



The Scout



Official Publication of the
Sam Davis Camp #596

Sons of Confederate Veterans

"...I would sooner die a thousand deaths before I would betray a friend or be false to duty."

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WWW.SAMDAVIS596.COM

Col. Mosby makes his way to Manassas



Jeff Smith is on his way to Manassas to play Col. John S. Mosby during the Civil War sesquicentennial, and he's on foot.

He plans to arrive in time for the Peace Jubilee memorial at the Old Manassas Courthouse. The Peace Jubilee was first held in 1911, 50 years after the Civil War, when Confederate and Union Soldiers gathered in Manassas to celebrate the peace between the Northern and Southern States.

"They can't use young men for that. I'm the right age, the right look", said 63-year old Smith as he passed through Stafford County along U.S. 1 with his horse Wilkes.

Smith isn't riding Wilkes much because he's afraid the horse might get spooked by road noises along U.S. 1. "The young kids go by and if they honk their horns at the right time it's going to scare him", he said".

Smith and Wilkes left their home in Dogue, about sixty miles from Manassas and he figures he's making about 12 miles a day on foot, which should put him into Manassas on time.

He said Wilkes is up for the ride and seems to be enjoying himself. "This is all new to him. He's curious and he meets all kinds of kids, which he loves. I can't tire him out", Smith said. He's doing all right. Smith and Wilkes have found some hospitality along the way. People let him camp out on their property, and some give bottles of water to Smith and carrots to Wilkes.

Smith figures he'll meet up with the First Virginia, a crew of re-enactors planning to attend the commemoration, and ride with them during events at the Peace Jubilee memorial.

2011

Camp Calendar

**Our Next Meeting
August 11—7 PM
At Beauvoir**

September 8—7 PM

Site to be announced

October- 7 PM

Site to be announced

**25th Annual
FALL MUSTER
AT BEAUVOIR
IS
COMING
OCTOBER
15th & 16th
Get Ready
For The Family Event
Of 2011!**

November 10

Site to be announced

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE



Items From The Past

Published in the Confederate Veteran
In January 1895



The following article was written by Col. George T. Rogers and was published in the Confederate Veteran Magazine in January of 1895

THE CRATER BATTLE, JULY 1864

Much has been said about that battle. Some bold truths of history, in a general way, have been recorded, but full, accurate details have never been given in print, because the participants who only know much of the matter from observation and experience have not been writing.

I was attached to "Mahone's Old Brigade." He commanded, really, a division at the time, and for many months before. The brigade was under the command of Col. W., afterward made a brigadier, being the oldest colonel in the army, and we had for several months before the Crater explosion been doing duty on the outside of the trenches with his command as "flankers". We were engaged in protecting the main line of supply to Gen. Lee's army, the Weldon Railroad, and rarely a week passed that we were not moved out to push off the attacking enemy or to retake and reestablish the broken line of the railroad of such vital importance. Many men had been lost, killed, and wounded in those often repeated conflicts, and, in truth, the command had been very nearly "frazzled out" to use a vulgarism and no recruits, having their choice, would enlist in it.

The brigade of five regiments could not always report for duty more than one thousand men, the casualties were so great and frequent. The worn out command that had taken part in every skirmish, as we called them, on the railroad, was brought to notice a little after the Crater Battle because of its thin ranks, and was sent to take charge of the line between the two rivers, James and Appomattox, that had been held by pickets, a recruiting division of perhaps five thousand men. Yet it is a fact that that line was held by this thin brigade for months before the march to surrender. But when the mine explosion bounded deep, low, and rumbling, as we read of earthquakes, on the 30th of July, 1864, the brigade was on the extreme right and three or four miles from the disaster, outside the trenches, except about one half of our regiment, the Sixth Virginia, that was on the picket line.

Just as the day began to dawn came that low, deep, quivering, ominous sound. I had stretched myself on a board, raised a little, under an old cart shed that had been bored

Continued in column two

Continued from column one

and splintered again and again by the enemy's batteries in the front, on the right, and on the left, hoping that in the quiet all along the line just then reigning, I might catch a short nap.

The thunderous explosion shook me from the board, and I leaped to my feet to find its cause.

The rumbling was yet to be heard, and knowing that mining and countermining had been going on, the cause was soon determined. In the course of an hour or more, a courier rode to brigade headquarters, and in a very few moments the order ran around to "fall in, fall in quietly men", and under a guide we started for the scene of action and disaster by a circuitous and somewhat hidden approach, to avoid as much as possible the outlooks of the enemy.

By a zigzag, covered way, pretty safe from shot, we drew up in front of the broken Confederate line. We entered the ravine to avoid observation and for shelter almost directly opposite the Crater proper. As we entered that natural ravine from the artificial zigzag way, we met the division commander, Gen. Mahone, who gave orders to each commanding officer of a regiment, as we passed, to move up the ravine about the front of his brigade. I was on the right, and, therefore, front of the brigade.

And then the General's order, "Halt your right front, and move up and down the line, and give the order softly that no shot is to be fired until after the men are in the broken trenches. Fix your bayonets, and await the order to forward. Let your men understand that it is only "forward". And with cold steel."

Let me say that such orders were not often given. They were not often necessary. We looked around and saw that there must be no failure. There was no second line, as the enemy thought, between them and the city of Petersburg, only some scattered artillery had been brought into position in the rear.

If we failed to retake and reestablish the broken line the enemy could march without check to the capture of the city. I was informed by the General, as I moved up the ravine, that a Georgia brigade would follow directly; and form on my right, then an Alabama brigade would move to the right of Georgia, and in that way the whole broken line would be covered, recaptured and reestablished at one rush.

But alas! Plans, and purposes rarely go as designed, the enemy, who had held the line since 5:30 am, were very restless. The explosion was a success and they were in possession of the line by a frontage of at least three or four brigades. Those then in the trenches, unfortunately for any final or lasting success, were negroes, and many of them

Continued on column three

Continued from column two

were under fire for the first time. Several of those captures had been owned by white men of the adjoining county, and had been gathered from the fields in a recent Federal cavalry raid.

By whose order such an arrangement was made I do not venture to say. There was disagreement, among the Federal authorities, and it was soon found that those colored troops were only ready for slaughter. They were led by white officers, one a colonel, held position on the right of the Crater, and in our front. He was a very gallant man, and used all the means at his command to induce his regiment to charge from the broken line he held to the heights in his front, but his gallant men, whom history tell us "fit nobly, were not ready or willing to follow him from those sheltering trenches. Yet how safe they were. There was a double line of ditch at least four feet deep, and as wide, with a heavy line of earthwork between them six to eight feet in height, and impenetrable to shot or shell. The front line, now their rear, was capped by heavy, thick sandbags, through the little ports of which our men had fired while in possession, and did again as soon as regained. We boys who had never fought "behind any dirt", thought it was just splendid, yet rashness lost for us several men after the capture.

But the efforts of the colonel referred to were of so energetic a character, and so great his encouragement by command and example, it was thought by our general Mahone, that, he might induce his men to charge. He seized his colors, sprang over the protecting ditch and by every gesticulation, showed the way to the front and perhaps victory. So the command came, whispered along our line, from the left to "charge! Now, men charge!"

As yet, the Georgia brigade and Alabama brigade had not gotten into position, but the moment was critical. Gen. Mahone had no idea to stand and receive volleys of lead on an open field from perhaps two or three lines of battle, so he ordered his Virginia brigade to the double quick, and they sprang from the ravine and rushed upon the foe in the packed trenches. Nor was a shot fired until we reached the line, but many fell under the single volley of the rifles of the regiments in the trenches. From the right regiment in that short, bloody charge of not one hundred yards, eighty-two men fell from the front and flank fire, and so the loss was felt all along the line, lessening as the fire reached the left regiments. The trenches were won at that dash all the way on the right, our left of the Crater, but still sheltered its packed, disordered hundreds of black and white men.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

**FRIENDS
OF
BEAUVOIR**



Your annual membership in the Friends of Beauvoir is more important now than ever before. Your membership in Friends of Beauvoir provides support to help keep Beauvoir going. Membership is available to any individual who has an interest in preserving history for future generations. Beauvoir needs our help. Won't you join today?

Clip or copy this information. Send it to the address below along with your check. Share this with as many friends and family members as you can.

Membership categories (please check one)

- Individual.....\$25.00
- Family.....\$50.00
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- Benefactor..... \$500.00 - \$999.00
- Sponsor \$1,000.00 and up
- President's Cabinet.....\$5,000 up
- Corporate..... \$500.00 and up

Amount Enclosed _____

For additional information, please call or write:

(228) 388-9074
BEAUVOIR
 2224 Beach Boulevard
 Biloxi, MS 39531

**YOUR 2011-2012 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
DUES ARE NOW DUE**

In July each camp member received a statement from the Mississippi Division SCV detailing the amount of each members dues that were due on August 1st. The annual dues are \$50.00 per member. You must pay all dues listed on the statement to remain a member in good standing.

If your dues are paid after October 30th, there will be a reinstatement charge added to the total dues owed of \$7.50.

The statement also provides an area for additional contributions to the Shiloh Monument and other SCV projects and may be included in with your dues payment if you wish to make a contribution to one of the projects.

Please, return the payment section of the statement along with your dues in the envelope provided to Wallace Mason. Please make your check payable to: Sam Davis #596

This is the only statement you will receive from the Division. If you haven't already, please send in your dues today.

**25th Annual
FALL MUSTER
AT BEAUVOIR
OCT. 15th & 16th, 2011
The greatest family event of 2011!**

Be sure to visit our Sam Davis Camp's Concession for great food and cold drinks while enjoying Fall Muster with your family.

A CONFEDERATE HISTORY MOMENT

By Calvin E. Johnson

The Story of Richard R. Kirkland

Richard R. Kirkland was the fifth son of John and Mary Vaughn Kirkland. He was born near Flat Rock, Kershaw District, South Carolina in August 1843. His parents were worthy people whose patriotic roots went back to the Revolutionary War. It is written that the Kirkland's sent four sons to fight for South Carolina during the War Between the States.

In early 1861, when it was clear that war would come to the South, Richard R. Kirkland joined the Camden Volunteers in South, Carolina. Kirkland would gain the rank of Sergeant in Company G, 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry, Kershaw's Brigade, McLaw's Division, Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia CSA.

From First Manassas to Chickamauga, Kirkland fought in every battle his command was engaged in. He was wounded and sometimes ill but he was always ready to get back into the fight. Kirkland distinguished himself at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia. A friend from his childhood would relate a incident that proved him to be a great man. Many Union soldiers were killed in front of Marye's Heights. It is written that the plain was covered with the enemy's dead and wounded. The weather was very cold and the dying Union troops were crying out for water.

Confederate Kirkland was given permission to give the Union soldiers water. Kirkland collected all the canteens he could and crawled to a well nearby to fill them for the dying soldiers. He did this under fire including that of sharpshooters. He also tried to make the Union soldiers more comfortable. When Union troops saw what he was attempting they ceased firing in

Continued in column two

Kirkland—continued from column one admiration and appreciation of his kind deed. This great deed would not be forgotten in the North and recently was written about in a Northern newspaper.

Richard R. Kirland weathered many a battle, including Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, but was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia.

Scenes from Manassas re-enactment



PLEASE SEND ANY ARTICLES OR STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE INCLUDED IN "THE SCOUT" TO: waynesaucier@bellsouth.net

Timely Quotes

We all have our time machines. Some take us back, they're called memories. Some take us forward, they're called dreams.

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www.samdavis596.com

NAACP TO GOV. HALEY: MOVE THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

COLUMBIA, SC - In his keynote address during this week's NAACP convention, the NAACP's top officer is called on South Carolina's first governor of color to bring down the Confederate flag that flies a stone's throw from her State House office.

NAACP president Benjamin Jealous called Gov. Nikki Haley a contradiction in his keynote speech for the civil rights organization's annual convention in Los Angeles on Monday.



"Perhaps one of the most perplexing examples of the contradictions of this moment in history is that Nikki Haley, South Carolina's first Governor of Color, continues to fly the Confederate Flag in front of her state's capitol," said Jealous. "Given the similarities between our struggles to end slavery and segregation, and her ancestors' struggle to end British colonialism and oppression in India, my question to Governor Haley is one that Dr. King often asked himself: 'What would Gandhi do?'" Haley's parents are from India. She was born in Bamberg.

Haley has said there is not enough support to move the flag, and on Tuesday responded that revisiting the issue is not part of her agenda

The flag has been flying atop the House and Senate Chambers since 2000, following a compromise that moved it from atop the State House dome.

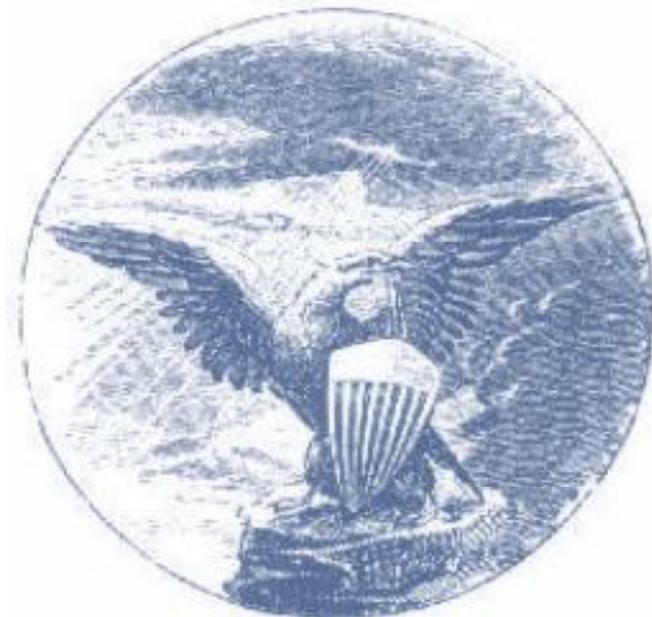
The NAACP has been engaged in an ongoing boycott of the state since 1999. Also, the National Collegiate Athletic Association refuses to bring tournaments to the state because of the flag.

SAM DAVIS CAMP #596
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
123 DEANNA STREET
GULFPORT, MS 39503

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light into my path.

Psalms 119:105

FALL MUSTER AT BEAUVOIR..OCT 15-16th, 2011



MISSISSIPPI.



Your 2011-2012 dues are due—statements have been mailed