

2013,2014 and 2015 R. E. Lee Sandlapper SC Division Camp of the Year  
2013 Dr. George Tabor National Camp of the Year



# Ranger Report

Volume 10 Issue 2

February 2017

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### Meeting Place:

- Fleet Reserve RA 269  
99 Wisteria Rd, Goose Creek, SC
- 1st Tuesday of each Month
- EC Meeting, 6PM
- General Meeting, 7PM

### Camp Officers

Commander: Mike Thomas  
Lt. Commander: Rick Little  
Adjutant: Open  
Chaplin: John Bullock  
Treasurer: Keith Day  
2nd Lt. Commander: Darrell Turner

## Commander's Call

Last month's Lee-Jackson was a HUGE success according to all reports. Thanks go to everyone involved in making it happen. Special thanks go to the Ladies of the Order of Confederate Rose for all their contributions in planning, cooking & providing positive suggestions.

Planning is underway now for camp activities for this year and some will be presented in the March meeting. Input & support from each camp member is requested and will be appreciated. Outside speakers are being contacted & lined up for presentations on a wide range of WBTS topics. May will be an active month with a variety of Confederate Memorial Day events.

The South Carolina Division convention will be held next month (March 17-18) in Rick Hill. One major piece of business to take place is the election of our Brigade Commanders. We in the 10th Brigade have been extremely fortunate in past years to have knowledgeable, capable & supportive men filling that position. Though we do not know who might offer for the post at this time, our camp delegates will be involved in the election process.

I hope to see everyone at the March meeting.

Mike

## Upcoming Events

March 7th:

Camp Meeting: GEC at 6PM, General Meeting at 7PM at Fleet Reserve

March 11th:

Hunley-Yorktown Sea Cadets H.L. Hunley Award Presentation: 1677 redbank rd, bldg 725, goose creek, SC. at 0830.

Shingler/Mellard Cemetery Cleanup: Holly Hill at 0800.

April 7th, 8th, and 9th:

Worlds Grits Festival at 110 South Parler Avenue, St. George SC 29477. Need volunteers to help set up and man the table.

April 7th-9th: Battle of Charleston.

<http://www.battleofchas.com/>

May 6th:

State Confederate Memorial Day Observance. State House, Columbia SC

May 13th:

Camp Confederate Memorial Day service. 10AM at Droze Cemetery

To Come:

Confederate Memorial Day Service at Magnolia Cemetery, Goose Creek Fall Festival, Confederate Ghost Walk (Magnolia Cemetery).

## Did You Know

### Battle Names



Union troops were primarily city and town dwellers. They named battles after natural objects near the scene of the conflict.

Confederate troops were, chiefly, from the country and named battles after impressive artificial (man-made) objects near the scene of the conflict. The battle of “1st Manassas / Bull Run”: The Union army named the battle “Bull Run” after a little stream near the scene, called Bull Run, and the Confederate army named the battle “Manassas” because of the Manassas railroad station located nearby.

There were at least 230 actions that were known to have more than one name. In “Ball’s Bluff / Leesburg”- The Union troops noted the steep 100-foot-high bank rising above the Potomac on the Virginia shore, and the Confederate army noted the nearby city of Leesburg, Virginia. “Pea Ridge / Elkhorn Tavern”: Elkhorn was a nearby tavern and Pea Ridge was the name of a crest of the Ozark’s Ridge.

## Historical Notes

February 1865 was probably the darkest month South Carolina has ever endured. Union General W.T. Sherman and his hordes marched across the Palmetto State wreaking havoc and carrying out Sherman's announced intentions to "make South Carolina howl." His troops first entered the state from Georgia in late January and the last crossed into North Carolina March 8th. Sherman moved his army slowly covering the 200 miles in 6 weeks despite being engaged in just one small action at Rivers Bridge. South Carolina was entirely defenseless and his leisurely pace was simply to allow for despoiling the state.

We frequently hear about Columbia being burned by Sherman. Some (so-called) historians try to cast blame for Columbia on Confederate cavalry despite an abundance of proof, including Sherman's own admission, that it was fired by his men. These same (so-called) historians remain mum on the other towns, villages & cities set ablaze across the path of the Union army. Places like Allendale, Bamberg, Orangeburg recovered and are still in existence. Other localities such as McPhersonville, Robertsville and Purrysburgh were burned into near obscurity. In all, 35 towns and cities across the state were put to the torch along with countless farms, mills, barns, churches, and sundry other buildings.

However, despite Sherman's best efforts he was unable to extinguish the drive, fortitude or spirit of South Carolinians. Their ability to recover after witnessing some of the war's most brutal acts speaks volumes and gives us encouragement to continue our efforts to advance "The Charge".

You know you're a Yankee if -

The farthest south you've been is the hat department at Macy's.

Or

You think a Pole Cat is a dude that was born in Poland.

## Camp Committees

### Committees

**Oysters in the Creek:** Chairman: Rick Little

**American Red Cross:** Chairman: Ricky Herndon

**Confederate Rite of Morris Island:** Chairman: Brian Merrill

**OCR Liaison:** Chairman: Bob Ashton

**The Toy Project:** Chairman: Ricky Herndon

**Youth Heritage:** Chairman: Darrell Turner

**Christmas Parades:** Chairman: Ricky Herndon, Keith Day, Bob Ashton

**"Civil War Show":** Chairman: Ricky Herndon

**Cemetery Projects:** Chairman: David Philipps, Keith Day

**Genealogy:** Chairman:

**"Spring Bike Rally":** Chairman: Ricky Herndon

**Camp Historian:** Chairman: Keith Day

## Call to Action: Sam Davis Youth Camp

Born October 6, 1842, in Rutherford County, Tennessee, he was the oldest son of Charles Lewis and Jane (Simmons) Davis. He attended local school in Smyrna, Tennessee, and was educated at the Western Military Institute--now Montgomery Bell Academy--from 1860--61. While there he came under the influence of headmaster and future Confederate General Bushrod Johnson.

He was recruited by Confederate scout forces early in the Civil War. He signed up as a private in the First Tennessee Volunteer Infantry in 1861 and his regiment marched off to war first at Cheat Mountain, next in the Shenandoah Valley, then at Shiloh and Perryville. Wounded slightly at Shiloh, Davis suffered a more severe wound at Perryville. After recovering from the latter wound he took on very active service as a courier for Coleman's Scouts.

He was captured near Minor Hill, Tennessee, on November 20, 1863, wearing a makeshift Confederate uniform and in possession of Union battle plans. He would not tell who gave him the items. For this reason, he was arrested as a scout, and was seen as ineligible for the privileges of a prisoner of war. Instead he was sentenced by a drumhead military court to die by hanging unless he was willing to divulge the name of his contact. He is purported to have said, "I would rather die a thousand deaths than betray a friend." Another famous quote, reminiscent of Nathan Hale, was, "If I had a thousand lives to live, I would give them all rather than betray a friend or the confidence of my informer.

Davis wrote a letter to his mother before his execution, "Dear mother. O how painful it is to write you! I have got to die to-morrow --- to be hanged by the Federals. Mother, do not grieve for me. I must bid you good-bye forevermore. Mother, I do not fear to die. Give my love to all." There was a postscript for his father, too. "Father, you can send after my remains if you want to do so. They will be at Pulaski, Tenn. I will leave some things with the hotel keeper for you."

He was hanged by Union forces in Pulaski, Tennessee, on November 27, 1863. As he was trundled along to the hanging site atop his own coffin, Union soldiers alongside the bumpy wagon road shouted out their entreaties for his cooperation, lest they have to watch the grim execution. Supposedly the officer in charge of the execution was discomfited by Davis' youth and calm demeanor and had trouble carrying out his orders. Davis is alleged to have said to him, "Officer, I did my duty. Now, you do yours."

The Sam Davis Youth Camp is SCV's effort to educate our youth. Please donate to this worthy cause.

<http://samdavis.scv.org/>

Leonidas Polk, Sewanee's Fighting Bishop  
by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

Four Confederate generals, along with members of their staff, walked to the top of a hill just outside Marietta, Georgia. It was the warm humid morning of June 14, 1864 and the sun was already high in the sky. Unbeknownst to them, they were watched by Union soldiers who took advantage of the opportunity that lay before them. Within minutes, 58--year--old Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk, who was thought to be in prayer, was hit. His death was gruesome, but immediate.

In his right coat pocket were four blood-soaked copies of "Balm for the Weary and Wounded," three of which had been inscribed to General Joseph E. Johnston, Lieutenant--General William Hardee, and Lieutenant--General John Bell Hood. The fourth had been inscribed with his own name. General Polk had planned to present them later that day.

Leonidas "Sewanee's Fighting Bishop" Polk, a second--cousin to President James K. Polk, was born in April, 1806 in North Carolina. His father, William Polk, served as a major in the 9th North Carolina Regiment during the American Revolution. He was one of the men who suffered through the miserable encampment at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania during the winter of 1777--1778.

Leonidas Polk attended West Point Military Academy in the same era as others who would later become famous in the same war: Albert Sidney Johnston, Jefferson Davis, and Robert E. Lee. Polk graduated in 1827 – 8th in his class of 38 — but the army wasn't his calling. After six months in the military, and to his father's great disappointment, Polk resigned to enter the Virginia Theological Seminary.

Lady Luck smiled upon the Polk family when Leonidas's father, William Polk, was appointed chief surveyor for central Tennessee. William Polk acquired an astounding 100,000 acres of land, including a tract of nearly 6,000 acres named "Rattle and Snap," because he won it in a bean game.

In the early 1830s, Leonidas Polk and three of his brothers moved to Tennessee and built large mansions on the Rattle and Snap tract. Their plantations were named Ashwood Hall, Hamilton Place, West Brook, and Rattle and Snap. Where the four corners of their plantations were joined, a simple chapel was built so their families and slaves could worship together. St. John's Episcopal Church, as well as the plantation homes, would play significant roles in the upcoming War Between the States.

Soon he was serving as the priest at historic St. Peter's Church in nearby Columbia. In the 1840s, he was elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, an area that encompassed nearly a million square miles. By 1850, he possessed a title, legacy, and great wealth. At this time, Bishop Polk was married, and the father of eight children. The 1850 census of Maury County, Tennessee indicates he owned 215 slaves, although some sources say that number was much higher.

Bishop Polk was a key founder of Sewanee's University of the South, along with another well--known bishop who served in that area, James Hervey Otey. Otey envisioned a college where young men would be trained in literary and theological subjects while Polk wanted it to be the equivalent of England's Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Polk laid the cornerstone in 1860 and Otey served as first chancellor.

The Parish Mounted Rangers welcome all questions, comments, and inquires. Please feel free to relay your communications to our camp commander at [commander@pmr2222.org](mailto:commander@pmr2222.org).

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### Links of Interest:

[www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)

[www.cssshenandoah.org](http://www.cssshenandoah.org)

[www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/](http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/)

[www.gistguard.homestead.com](http://www.gistguard.homestead.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/PMR2222SCV>

[www.indyparksfoundation.org](http://www.indyparksfoundation.org)

[www.pmr2222.org](http://www.pmr2222.org)

[www.hyseacadets.org](http://www.hyseacadets.org)



1st National Flag w/13 stars

## Quartermaster

We have the following articles in our camp quartermaster inventory:

- 1) Confederate Battle Flags: 52X52, 38X38, and 32X32; \$10
- 2) AVN (Naval Jack) 3X5 Confederate Flags; \$10.00
- 3) 3X5 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Confederate National Flags; \$10
- 4) 3X5 Big Red (Citadel) Flags; \$10
- 5) 3X5 State Flag; \$10
- 6) Confederate Computer bags; \$15
- 7) 12 oz. bottle and can cozies (w/Confederate Battle Flag on them)