

THE CONFEDERATE INFORMANT

the official newsletter of the Major James Morgan Utz Camp #1815

Sons of Confederate Veterans

and the Brigadier General Francis Marion Cockrell Chapter #84

of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars



February 2015

Commander's Call

I would like to wish everyone a Happy belated New Year. Our January Meeting and Potluck Dinner was a great success. We got to honor a Korean War Veteran, Carl Cullens, with the SCV War Service Medal. We will also be sending Carl's brother, compatriot James Cullens, his SCV War Service Medal. James served in Vietnam and lives in Dearborn Michigan. We also handed out several appreciation certificates to Camp Compatriots who helped out so much this last year. Everyone had a great time. We had 43 people attend. The food was excellent and everyone did a great job providing the meal.

As you know the New Year brings about changes (like new Federal Laws and State Laws). It seems we are no different. We have made a big change with our meeting place. We will meet at the Spencer Road Branch Library in the area of the St. Peters Community Commons. It's at 427 Spencer Rd. St. Peters MO. We have it booked through February 2016. If you are looking at the library from the front, on the top left side it says Community Commons on the building. Our next meeting is February 21 at 1:00 PM. So come by and check it out. I think you will be impressed with this great facility. The entertainment for the meeting will be a discussion on why our Confederate Ancestors fought in the War for Southern Independence. You will not want to miss it.

The other event planned this month is February 28 Jefferson Barracks Swap Meet that begins at 8:30 AM and closes at 3:00 PM at Affton White Rodgers Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO. 63123.

Dave Roper; Commander

Major Utz Camp #1815

We have a lot of good news..... to share with you in this issue of the "*Confederate Informant*". First of all we are growing! We are approaching eighty members now, and are now the largest Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp in the state of Missouri! That is quite an achievement, and is due to the hard work we have all done in the past few years recruiting. We have a new leadership team that was sworn in at the January Awards Banquet. In the photo below, pictured from left to right is outgoing Commander Gene Dressel, giving the oath of office to: Duane Mayer, First Lieutenant Commander; Dave Roper, Commander; Brad Bludsworth, Adjutant; and Billy Ed Bowden, Treasurer.



Our Awards Banquet was a huge success, with forty-three people in attendance. As usual we had enough food to feed an army and no one left hungry. In a special election Rob Graham was elected Second Lieutenant Commander to head up the satellite Camp we are starting in Pilot Knob, Missouri. Fifteen Camp members were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding dedication and hard work for the Major Utz Camp.

Carl Cullens was presented the SCV Military Service Award and Medal for his service to our country. Carl's brother James Cullens, of Michigan was also awarded the War Service medal. Photo on the right is Dale Barley an AMVETS officer congratulating Carl on his award.



Two new members were initiated into the Major Utz Camp at this meeting also. We are pleased to welcome compatriots Jim Boulware and Wayne Moore into the camp.



Jim Boulware and Wayne Moore



Camp members receiving Certificates of Appreciation

More good news..... for the Camp! As stated above, we are growing at a phenomenal rate. Along with this comes growing pains. With our membership approaching eighty members, and an anticipated attendance of thirty to forty members per meeting, we have out-grown the Lion's Club building. As a result we have secured a larger modern meeting place. Beginning with the Saturday, February 21st meeting (which will start at 1 PM) we will assemble at the Community Commons/Spencer Road Library. The address is 427 Spencer Road, St. Peters, MO 63376. It is just off Mexico Road and South of the new Menards Home Improvement Center.
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You can access Mexico Road from Interstate 70 by exiting either at Mid-Rivers Mall Drive and go South to Mexico Road, then East to Spencer Road or exit at Cave Springs and go South to Mexico Road and then West to Spencer Road. When you get to Spencer go South a few blocks to Boone Hills Drive. The Community Commons Building (427 Spencer Road) is located at the South-East corner of that intersection. For this meeting we will be in Room 240. We were able to get reservations for all of 2015 and up till February 2016 for this facility. Our 2015 schedule is as follows:

February 21st room 240, **March 14th** room 259, **April 18th** room 259, **May 9th** room 240, **June 6th** room 240, **July 11th** room 240, **August 8th** room 240, **September 12th** room 240, **October 10th** room 240, **November 7th** room 240, **December 12th** room 240, **January 9th 2016** room 240 **and February 13th 2016** room 240.

All of these are Saturday afternoon meetings beginning at 1 PM.

At the Missouri Division Executive Council Meeting.... we discussed the ongoing struggle to preserve the artifacts held by the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia. The museum's directors, in a fit of "political correctness" has seen fit to purge any and all artifacts of the Confederacy. There is an effort by the Sons of Confederate Veterans to have these Confederate artifacts moved to our Elm Springs, Tennessee headquarters where they can be safeguarded properly by people who have a genuine interest in preserving American history.

Plans for the **2015 Missouri Division Reunion** were finalized. If you haven't reserved a room at the **Isle of Capri Hotel in Boonville**, you might want to do so, as they are filling up rapidly. Reservations can be secured at: **(800) 941-4753**.

We received some encouraging news from a Missouri legislator recently. It seems that the legislators might look favorably on a land transfer which would put the administration of the Higginsville Cemetery into the hands of the Missouri Division SCV. If this should pan out, our first act will be to restore the Confederate battle flag to its rightful place at the cemetery.

Upcoming events....On Saturday, February 28th 2015, we will set up a recruiting booth at the annual Jefferson Barracks Swap meet. The replacement for the Grant Center isn't finished yet so the Swap Meet will be held at the Afton White Rodgers Community Center, located at 9801 MacKenzie Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63123. Those scheduled to staff the tables include: Duane Mayer, Brad Bludsworth, Gene Dressel and Dave Roper from 8:30 AM till 3:30 PM. In addition, Mike Bevill will be there from 8:30 AM till Noon, and Marty Martin will be there from Noon till 3:30 PM. The vendors represent artifacts from the Revolutionary War till the 1870's. This has always been a fun event so come on by even if you aren't scheduled to be there, and check out all the neat stuff. **The 2015 Missouri Division SCV annual Reunion** will be held at the Isle of Capri Casino and Hotel in Boonville, Missouri on **March 20-21st**. In addition to the business meeting Saturday morning, we will have a tour of historic Arrow Rock and the Sappington Home.

February Birthdays...include Compatriot James Stroud of Chesterfield, Virginia who was born on February 25th. Congratulations and welcome to the septagenarian club.

The winner of the 2014 Derringer Raffle.... was Mr. Gary Rick, who purchased six tickets at the St. Charles gun show. Many thanks to Jimmy Woods and Don Lang who donated the Derringer and Bowie knife for the raffle. The camp made a handsome profit on this one , and we are now pursuing other fund raising ventures for 2015.

2015 Committee Chairmen....include:[1] Dave Roper- Genealogy; [2] Dave Roper- Recruiting; [3] Brad Bludsworth-Fund Raising; [4] Dave Roper - Heritage; [5] Gene Dressel - Time and Place; [6] Dave Roper-Programs; [7] Mark Palazzolo- Web Site; [8] Gene Dressel- Newsletter; [9] Bill Bowden- Graves Research; [10] Rob Adelson- Color Sergeant; [11] Gene Dressel-Historical; [12] Bill Bowden-Quartermaster; [13] Duane Mayer- Chaplain; [14] Ted Watkins; Judge Advocate; [15] Duane Mayer- Retention; [16] Duane Mayer - Library and [17] Bill Bowden - Scrap Book. Committee charimen will be contacting their respective committee members and briefing them on their plans for the upcoming 2015 season.

Colonel Celsus Price....was the second son of General Sterling Price and Martha (Head) Price. He was educated at the University of Virginia and when the struggle for Southern Independence began, Celsus joined his father's staff. At the Battle of Iuka, Mississippi, Colonel Price was the one who caught General Henry Little as he was shot from his horse on the 19th of September 1862. Celsus' tender care of the general was to no avail and General Henry Little died from his wounds. Colonel Price served on his father's staff throughout the War, including the 1864 Battle of Westport.

After the War, Celsus worked to reunite the war torn family in Washington, Texas. In June of 1865 they returned to Keytesville, Missouri where his brother Edwin Price had been maintaining their family farm. General Sterling Price was in exile in Carlota, Mexico at this time and the family made plans to join him. In April 1866 they boarded the Steamer "Vera Cruz" in New York, bound for Mexico. Unfortunately the ship sank in a storm off the coast of North Carolina destroying all of their possessions. By the time the family arrived in Mexico, General Price had abandoned his hope for a Confederate Colony there and they returned to St. Louis. Back in St. Louis Sterling, Edwin and Celsus began a tobacco commission and supply business.

Tragedy struck again in September 1867 when Celsus' infant daughter Lydia died. Two days later his father, Sterling Price and his wife Celeste died also. According to his obituary in the 1909 Confederate Veteran Magazine (page 518), Celsus never fully recovered from this tragedy, and he spent years wandering throughout the Far-East studying Eastern Mysticism and Theosophy, searching for answers in Oriental Occultism. Returning to St. Louis after his long quest, Celsus passed away at the age of 68. He was cremated and his ashes buried in the Price Family Plot at Bellefontaine Cemetery in St, Louis.

Liberty Quotes.....

"It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong." *Voltaire*

"Deal with the faults of others as gently as you deal with your own." *Chinese Proverb*

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another, time after time, and not get discouraged." *Sir Winston Churchill*

"The welfare of humanity is always the alibi of tyrants." *Albert Camus*

"Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less." *General Robert E. Lee*

Our Confederate Creed.....

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes so that future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendents of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

"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 soldiers 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."
Lieutenant General Stephen Dill Lee, 1906



In Memoriam....Our condolences go out to Compatriot Donald Lang, His beloved wife, Roberta (Bobbie) Lang passed away on February 3rd 2015 after a prolonged struggle with cancer. We all remember her for her efforts toward the establishment of a Confederate Rose Chapter here, and and her participation in the Florissant Veterans Day Parade, where she and Don walked the entire two mile route. Bobbie was also the niece of Compatriot Rojer Snyder. She was a gracious Southern lady, and will be missed by all of us.

My Confederate Ancestor Compatriot LeRoy Woods.....

3rd Great Grandfather Henry Ruffin Kennedy

Henry was born May 20 1820 in Wilkes Co. N.C. Married Nancy Ann Nixon Abt. 1841 they had 6 children together. Henry enlisted in the Confederate Army Sept. 20 1864 in Green Co. N.C. He was Private in Company E of the 61st N.C. Infantry Regiment (State Troops). On Feb. 16 1865 He was admitted to CSA General Military Hospital # 4 at Wilmington, New Hanover, N.C. with pneumonia. He was sent to CSA General Military Hospital # 6 Snow Hill, Greene, N.C. Feb. 20 1865. He was captured Mar. 25 1865 at Snow Hill, N.C. He was sent to Point Lookout Prison Maryland on Apr. 3 1865. Henry was paroled June 26 1865 the report reads Complexion Dark, Hair Dark Brown, Eyes Blue and Height 5 ft. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. He passed away Sept. 5 1877 in Wilkes Co. N.C. and is buried in Kennedy Family Cemetery now known as Little Stone Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery. Traphill, Wilkes, N.C. His grave marker just has a "R" hand engraved on a rock.

Some History 61st Regiment, North Carolina Infantry

The 61st Infantry Regiment was organized at Wilmington, North Carolina, in August, 1862. Men of this unit were recruited in the counties of Sampson, New Hanover, Beaufort, Craven, Chatham, Lenoir, Wilson, Martin, Ashe, Alleghany, and Jones. Assigned to General Clingman's Brigade, it marched to the Kinston area and saw its first action. The unit was then sent to Charleston, served on James, Morris, and Sullivan's Islands, and took an active part in the fight at Battery Wagner. Later it was ordered to Virginia and here fought at [Drewy's Bluff](#) and [Cold Harbor](#), then endured the hardships of the [Petersburg](#) siege south and north of the James River. Returning to North Carolina, the 61st was prominent in the Battle of [Bentonville](#). While in the Charleston area, July 10 to September 6, 1863, the regiment lost 6 killed, 35 wounded, and 76 missing and in September totaled 331 men. Few surrendered with the Army of Tennessee in April, 1865. The field officers were Colonels William S. Davane and James D. Radcliffe, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Mallett, and Major Henry Harding.

Available statistics for total numbers of men listed as:

- Enlisted or commissioned: 1084 - Drafted: 35 - Transferred in: 247
- Killed or died of wounds: 124- Died of disease: 139 - Prisoner of war: 278
- Died while prisoner of war: 34 - Disabled: 33 - Missing: 7
- Deserted: 57 - Discharged: 3 - Transferred out: 63

Pilot Knob, Missouri....is an area with great potential for recruiting, and for spinning off another satellite camp, such as the one we have established in the state of Florida recently. With this end in mind Compatriot Rob Graham has been appointed (interim) 2nd Lieutenant Commander to head up just such an effort. On Saturday, February 7th we had a planning session at the Pilot Knob Fire Department that was very successful. Nine folks show up, and after an informative meeting we went to the Confederate Monument located at the South Rifle Pit of Ft. Davidson for some photo-ops. It was a very encouraging beginning. Also at this meeting Compatriots Mike Bevill and Mike Mosier were inducted into the Camp.



Editor's notes.... It's been quite a while since I did a news letter, and truthfully I never was able to get one to come out right on one of these new fangled computers. A lot of changes have taken place since my old "cut-paste-& type" methods were used, so please bear with me till my learning curve becomes something other than a flat line. By the way, my "spell-checker" quit working in the middle of this issue so (once again) bear with me, till I figure out which button I must have pushed to mess that up. If you have any ideas for articles or if you have any announcements you might want published in upcoming issues, please let me know. I can be contacted at:

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HOPE TO SEE Y'ALL AT THE FEBRUARY 21st MEETING...

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