



# TRAVELLER



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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

*Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry*

*Deo Vindici*

**April, 2013**

## CAMP MEETING

**April 8, 2013**

**7:00 p.m. at the Germantown Regional History  
and Genealogy Center**

### **Antoinette and Nathan**

By Nancy Hitt

I love 'Mule Day' in Columbia, Tennessee for several reasons, I adore mules, Southern cooking and Tennessee hospitality. I even own one of those hybrids, an old mule named Mathew. The name 'Mule Day' implies a one day event, but it's an annual celebration that lasts for several days with fun for everyone. I jokingly tell folk that they have not really lived if they have never been to a "Mule Day!"

In 2011 the event was held from 31 March through 3 April. Tentative plans were made to drive down to Columbia and weeks in advance, I ordered their colorful catalogue of events. Due to various circumstances, I didn't attend that year's "Mule Day." Before disposing of their fine brochure, I decided to read all the articles it contained. One paragraph, on page 8 stood out from the rest. "A young lady, Antoinette Polk, made a heroic ride from Columbia to her home in Ashwood to warn her friends and family that Federal troops were headed their way. She, no doubt, saved some lives that day. For her efforts, she was presented a battle flag by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. This flag has been restored and is back in Maury County after years in Switzerland and France. It's an interesting story." At the bottom of the page was listed the telephone number for the Maury County Convention and Visitors Bureau in Columbia, Tennessee. In order to learn more about this Tennessee heroine, I took to the internet and found a lovely photograph of Antoinette Polk Baronne de Charette. The name suggests that she married into a European family. In addition, I found an article written by B. L. Ridley for a

publication in 1896 of Confederate Veteran, it was about various heroines of the War. Antoinette is related to Major General Anthony Wayne of Revolutionary fame and Confederate General Leonidas Polk, the famed "Fighting Bishop," is her uncle.

According to B. L. Ridley in his article, "She was not fully grown when Antoinette took this famous ride. After the war she went abroad with her father and mother and finished her education in Europe. The health of her father, Andrew Jackson Polk, having failed when in the Confederate Army, he grew worse and died in Switzerland." (In fact Antoinette was only 16 at the time of the famed ride.) "She had a most brilliant young lady-hood abroad, principally in Rome, where she was beloved by Princess Margarite, and universally admired. She married a distinguished French soldier of the old regime, Marquis de Charette de la Contrie, who like herself, was of heroic stock. Her home is in France. She has one son, a youth of great promise."

From a 1909 New York Times article with the heading French Marquis Weds Miss Henning, there were many details about Antoinette's son, Antoine de Charette, and his wedding to a Kentucky horsewoman named Susanne Henning. She was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. James Williamson Henning. I was soon able to get in touch with Bob Duncan, Director of the Maury County Archives. From Bob's research I learned that their Paris-born daughter, Susanne de Charette, married Brigadier General Ronald Van Stockum. This granddaughter of Antoinette Polk made her home at Allen Dale Farm in Shelby County, Kentucky. Mr Ridley's article continues, "They talk about Sheridan's ride but let me tell of one that strips it of its grandeur the famous run of Miss Antoinette Polk, displaying a heroism worthy of imperishable record. She was on the Hampshire Turnpike, a few miles from Columbia, Tenn., when someone informed her that Federals

contemplated a visit to her father's home on the Mt. Pleasant Pike five miles across, the Pike forms an obtuse angle from Columbia. She knew that some soldier friends at her father's would be captured unless they had notice, and in order to inform them, she had to go across the angle that was barricaded many times with high rail and rock fences. There was no more superb equestrienne in the valley of the Tennessee, she was of magnificent physique. She had a thoroughbred horse trained to her bidding. The young lady started, leaping fences like a reindeer, and came out on the pike just in front of the troopers, four miles from home. They took after her, but her foaming steed was so fleet of foot, that she got away from them in the twinkling of an eye, and saved her friends from capture."



**This flag, captured by General Forrest from Colonel Abel Streight, was presented by Forrest to 16 year old Antoinette Polk in recognition of her bravery**

In recognition of this heroic ride, General Nathan Bedford Forrest, while stationed in Columbia in 1863, presents the gallant Miss Polk with the battle flag, mentioned in the "Mule Day" report. Naturally I felt the flag would have been a Confederate flag, but it wasn't. The flag presented to this young lady was a Federal flag taken when General Forrest captured the entire command of Colonel Abel Streight during a raid in Alabama. That same flag had been to Switzerland while the Polk family resided there. It had been displayed at the French home where Antoinette lived outside of Paris. Finally, after years and miles of travel, the flag was brought back to America with her granddaughter and family.

Due to the generosity of the von Stockum family in 1999, that fragile piece of our history is at last returned to its home, Susanne de Charette von Stockum donated the flag to the people of Maury County. Over a period of years the Maury County Archives had the flag restored and encased in a glass frame. Many thanks are due Bob Duncan for his assistance and Southern hospitality. Bob gathered and

recorded many facts and photos contained in this report. He would be glad to show you the Streight/Forrest/Polk flag next time you visit Columbia, Tennessee.

In modern parlance, you might say General Forrest truly "punked" Federal Colonel Streight in a masterful act of war. With outnumbered forces, that devil/genius Forrest tricked Colonel Streight into surrendering his entire command along with his reputation. You just never know where interesting War tales are to be found and waiting to be retold.

## Notes from the field:

July 17, 1861

My Dear Son:

It may have seemed strange to you that a professing Christian father so freely gave you, a Christian son, to enlist in the volunteer service. My reason was that I regarded this as a purely defensive war. Not only did the Southern Confederacy propose to adjust the pending difficulties by peaceful and equitable negotiations, but Virginia used again and again the most earnest and noble efforts to prevent a resort to the sword. These overtures having been proudly spurned, and our beloved South having been threatened with invasion and subjugation, it seemed to me that nothing was left us but stern resistance or abject submission to unconstitutional power. A brave and generous people could not for a moment hesitate between such alternatives. A war in defence (sp) of our homes and firesides-of our wives and children-of all that makes life worth possessing is the result. While I most deeply deplore the necessity for the sacrifice, I could not but rejoice that I had a son to offer to the service of the country, and if I had a dozen I would most freely give them all.....

We pray for a "speedy, just, and honorable peace," and for the safe return of all the volunteers to their loved homes. All the children speak often of "brother," and hear your letters read with intense interest. That God Almighty may be your shield and your exceeding great reward is the constant prayer of your loving father.

Ro. RYLAND. (his father)

*This letter was written by a father to his son who was serving in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The letter is contained in **Christ in the Camp** by J. William Jones.*

# 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 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.*

## **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](http://www.atlanticbullionandcoin.com)



# SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS



## APPLICATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to any member in good standing. It may be obtained by paying a fee as shown below. Upon acceptance, membership will be established in Life Member Camp No. 2 but will still be a member of your current camp. The Life Member will receive a Life Membership certificate, lapel pin, and membership card upon payment in full.

### **Sons of Confederate Veterans Application for Life Membership**

I hereby make application for Life Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. My payment is enclosed which entitles me to lifetime membership within the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I understand that I am still obligated to pay any Division or Camp annual dues if affiliated with a local camp & that Life Membership only covers national dues. I further understand that I will also have to continue paying national dues until my life membership is paid in full if I choose to make payments using the conditional option.

**Life Membership**

**Conditional Life Membership\***

\_\_\_ \$500 (Ages 12-64)

\_\_\_ \$250 (Ages 65-79)

\_\_\_ \$125 (Ages 80+)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

I am affiliated with Robert E. Lee Camp Camp # 1640

\*I hereby make application for Conditional Life Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. My initial payment of \$125.00 is enclosed with this application, and I understand that regular annual dues must continue to be paid until my final \$125 payment is made. Should I fail to complete my Conditional Life Membership within 36 months, the Adjutant-in-Chief will prorate the amount paid towards annual membership.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Robert E. Lee Camp #1640, SCV, PO Box 171251, Memphis, TN 38187-1251.

## Commander's Corner

Gentlemen,

MARCH'S CAMP MEETING was a packed house. The topic sounded boring but was one of the best presentations of why the war was fought that I have ever heard. We thank our fellow SCV member Keith Alexander for the in depth presentation on the causes of the war. There were 39 present for the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS joining us at the March meeting were David Owens and his son Gage, who is also our first cadet member, and Matt Buyer joining as an Associate member. We welcome our new members to the Camp and appreciate the work they have already done with Bankhead's Battery and the cause.

GERMANTOWN HISTORIC TOUR is a little over 5 weeks from now (May 18 - 19). We have the six stops manned by some good folks who need additional help so call one of them and volunteer NOW. We need Bus/Ticket persons to punch the tickets of each visitor as they enter the busses and sites. Call Warner Swett 818-2767 and get involved. We will need about 24 people for that job. To assist at one of the Stops call the Captain of that Stop: 1. Pickering Center Mike Daugherty 758-8514, 2. Germantown Presbyterian Church Clark Doan 861-2401, 3. McVey Cemetery Don Harrison 662/895-8064, 4. Brooks Plantation Home Margie Potts 662/750-0724, 5. Depo Jack or Betty Werne 485-7587 really need help with RR history, 6. Fort Germantown Mark Buchanan 570-1413. All of the Stops need additional hands on board except for possibly Stop 3. Please do your duty and get involved. You will enjoy the experience and will develop additional friends in the Camp.

Color brochures on the Tour will be available at the Camp meeting. Find out if you can place them at a store near you for distribution. Tickets will also be available at the early discount price of 15.00 each on May 1st they are 20.00. We have limited the number of tickets printed so if you have friends coming in town that week end get you tickets now. You may order the tickets on line at [WWW.GermantownTour.com](http://WWW.GermantownTour.com) and pay with a credit card or PayPal.

Any members with Advertising experience or connections please call Tarry Beasley 682-8000 or

240-2014 as we need to finalize our advertising and distribution methods etc.

CONFEDERATE PARKS are continuing to boil with the silly Memphis "Council" floundering on its own racist bigotry. A report will be given by Mark Buchanan our Lt Commander and the Brigade Commander on the latest developments at this upcoming meeting - be there for the latest on this issue.

CANNONS FOR FT GERMANTOWN our project for furnishing full scale repo cannons for the Fort got a huge boost and propelled the project way ahead of schedule when the National Park Service agreed to give 2 of the old iron carriages to us for the Fort. The City of Germantown is working on employees and equipment to pick up the carriages but we will need to go and assist the city in the transfer. The carriages will need to be sand blasted, possibly welded if cracked and then painted before installation at the Fort. We will likewise need to purchase the cannon barrels and have them delivered to us. All of this was to happen after the Tour but has been accelerated. You can help in two ways: 1. Donate some funds to the Camp ear marked "Cannon Fund" we will need about 15,000 and, 2. Plan on assisting in the moving and painting projects that are coming up. More detail will be available at the Camp meeting April 8th.

REMINDERS Get a Kroger Card and obtain a life membership free, purchase you next car tag as a SCV plate, and if you do not have a Composite of the camp get yours now they are 5.00 each. My picture alone ought to be worth that! Ha! Ha!

APRIL'S MEETING will begin at 7:00 pm at 7779 Old Poplar Pike in the Tennessee Genealogical Building

Tarry Beasley, Commander

American by Birth

Southern and Saved by the Grace of God

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"All that was, or is now, desired is that error and injustice be excluded from the text books of the schools and from the literature brought into our homes; that the truth be told, without exaggeration and without omission; truth for its own sake and for the sake of honest history, and that the generations to come after us not be left to bear the burden of shame and dishonor unrighteously laid upon the name of their noble sires." ~ Rev. James P. Smith, Last Survivor of the Staff of Lt. Genl. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson

## 150 Years Ago



U.S. Colonel Benjamin Grierson leaves La Grange in Tennessee April 17, 1863 with 17 thousand cavalymen and rides towards the coming conflict in Mississippi to raid the State. This is a remarkable image (above) of that event taken by a Confederate spy. It shows Grierson's column on the march near the end of their journey.

### SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

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

*41 % of active members*



**Traveller** is the monthly newsletter of:

The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
and  
The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,  
Order of the Confederate Rose  
P.O. Box 171251  
Memphis, Tennessee 38187

Steve M. McIntyre, Editor



**Next Camp Meeting \*\* April 8, 2013**

**Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN**