



TRAVELLER



The official publication of the General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

Deo Vindici

March 2012

CAMP MEETING

Monday March 12, 2012

Speaker: Dr. Bradford Waters

Topic: Medical Aspects of the Battle at Perryville, KY

7:00 p.m. at the Pickering Center

Civil War: Probably Deadlier Than Previously Estimated

Often referred to as the bloodiest conflict in U.S. history, the Civil War claimed more American lives than any other military action in which the country has taken part. Now, a professor at Binghamton University in New York has used 19th-century census data to show that the most commonly cited death toll (620,000) may significantly underestimate the true human cost, and that the real number of Civil War dead could be upwards of 20 percent higher.

“The traditional estimate has become iconic,” historian J. David Hacker said. “It’s been quoted for the last hundred years or more. If you go with that total for a minute (620,000) the number of men dying in the Civil War is more than in all other American wars from the American Revolution through the Korean War combined. And consider that the American population in 1860 was about 31 million people, about one-tenth the size it is today. If the war were fought today, the number of

deaths would total 6.2 million.”

How exactly did the number 620,000 enter the history books? According to Hacker’s paper, an estimate for the Union Army’s death toll of 279,689 was deduced shortly after the conflict ended from battlefield reports and muster-out rolls, in which each regiment recorded, often imprecisely, the names and fates of its members. That figure was increased to 360,222 in the early 20th century to reflect applications by widows and orphans for pensions and survivors’ benefits, which could be claimed whether a soldier had been killed in battle, succumbed to his injuries later on or died of disease. (Historians believe that two-thirds of fatalities among soldiers serving in the Civil War were due to illness.)

The tally of Confederate Army deaths produced in the late 19th century, 258,000 was based on even shakier methodology, as the two Union officers who

spent decades attempting to calculate it openly acknowledged. The official and unofficial reports they used did not account for men who died of their wounds off the battlefield, and pension and benefit requests were not taken into consideration. Moreover, while the number was adjusted to include probable deaths from disease and accidents, the

estimators assumed that Confederate troops had suffered from illness at the same rate as their Union counterparts. Subsequent research, however, has shown that Southerners, who largely hailed from rural areas with low population densities, were less likely to have been exposed to infections prior to the war and were therefore at greater risk of contracting



them; they also had a less adequate supply of clothing, food and medicine.

One hundred fifty years after the Civil War began, most historians recognize that many deaths were never reported for a variety of reasons, including efforts by some commanders to understate casualties, the participation of non-enlisted guerilla fighters and the prevalence of chronic diseases that claimed lives long after hostilities ended. To achieve a more accurate number, Hacker studied newly available microdata samples from the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses. Looking at the native-born white population between the ages of 10 and 44, he calculated the ratio of male survival relative to female survival for the 1850-1860 and 1870-1880 decades. He then compared the average of this ratio to the 1860-1870 decade, during which the Civil War took place. The difference allowed him to estimate the excess proportion of males who failed to survive the 1860s compared to the preceding and subsequent decades.

Hacker then factored in comparable death rates for foreign-born white troops and existing estimates of mortality among black soldiers. Rounding to the nearest 50,000, he arrived at a probable range of 650,000 to 850,000 deaths, which averages out to 750,000. This number is 20 percent higher than the commonly cited count of 620,000. If Hacker is correct, one out of 10 white men who were of military age in 1860 died as a result of the Civil War - not one out of 13, as the traditional figure implies.

Although this census-based method does not distinguish between Union and Confederate deaths, Hacker was able to discern patterns for various regions of birth. For instance, he concluded that mortality was significantly higher for white males between the ages of 10 and 44 born in the South (13.1 percent) and in the slave-holding border states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware (12.7 percent) than for those born in the free states and territories (6.1 percent). At a more granular level, 22.6 percent of Southern men who were between the ages of 20 and 24 in 1860 lost their lives because of the war, according to Hacker's findings.

Hacker believes that his analysis will help illuminate how the Civil War ravaged the American population even after the bloodshed ended, taking a massive human and economic toll on the nation. "An accurate tally, or at least a reasonable estimate, is important in order to gauge the huge impact of the war on American society," he said. "Even if the number of war dead was 'only' 620,000, that still created a huge impact, especially in the South, and a figure of 750,000 makes that impact; and the demographic shadow it threw on the next two generations of Americans - just that much greater."



From the "Well How Do You Like That?" Department:



Interestingly - long before Photoshop, Federals were altering images. Lincoln needed a more heroic photo pose, so one was created - using a portrait of the great Southern statesman John C. Calhoun's body.

Also, photos of Grant and Sherman were altered to please the masses. Later, Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini and Castro followed in their steps.

Confederate Silver Dollar

Coin in plastic sleeve \$65.00 ea.

Coin encased in plastic \$75.00 ea.

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The coin itself is one troy ounce of .999 fine silver. It was minted in Washington State by the Northwest Territorial Mint (NWTM).

One side of the coin features the Great Seal of the Confederacy, showing Colonial George Washington astride his horse. The other side of the coin was designed in 2002. The scripture "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" is from Psalm 33:12 and celebrates the strong Christian faith and tradition of the old South. The centerpiece is an eagle from a U.S. 1830s silver half-dollar, a coin in circulation during the war. The Breastplate or shield has the "Stars and Bars" of the battle flag with CSA (Confederate States of America) above.

Much history rests in this coin. It can be kept as a treasured keepsake or given as a gift.

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With a new member brought in by yourself

Lee Camp Members Only

*See Camp Commander for more information
Tarry Beasley*

Visit our website @ www.atlanticbullionandcoin.com

Commander's Corner

Gentlemen,

PHOTOs, PHOTOs, of YOU, yes, you are to be made at this Camp meeting March 12th. Please wear a collared shirt. A coat and tie are your option. The purpose of this is to make a composite of the members and distribute same to the membership to assist you in knowing each other. Larry Ohrberg is graciously doing this for the camp. If you cannot make this meeting or Aprils then if you have a digital photo (head and shoulders only) we may be able to use that. You must be a paid member or associate that is paid up.

JANUARY'S MEETING had 30 members present and we have subsequently received dues from 5 of our members bring our Camp membership up to 64. We are still missing a number of members at each meeting and about 20 have not renewed their dues which are now late. If you are one of those members please send you dues of 65.00 in now to P O Box 171251 Memphis, TN 38187.

HONOR GUARD now has 5 volunteers and we are looking for another 5 or 6 so that when called upon for special events and services there can be at least 5 in uniform, with flags and rifles and trained appropriately. If you are interested in this function contact Mike Daugherty for more information 750-8514.

CALLING YOU several of the members volunteered to call all of our members on the paid up rolls to remind them of the Camp's meeting. If you do not receive a call forgive us as some of the numbers we have are not functioning then check to be sure that your dues are paid up and finally drop us a note with your phone member current address and email information.

STATE REUNION is April 20th thru the 22nd in Dover, TN. If you want to go I will go up on Friday the 20th and return on Saturday evening. Contact me and we will make arrangements to do that as a group.

INTERNATIONAL REUNION is July 11th thru the 14th in Murfreesboro, TN. If you would like to attend there will be several of us going to this event. Contact me and we will make arrangements to attend this great event together.

NEW MEMBER Mike Croft of Manila, AR is now on board with us. Congratulations Mike we look forward to seeing you when you can get to Germantown.

NEW MEMBER REWARD a silver dollar as sold in the Confederate Veteran will be given to any member who recruits a new member to Our Camp. They sell for 65.00 plus shipping so get yours free by recruiting a new member.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS are also free to you when you use the Kroger grocery card. Yes Kroger will pay for your membership in both the International and State division if you use their gift card. We will have some at the meeting so come get one and I will explain how it works. Don Harrison has already received his life membership certificate from International and will soon have the Division Life Membership. Jim Spiller is a new life member! Congratulations Jim.

AUTO TAGS are also available at the Shelby County registration office which carries the SCV logo i.e. the battle flag. It is very helpful to the Division and encouraging to other members to see them on the street. Be sure to get yours when you renew your tags.

CIVIL WAR SHOW a couple of weeks ago was a very well attended event with most of the Camps in the area supporting the Chalmers Camp event, The Military Vehicle Preservation Association was on hand with their WW2 equipment and it was awesome.

MEETING SPEAKERS have been very good and you are missing a lot if you don't make the meetings. Last month Ed Butler a past Army of Tennessee commander made the talk encouraging all to confront the nay sayers and the PC incorrect garbage with the facts. His fact sheet was sent out after the meeting and you should have it in your in box. The March meeting will be extremely interesting as it will cover the medical aspects of the battle at Perryville, KY and be presented by Dr. Bradford Waters. You will not want to miss this for sure.

CONDOLENCES to the family of Gregg Todd of Camp 215 in Memphis he died on the 24th of February. Most of you will remember Greg from the 52nd String Band who has played for many of our and other camp's functions. We will miss Greg.

Y'ALL COME to the Camp meeting 7:00 March 12th at the Pickering Center, 7771 Old Poplar Pike Germantown, TN.

Tarry Beasley, Commander



Compatriot Greg Todd
Nov. 21, 1949 - Feb. 24, 2012

After becoming a Civil War re-enactor in 1989, Greg found a real need for music in the Confederate camp at night. As a result, along with some good friends, he formed the 52nd Regimental String Band. In addition, Greg produced and starred in a one man show featuring the life and music of Stephen Foster. Greg was also a former commander of the N.B. Forrest Camp in Memphis. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Traveller - Now Online

Traveller, the R.E Lee Camp 1640 newsletter, has caught up with the 21st century and is now available on line. Find it monthly at:

<http://www.tennessee-scv.org/camp1640/>

SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

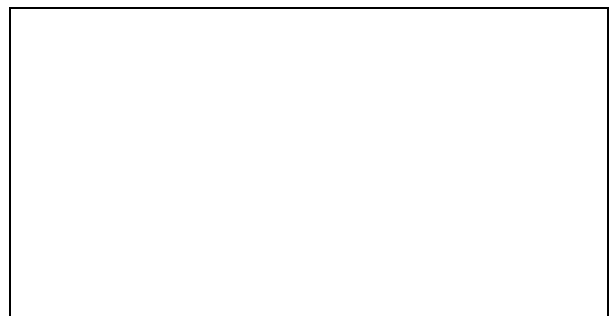
T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
Winston Blackley	John Cole
James Anthony Davis	Hubert Dellinger Jr., MD
H. Clark Doan	Eugene Forrester
Robert Freeman	Donald Harrison
Frank Holeman	William P Hunter, Jr
Bobby Lessel	Jerry C. Lunsford
Frank M. McCroskey	Arthur Oliver
Charles Wendell Park	Bill Simmons
Larry J. Spiller, Sr.	Osborn Turner, IV
Charles L Vernon	William C. Wilson



Traveller is the monthly newsletter of:

The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640
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and
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P.O. Box 171251
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Steve M. McIntyre, Editor



Next Camp Meeting ** March 12, 2012
Germantown Pickering Center, 7771 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN