

Patriotic & Progressive™

THE WEBFOOT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION IN THE INTEREST OF
CONFEDERATE VETERAN DESCENDANTS AND KINDRED TOPICS

Official Organ Of The
Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29
Sons of Confederate Veterans



"Battle of Spottsylvania [sic]" by Thure De Thulstrup (1848-1930)

The Commander's Corner**Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29****Columbia, TENN.****Monday, May 11, 2009**

The Webfoot
An Official Publication
of the Samuel R.
Watkins Camp #29
S.C.V.

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Camp Surgeon: R. Shelton

Sgt. at Arms: Josh Boshers

Judge Advocate: C. Bates

Quartermaster: S. Wyatt

Ways and Means: K. Lovett

**Compatriots**

April and May have been very busy months for the camp. And they should be with April being Confederate History Month and continuing until June 6th which is Confederate Decoration Day. So get you some flags and place them on the graves on Confederates. The first weekend of April was the Tennessee Division Reunion and the Lt. Gould marker dedication. April 18th was the memorial service at Rose Hill. We had four Compatriots turn out for the event and they were Michael Bullock, Jay Smith, Jackie Boshers and myself - a very light turn out. We posted colors and fired the salute. The weekend of April 25th and 26th was the skirmish in Centerville. May 2nd was a workday at the Forrest Boyhood Home getting ready for the Homecoming on June 20th (there will be 2 more work days on May 30th and June 13th). May 9th was the skirmish in Linden and Adjutant Jay Smith and myself turned out for the fighting and Compatriot Joe Shannon came out for the festivities.

I am writing this on Monday May 11th so the next event has yet to occur but will be here before the meeting. May 16th will be a dedication at Lasting Hope cemetery just outside Spring Hill in Neapolis. On Wednesday May 6th Adjutant Jay Smith and myself placed 6 Confederate markers. We will be participating with the Major Nathaniel F. Cheairs Camp #2138 and the Capt James Madison Sparkman Chapter UDC in the dedication of these markers.

I will be in Richmond Virginia for Confederate Decoration Day. Confederate Decoration Day is sometimes known as Confederate Memorial Day and is a time that we honor those who fought for the CSA. Different states have different days that they use. In Tennessee we use Jefferson Davis birthday, which is June 3rd. As a general rule they use the first Saturday of June. You can go to Elm Springs and buy you some small flags and place them on the graves in memorial.

On June 28th, our camp will be participating in an event outside Lewisburg. There is a flyer in the newsletter about the event. This will be something to remember.

Are you a budding musician? We are looking for someone to play a period instrument such as a guitar, harmonica, fiddle, etc....If you what to be part of the Music Corp or know someone who would, contact me. There are no restrictions. Only a desire to play, an appreciation of the Southern Cause and a willingness to participate are necessary.

Are you a budding author or editor? Lt Commander Jack Taylor needs some help. Jack has been doing the newsletter since 2001 and he needs an apprentice. He will gradually take you through the process of doing the newsletter. So do not be faint of heart. Step up and be the next newsletter editor.

We are now working on getting the newsletter to as many people as possible as an email. The cost for postage is \$1 per newsletter and that adds up quickly. Please give us your email address. Maybe we will soon be able to up our scholarship money.

See you at the meeting or an event.

In Holy Bonds of the South,

Jason Boshers

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Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 - PO BOX 309, Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

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S.C.V TELEGRAPH

AUBURN, ALABAMA HERITAGE VIOLATION

08-May-09

Compatriots,

I am sure that by now you have all heard of the Heritage Violation that happened on the 23rd of April at Pine Hill Cemetery located in Auburn, Alabama. On this day, Auburn City Councilman Arthur Dowdell entered the cemetery and stole four Confederate "Memorial" flags (reportedly) from the graves of Confederate Veterans. These flags had been placed by the Semmes Chapter of the UDC in Auburn in preparation for their upcoming Memorial service the following Sunday. This act of lawlessness was witnessed by a local historian and UDC member Mrs. Mary Norman. There were many reports of this incident in the local news and across the AP.

The City Council in Auburn held their regular meeting on Tuesday the 5th of May at 7pm. The Army of Tennessee and Alabama Division were very well represented at this council meeting. Present were myself, AoT Commander Kelly Barrow, AoT Councilman and Division 1st Lt. Commander Tom Strain, SEC Brigade Commander Larry Warren, SWC Brigade Commander Joe Clark, NWC Brigade Commander Allan Koester, Past Division Commanders Wilson and Simmons, Tallassee Camp Commander Randall Hughey, Auburn Camp Commander Jerry Purcel, Florida Division 1st Lt Commander Bob Hurst and forty plus fellow SCV members. The evening began with the opening of the meeting room, where we occupied the front row and most of the center section of the seating.

The Mayor then made a statement. In it he said: "Let me be clear, the issue here is not about race, the symbolism of the flag, or the City's cemetery policies; it is about the removal of private property from a private grave." He further stated "I want to assure the Daughter's that I will not support any Council action limiting anyone's right to honor their loved ones by placing flags on a grave."

They then altered the agenda to allow them to bring forward a resolution concerning Dowdell's actions.

Councilman Bob Norman issued the following statement and resolution:

"Statement: By his own admission, Councilman Arthur Dowdell entered Pine Hill Cemetery on April 23rd and removed confederate flags from private burial plots. He was quoted as saying "This will never happen again as long as I'm on the city council."

This is a passionate issue. There is no doubt that Mr. Dowdell is offended by the battle flag of the confederacy, and the appropriateness of its use is open to debate. The way councilman Dowdell chose to enter the debate is inappropriate and beneath the office of city councilman. His actions were inexcusable and have done nothing to help people on either side of this issue find common ground. They have stirred up old hatreds and created embarrassment and controversy for the city he represents.

The Bottom line is that those graves are private property, the placing of flags as memorials are expressions of free speech and Mr. Dowdell had no right to remove them. The fact that Mr. Dowdell invoked his position as a city councilman demands that the city council speak to the issue. Therefore the following is offered as a resolution by the Auburn city council:

Whereas, by his own admission, Councilman Arthur Dowdell entered Pine Hill Cemetery on April 23rd and removed confederate flags from private burial plots; and

Whereas, Councilman Dowdell invoked his position as a city councilman by saying "This will never happen again as long as I'm on the city council;" and

Whereas, the foregoing action was inappropriate and beneath the office of a city councilman;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council condemns the actions taken by the Councilman Dowdell, and urges him to make a public apology to the citizens of Auburn, and to pledge that henceforth he will respect the private property and free speech rights of all citizens."

This Resolution passed with one vote against by Dowdell.

The Council then opened the floor for comment from Auburn citizens. A slight majority of these were those brought in by Dowdell, and they were in favor of him. There were also a number of citizens who took strong exception to his actions. The floor was then opened for speakers from outside Auburn to speak. Randall Hughey was the first on our desired lineup, and he did an excellent job. Auburn Camp Commander Jerry Purcel (who lives outside the city limits) was next and did a fine job as well. The selection was not by sign up, but by recognition from the Mayor. Good points were made by a number of speakers and those opposed to Dowdell were the vast majority of those given.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE:

HERITAGE VIOLATION UPDATE—CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

When it became evident that almost everyone present would be coming up to the microphone, it was decided that the public comments would be saved until the end of the meeting.

The regular business of the Council was covered in a very few minutes and we returned to public comment. Just over half of the comments were given in this second session. To the council's credit they patiently listened to the comments being made and gave everyone a chance to speak.

After the public comments session, Dowdell gave his statement in which he publicly apologized to the UDC and the SCV. He excused his actions due to "ignorancy" on his part, and noted that he contacted the City Manager and Mayor about the flags and that they did not know anything about them. He said the Mayor did know there was a program planned for Sunday.

Dowdell's claims of ignorance appeared to be very well founded, though I will certainly not attest to his sense of honesty. The issue here though is that ignorance of the law is not an excuse for lawless behavior.

As a closing comment, Councilman Robin Kelley was visibly shaken when he stated that Dowdell "Broke the law, and desecrated graves, end of discussion" in the removal of the flags. He further chastised Dowdell for not calling him, since it was in his ward. He explained that he lived near the cemetery and knew exactly what the flags were for. Kelley stated that Dowdell would be highly unappreciative of his taking action in Dowdell's ward without first informing Dowdell. Kelley then called for the meeting to adjourn.

In the end what we got was:

1. A statement by the Mayor that Dowdell removed private property from private grave plots.
2. A statement by the Mayor that he "will not support any Council action limiting anyone's right to honor their loved ones by placing flags on a grave."
3. A statement by Councilman Bob Norman and the city council that Dowdell removed (stole) private property and did so as a city councilman.
4. A Resolution that the City Council condemned the actions taken by Dowdell and urged him to make an apology.
5. An apology from Dowdell to the UDC and the SCV.
6. A statement from Councilman Kelly that Dowdell "Broke the law, and desecrated graves, end of discussion".

At this point Dowdell appears as he is, an ignorant self righteous and self serving thug who took the law into his own hands, and has been thoroughly chastised by us and the City Council.

Compatriots, there is no way for the Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans to pursue a criminal suit against Councilman Dowdell because we do not have a witness willing to step forward to sign the arrest warrant and that no one has produced a list of the graves that were vandalized. We are unable to proceed any further in this case. It is also very clear that if we push this issue, we will possibly turn Councilman Dowdell into a martyr, and gentlemen this is exactly what he wants and needs at this point.

In closing, this is clearly a victory for the Army of Tennessee and Alabama Division. We went to Auburn, showed up in numbers, represented the Division and SCV in a very honorable fashion, and left knowing that the City Council and Mayor's office are clearly upset with Councilman Dowdell's actions. I would like to personally thank all of those involved who assisted the Alabama Division by following the Charge as set forth by General S.D. Lee to the Sons of Confederate Veterans in 1906.

Deo Vindice,
Robert C. Reames
Alabama Division Commander
Sons of Confederate Veterans

rcreames@aol.com

Confederate flag argument leads to shooting

Heraldtribune.com - Sunday, April 26, 2009

A Friday-night argument between two teenagers -- one white and one black -- over the Confederate flag ended with one in the hospital with a gunshot wound and the other in jail, facing felony charges.

The shooting occurred about 10:30 p.m. in downtown Sarasota near Links and Main streets. The site is across from the Hollywood 20 movie theater and is a popular nighttime gathering spot for teenagers.

According to police and eyewitness reports:

Michael J. Mitchell, 18, a student at the Sarasota Military Academy, was with a group of friends when Dan A. Azeff, also 18 and a student at Sarasota High School and Sarasota County Technical Institute, walked by with another group. Azeff wore a hat with the Confederate symbol and carried a Confederate flag measuring about 5 feet by 3 feet.

Mitchell and a friend questioned Azeff about the hat and flag, asking if he was a racist. Azeff told them no, he was just exercising free speech.

The fight escalated and the groups exchanged racial slurs. Mitchell reportedly pulled out a handgun and shot Azeff once in the chest, then ran off.

Police closed off Main Street and brought in dogs and a helicopter during a two-hour search for the gunman. They also rounded up several of Mitchell's friends and learned his name and where he lived.

Mitchell was arrested early Saturday at his home in the 5300 block of Southerly Way. He faces a charge of aggravated battery with a firearm.

Azeff, who lives in the 1400 block of Fleetwood Drive, was flown by helicopter to Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg. He was conscious, and was listed in serious but stable condition Saturday evening.

Azeff's parents were at the hospital Saturday and could not be reached by phone.

Azeff's grandfather, Joseph Fischer, said the Azeff family moved to Southwest Florida from the Philadelphia area about 11 years ago. Azeff has an older sister at Florida State University and a younger sister who attends Sarasota High.

Azeff has been involved in the Junior ROTC and is planning to join the Army after graduation, Fischer said.

He also said Azeff hung out with a group of teenagers who call themselves "country boys." An old MySpace page opened by Azeff had the header "A country man can survive," and he posted country music videos by artists such as Rodney Atkins.

Along with his passion for all things country, Azeff has seemed fascinated by the rebel flag, Fischer said. "But he did not know what it truly meant. To him it was just a flag," Fischer said. "I tried to explain to him that, here in the South, it is a symbol of the past."

Azeff had a Confederate flag emblem on his car, but his grandfather scolded him for it.

"I told him: 'Take that off. Don't come to my home with that flag on your license plate,'" Fischer said. "I guess he was hanging around with a group of kids who do that sort of thing."

Mitchell's family could not be reached by phone Saturday and no one answered their door.

Sgt. Major Mike Collis, who is Mitchell's coach for the Sarasota Military Academy's tactics team, said that if Mitchell was indeed involved it was "completely unexpected and completely out of character."

"He was always a good student for me, polite and considerate," Collis said. "I was his coach and he was a team player."

Collis said Mitchell is a hard worker who always participates in campouts and other activities.

"I was completely taken by surprise," Collis said. "It's a real tragedy and I feel bad for everybody involved."

Collins also wondered why the gunman had a gun in the first place. "Who carries a gun to the movies?"

Famous Horses of the Civil War

Many a fighting man had one or more favorite mounts, entitled to bountiful corn and fodder, careful grooming, and a name of its own. One clause in the surrender terms at Appomattox in 1865 puzzled some people: every Confederate cavalryman was entitled to take his horse home with him. This provision, insisted on by Lee, was accepted by Grant when he was told that once they returned to civilian life, former soldiers wouldn't be able to plant spring crops without their war horses.

The following are some of the Confederates and the horses they rode into battle and into history:

Belle Boyd - Fleeter - was ridden by this famous Confederate spy.

Maj. Gen. William B. Bate - Black Hawk - was ridden by this general.

Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne - Dixie- this battle steed was killed at Perryville while being ridden by General Cleburne.

Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell - Rifle - a much cherished steed.

Nathan Bedford Forrest - King Philip - possibly the favorite horse of Forrest, who also owned and rode Roderick and Highlander.

Capt. W I. Rasin.- Beauregard - who survived until 1883, was ridden to Appomattox by Rasin.

Stonewall Jackson - Old Sorrel - formerly a Union officer's mount, was acquired by Jackson at Harpers Ferry when she was about eleven years old. Because the mare was so small that Jackson's feet nearly dragged the ground, she was often known as Little Sorrel. Little Sorrel Lane in Somers, Connecticut, commemorates the animal Jackson was riding when he was mortally wounded.

Brig. Gen. Adam R. Johnson - Joe Smith - was ridden by the general.

Gen. Albert S. Johnston - Fire-eater - a splendid bay Thoroughbred ridden by Johnston when he was killed at Shiloh.

Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee - Nellie Gray - this mare was numbered among the dead at Opequon.

Gen. Robert E. Lee - Traveller - by all odds this best-known horse of the war was Lee's favorite. Earlier he owned and rode Richmond, Brown-Roan, Lucy Long, and Ajax. Traveller is the purported author of a ghost-written volume that depicts the Civil War as seen through equine eyes.

Col. E G. Skinner - Old Fox - ridden by this Col of the First Virginia Infantry.

Maj. Gen. Jeb Stuart - Virginia - credited with having prevented the capture of by jumping an enormous ditch. In addition to the mare, Stuart frequently rode Highfly.

Continued next page:

Famous Horses Of The Civil War—Continued

M. Jeff Thompson - Sardanapalus - favorite mount of this partisan of Missouri.

Union officers were as dependent on their horses as were their opponents. Had neither side been provided with mounts, the war might have fizzled out in about ninety days. The following is the Union side and the horses that helped them make history.

"Mother" Bickerdyke - Old Whitey - the usual mount of Bickerdyke, who was among the most famous of female nurses.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin E Butler - Almond Eye - the steed ridden by Benjamin "The Beast".

Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard - Nellie - The favorite mare of the general.

Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant - Cincinnati - presented to Grant in 1864 and immediately identified as his favorite horse. When Colonel Grant rode into Springfield, Illinois, in 1861, he was astride a white horse named Methuselah. Grant first rode into battle on the back of Rondy and during the war also used Fox, Jack, Jeff Davis, and Kangaroo.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker - Lookout - acquired at Chattanooga and named for a battle of that campaign, stood seventeen hands high and was cherished by Hooker.

Maj. Gen. Philip Kearny - Moscow - a white horse used in battle by Kearny against the advice of his colleagues may have been his favorite. Because the big horse was an inviting target, Kearny switched to a bay named Decatur and then to Bayard, whose color was light brown.

Maj. Gen. John A. Logan - Slasher - ridden into battle by Logan and depicted by an artist as dashing along a line of battle with all four feet off the ground.

Col. John McArthur - Boomerang - named for his tendency to move backward, was owned by this Col. of the Twelfth Illinois Regiment.

Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan - Kentuck - may have been the favorite mount of McClellan. In addition, McClellan rode a black horse named Bums.

Brig. Gen. George G. Meade - Baldy - wounded at First Bull Run and at Antietam, this horse later took Meade to Gettysburg and a promotion.

Philadelphia's Old Baldy Civil War Round Table helps to commemorate the memory of the horse.

Col. Philip Sheridan - Aldebaron - an early mount of Sheridan, gave way to a gelding named Rienzi. After taking him on his famous ride to Winchester, the name of the animal was changed to that of the town. Winchester (or Rienzi) was so revered that when he died, his stuffed body was presented to the Smithsonian Institution.

William T. Sherman - Lexington - possibly the favorite of Sherman, who also rode Dolly and Sam.

Maj. Gen. George Thomas - Billy - named for Sherman, this was the bay war horse of Thomas.

Source: "Civil War Curiosities" by Webb Garrison

April 21st, 2009 camp minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Commander, Jason Boshers. Sergeant-at-arms Boshers secured the door. Bullock gave the invocation. Following the prayer, Lt. Commander Taylor led the pledge to the U.S. flag and salute to the Confederate flag.

—

Commander Boshers introduced our speaker, Dr. Michael Bradley, TN Division Commander. He spoke on General Nathan Bedford Forrest's religious beliefs. The camp was very fortunate to have Dr. Bradley speak and share his extensive research and knowledge on the subject.

The General Camp Meeting followed:

Reading and acceptance of the minutes from last meeting as posted in the camp newsletter.

Adjutant Smith gave the treasurer's report of \$1,986.46

Special Communications –

Newsletter-cost & editor – Jack has done the newsletter since 2001. He needs an apprentice to assist and eventually take over the newsletter.

Marker Dedication in Lewisburg in June – Wes Pullen, Marshall Rangers Adjutant and Cathy Wood, Pulaski UDC chapter President are planning a dedication in June for the Jones Greer Family. Six black confederate soldiers have been found and possibly eight more are being researched. More information to follow.

Standing Committees Reports –

Color Guard & Honor Guard – Drilling at Jay Smith's house on Sunday afternoon's at 2:00p.m. Please contact Commander Boshers if interested.

Fundraising – Lt. Commander Taylor would like to have a silent auction or yard sale as a fundraiser. More discussion is to follow.

Special Committees Reports – n/a

Old Business –

Scholarship – Paper work has been signed and hopefully at the next camp meeting members will have scholarship and essays to review to choose a recipient of the Sam Watkins Scholarship.

Adoption of event/marker/cemetery – If scholarship is successful, it would be financially difficult for adoption of another event/marker/ cemetery. Sam Watkins family might be willing to help sponsor a bridge in his name. The camp would need to contact our State Representative regarding Bridge dedications.

Continued next page—

April 21st, Minutes—continued from previous page

New Business –

Dedication for ancestors of Judge Advocate Charles Bates – Judge Bates was back with us tonight. He is feeling much better. Once he is 100% back, a date will set for his ancestors.

Cemetery on Potts' Land – Chris and Gary Potts are interested in finding out information regarding an ancestor on a small family cemetery located off Toll Dugger Rd. The marker's inscription reads: Jeremiah Gilmer, March 2 1810 – Dec 28 1875, Commanding General of Maury County Militia, War Between the States. Wes Pullen also has ancestors buried here.

Bates brought handouts for the members from TN Civil War Preservation Association promoting the Sesquicentennial License Plate. He also had information on a very interesting book he has been reading Jack Hinson's One-Man War A Civil War Sniper, by Tom C. McKenney.

Taylor requested that Matthew Clayborne who passed away a few weeks ago, be an honoree member post mortem of the camp, even though he could not prove his lineage. Matthew put in over 500 hours on the cemetery located on UT property in Spring Hill. The camp voted and a motion passed to accept Matt has an honoree member post mortem.\

April 25th – Reenactment in Centerville

May 9th – Living History and skirmish in Linden

May 16th – UDC Marker Dedication

June – Large marker Dedication outside of Lewisburg

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 8:20. Benediction by Bullock.

General Minutes were taken by Camp Committee and associates; submitted by Camp Commander, Jason Boshers: Edited by Lt. Commander, Jack Taylor

Lakeville, MINN. Schools Debate Confederate Flag Ban (5/14/09) - AP

Two High School students from Lakeville, South, Minn. displaying Confederate flags on their vehicles have teachers and parents asking for a district-wide ban of the flags.

Lakeville South teacher Jay Scovil said he's seen Confederate battle flags displayed on vehicles several times in his 20 years with the district, and wants something done about it.

On April 20, a teacher complained that a student had a Confederate flag decal across the back window of his pickup truck. On Monday, another student draped a flag over the dashboard of his vehicle.

Many consider it a symbol of racism, but the student with the decal told administrators it represented "The Dukes of Hazzard" and "good times."

Lakeville schools official Tony Massaros wouldn't say whether the district would ban the symbol.

Recent Camp Photographs

Linden Re-enactment and Stone Mountain, GA

Recently, I took a trip to Atlanta, GA to visit friends. Since I had a lot of free time, I decided to visit Stone Mountain since I was just a few minutes away from it. To my amazement, they've turned the entire area into a theme park of sorts (haven't been there in over 25 years) and an entire 'village' beneath the magnificent carving. I took numerous shots during my stay but the one to the right was one I took with my zoom lens.

Lt. Cmdr., J. Taylor



Authentic looking cannon fire scene from the recent Linden, Tenn. Re-enactment event.

Photograph submitted by Commander J. Boshers

We would like for you to join the Marshall Rangers SCV Camp #297 as we have a cemetery marker dedication

for

Jones Greer

A Black Confederate Member of Forrest's Escort

June 28, 2009

2 PM

Cedar Grove Cemetery

Belfast, Tennessee

Directions as Follows:

For those traveling I-65 South, you will want to take Exit 37 and take State Hwy. 50 into Lewisburg, Tennessee. At the 5th traffic light, turn left onto Finley Beech Road.

(hint) Wendy's is on the corner.

Follow this road for 5 2/10 miles. Turn right onto Sam Simpson Road and Travel 1/2 mile to cemetery. Cemetery is on your left.

If you are traveling Hwy 431, when you come to Belfast, Tennessee turn onto Liberty Valley Road. Proceed 8/10 mile down this road then turn left onto Round Hill Cemetery Road. Go 9/10 mile down this road and turn left on Sam Simpson Road. Cemetery will be 1/2 mile away on your right.

If you are coming in from Shelbyville, Tennessee on State Hwy. 64, Turn on to Whitaker Road at the Wheel Market BP and travel 2 1/2 miles until you come to a crossroads.

Turn right and travel 3 4/10 Miles and Turn left on Sam Simpson Road. Cemetery is 1/2 mile down on your left.

For information call Earl W. Pullen at (cell) 1-931-246-0567

Kappa Alpha Order Under Fire, 5/13/09 —The Webfoot

By Jack Taylor

The Kappa Alpha order began on December 21, 1865 at Washington University, which is now Washington and Lee University. The KA provided a mechanism for a group of young men to come together to share in the bonds of fraternity and to emphasize academic excellence, leadership and values that were important in the society in which they were reared.

Robert E. Lee is considered to be the 'Last Knight' of America and 'spiritual founder' of the fraternity; KA tries to emphasize the values of his character.

Many young men join KA to uphold the standards of the Old South, respect for authority, respect to women with courtesy or just a leader among men. Basically it is a college fraternity that promotes ethical and philanthropic standards among young men. It is considered the most upstanding college fraternity of gentlemen to be found.

However, the KA order is not without controversy and is under attack by a black sorority at the University of Alabama. The *Alpha Kappa Alpha* Sorority recently got upset when the Kappa Alpha order was marching in a local 'Old South' annual parade and marched in front of their sorority as they were celebrating their own 35th anniversary. Some of the black women got infuriated when they saw other women in hoop skirts and men dressed in Confederate uniforms. While they did admit there wasn't any taunting of any sort and the parade members were courteous, they did say it was 'insensitive' of them to be near their sorority house. They have called for a complete stop of the annual event and fundraiser for the order.

So far it has been reported in the Associated Press that 71 alumni have sent a petition to the University's president, Robert Wilt, asking for a ban on the use of Confederate flags and uniforms on campus. So far, no action or formal announcement has been made by the school faculty.

However, this is not the first time the Kappa Alpha Order has been attacked. The Auburn University chapter ended its annual parades in 1992 after black students confronted the KA who were holding Confederate flags.

Kappa Alphas at Centenary College in Shreveport, La., had to move their Old South events off campus in 2002 after the black student alliance complained of the Confederate uniforms they would wear.

The University of Georgia chapter had to cancel its parade in 2006 because a black neighborhood found it insulting because of the use of Confederate uniforms and flags. They came up with a compromise of eliminating the name 'Old South' and are now calling it the 'Founder's Day parade' - exclusive of confederate symbols of course.

It is a shame that institutions of learning can still have so much ignorance of the reason behind Kappa Alpha's purpose and true beginnings which has remained the same since its inception so long ago. As members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, whose purpose is like that of the KA, it behooves us to continue our effort of educating the public and continuing our fundraising and preservation efforts.

For more information on the KA, please write to the following:

Kappa Alpha Order
National Administrative Office at Mulberry Hill
P.O. Box 1865
Lexington, VA 24450

Forget The 'Yee-haw'
Capturing The Real, True, Accurate, Historical Rebel Yell
By Scott C. Boyd
(April 2009 Civil War News)

RICHMOND, Va. — Reenactors and Sons of Confederate Veterans members have done the Rebel Yell for years at Civil War battle reenactments and related events. "There's only one problem: they've been doing it wrong," according to Museum of the Confederacy Executive Director S. Waite Rawls III.

Rawls seeks to remedy the situation with "The Rebel Yell Lives!" the museum's recently produced audio CD. He says it reveals the true sound of the famous Southern battle cry.

Many written accounts attest that this remarkable sound would provoke fear in Union troops as they faced a Confederate assault and stir the hearts of the Men in Gray as they summoned their martial spirit in battle.

The authentic sound of the Rebel Yell did not perish with the death of the last Confederate soldier in the 1950s. Radio station WBT in Charlotte, N.C., recorded the yell in 1935. Thomas N. Alexander, 90, a former private with the 37th North Carolina Troops sat down with the station's general manager to discuss the yell and later gave his version, which was recorded.

Alexander's grandson, J.B. Joye of Belmont, N.C., gave the recording to a reenactment unit to post online. It can be found at the 26th North Carolina Regiment's Web site: www.26nc.org/History/Rebel-Yell/rebel-yell.html. Several other sites offer the recording as well.

At a 2004 Civil War Preservation Trust meeting in Wilmington, N.C., Rawls met a reenactor with the 26th North Carolina who played a copy of the 1935 recording for him and started his interest in researching the yell.

Two things held Rawls back from the project to produce an audio CD about the Rebel Yell, however. The first concerned how the yell was heard in a battle.

"It struck me that one guy doing it alone is not what people heard in a battle. They heard hundreds or thousands doing it, and what would that sound like?"

He overcame this limitation by having someone he knew with a sound studio use computer technology to manipulate the sound of one man making the yell to sound like a whole group. He instructed, "Take this thing and record it over and over again, changing the bass and treble so it sounds like different people."

Rawls was pleased with the result and played it for a number of people, including some local SCV groups and Civil War historians.

Then Rawls encountered his second obstacle. "I was scared to use my only source, being the one guy, and started asking around" if there were other recordings of different Confederate veterans making the yell.

Continued next page:

Forget the 'Yee-Haw' — continued

"Well, sure enough, the UDC had in its archives an old wax recording of a different guy, from a Virginia cavalry unit."

The second recording was made by Sampson Saunders Simmons on April 10, 1934. Simmons had been a courier in Co. E of the 8th Virginia Cavalry. At the time of the recording, he lived in Los Angeles, Calif., and was Commander of the Pacific Division of the United Confederate Veterans.

The recording was intended to be used in the MGM movie "Operator 13," but never made it into the film. Seventeen days after being recorded, the wax cylinder with the recording was donated by MGM to the United Daughters of the Confederacy for posterity.

It was a challenge for Rawls to get that second recording because the UDC was afraid to let him try to get the sound off the wax. "I finally said, 'Look, the wax itself is worth nothing unless the sound is what it is.'"

The UDC agreed to let Rawls try to recover the recording from the wax cylinder. "We took it to one of these modern studios and got the sound off of it," Rawls said.

"They delivered the CD to me and I put it in a boom box, not knowing whether it was going to sound exactly like that other guy or completely different. If it sounded completely different, heck knows what the Rebel Yell sounded like. I put it in a boom box and – son of a gun - it sounded exactly the same."

The museum's CD begins with a rousing rendition of "Dixie" from the 1954 Columbia album "The Confederacy." At the end, the singers shout what most people think of as the Rebel Yell.

After some commentary on track two, the third track has the recording of Alexander and the authentic yell. The recording of Simmons follows shortly, and is eerily similar.

Both have a high-pitched, shrieking, animalistic quality. When this writer's young daughter first heard the CD, she said it sounded like a pack of dogs. It is definitely not the "yee-haw" that is commonly associated with the Rebel Yell.

The power of the computer comes into play next as the two real yells are digitally remastered to gradually multiply the number of voices heard making the yell. First is the simulation of a company of 70 men, then a regiment of 500, followed by a brigade of 1,800 and concluding with tens of thousands voices representing the entire Army of Northern Virginia.

J.E.B. Stuart IV, Chairman Emeritus of the Museum of the Confederacy, gives a commentary on another track, a 32-second commercial appealing to listeners to visit and support the museum. It is a shame that it did not have Stuart sharing some tales about the Rebel Yell passed down through his famous family.

The last track is a live recording from a 1950 concert in Richmond, Va., featuring conductor Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Orchestra. The orchestra plays "Dixie" for its encore. Audience members give the untutored version of the Rebel Yell as Toscanini finishes.

The new CD is available for \$10 (\$9 for members) from the museum's Haversack Store and online at www.mocstore.org.