



TRAVELLER



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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

Deo Vindici

June 2012

R.E LEE CAMP MEETING

Monday June 11, 2012

Speaker: Bruce Lynch

**Topic: A power point presentation on
President Jefferson Davis artifacts
from Mr. Lynch's own collection**

7:00 p.m. at the Pickering Center

Order of the Southern Cross

By John Collier

In late summer of 1863, the Northern Army of the Cumberland, under the command of Major general William S. Rosecrans was poised to invade the Southern heartland; opposing him, the Confederate Army of Tennessee, under the command of General Braxton Bragg. These two great armies would ultimately clash just east of Chattanooga, Tennessee in the vicinity of Chickamauga Creek. Victory here was essential to both more so the South for following several recent defeats, it could not bear another blow, especially one in the very heart of the Confederacy.

Added to the South's spate of troubles was that the morale of the Army of Tennessee was extremely low and considerable worry in the Army command structure was freely expressed as to what their soldiers might choose as their terms of enlistment expired. Poverty

and hardship being endured amongst most families gave considerable fear that a mass exodus in the ranks might be imminent. With this foremost in everyone's mind, a group of officers came to the headquarters of Lt. General Leonidas Polk stating the urgent necessity of taking some immediate action to foster military brotherhood and patriotic sentiment within the Southern forces. General Polk asked one of his staff members, Doctor and Chaplain Charles Todd Quintard to represent him at a meeting, held in fact later that evening to discuss the subject further.

This meeting of senior staff was called at Tyne's (aka Tyner's) Station, some nine miles northwest of Chattanooga. Present were Dr. Quintard, Major general Patrick R. Cleburne, Brigadier General John C. Brown, Brigadier General St. John R. Liddell, and Colonel Scott Anderson. Cleburne had long since realized the seriousness of the situation facing them and proposed the creation of an Order to be called 'The Order of the Comrades of the Southern Cross'.



Order of the Comrades of the Southern Cross - 1863

Cleburne's belief was such an Order would bring about a unity of purpose and oneness of action among the member soldiers. On agreement, a committee headed by Cleburne was appointed to draft a Constitution and this met daily for about a week thereafter to write the document. On August 28, 1863, the constitution was adopted unanimously.

Among other inclusions, the Constitution provided for any Southern Army commissioned officer in good standing, was automatically qualified for membership. Such membership

required an obligation to remain in the Army for life, if called to do so. Initiation fees were twenty-five dollars for general officers, fifteen dollars for field officers, ten dollars for captains, five dollars for

lieutenants and two dollars for NCO's and privates. In addition however, additional monthly dues were to be levied.

The Constitution also provided for a charitable fund to which members were required to contribute one-half of one month's pay annually for two years. This fund would be used for the relief of families of members who lost their lives in the military service of the Confederate States. This Charity fund was obviously designed to relieve soldiers' anxieties as to the suffering of their families; and to allow them to focus their attention once again to the great battles yet to be fought.

A timetable was put in place to present the Order and its objectives; and to urge its adoption by all officers and enlisted men. However, word of Cleburne's proposal had already spread rapidly throughout the army and from the evening of the following day, before any formal presentation of the Order could be made, regiment after regiment to a man, demanded their right to re-enlist for life!



Major General Patrick R. Cleburne proposed the creation of an Order to be called 'The Order of the Comrades of the Southern Cross' to bring about a unity of purpose and oneness of action among the member soldiers

Several Chapters were hastily organized and were it not for the unfavorable course of events following hard upon their heels, the Order would no doubt have spread throughout the Army Units of the Confederacy with some alacrity. Fate however decreed otherwise. The Battle of Chickamauga Creek, took place soon after, followed by the

occupation of Chattanooga, all conspiring to prevent the expansion of the Order as intended.

Nonetheless, the Battle of Chickamauga Creek followed the founding of the 'Order of the Comrades of the Southern Cross' did have one desired effect. The enlistment crisis was averted but the Army of the Cumberland was still reeling from defeat, much of its organization thrown into disarray. Without a viable command structure, most surviving units retreated in disorder to Chattanooga.

The tide of war turned against the South and the demanding contingencies called for in subsequent campaigns left no opportunity for implementing the award. The deaths of two of its founding members, Polk and Cleburne - and the decline of the Confederate forces doomed any chance of its survival. Thus, the 'Order of the Comrades of the Southern Cross' faded, along with the dreams of the South

(John Collier is Commander of Camp 2161, Capt John Low CSN)

The Curious Case of James Weadley

By Ian Dewar



James Weadley is remembered on the family memorial stone in Scarborough, England's Dean Road Cemetery, where the inscription records he was killed at the battle of Shiloh in 'The American War'

James Weadley was born in York, England in 1825. His mother was born in Stockton Forest, also near York; and his father came from Hull. We know he moved to Bridlington sometime in his youth and by

1861, he was married with a young family and working as a publican at the 'Bull and Sun' in Bridlington (Still trading now!). That same year however, he moved to Memphis in Tennessee with his family but there, almost immediately things started to go wrong, with his five year old daughter dying of typhoid shortly after their arrival.

He, along with his brother Henry, joined the 2nd Tennessee Infantry, known as the 'Irish Regiment'. This unit was made up mainly from the Irish community in Memphis and when deployed at Shiloh, the regiment suffered very heavy casualties on the first day when James himself was mortally wounded and died.

James Weadley is remembered on the family memorial stone in Scarborough, England's Dean Road Cemetery, where the inscription records he was killed at the battle of Shiloh in 'The American War'

In 2001 a Confederate marker was placed at this memorial and since then, the flag has been replaced or renewed periodically. A surviving member of the family saw an article someone had written about this stone in the local newspaper and subsequently wrote a piece in reply, stating one brother had actually fought for the North whilst the other (presumably James) the South. Available records however state both brothers were in CSA service.

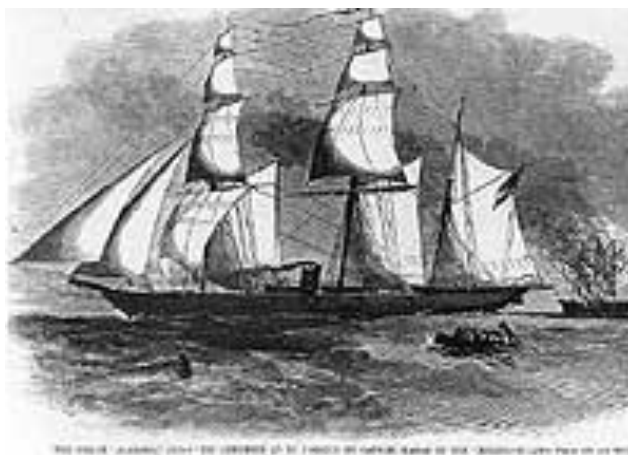
As it turned out, they were right! Henry had indeed fought for the North as well as the South. He later served in the 116th Pennsylvania Infantry, curiously another Irish regiment and part of the Union Irish Brigade. We can only assume Henry had been captured and then joined the Union Army - but why?

I am guessing that the fact that these brothers joined Irish regiments is significant; but the question as to why remains. James and his family had no obvious Irish connections; and in a regiment that was a part of the Irish Brigade, James' brother Henry must have really stood out. In this unit even people from certain parts of Ireland were considered 'outsiders' and it would be little different in the 2nd Tennessee Infantry.

Perhaps the answer lies in why he went to America! After all James chose to emigrate to the South in 1861 when the War was certain to continue; but why

emigrate there at that time? Was there a distant family connection or perhaps his reasons were purely political? Unfortunately, in the case of James Weadley, it is almost certain we will never know.

(Ian Dewar is President of the **290 Foundation** headquartered in Middleton on the Wolds, United Kingdom, dedicated to preserving the naval history of the American Civil War. According to its web site, "The Foundation borrows its title from Hull #290, a vessel built to the highest standards of British shipbuilding at the John Laird's Shipyard at Birkenhead on the River Mersey. Hull #290 would later be known, feared and respected as the CSS Alabama.")



"The Pirate 'Alabama,' Alias '290,' Certified to be correct by Captain Hagar of the 'Brilliant'" (Line engraving published in "Harper's Weekly", 1862, depicting CSS Alabama burning a prize. U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph.)

SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
Winston Blackley	Eugene Callaway
John Cole	W Ken Daniel, Jr,
James Anthony Davis	Hubert Dellinger Jr., MD
H. Clark Doan	Eugene Forrester
Robert Freeman	Donald Harrison
Frederick Harrison, Jr.	Frank Holeman
M. Gary Hood	William P Hunter, Jr
Bobby Lessel	Jerry C. Lunsford
Frank M. McCroskey	Steve McIntyre
Ed Murphey	Arthur Oliver
Charles Wendell Park	Steve Reasons
Bill Simmons	D Jack Smith
Larry J. Spiller, Sr.	Larry J. Spiller, Jr.
Osborn Turner, IV	Charles L Vernon
William C. Wilson	

Confederate Silver Dollar

*Coin in plastic sleeve \$65.00 ea.
Coin encased in plastic \$75.00 ea.
Add \$20.00 for shipping & handling*

**Price subject to change with market fluctuation.
Call for live quotes*



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 Christain 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.

YOURS FREE

*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,

MARK BUCHANAN brought our May meeting an outstanding and detailed explanation of the Peninsular Campaign and Lee's taking command of the Army. You missed a great presentation is you were not there. There were 27 members and guests at the meeting that signed in though the head count was 32. Please remember to sign in at our meetings so that you name will be recorded in the minutes.

THE HONOR GUARD lead by Mike Dougherty out did themselves and presented a flag that he had made for the Lee Camp which has the SCV logo and our name on it. The flag is beautiful and will be cherished by the Camp for years to come. Thanks to the Honor Guard. There are still a few opening for anyone who wishes to join the Honor Guard and participate in the various events which honor our ancestors who fought against Federal Terrorism. Their up-coming events are: 5/28 Shiloh, 6/2 Decoration Day at Magnolia Cemetery, 6/3 Decoration day at Elmwood,, Battle of Memphis memorial at Confederate Park 6/6, and Forrest Birthday in July. Join them, you'll love it!

LARRY SPILLAR, one of our members on the Governors appointed Committee on consolidation of the Schools in Shelby County, gave us an update on the progress and the difficulty of making headway for the reforming and cost cutting that is needed.

VISITORS are welcome so bring a few to the next meeting, remember if you bring a new member into the Camp you will receive a silver dollar with the Confederacy's Seal on one side and a full ounce of pure silver. It is quite impressive.

BILL SIMMONS one of our past commanders is in the hospital with a very severe foot infection. Please put him on your prayer list and see if there is anything you can do to assist him.

BATTLE OF MEMPHIS is Wednesday June 6th and will be celebrated at high noon with the firing of Bankhead's Noble Brothers original cannon and one representing the Appeal Battery. There will be a short program that will include a talk on the naval

battle which was the largest inland naval battle of the war and terribly lopsided with about 4 to 1 odds against us. I hope that you were there to see and hear the event. It is the 150th anniversary of the battle.

KROGER CARDS have you gotten yours yet?

VOLUNTEER for the Calling committee or the Honor Guard and get involved. Have a job in mind you would like to do for the Camp? Just let me know and we'll get started.

Tarry Beasley, Commander

June Camp Meeting Speaker - Bruce Lynch

Our June Camp meeting speaker will be Mr. Bruce Lynch, who is originally from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and has been a Dentist for 32 years with local practice. Mr. Lynch's Great, Great Grandfather, Ephram F Ragsdale, was a member of the 44th Tennessee Infantry out of Franklin, Tennessee. A unit with a glorious history and from which very few survived the war. There is a complete website dedicated to this regiment. Another of Mr. Lynch's Great, Great Grandfathers, Moses Swan Lynch, from Christiana, Tennessee ironically spent the entire war destroying railroads due to his "extensive railroad knowledge". At our next Camp meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM, June 11 at the Germantown Pickering Center Mr. Lynch will share a power point presentation on President Jefferson Davis artifacts from his personal collection.

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/>

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM THEATRE LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, June 9

	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
11:00 a.m.	Nell Dickerson	"GONE: A Photographic Plea For Preservation"
12:00 p.m.	Jerry Potter Dr. Douglas Cupples	"The Sultana Tragedy"
1:00 p.m.	Elaine Turner	The Naval Battle of Memphis
2:00 p.m.	Donald Harrison	Contraband Camps
3:00 p.m.	Alan Doyle & Ed Williams	The Civil War & Elmwood Cemetery
4:00 p.m.		Forrest Raid On Memphis

Sunday, June 10

	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
12:00 p.m.	Jimmy Ogle	Modern Memphis & The Civil War
1:00 p.m.	Dr. James Gholson	"FEETS: Colored Troops In The Civil War"
2:00 p.m.	Jimmy Ogle	The Moving Appeal
3:00 p.m.	Dr. Curt Fields	Gen. U. S. Grant
4:00 p.m.	Cookie Swain	Belles Of The Battlefield



Traveller is the monthly newsletter of:

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and

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P.O. Box 171251
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Steve M. McIntyre, Editor



Next Camp Meeting ** June 11, 2012
Germantown Pickering Center, 7771 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN