had, including their lives, during the War Between the States - more than during any other conflict. That's a staggering thought. Take a few moments to read an article elsewhere in this newsletter about Anderson's celebration of Memorial Day. Of course, back then both World Wars were yet to come, so the War Between the States was the focus. After reading the article, one really wonders how Anderson got from that level of citywide celebration to today's ho-hum attitude.

Don't let the sacrifices of your Confederate ancestor go without some recognition and appreciation on your part this Confederate Memorial Day. Take a few minutes and give them a few minutes. I know you are proud of them and their sacrifice, and you should show it. Come join your camp members on May 8 at the Anderson County Courthouse where the camp will observe the event and at 12:30, Kelly Burrows will speak.

Jim Whiteside, Camp Commander

WANT TO START YOUR PARTICIPATION AT A REENACTMENT?

With the Battle of Anderson County and some of the living history events at the local museums, many camp members have been encouraged to become involved. Some of our SCV members would like to help present views of life during the 1860s but don't want to be soldiers (let's be honest – most soldiers were in their 20s & 30s, and many of us are beyond that range!)

How about being a civilian? Schoolchildren need to see men and women in period attire, and to understand what farmers or merchants did in our area. Demonstrators of the past, often called "Living Historians," involve three essential activities: research, creation, and demonstration. Research in books, newspapers, diaries, letters, photographs, artifacts, and other primary sources helps members make their impressions as historically accurate as possible. They create their impressions using local seamstresses and craftsmen, commercial sutlers, emporiums, flea markets, their own devices, or any other source that provides material goods that closely resemble objects used during the 19th century.

Demonstrations to experience the 19th century and teach others about the era occur at reenactments, museums, school events, civic organization meetings, round tables, and any other venue where people hold an interest in civilian life in South Carolina during the 19th century.

ORDER OF CONFEDERATE ROSE MEETING



Michelle Dobson is leading the effort to rebuild the Order of Confederate Rose. She has moved to Pennsylvania for several months and will not be at our meeting. She will be available via email if any of the ladies need to contact her. Her email address is: angeladobson536@yahoo.com.

She asked that all ladies be at the April meeting for elections on this night. The ladies will meet at the same time the committee members for the SCV meet (6 PM). These are the results from the OCR meeting on March 18, 2010:

- 1) The ladies have adopted the name of Emmala Reed Chapter.
- 2) For the time being, the OCR will only charge a five (\$5) dollar chapter fee. This will bring new members to twenty (\$20) and renewals to fifteen (\$15).

Confederate Memorial Day

In the honor of our Confederates who died during the War Between the States, the Palmetto Sharpshooters will celebrate Confederate Memorial Day on Saturday May 8 at the Anderson County Courthouse from 10 am to 3 pm. Mike Graham has arranged for Kelly Burrows to speak at 12:30. Kelly is the Commander of the Army of Tennessee.



The Camp's Pocketbook

If you attended last month's meeting, you heard the discussion about the camp's pocketbook. If you were not there, here are the significant points. Although the camp has excellent reserves in the form of CD's, the executive committee is concerned about the monthly cash flow in our day-to-day operating account. Here is the short version:

Let's look at inflow. Camp dues are \$10 per year, which is collected upon your annual dues submittal to the State SCV. With about 100 enrolled members, that represents about \$1,000 for annual operations. All other operating funds are derived from special events such as sales of memorabilia at re-enactments, rodeos, etc.

Now let's look at outflow. Our newsletter costs include paper, copying and postage fees. This comes close to 75 cents per mailed copy. The exec committee firmly believes that a mailed copy of the newsletter is essential to all members without Internet access. However, the camp really appreciates everyone who can receive the newsletter by Internet rather than postal service. Right now, we mail about 57 newsletters monthly, so this monthly expense represents about \$515, or about one half of our annual operating budget. Another expense item is the rent on Hammond Community Center for our monthly meetings. That cost is \$65 monthly, or about \$780 annually. We try to offset this expense by adding \$2 to the meal caterer's fee of \$6 per meal. So if you work the math backwards, we need to have at least 32 members at each meeting who pay for a meal in order to offset the room rental. This is calling it very close. Another way of looking at it is that the camp only comes out ahead if more than 32 members attend a meeting, and can pay out money if less than 32 attend. For example, If 25 members attend, the camp treasury must kick in \$14 to cover the room rent, if 39 members attend, the camp nets \$14. Since half the annual operating budget is for newsletters, we only have about \$500 available to make up for the room rental over the year.

Two months ago, the executive committee decided to transfer some funds from one of the CD's into the operating budget to give us more cushion in the account.

One of the options on the table is to look into an alternate meeting place. The savings come from the normal restaurant practice of no room charge if we meet there. We don't need to discuss the possibilities here - we have been down that road before. However, the executive committee believes that we may have to repeat the journey. Our survey some months ago indicated that you are satisfied with Hammond Community Center and the meals we have. I know what the survey says, but the checkbook has a different opinion and we need to listen to it.

Please let us (the executive committee) know your opinion. This issue is not going to go away, and we don't have the ability to print money like Washington.

Buy Four, Get One Free

The March / April edition of the Confederate veteran included an advertisement on the last page for a special edition sesquicentennial pistol. As you can imagine, this really perked John Grey's interest. John purchased one of these pieces, and the barrel will include the name of a confederate ancestor of his choice on the barrel.

John likes to take thinks another step. In talking with the manufacturer, John found out that if four camp members order one of these pistols, the camp would get a complimentary pistol. John would like more members to look into this offer, so perhaps the camp can get a free pistol to sell.

If you are thinking of buying one of these pistols, please let John know so we can get credit towards a free pistol. If you have any questions about the program, see John at the next camp meeting.

Report on the State Convention

The South Carolina Division of the SCV convention was held March 26 - 28 in Florence. John Grey was our camp delegate. Here are John's comments from the convention:

- * Our camp won honorable mention (Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter Award) for our electronic version of our newsletter.
- * The convention delegates elected Mark Simpson as Commander and Leland Summers as Lieutenant Commander.
- * The SCV Constitutional Amendment #1 was approved. This allows for an additional of two standing committees - the H.L. Hunley JROTC Award Committee and the South Carolina Confederate Veterans Graves Registration Committee. The organization and purpose of each new committee was defined.
- * The SCV Constitutional Amendment #2 was approved. Brigade Commanders will be elected in even numbered years and serve a two year term.
- * The SCV Constitutional Amendment #3 was not approved. The frequency of Brigade Commanders visits to camps will remain.
- * The SCV Constitutional Amendment #4 was approved. Terms for members of the Executive Council will now be two years from the convention when elected or appointed.

Confederate Memorial Day – Early Anderson Events

Confederate Memorial Day is a state holiday celebrated on May 10 in South Carolina. Other Southern states celebrate it on different dates. South and North Carolina chose May 10 because it coincides with the death date of General Stonewall Jackson in 1863.

Our camp will hold its memorial day ceremony on Saturday, May 8 at the Anderson County Courthouse from 10 am to 3 pm. Mike Graham has arranged for Kelly Burrows to speak at 12:30. Kelly is the Commander of the Army of Tennessee.

With the day quickly approaching, I thought I should see how the day was observed "back in the day" when there will still war veterans among us in Anderson. I did and it's an eye opener when comparing how it was observed near the turn of the 20th century and how its observed today in the early 21st century. I found a book about early Anderson history titled "Journeys Into The Past" by Frank Dickson. One of the chapters discussed Confederate Memorial day observances in the early 1900's. Wow - How times have changed. Here is an excerpt from the book:

Confederate Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, stood out as the most popular occasion among Andersonians during the spring of the Gay Nineties, with Miss Lenora C. Hubbard, a foremost educator of Anderson who died on November 2, 1933, at the age of seventy-eight, as president of the Memorial Association.

Miss Hubbard, who served as principal of West Market Street School, led the activities that paid tribute to Confederate soldiers whose military leader, General Robert E. Lee, died on October 12, 1870. The school children of Anderson would turn out in holiday attire on Confederate Memorial Day, while battle-scarred veterans laid aside their business or routine affairs to mingle their voices in recalling incidents of battle, campfire jokes, and songs identified with their military service.

The exercises were held in the Opera House, which would be crowded by Andersonians who wished to honor the memory of the dead soldiers as well as the survivors. The front seats were reserved for the Confederate veterans, and about one hundred of them generally found themselves able to march in under Commander J. L. Tribble of Camp Benson.

The program usually lasted two and a half hours. One of the most exciting scenes took place when the daughters of old soldiers filed on the stage to the strains of war tunes and placed the pictures of Generals Lee and Thomas J. Jackson and the names of President Jefferson Davis and other Confederate notables, and then built around them a floral monument with the names of each of the Confederate states. Prominent citizens of Anderson, including General M. L. Bonham, a well-known orator, gave addresses and short talks, and Commander Tribble would point most of his speech to the young generation. "Young men of Carolina," he once exclaimed, "these survivors beside your sires, perhaps grandsires, stood shoulder and shoulder and dared to face the world to fight for what they considered their constitutional rights. Because they failed is not proof that they were wrong."

Commander Tribble continued: "In honoring these you show your filial honor of some heroic father, whose dust perhaps rests in an unknown grave, or whose bones lie bleached on the field of battle, whose memory ye dare not dishonor. A few brief years ago these were the voters, the rulers, the leaders, and guardians of constitutional liberty. Their eyes are now growing dim; their stalwart forms are bending under age and the burden of life. They are no longer a host, only a small band of heroes, whom the avarice of age in its greed and thirst for self-aggrandizement would thrust aside.

A feature of the annual Confederate Memorial Day would an exhibit of numerous relics of the "Lost Cause" in a corner of the dining hall of the Opera House. They included canteens, pistols, a surgeon's medical case, and uniforms. One relic of the Revolutionary drew extraordinary attention - a sword worn by Elijah Brown during the American struggle for independence from Great Britain. He was the grandfather of Colonel B. F. Brown of Anderson.



Anderson, SC, Reunion of Confederate Veterans – 1906 (Buena Vista Park)

Memorial Day observers would be served a real "Confederate Bill of Fare" at dinner, which would offer "genuine Rye Coffee" and numerous other "war-time" delicacies. These meals were provide by the ladies for the benefit of the fund under the leadership of Hubbard toward the erection of a Confederate monument, which been standing on the Square in Anderson since 1901. In the afternoon the school children would gather at the Opera House and proceed to the different cemeteries - first to the Presbyterian, next to the Catholic, from there to the Baptist, and finally to Silver Brook on White Street. The battalion of Patrick Military Institute cadets, under the command of Captain J. M. Patrick, would lead the students, and a squad of the PMI youths would fire a military salute at each place. The children would decorate soldiers' graves at the, various cemeteries, and, appropriately enough, the population of Anderson did not forget the graves of Yankee soldiers.

My, how times have changed!!! Honor your ancestor with us on May at the Anderson County Courthouse. Stop by between 10 am to 3 pm. Kelly Burrows, Commander of the Army of Tennessee, will speak at 12:30. Please take some time to honor those who gave their lives for the confederacy and remember how Anderson honored them in the past.

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Address Correction Requested

