

15th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers



15th Regimental Report
Camp #51 Lexington County, S.C.
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Volume X, Issue I

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January 2002

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Declaration by the People of the Cherokee Nation of the Causes Which Have Impelled Them to Unite Their Fortunes With Those of the Confederate States of America.

When circumstances beyond their control compel one people to sever the ties which have long existed between them and another state or confederacy, and to contract new alliances and establish new relations for the security of their rights and liberties, it is fit that they should publicly declare the reasons by which their action is justified.

The Cherokee people had its origin in the South; its institutions are similar to those of the Southern States, and their interests identical with theirs. Long since it accepted the protection of the United States of America, contracted with them treaties of alliance and friendship, and allowed themselves to be to a great extent governed by their laws.

In peace and war they have been faithful to their engagements with the United States. With much of hardship and injustice to complain of, they resorted to no other means than solicitation and argument to obtain redress. Loyal and obedient to the laws and the stipulations of their treaties, they served under the flag of the United States, shared the common dangers, and were entitled to a share in the common glory, to gain which their blood was freely shed on the battlefield.

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When the dissensions between the Southern and Northern States culminated in a separation of State after State from the Union they watched the progress of events with anxiety and consternation. While their institutions and the contiguity of their territory to the States of Arkansas, Texas, and Missouri made the cause of the seceding States necessarily their own cause, their treaties had been made with the United States, and they felt the utmost reluctance even in appearance to violate their engagements or set at naught the obligations of good faith.

Conscious that they were a people few in numbers compared with either of the contending parties, and that their country might with no considerable force be easily overrun and devastated and desolation and ruin be the result if they took up arms for either side, their authorities determined that no other course was consistent with the dictates of prudence or could secure the safety of their people and immunity from the horrors of a war waged by an invading enemy than a strict neutrality, and in this decision they were sustained by a majority of the nation.

That policy was accordingly adopted and faithfully adhered to. Early in the month of June of the present year the authorities of the nation declined to enter into negotiations for an alliance with the Confederate States, and protested against the occupation of the Cherokee country by their troops, or any other violation of their neutrality. No act was allowed that could be construed by the United States to be a violation of the faith of treaties.

But Providence rules the destinies of nations, and events, by inexorable necessity, overrule human resolutions. The number of the Confederate States has increased to eleven, and their Government is firmly established and consolidated. Maintaining in the field an army of 200,000 men, the war became for them but a succession of victories. Disclaiming any intention to invade the Northern States, they sought only to repel invaders from their own soil and to secure the right of governing themselves. They claimed only the privilege asserted by the Declaration of American Independence, and on which the right of the Northern States themselves to self-government is founded, of altering their form of government when it became no longer tolerable and establishing new forms for the security of their liberties.

Throughout the Confederate States we saw this great revolution effected without violence or the suspension of the laws or the closing of the courts. The military power was nowhere placed above the civil authorities. None were seized and imprisoned at the mandate of arbitrary power. All division among the people disappeared, and the determination became unanimous that there should never again be any union with the Northern States. Almost as one man all who were able to bear arms rushed to the defense of an invaded country, and nowhere has it been found necessary to compel men to serve or to enlist mercenaries by the offer of extraordinary bounties.

But in the Northern States the Cherokee people saw with alarm a violated Constitution, all civil liberty put in peril, and all the rules of civilized warfare and the dictates of common humanity and decency unhesitatingly disregarded. In States which still adhered to the Union a military despotism has displaced the civil power and the laws became silent amid arms. Free speech and almost free thought became a crime. The right to the writ of habeas corpus, guaranteed by the Constitution, disappeared at the nod of a Secretary of State or a general of the lowest grade. The mandate of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was set at naught by the military power, and this outrage on common right approved by a President sworn to support the Constitution. War on the largest scale was waged, and the immense bodies of troops called into the field in the absence of any law warranting it under the pretense of suppressing unlawful combination of men.

The humanities of war, which even barbarians respect, were no longer thought worthy to be observed.

Foreign mercenaries and the scum of cities and the inmates of prisons were enlisted and organized into regiments and brigades and sent into Southern States to aid in subjugating a people struggling for freedom, to burn, to plunder, and to commit the basest of outrages on women; while the heels of armed tyranny trod upon the necks of Maryland and Missouri, and men of the highest character and position were incarcerated upon suspicion and without process of law in jails, in forts, and in prison-ships, and even women were imprisoned by the arbitrary order of a President and Cabinet ministers; while the press ceased to be free, the publication of newspapers was suspended and their issues seized and destroyed; the officers and men taken prisoners in battle were allowed to remain in captivity by the refusal of their Government to consent to an exchange of prisoners; as they had left their dead on more than one field of battle that had witnessed their defeat to be buried and their wounded to be cared for by Southern hands.

Whatever causes the Cherokee people may have had in the past, to complain of some of the Southern States, they cannot but feel that their interests and their destiny are inseparably connected with those of the South. The war now raging is a war of Northern cupidity and fanaticism against the institution of African servitude; against the commercial freedom of the South, and against the political freedom of the States, and its objects are to annihilate the sovereignty of those States and utterly change the nature of the General Government.

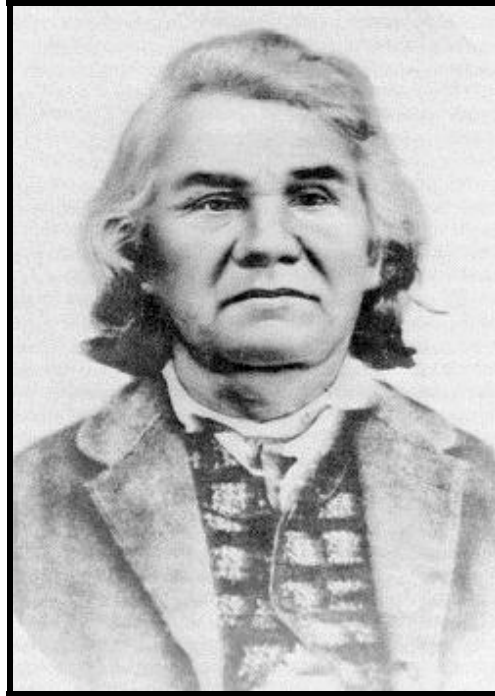
The Cherokee people and their neighbors were warned before the war commenced that the first object of the party which now holds the powers of government of the United States would be to annul the institution of slavery in the whole Indian country, and make it what they term free territory and after a time a free State; and they have been also warned by the fate which has befallen those of their race in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oregon that at no distant day they too would be compelled to surrender their country at the demand of Northern rapacity, and be content with an extinct nationality, and with reserves of limited extent for individuals, of which their people would soon be despoiled by speculators, if not plundered unscrupulously by the State.

Urged by these considerations, the Cherokees, long divided in opinion, became unanimous, and like their brethren, the Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws, and Chickasaws, determined, by the undivided voice of a General Convention of all the people, held at Tahlequah, on the 21st day of August, in the present year, to make common cause with the South and share its fortunes.

In now carrying this resolution into effect and consummating a treaty of alliance and friendship with the Confederate States of America the Cherokee people declares that it has been faithful and loyal to its engagements with the United States until, by placing its safety and even its national existence in imminent peril, those States have released them from those engagements.

Menaced by a great danger, they exercise the inalienable right of self-defense, and declare themselves a free people, independent of the Northern States of America, and at war with them by their own act. Obeying the dictates of prudence and providing for the general safety and welfare, confident of the rectitude of their intentions and true to the obligations of duty and honor, they accept the issue thus forced upon them, unite their fortunes now and forever with those of the Confederate States, and take up arms for the common cause, and with entire confidence in the justice of that cause and with a firm reliance upon Divine Providence, will resolutely abide the consequences.

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, October 28, 1861.
The Confederate War Department © 2000-2002



Stand Watie

Stand Watie was born Dec. 12, 1806, near Rome Georgia, and died Sept. 9, 1871, at his home on Honey Creek in Delaware County, Oklahoma, near the northwest corner of Arkansas. He learned to read and write English at a mission school in Georgia, and occasionally helped write for the *Cherokee Phoenix* newspaper (after Sequoyah developed the 86-symbol Cherokee syllabary in 1821) with his brother Buck Watie (who took the name of Elias Boudinot from a white benefactor). His father David Watie (or Oowatie) was the brother of Major Ridge, and the Ridge-Watie families became wealthy slave-owning planters in the new Cherokee constitutional republic that replaced tribal government in 1827. The state of Georgia opposed any form of tribal government and in 1828 began to pass repressive anti-Indian laws without any recourse for the Cherokee in state courts. After gold was discovered on Cherokee lands in northern Georgia, 3000 white settlers poached on Indian lands. Only the treaties with the federal government gave Indians protection from the states. The Supreme Court under John Marshall declared the repressive state laws null and void in the 1832 *Worcester v. Georgia* case, but President Jackson refused to enforce the court's decision. In 1832, Georgia confiscated most of the Cherokee land, including the estates of John Ross, and sold them in a land lottery to whites. The Georgia militia entered the Cherokee capital of New Chota and destroyed the *Cherokee Phoenix*.

The Ridge-Watie faction allied with President Andrew Jackson to sign the New Echota Treaty Dec. 29, 1835, that required Cherokees to leave Georgia in return for 800,000 acres in the Indian Territory and \$15 million. The Treaty was opposed by tribal chief John Ross and the Council and most Cherokees who refused to leave their homes in Georgia. The Ridge-Watie group led the voluntary removal of 2000 Cherokees from Georgia to the Indian Territory in 1837, but Ross and 10,000 others were forced out on the "Trail of Tears" in 1838. Some members of the anti-treaty party decided to kill the leaders of the Treaty Party at a secret meeting at Double Springs on June 21, 1838, and the next day killed Major Ridge and John Ridge and Elias Boudinot. The executions were justified by a clause of the Cherokee Constitution that authorized the death penalty for anyone selling tribal land without authorization. Stand Watie was also marked for

death, but was warned and escaped. The Cherokee nation was deeply divided by the experience of the Treaty and the Trail of Tears and the Ridge-Boudinot murders. Watie formed a band of warriors for protection and refused to disband after Ross complained to the Jackson government. This internal civil war lasted until a truce was established in 1846 and Stand Watie joined the Tribal Council 1845-1861 (although Ross would remain the official elected Principal Chief until his death in 1866) presiding over a Cherokee population of 21,000 in the Indian Territory in 1861.

Watie joined the Confederacy in 1861 because he feared the consequences of Lincoln's election and the Republican Party's free soil promises to open the west and the Indian Territory to white settlement. The Union abandoned all Indian Territory military posts in the spring of 1861, violating treaty pledges and making the area vulnerable to Confederate attack. He was a slave-owning planter that shared many values of the Old South. When Albert Pike and Douglas Cooper recruited Indian soldiers for the Confederacy in 1861, Watie agreed to form a Cherokee cavalry unit. Also, John Drew formed a regiment of full-blood "Pin" Cherokees (wearing a crossed-blades symbol as a pin on uniforms), as did the Choctaws and Chickasaws and Creeks and Seminoles. However, the Creeks were divided like the Cherokees. Creek chief Opothleyaholo refused to join the Confederacy and in April 1861, Confederate Indians began attacks on the neutral Creek settlement on the Deep Fork River, but Opothleyaholo won the Battle of Round Mountain Nov. 19 and Chusto Talasay Dec. 9. However, on Dec. 26, Cooper's Confederate Indians defeated Opothleyaholo at Chustenalah and drove the pro-Union Creeks into Kansas where they formed the First and Second Union Indian Brigades to retake their homeland. At the Battle of Pea Ridge March 6-8, 1862, Stand Watie and his Cherokee Mounted Rifles captured Union artillery batteries in a dramatic charge and held their position to allow an orderly withdrawal of Earl Van Dorn's Confederate army. Pea Ridge began the Union invasion of the Indian Territory. John Drew and his Confederate Indians deserted from the Confederacy but Stand Watie continued to fight. The Indian Expedition of 1862 advanced from Fort Leavenworth with 6000 on June 28 led by Col. William Weer, an alcoholic former officer under Jayhawker James Lane who sought to take over the Indian Territory lands for his personal gain. Weer occupied the Confederate capital of Tahlequah and captured John Ross, but paroling him when he agreed not to oppose the Union army. Stand Watie was defeated at Locust Grove July 3 by the 6th Kansas Cavalry and the black First Kansas Colored Infantry. But Weer's officers led by Col Frederick Salomon mutinied against Weer and retreated back to Kansas, re-arresting John Ross and taking him to Kansas (and then was sent to Washington D.C. where he died in 1866). Watie was left in control of the Cherokee lands and his forces conducted a brutal campaign of revenge against pro-Union Cherokees and white missionaries. Stand Watie was chosen to replace the deposed John Ross as Chief of the Cherokees. Watie joined a Confederate raid into southwest Missouri lead by Col. Cooper and Jo Shelby, defeating Frederick Salomon at Newtonia Sept. 30. But Gen. Schofield led a Union army to retake Newtonia Oct. 4 and drove the Confederates back into Arkansas. Stand Watie and Douglas Cooper were defeated by Schofield at Old Fort Wayne Oct. 22, and retreated south of the Arkansas River. The Union army diverted 10,000 troops from the west to help Grant at Vicksburg in November. To take advantage of this Union weakness, Gen. John Marmaduke led 2500 Confederate troops to Cane Hill in northwest Arkansas but was defeated there Nov. 28 by Gen. James Blunt and 5000 Union troops. Gen. Thomas Hindman led a Confederate army of 11,300 to attack Blunt, but Gen. Francis Herron brought 6000 Union troops from Springfield to defeat the Confederates at Prairie Grove Dec. 7, 1862. Another Union army of 1200 under Col. William Phillips defeated Stand Watie at Fort Davis Dec. 22. By the end of 1862, Union forces had secured the western flank of the Mississippi to allow Grant's river offensive to continue. Confederate forces had been defeated and pushed south of the Arkansas River

The Indian Expedition of 1863 under James Blunt captured Fort Gibson. At the Battle of Honey Springs July 17, Blunt defeated Cooper's Confederate Indians and Blunt crossed the Arkansas River and captured Fort Smith Sept. 1, 1863, ending the Union offensive in the Indian Territory. On Sept. 10, Little Rock fell

to a Union force under Frederick Steele, and Sterling Price abandoned the Arkansas River and retreated to Arkadelphia in southwest Arkansas. Stand Watie conducted raids in 1863 and 1864, as did other irregular units such as Charles Quantrill who sacked Lawrence Aug. 21, 1864, but Watie focused only on military targets and distributed captured supplies to his people. In Nov. 1863, he attacked the Union Cherokees at Tahlequah, destroyed the town, and burned the Rose Cottage of John Ross at Park Hill. In December, Gen. Samuel Maxey began to rebuild Confederate Indian forces in the Territory and Watie was ordered to increase his raids to force a Union withdrawal from Fort Gibson. From his bases south of the Canadian River in 1864, he captured hundreds of horses from Fort Gibson and deprived the Union cavalry of fresh mounts. On May 10, he was promoted to Brigadier General. In June 1864 at Pleasant Bluff just below the mouth of the Canadian River he captured the steamer J. R. Williams carrying supplies to Fort Gibson. In September 1864 he captured 300 supply wagons at the Cabin Creek crossing on the road to Fort Gibson

<http://history.acusd.edu/gen/civilwar/14/standwatie.html>

Fort Cemetery

Notable Tornadoes

August 22, 1994 The highest number of tornadoes to occur in one day happened on this day with the occurrence of 22 tornadoes. That outbreak occurred when the remnants of Tropical Storm Beryl combined with a cold front. The tornadoes damaged homes and buildings in a very narrow band running north from Bamberg County through Lancaster and York Counties. **One tornado hit the Town of Lexington's central business district.** There were no deaths, at least 40 injuries, and over \$50 million in damage.

Off of Main Street in downtown Lexington is the Fort Cemetery. Since the tornado that hit downtown in August 1994, the Fort Cemetery has been in a state of disrepair. It has been proposed that we of Camp 51 take on the task of cleaning up this cemetery which is only blocks from our meeting place. Efforts are currently underway to secure the legal rights to enter and clean up this resting place of our ancestors.

This effort cannot be done by just one or two camp members. We will need the assistance of the entire membership to undertake this project. During our January meeting, this and other cemetery projects for the 2002 Camp Year will be discussed. You are encouraged to attend and express your opinions. Anyone who knows of a cemetery in the old Lexington County area (including the area relinquished for the formation of Calhoun county in 1908) that needs assistance and has a Confederate Veteran residing there, is encouraged to step forward and make the need known to the entire camp.

William Fort 1820-1875

William Fort, son of Arthur Holmes Fort and Phoebe Corley, was born in Edgefield District but lived most of his life in Lexington District. After attending the University of Virginia (1851-1853), he studied law in Edgefield under Nathan Lipscomb Griffin (1803-1853) and James Parsons Carroll (1809-1883), was admitted to the bar in 1854, and operated a law practice at Lexington. According to the 1860 census, he possessed real estate valued at \$2,000 and personal property (including four slaves) worth \$9,500; in 1863 he owned six slaves. Legislative service began for Fort when he was elected to the House for Lexington for the Thirty-eighth General Assembly (1848-1849). Lexington later returned him to the House to fill a vacancy, and he qualified 26 November 1860 for the Forty-fourth General Assembly (1860-1861). Re-elected to the House, he served in the forty-fifth (1862-1863) and forty sixth (1864) General Assemblies. While in the house, he was a member on the committees on internal improvements (1848-1849), accounts (1860-1861), incorporations (1860-1864), commerce and manufactures (1861-1863), and claims (1864). Fort also served during the Civil War as colonel of the Second Regiment of South Carolina State Troops and was stationed at Pocotaligo and McPhersonville (31 July 1863-2 February 1864). Elected to the state Senate in a special election, he qualified 27 November 1866 to represent Lexington in the Forty-seventh General Assembly (1865-1866). At the end of his Senate term, he retired from public life. A bachelor, William Fort died 19 January 1875 in Lexington and was buried in a family cemetery there.

Forty-seventh General Assembly *Lexington* *1866**

Sources: Biographical Directory of the House, 1: 359, 383, 387, 391. Census. 1860. Lexington District., 431. Census 1870. Lexington Co. 367. Columbia Daily Phoenix, 21 Jan. 1875. Confederate Soldiers roll 169. 2d State Troops . House Journals, 1848, 14; 1860. 9; 1861. 83; 1862. 49, 51; 1864, 2. Lexington County Inventories, Book B(1874-1884). 47-56. O'Neal, 2; 608. Questionnaire and letter from Jimmie Fort Rast, 2 June 1967, on file in office, Reynolds & Faunt. Slave Schedules, 1860, Lexington District, 230. University of Virginia, Its History, Influence, Equipment and Characteristics, with biographical Sketches and Portraits of Founders, Benefactors, Officers, and Alumni, 2 vols. (New York, 1904), 2; 23.

*Biographical Directory of the South Carolina Senate 1776-1985
Volume 1*

Editor's Note:

While researching William Fort I found that he and a cousin of mine were in the House together. William Fort and John Conrad Geiger were the two representatives for Lexington District in the 38th General Assembly (1848-1849). John Conrad Geiger was a member of the Secession Convention and a signer of the Ordinance of Secession.

Camp Announcements

March 9th—Charleston

MOS&B Spring Field Trip
(Open to all SCV Members)

On Saturday March 9th, National Parks Historian Rick Hatcher will conduct a private tour of Charleston and Charleston area defenses for the South Carolina MOS&B and SCV.

Wanted:

Information about our proud ancestors.

We are always looking for family information that we can publish on your Southern ancestors. This is not limited to our boys in gray. It can also be articles about the ladies who provided for the soldiers, the men who could not fight, the civilian authorities, etc. These are our stories, so let's share them.

Coming Soon:

To be available on the WEB site for the 15th Regiment SCV Volunteers will be forms which can be filled out online. Perspective member information request, address change information, Guardian Application, etc. Look for it.

Now available:

On CD-ROM, the 2001 15th Regiment Volunteers Newsletters. If interested, please inquire at the next meeting or write the editor.

Membership Dues

Any member who has not paid their 2002 membership dues is now delinquent and a ten dollar late fee is in effect. Those who are still in rears as of March 31st will be removed from the active roster.

If you still owe your dues, please send your dues to Eddie Killian at the address on the front of your newsletter.

Membership cards are passed out at the monthly meetings.

2002 SCV State Convention

Aiken, South Carolina

April 20th

Make your plans now to attend the state SCV Convention. If you wish to be a delegate, please see Eddie Killian or Wayne Roberts to sign up.

Ancestor Highlight

Pastor Abram Christopher Irvin

Great-Grand Uncle of Wayne Roberts

Here is an ancestor biography on my great-great uncle, Abram Christopher Irvin of Co. F, 34th North Carolina Infantry in Gen. A. P. Hill's Light Division under Lt. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's 2nd Corps in the Army of Northern Virginia. As you can see, he became a well-known Baptist preacher after the War and was one of the founders of Gardner-Webb University. I found this bio on the web site of Double Springs Baptist Church where he was once pastor. The bio even mentions his activities in the UCV.

Elder Abram Christopher Irvin was born February 4, 1843, in the Zion Community of Cleveland County, North Carolina. He was the son of Ancil J. Irvin (1815-1895) and Elizabeth Beam Irvin (1817-1895). His grandfather, James Irvin (1763-1845) was a Revolutionary War soldier, one of the early settlers of this area, having built in 1785, what is today the Irvin-Hamrick House (located near Crest Middle School).

Elder Irvin was converted in 1861, at the age of 18, he enlisted in Confederate Army. He was Mill, Va., on June 27, 1862, returned to fight in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He was captured on or about July 3, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg and was taken to Fort Delaware where he was held prisoner for three months. He was then transferred to Point Lookout Prison in Maryland. He spent 16 months there until his parole on February 18, 1865. He was exchanged three days later in Virginia.

When the war ended two months later, he returned to his farm in Cleveland County, North Carolina and prepared to serve the Lord as fervently as he has served his country. In 1871 he began to preach. He was ordained as a minister on July 4, 1875, at Zion Baptist Church. The presbytery consisted of Elders G.W. Rollins, Wade Hill, Thomas Dixon, J.M. Bridges, Robert Poston, M. Pannell, G.M. Webb, and A.A. McSwain all of whom were pastors or members of Double Springs at some time.



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Although like many pastors of his time, he had only a limited education, but his call to preach the Gospel was strong and he became a popular minister, serving 26 different churches in Cleveland and surrounding counties during his 50+ years in the ministry. Besides Double Springs, Irvin also pastored Beaver Dam, Boiling Springs, Lattimore (their first pastor), Elizabeth, Double Shoals, and Zion, where he was pastor of his home church for fifty years.

Elder Irvin preached the introductory sermon of the Kings Mountain Association in 1878, 1884, and 1897. He served as moderator of the association from 1902-1912, and it was during this time that Boiling Springs High School (now Gardner-Webb University) was established.

Elder Irvin was elected pastor of Double Springs at the conference of September 13, 1890. On November 7, 1891, the church called Irvin for two Sundays a month instead of one. He apparently served as pastor until March 1893.

He was perhaps one of the most genuinely loved ministers in the county. A handsome man and a meticulous dresser, it was once said by one of his contemporaries - "no one can possibly be as good as Abe Irvin looks." In his half century as a Baptist preacher, he never received over \$250.00 a year from any one church. Some only paid him \$40.00 a year, but in his own words he said - "I was amply provided for and richly rewarded in knowing that I had done the Master's will."

Elder Irvin was first married to Harriet Weathers (1843-1872) and had two children, Ollie and Hessie. His second marriage was to Mariah Jane Cornwell (1839-1915) and their children were James William, John Yancey, Guilford Pinkey and May.

As an older man he, along with fellow Confederate veteran George Wright of Lattimore, North Carolina, attended one of the final joint Confederate and Union soldier reunions in Richmond, Virginia, riding the train from Lattimore to Richmond.

January Speaker

Patrick McCawley

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Patrick's topic for our January meeting will be on Colonel Edward Manigault of South Carolina. Special emphasis will be on his service as head of the state's Ordnance Bureau from December 1860 to November 1861.

Patrick McCawley has been a Reference Archivist with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History since 1986, specializing in the department's Civil War records. Patrick is a native of Maryland and graduate of the University of Maryland, where he studied modern military history.

Patrick has written several pamphlets and booklets dealing with Civil War records at the state archives, including a Guide to Civil War Records at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and Artificial Limbs for Confederate Soldiers. In 1999, he co-edited a documentary reader titled The Many Faces of Slavery.

Confederate flag vandals sought

By **CLIF LeBLANC** *Staff Writer*
(The State)

In what Confederate flag supporters are calling a hate crime, vandals toppled three flagpoles overnight Sunday, ripped the flags and wrapped them around granite memorials to Jefferson Davis. The vandals also tore down a metal marker of a Revolutionary War historic site, said Don Gordon, leader of the Columbia area's largest chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Lexington deputies have no suspects, but fingerprints found at the site are being processed, Sheriff's Department spokesman John Allard said. The memorial site is along U.S. 1 near the Oak Grove community. It has a paved drive-up area for visitors. It includes a metal marker for a Sycamore tree that was a community meeting place during the Revolutionary War, said Gordon, who filed the vandalism report and lives nearby. The tree was cut to widen U.S. 1.

Two of the flags were the first and third national flags of the Confederacy; the third was a battle flag, according to a Sons of Confederate Veterans member. "I think this is clearly a hate crime, but they took part of their rage and bent the marker for the Sycamore tree because they didn't stop to read," Gordon said. "They took the time to rip the Confederate flags off the flagpoles. They took the time to rip them up and wrap them around the Jefferson Davis memorial.

"It was a pretty clear message; they were full of hate." Gordon said he has no idea who desecrated the site. "Intolerance is not OK for anybody; we should all get along." Allard estimated damage at the Lexington site at \$500.

The granite memorials to the president of the Confederacy were dedicated in 1923 when U.S. 1 was named for Davis, Gordon said. This was the worst of three vandalisms at the site since the Confederate flag was removed from the State House dome July 1, 2000, Gordon said. He could provide no further details on those incidents. Allard confirmed the prior vandalism, but he too could provide no details Monday. There are no suspects or motives in any of the cases, he said.

Anyone with information about the vandalism should call the Sheriff's Department at (803) 359-8230.

Remember the boys who are still coming home.



Commander's Comments

Commander's Comments

January 2002

Dear Fellow Compatriots,

Thank you for your confidence in me as your new commander of Camp 51. Thanks to all of you who have agreed to serve as officers and officials of the Camp. As we begin this new year I would like to see the Camp begin anew our purpose, the preservation of our Southern history for future generations. Over the years our Camp has completed many worthy projects. We need to build on our successes and move forward. We need to complete our Lake Murray project and initiate new projects. We established a good reputation as an able and motivated camp by cleaning cemeteries and placing stone markers on the graves of Confederate soldiers. We need to resume that honorable tradition in our Camp. In that regard, we have two cemeteries proposed for cleanup by Camp members. Adjutant Eddie Killian has proposed that we clean the brush and weeds from the old Fort Cemetery in downtown Lexington. Editor Steven Wolfe has proposed that we clean and restore the old Geiger cemetery in the Sandy Run. This cemetery is said to have been damaged by Sherman's troops in the skirmishing leading to the Battle of Congaree Creek. We do not know the owner of the old Fort Cemetery. We would need someone to determine that with research and Courthouse so we could gain permission for the project. Steve Wolfe is a descendant of the Geiger family. He could coordinate with the Carolina Eastman Company to gain permission for our work there. Both are worthy projects. If the Camp decides to pursue these projects we may be able to attract press coverage and get our message before the public.



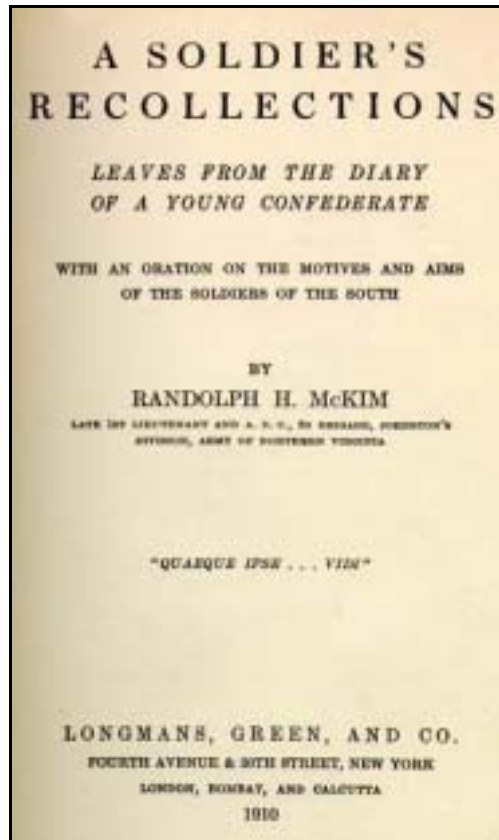
We have an excellent newsletter. Steve Wolfe is to be commended for his efforts. Our newsletter is worthy of state and national awards. However, Steve needs our help. In these months leading up to the State Convention, we need to pump up the newsletter. Our newsletter will be in competition for awards. Steve needs your contributions, particularly ancestor stories. Please write a page or more (if you can) on your Confederate ancestors and submit the information to Steve. These stories should contain information on your ancestor's Confederate service, but it does not have to be restricted to his military service. He may have achieved much in post-war civilian life.

Compatriot Charlie Hood has been working alone on our Scrapbook for the past several years. Charlie has done a good job. However, this may be too much work for one man. I believe a scrapbook committee is needed. The scrapbook needs to be brought up to date and submitted for judging at the State Convention. If you are interested in serving on the Scrapbook Committee, see me at the next meeting; I'm sure Charlie will appreciate the help.

Continued on page 19

**A SOLDIER'S RECOLLECTIONS:
LEAVES FROM THE DIARY OF A YOUNG CONFEDERATE,
WITH AN ORATION ON THE MOTIVES AND AIMS
OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE SOUTH:
McKim, Randolph Harrison, 1842-1920**

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FOREWORD

I HAVE set down in the pages that follow some of my experiences and observations during my service with the Army of Northern Virginia, first as a private soldier, then as a staff officer, and finally as a chaplain in the field. I served in the ranks under Gen. Jos. E. Johnston and Gen. Thos. J. Jackson; as a staff officer under Brigadier-Gen. Geo. H. Stuart in the army of Gen. R. E. Lee; and as a chaplain in the Second Virginia Cavalry under Col. Thos. T. Munford, in the brigade of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee.

It has not been my purpose to write a history of the campaigns in which I took so humble a part, but simply to present a few pen and ink sketches of the life and experience of a Confederate soldier, in the hope that I may thereby contribute in some small degree to a better understanding of the spirit of the epoch--both of the soldiers who fought the battles, and of the people on whose behalf they dared and suffered what they did.

In telling this plain and unvarnished story I have been aided by the diary, or rather the diaries, which I kept during the war, and from which I have freely quoted, just as they were written, without recasting the sen-

tences, or improving the style, or toning down the sentiments they contain. The thoughts and the opinions expressed, and the often crude form in which they are cast, are just those of a young soldier, jotted down on the march, or by the camp-fire, or in the quiescent intervals of battle, without any thought that they would ever be put into print. This I have done believing that I would thus best attain my object, --to show the mind and the life of the Confederate soldier as they were while the struggle was going on. But there was a hiatus in my material. My diary for the larger part of one of the four years of the war was lost, and therefore I have omitted those months from my narrative.

I have also tried to give the point of view of the young men of the South in espousing the cause of the Confederacy, and to remove some misapprehensions still entertained in regard to the motives which animated the men who followed the banner of the Southern Cross.

In connection with the Gettysburg campaign, I have undertaken to discuss the much mooted question of the action of Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, with the cavalry under his command. This I have felt constrained to do because of the view (erroneous, as I believe) presented by Col. John S. Mosby in his recent book on the subject.

I have also reproduced an article written many years ago by request, and published in the Southern Historical Society Magazine, telling the story of the part taken at Gettysburg by the Third Brigade of Johnson's Division, Ewell's Corps. And in the Appendix I have placed an Oration upon the Motives and Aims of the Soldiers of the South, delivered in 1904 before the United Confederate Veterans.

Fully sensible how much I stand in need of the reader's indulgent good-will as he follows me in this simple story of an obscure soldier's life in the Army of Northern Virginia, I still hope that what I have recorded may, here and there, throw a side-light on the conditions under which the Confederate soldier lived and fought those four stern, fateful years, and give fresh emphasis to his purity of motive and his heroic constancy in danger and adversity.

One closing word as to the spirit in which I have undertaken this modest contribution to the literature of the Civil War. I am not, in these pages, brooding over the ashes of the past. The soldiers of the Southern Cross have long ago bowed to the decree of Almighty God in the issue of the great conflict. His will is wiser and better than ours. We thank God that to-day the sun shines on a truly reunited country. We love our Southland; we are Southern men; but we are glad that sectionalism is dead and buried, and we claim our full part in working out the great destiny that lies before the American people. We may not forget --we veterans of the Civil War--that the best of our life and work lies behind us: *morituri salutamus*. But whatever of life remains to us we have long ago dedicated to the service of our common country. We joyfully accept our share in the responsibilities, the opportunities, the strenuous conflicts, of the future, against foes within and without, for the moral and material glory of our country. We are Americans in every fibre; and nothing that pertains to the honor, to the welfare, to the glory, of America is foreign to us.



THE REV. RANDOLPH R. HELM, D.D. 1864

A SOLDIER'S RECOLLECTIONS

CHAPTER I

ON THE BRINK OF THE MAELSTROM

ON a bright morning in the month of April, 1861, there is a sudden explosion of excitement at the University of Virginia. Shouts and cheers are heard from the various precincts where the students lodge. Evidently something unusual has occurred. The explanation is soon found as one observes all eyes turned to the dome of the rotunda from whose summit the Secession flag is seen waving. It has been placed there during the night by persons then unknown. Of course it has no right there, for the University is a State institution and the State has not seceded; on the contrary the Constitutional Convention has given only a few days before a strong vote or the Union.

But it is evident the foreign flag is a welcome intruder in the precincts of Jefferson's University, for a great throng of students is presently assembled on the lawn in front of the lofty flight of steps leading up to the rotunda, and one after another of the leaders of the young men mounts the steps and harangues the crowd in favor of the Southern Confederacy and the Southern flag waving proudly up there. Among the speakers I recall Wm. Randolph Berkeley, the recently elected orator of the Jefferson Society.

So general was the sympathy with the Southern cause that not a voice was raised in condemnation of the rebellious and burglarious act of the students who must have been guilty of raising the Southern flag. Not so general was the approval of the professors; some of these were strong Union men, among them one who was deservedly revered by the whole student body, Prof. John B. Minor, the head of the Law Department. Walking up under the arcades to his lecture room, he was shocked at the sight that met his eyes, and (so a wag afterwards reported) broke forth into rhyme as follows:

"Flag of my country, can it be
That that rages up there instead of thee!"

Meantime the excitement waxed greater and greater, so much so that the students forsook their lecture rooms to attend the mass-meeting on the lawn. In vain did Prof. Schele de Vere endeavor to fix the attention of his class by the swelling periods of his famous lecture on Joan of Arc. The proceedings outside on the lawn interested them much more than the tragic fate of the Maid of Orleans, and one after another they rose and stalked out of the lecture room to join in the overture to another and more tremendous tragedy then unfolding itself to the world, until the baffled professor of modern languages gave up the attempt and abruptly closed his lecture.

At this juncture the burly form of Dr. Albert Taylor Bledsoe, professor of mathematics, was seen mounting the steps of the rotunda, his great head as usual far in advance of the rest of his body. At once there was silence in the throng. To him the students gave a respectful attention, such as, I fear, in their then mood, they would not have given to Professor Minor. For Dr. Bledsoe was an enthusiastic advocate of Secession, to such an extent that he would not infrequently interlard his demonstration of some difficult problem in differential or integral calculus--for example, the *lemniscata* of Bernouilli--with some vigorous remarks in the doctrine of States' rights.

At this juncture, however, the big-brained professor spoke to the young men in a somewhat different strain. He began by saying he had no doubt the students who had put up that flag were "the very nicest fellows in

the University," but, inasmuch as the State of Virginia had not yet seceded, the Secession flag did not really belong on that rotunda, and he hoped the students themselves would take it down,--"but," he said, "young gentlemen, do it very tenderly."

The facts of the case were these. A group of seven students (of whom I was one) bought the bunting and had the flag made, seven stars and three bars, by some young lady friends who were bound to secrecy, and then, having supplied themselves with augers and small saws, they went to work after midnight and sawed their way through five doors to gain access to the roof of the rotunda, where, in their stocking feet, they at length succeeded, not without risk of a fatal fall, in giving the "Stars and Bars" to the breeze, just as the first faint streaks of dawn appeared on the eastern hills. They then scattered and betook themselves to bed, and were the last men in the University to hear the news that the Secession flag was floating over the rotunda!

It was not many days after this occurrence that Mr. Lincoln issued his proclamation calling upon Virginia to furnish her quota of troops to coerce the seceded States back into the Union, and thereby instantly transformed the old Commonwealth from a Union State into a seceded State. All differences now disappeared among her statesmen and her people, and Virginia with entire unanimity threw in her lot with her Southern sisters "for better, for worse, for weal or for woe."

It was the *threat of invasion* that revolutionized the position of the State of Virginia. In illustration of this I refer to the case of a talented young man from Richmond who had been an extreme and uncompromising "Union man"-- the most extreme among all the students at the University. He was also bold and aggressive in the advocacy of his opinions, so much so that he became very unpopular, and his friends feared "serious trouble and even bloody collision." The morning President Lincoln's proclamation appeared he had gone down town on personal business before breakfast, and while there happened to glance at a paper. He returned at once to the University, but not to breakfast; spoke not a word to any human being; packed his trunk with his belongings; left a note for the chairman of the faculty explaining his conduct; boarded the first train for Richmond, and joined a military company before going to his father's house or taking so much as a morsel of food. What was the overwhelming force which thus in a moment transformed this splendid youth? Was it not the God-implanted instinct which impels a man to *defend his own hearthstone*?¹

The visitor to the University to-day will see on the rotunda porch two large bronze tablets on the right and left of the central door, on which are graven the names of the alumni who laid down their lives in the Civil War for the independence of the South. There are just five hundred and three names.

The number itself is significant. If five hundred died, there must have been more than two thousand five hundred, perhaps as many as three thousand, on the rolls of the Confederate armies, who called this University mother. We have no accurate register of the number of alumni who were living in 1861 and fit for military service. But we do know that of the six hundred and twenty-five who were students here when the tocsin of war sounded, five hundred and thirty hailed from the seceding States, and about five hundred and fifteen went to the front. Two of the professors followed their students,--our illustrious professor of Greek, Basil L. Gildersleeve, who was wounded fighting with Gordon in the valley of Virginia--he still lives, thank God! to adorn American scholarship--and Lewis Minor Coleman, our right royal professor of Latin, who fell gloriously while commanding a battalion of artillery at Fredericksburg.

¹ The story is told by Major Robert Stiles in his "Four Years under Marse Robert."

These numbers are significant. They bear eloquent witness, not only to the gallantry of our brother alumni, but to the unanimity of the Southern people in that great struggle, and they afford convincing proof of the falsity of the theory, held by some historians of the Civil War, that the uprising of the Southern people was the result of a conspiracy of a few ambitious leaders. When we see five hundred and fifteen out of six hundred and twenty-five students,¹ representing the flower of the intellect and culture of the South-- its yeomen as well as its aristocracy--spring to arm at the first sound of the long roll, we realize that the resistance offered to coercion in 1861 was in no sense artificial, but free and spontaneous, and that it was the act of the people, not of the politicians.

This conclusion may be fortified by a comparison with the record of a great New England university. The memorial tablets at Harvard contain the names of one hundred and seventeen of her alumni who gave their lives to the cause of the Union, while the whole number who entered the Union army and navy was nine hundred and thirty-eight. If the same proportion of loss held among the men of our Alma Mater, then there would have been four thousand students and alumni of the University of Virginia in the army and navy of the Confederate States. But the proportion of killed in action was greater on our side, so that this total must be much reduced. We know from the records that not less than two thousand five hundred of the men who followed the battle flag of the Southern Cross were sons of this Virginia University. The actual number was probably considerably larger. Thus though her students and alumni of military age were less numerous than those of Harvard, in something like the proportion of four to seven, yet there were more than three times as many of them serving with the colors in the great conflict; and while one hundred and seventeen men of the Cambridge university laid down their lives for the Union, five hundred and three of the men of the University of Virginia died for the Southern cause--more than four times as many.

As I think of some of these brave young fellows, I recall the scene that used to be presented many an afternoon on the slope of the hill directly to the south of the University lawn--D'Alphonse, the stalwart professor of gymnastics, leading his numerous pupils in singing the "Marsellaise," or "Les Girondins." The clear fresh voices of those fine young fellows come back to me as I write,--the fine tenor of Robert Falligant rising above the rest,--singing:

"Par la voix du canon d'alarme,
La France appelle ses enfants,
Allons, dit le soldat, aux armes,
C'est ma mère, je la defends.

Chorus,

"Mourir pour la patrie,
Mourir pour la patrie,
C'est le sort le plus beau
Le plus digne d'envie!"

Alas! how soon and how unexpectedly were those words to be exemplified on the field of battle, in the gallant deaths of many who sang them then, with little realization of their possible significance for them. There were two military companies organized at the University the autumn before the fateful cloud of Civil War burst upon the land. These were in no way connected with the organization of the institution, but were

¹ This number represents all the students from all the States, North as well as South. Not a few came from localities which were not in sympathy with the South.

purely private and voluntary. One called itself "The Sons of Liberty," the other took the name of "The Southern Guard." To the latter I belonged, and when Virginia joined the Confederacy, these two companies of boys were ordered to Winchester, Va., to join in the movement of Gen. Thomas J. Jackson against Harper's Ferry.

I remember that after a long railway ride in box cars (which sadly tarnished our uniforms) we were de-trained at Strasburg, and marched to Winchester, eighteen miles distant, beating handsomely in the march the regular companies of State militia that formed part of the expedition.

The two University companies remained several weeks at Harper's Ferry, and were then very properly ordered back to their studies. I did not tarry so long, but made my way to Baltimore, where stirring scenes had been witnessed on the 19th of April, when the Massachusetts troops en route to Washington were attacked by the populace.

Arrived there I very soon found "nothing would be doing," --advices from Confederate headquarters in Virginia discouraging any attempt in that quarter, and so after about a week's sojourn, I returned to the University, promising my mother to stay till the end of the session.

While in Baltimore at dear old "Belvidere," the beautiful home of my childhood and boyhood, I had to endure the pain of my father's displeasure, because of my espousal of the Southern cause. He himself had been in warm personal sympathy with the South, but through the strong intellectual influence of a near relative his political sympathy had been turned to the North. His heart was with my mother's people, but his head turned him to the side of the Union. I mention it because this difference was, by reason of our great mutual attachment, very painful to us both.

In an interview between us, when he had expressed himself in severe condemnation of my course, I turned and said with much feeling, "Well, father, I comfort myself with the promise, 'When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.' " And so we parted never to meet again, for he died in January, 1865. A noble and high-minded man he was, and particularly devoted to me. Nothing but the strongest conviction of duty could have led me to act contrary to his wishes. During the whole war I constantly sent him messages of love, and sometimes wrote to him. When my marriage took place, February 26, 1863, he sent my bride a beautiful present with his likeness. My first child was named for him, "John," to which I added "Duncan" for my much-loved cousin. When my ordination was approaching, in April, 1864, I wrote him as follows:

"My father, I ask to be remembered at the family altar, that God may prepare me for the responsible office which I am about tremblingly to undertake after seven months' study."

No picture of this crucial epoch is a true one which suppresses these most painful divisions of sentiment which often occurred in devoted families.

When I returned to the University I had lost, first and last, six weeks at a critical part of my course. My "tickets," this my second year, were French, German, moral philosophy, and senior mathematics. I determined to drop German and concentrate on the other three schools. And then, finding the "math." examination coming on in ten days, I gave my whole time to preparation for that severe test. Such was the excitement among the students, many of whom were already leaving to join the Army, that study was very difficult, so I betook myself to a little one-room structure at the foot of Carr's Hill on the north side isolated

1 On an average not more than a dozen students made the "M.A." in a year.

from other buildings, and there studied the differential and integral calculus from twelve to fourteen hours a day for the ten days before examination, Sunday excepted, with the result that on the day of the test I soon developed a severe headache, which nearly cost me my diploma. However, I passed, and later passed also in my other tickets, and received the three diplomas on Commencement day, much to my satisfaction. These, with diplomas in Latin and Greek taken the previous year, made the path clear to the coveted and difficult honor of M.A. the third year.¹ But that "third year" never came. It was "knocked out" by four years in the school of war under Stonewall Jackson and Lee. And when these were passed, I had entered on the active duties of life.

I wrote to my mother, June 20th, as follows: "I stand moral philosophy on Tuesday next. To-morrow and next day I am to read two essays in the Moral class,—one on two of Butler's sermons, one on a chapter in the Analogy. I got through French examination very well, I believe, but I am scared about my last math. examination. I find that I mistook one of the questions."

Chapter II Next Month

I would like to see attendance increase. I will do all I can to find interesting speakers and keep the business meeting as brief and to the point as much as possible. We need to increase our membership. Therefore, we need volunteers for a Recruitment Committee. We need to reach out with our message and attract new members. Brings guests with you to meetings and see that all guests leave with membership information. I would also encourage you to become more involved with the SCV at the camp, state, and national level. Make plans this year to attend the state and national conventions.

Finally, let me remind you of our charge by Lt. Gen S. D. Lee. In a nutshell, we are charged with the defense of Confederate soldiers' good names and the preservation of Southern history for future generations. We are not a partisan political party. We venture into politics only in upholding our charge. There are those out there who are trying to subvert the SCV into a political machine for their aims. Let them establish their own organizations and not hijack the SCV. You may be a member of IPTAY (or the Gamecock Club) and the Rotary Club. However, it is not right to use the Rotary Club to further the interests of your university's sports teams.

Thanks again for your support,
Wayne D. Roberts
 Commander

Calendar of U pcoming Events

January	31st	Camp Meeting
February	28th	Camp Meeting
March	9th	SCV/MOS&B Spring Outing
April	20th	SCV State Convention— Aiken, S.C.



**15TH REGIMENT SOUTH CAROLINA
VOLUNTEERS**

Newsletter Editor
15th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers
130 Upper Loop Way
Columbia, South Carolina 29212
Email: SC_15th_Regiment@hotmail.com

Next Camp Meeting
January 31st 7 PM
Lexington County Council Chambers
6th Floor

“To you , Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will 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.”

Stephen D. Lee

Re-enactors 2002 Event Schedule

January 11-13	Hagood’s March, Ravanel S.C.(O)
February 22-24	Battle of Aiken (BAE)
March 9-10	Skirmish of Gables Hotel Florence, S.C. (BAE)
April 5-7	Battle of Averasboro Averasboro, S.C. (BAE)
April 26-28	Battle for Selma Selma, AL (MAX Effort)
May 3	Confederate Memorial Day Rivers Bridge State Park (O)
May 4	Confederate Memorial Day Columbia (BAE)
(BAE)	<i>Battalion Affiliated Event</i>
(O)	<i>Other</i>
(I)	<i>Information Only</i>

