



TRAVELLER



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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

Deo Vindici

September, 2013

**CAMP MEETING
September 9, 2013**

**7:00 p.m. at the Germantown Regional
History and Genealogy Center
Don't miss our next camp meeting.**

Gen. George W. Gordon

**From an Address by L.B. McFarland at the
United Confederate Veterans Reunion in
Macon, Georgia, 1912**



George W. Gordon was born on the 5th of October, 1836, in Giles County, Tenn. He was the son of Andrew Gordon, a native of Tennessee, and Eliza K. Gordon, a Virginian born. This county - one of the blue grass region of Tennessee - was one of the most fertile and fairest of the land, its people educated, refined, and prosperous to a high degree. He was reared there and in Mississippi and also Texas, he having spent part of his youth in each. He graduated at the Western Military Institute at Nashville, then the West Point of the South,

and was thus fitted for the performance of arms. He first made civil engineering his occupation, and served in that field from 1859 to 1861, and until Tennessee seceded from the Union and called her sons to arms. He enlisted at once and was made drill master of the afterwards famous 11th Tennessee Infantry, whose first colonel was Col. J. E. Rains, afterwards General Rains, who fell in the desperate conflict at Murfreesboro. Gordon was soon made captain of his company, and then lieutenant colonel and colonel of his regiment and in 1864 was made brigadier general. At the close of the war he studied law, and was early elected attorney-general of one of the criminal courts of Shelby County, Tenn., and served the State ably and well. He was then appointed a railroad commissioner for the State, and served until 1885, when upon the election of Mr. Cleveland he received an appointment in the Department of the Interior, and was assigned to duty in charge of an Indian agency amid the mountains of Arizona and Nevada.

His term of office expired, he returned to Memphis and was soon elected superintendent of the Memphis city schools, which he held until March, 1907, when he was elected to Congress. The growth and efficiency of the public school system of Memphis during these years became a monument to his zeal, intelligence, and devotion to his work; and the spread of general education and intelligence signaled his beneficent influence upon the youthful thousands under his superintendence, while the gratitude and devotion of teachers and scholars was afterwards demonstrated by their activity and influence in his several candidacies for Congress - in 1908 and reelected in 1910 - by overwhelming majorities given by an appreciative constituency, where he served with the same zeal, fidelity, and devotion that he gave any duty of life.

The limits of this occasion will permit only a suggestion of his services as a soldier, his adventures, and his distinguished gallantry on every field. Captured early in

1862, he was a prisoner for ten days and then exchanged. Desperately wounded at Murfreesboro in one of the bloodiest struggles of that field, he was left on the retreat and again became a prisoner, and on recovery, after long suffering, was held in prison at Camp Chase and then Fort Delaware, suffering the horrors of those hells until May, 1863, when he was again exchanged and returned to the command of his regiment, then in Pres. Smith's brigade, Cheatham's Division. Then followed Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the campaign from Dalton to Jonesboro (one hundred and twenty-one days under fire), including the conflicts of Resaca, Calhoun, New Hope Church, and Kennesaw Mountain. With his regiment he held part of the celebrated Dead Angle. He was made brigadier general at that time, and then the youngest of brigadier generals he first led his brigade at Peach Tree Creek, then on the 22nd of July at Jonesboro. Afterwards came the disastrous campaign into Tennessee and perhaps the most useless battle and bloodiest slaughter of the war - Franklin.

General Gordon led his brigade in the desperate charge up to and over the breastworks "into the very jaws of hell," when he was captured. There is an interesting incident connected with this charge and capture of Gordon. Earlier in the war Gordon had permitted his hair to grow longer than military rules sanctioned, and General Cheatham in sending him an order one day added jocularly to his adjutant: "Ingram, tell Gordon to cut off that hair." Ingram delivered his orders, adding, as directed, the supplement. Gordon replied: "Tell General Cheatham I will carry out his military order, but tell him it is none of his business how I wear my hair." It became somewhat a matter of jest with Cheatham, who was devoted to Gordon, and of pride with Gordon, who was equally devoted to Cheatham, to wear his hair long. When Cheatham ordered the charge at Franklin, he sent word to Gordon to go over the works if he had to be pulled over by his hair. After his capture, when leaving with his captors, he left word with a citizen to tell General Cheatham: "Gordon had gone over the works and was not pulled over by his hair, either."

During the terrible epidemic of yellow fever in Memphis in 1873 he was one of a heroic band that remained, and for many dark days of suffering and death preserved order, ministered to the sick, and buried the dead, displaying self-sacrifice and heroism greater than all the mastery of arms.

He was after the war a Confederate in heart and soul and purse. No appeal for help coming from the aged or crippled Confederates, though often pretended nobility

was made a plea of pity, was ever disregarded. General Gordon was closely affiliated with Confederate organizations, and successively made Commander of his Camp and Bivouac at Memphis, President of the Confederate Historical Association, Memphis (oldest of the Confederate organs), and of which Mr. Davis himself was a member, President of the State Association of Confederate Bivouacs, Major General commanding Tennessee Division, United Confederate Veterans, Commander of the Department of the Army of Tennessee, United Confederate Veterans, and, crowning all, Commander in Chief of the United Confederate Veterans. His devotion to his comrades in arms and his duties in this high office at your last Reunion at Little Rock hastened his death, and at Memphis, Tenn., he died on the 9th of August, 1911. His funeral cortege was a weeping city, his dirge the farewell shot by his beloved comrades, Company A, United Confederate Veterans, over the grave of the hero we buried, and our Commander in Chief will be with us nevermore.



**Gordon Elementary, Memphis Tennessee
Named for Confederate general and city school
superintendent George W. Gordon**



Southern Grammar Lessons:

A Southerner knows that "fixin" can be used as a noun, a verb, or an adverb.

In the South, "y'all" is singular, "all y'all" is plural.



If you don't think this fight with the City of Memphis over the Confederate themed parks is not historic and critical to the preservation of history, there is a similar fight in Duvall County, FL. Two schools, named after Robert E. Lee and Nathan Bedford Forrest are under threat. The school board is contemplating changing the names. The petition drive to do so hasn't gained much traction, but the local government is bent on going ahead with their agenda. Does this sound familiar? The article actually mentions Memphis' dastardly attempt to change the names here. So we ARE at the forefront in the fight!

In Memphis is where we stand like a Stonewall and stop this travesty against justice and truth. We need to redouble our efforts. We must write our friends, contact everyone we know about the struggle to preserve the Confederate Soldier's good name and ask for everyone's support.

We will be victorious!

Deo Vindice!

Notes from the Field



Private I. I. Miller of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry writes on July 21, 1861 describing his efforts at the First Manassas to Ladson Fraser, his friend:

[My] advice to Horatio & yourself is, to remain at home and be ready there to defend the soil of S. Carolina against yankee invasion. I had been long wishing to witness a battle and . . . was gratified again on Sunday the 21st . . . with seeing a fight on a grand scale. . . . Others may say what they please but the Victory is due mainly to the 2nd SC Regt. Col. Kershaw. . . . The 2nd SC Regt was in the hottest of the fight. . . . The Yankees told upon the road as they fled, that they had rather fight devils just out of hell, than S. Carolinians. . . . I had most as good luck the other day shooting Yankees, as I have had sometimes shooting squirrels around Father's plantation. . . . I never felt more composed in my life, than on that occasion. I am anxious for another fight, as a good many improvements could be made upon the one of the 21st.

They felt they were Lee's shock troops. The Yankees knew they were in for a fight when they saw their battle flag on the field. If you have the opportunity, visit the South Carolina Museum in Columbia, SC.

The exhibits are exclusively Confederate, and tell the story of the valiant struggle of the southern soldier and the people who stood behind them in their fight for independence. The exhibits are excellent, with very detailed descriptions of the artifacts. You can actually view the rosters of the soldiers from South Carolina Regiments on their "Walls of Honor". One can also donate to preservation of era relics and Confederate Flags as well.

(Submitted by Lt Commander Mark Buchanan)

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 Reason	Bill Simmons
Larry J. Spiller, Jr.	Larry J. Spiller, Sr.
Osborn Turner, IV	Charles L Vernon
William C. Wilson	

41 % of active members

THE GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE CAMP 1640
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, INC.
Germantown, Tennessee

P.O. Box 171251, Memphis, TN 38187
Telephone (901) 682-8000

DONATION- PLEDGE SHEET

I would like to donate to the following projects my Camp is currently undertaking:

Ft. Germantown Cannon Project	\$ _____
Forrest Boyhood Sign Project	\$ _____
Citizens to Save Our Parks	\$ _____
Camp's General Fund	\$ _____

I would also like to pay my annual dues at this time. \$ 60.00
(If previously paid, please mark through this item.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

OR

TOTAL PLEDGED: \$ _____
(enclosed or to be paid within 60 days)

Please **print** and update your information
and mail to camp address above by September 15th.

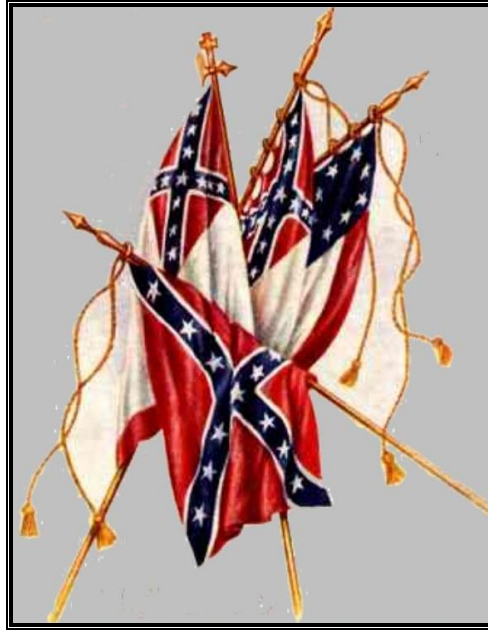
Name: _____
(Print)

Address: _____
(Print)

City	State	Zip Code
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Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____
(Print)



The Memphis Brigade
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Annual

Dixie Day Picnic/Rally

Confederate Park
Memphis, Tennessee
Sept 29th, 2013
2:00 p.m.

For information Call
Memphis Brigade Commander
Mark Buchanan
901-570-1413

Citizens to Save Our Parks will be there.

Items will be obtainable for a donation to CTSOP to protect our historical parks.

If you have items to donate please bring them!

Bring a lawn chair and get ready to have a great time!

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

Commander's Corner

Gentlemen,

AUGUST CAMP MEETING was really a good meeting with lots of things discussed and a terrific program presented to us by Dr Michael Bradley on the raids into territory held by the enemy. General Forrest and Mosby's raids were discussed and Dr Bradley's new book was offered in which the parallel raids are laid out day by day. This is a have to have book. The various projects of the camp were discussed and Mark Buchanan brought us up to date on the Citizens to Save Our Parks activities and fund raising. Mark also covered the upcoming Dixie Day Picnic to be held at Confederate Park on September 29th. You should plan on being there. There were 32 present and several visitors at our camp meeting. If you were not there we missed you and you missed a super meeting. Don't miss the next one.

DUES are due. Next month there will be a late fee charged by national of an additional \$5.00 so mail your dues TODAY if you have not already done so. Check out the Donation Sheet in this newsletter and send it in with your dues to the address thereon. This is VERY IMPORTANT to take care of now. Dues are \$60.00.

FORREST BOYHOOD HOME SIGNS project had a collection taken up which boosted the total collected to 780.00 then an additional \$280.00 that was contributed to the project that night. We are very close (only \$620.00) to fully funding the project and would suggest that you review the enclosed Donation Sheet and consider giving a small amount to each of the projects we are currently working on. It would be great to have every member contribute at least something to the projects and have 100% participation in the efforts of the Camp.

FT GERMANTOWN CANNONS are now at Southern Painting and ready for you to trim out in black. Once that is done the City of Germantown will have the concrete pads poured in the Park for the placement of the Cannons so that they can be bolted and welded to the pads. Our cannons will be secure and show our Camp's commitment to the community. At the Camp meeting the Cannon fund had an additional \$995.00 donated to it by the members present and a couple of other donors including the Wig Fall Grays Camp. In addition to the cash received numerous members gave written pledges to add an additional \$240.00 in the next 60 days! WOW that is GREAT. I

would like to report in the next news letter that everyone in the camp has given or pledged something to these effort. If it is only a few bucks or a 5.00 that is great any amount - just participate. A 100% participation in the efforts of the camp no matter how small shows commitment and dedication it is not the amount that counts it is your Southern heart. We need a couple of men to assist in the painting of the trim on the carriages. If you can help please call Tarry Beasley 682-8000 or 240-2014 and let me know when you can help us - no lifting just small paint brushes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS will occur in November with the nominations in September and October. You need to consider who you would like to see lead the Camp for the next (2) two years, 2014-15. Call and talk to your choice to be sure that he can and will accept the job and then come to the Camp meeting and nominate him. We elect the following officers the rest are appointed by the Commander after his election: Commander, Lt. Commander, Adjutant and Treasurer. The Commander is the only officer who cannot succeed himself in the same office.

AUGUST AUCTION did not occur as we had too much going on so the items were used for door prizes; however, if you wish to bring something for the Camp to auction for the benefit of the Camp or one of the Projects please bring it to the meeting and we will do an auction at the end of the meeting.

TWENTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY who's you say? Well it is the Robert E Lee Camp's twentieth year! We were founded September 1993 here in Germantown and held our first meeting at the public library on Germantown road where we heard Senator Trent Lott speak on the SCV of which he too is a member. So on our anniversary there will be an Anniversary Dinner at 6:00 just before our regular meeting of none other than Southern BBQ in the patio area. See the invitation sent by snail mail to the members and if you are a visitor and wish to join us please call 682-8000 and we will add you to the dinner list. As in years past and started by Clark Doan the Dinner will have a basket at the end to receive a donation to cover the cost of dinner. All should bring a drink and yard chair for fun, food and fellowship.

LICENSE & FOOD if you have an auto or eat you should have an SCV license plate on your car and a Kroger Card in your pocket. Those two items advertise and pay for your free life membership so do your part and get them.

UPDATING CAMP RECORDS with current information. Please complete the form in the news letter and mail it in to us regardless of whether you think we have your correct information. Unfortunately we have many bad phone numbers and a number of bad addresses and emails. Please send the info back with or without a donation to the projects.

RECRUIT a new member! Only you can tell your friends about the SCV and why you enjoy being a member of the General Lee Camp.

Tarry Beasley, Commander

American by Birth

Southern and Saved by the Grace of God



Here is a picture of the crew that removed the old cannons from Fort Germantown. From left Bill Dunaway, Rick Lantz, Lee Millar, John Smithart and the youngest Lee camp member Gage Owens. David Owens took the picture and did most of the work.



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 ** September 9, 2013
Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN**