



S.C.V. Mission Statement (The “Charge”)

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.”

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906

THE FIRST SHOT

Newsletter of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp #3000

June 2017

Volume 4 Number 6

Commander’s Corner

It was pleasing to see an increase in the attendance at the meeting at our new location – Bass Pro Shops in Ashland. We had a great speaker who spoke on Jefferson Davis, his death, and his funerals.

A number of issues were addressed with a vote taken to purchase a trailer to store and transport our Camp store equipment and merchandise which is needed for fairs and other events.

The July meeting promises to be interesting as our speaker, Mr. Edward Harris, is speaking on the topic of John Bell Hood.

Since the formation of the Oakwood Restoration Committee by the Virginia Division, SCV in 2005, there has been a lack of resolve to locate the graves of those interred in the Confederate Section of this Cemetery or to confirm the names of those buried there.

They have done a commendable job of cutting the grass, replacing the fence around the monument, rebuilding the gazebo, and re-aligning the gate pillars for the City of Richmond.

The membership of the Virginia Division have contributed part their per capita tax to go to the Oakwood Restoration Committee to install headstones and improvements to the Confederate Section. At this time, no funds have been used to obtain headstones.

In August 2016, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources sent a proposal to the Virginia Division recommending Ground Penetrating Radar to determine the location of the graves, Global Positioning Survey to accurately record their locations, and other guidelines. As yet, this has not been done or even a project determined.

Researcher John Kindred, who over the last 16 years using original documents, has compiled a listing of the thousands of confirmed names or those buried in the Confederate Section. He offered to travel to Richmond to meet with Division Commander and Chairman of the Oakwood Restoration



Mark Your Calendar

7/05/2017

FireEater Meeting

7/10/2017

OCR Meeting

7/19-22/2017

SCV Reunion,
Memphis, TN

7/22/2017

UDC 156th Annual
Commemoration of
the First Manassas
Battle - Color Guard

7/28-29/2017

Cooter's Last Ride -
ANVMC

Committee to discuss provision to turn this listing in the form of a book over to the Virginia Division. Traveling to Richmond from June 15 through the 17th, no meeting could be arranged and therefore no agreement could be made and the offer withdrawn.

At this time, the Division needs to locate the graves and to obtain a list of confirmed names. I anxiously await their results.

I have made the following recommendations for consideration by the Virginia Division and the Oakwood Restoration Committee:

- Provide a detailed plan for the cemetery for the DEC and membership.
- Move forward with the GPR/ GPS etc. There are a number of companies that can do the work.
- Respond to David Edwards of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for their approval.
- Provide finances to obtain headstone by planning "an adopt a headstone" program such as successfully was done in Baltimore.
- Press the issue of review to determine the appropriateness of upright stones.

Joe Wright
Commander

1st Lt. Commander's Report

Compatriots, Friends, Ladies of the Camp:

Thanks to the efforts of our Matron of Honor, Judy Smith, the fact that the Fire Eaters Camp Meetings have been moved to the Bass Pro Shops, we made a successful transition to the new location on June 7, 2017, and had a good meeting.

Since we had a quorum, we were able to make a decision on purchasing a trailer to store and haul all of our equipment needed for special events like the Tomato Festival and the Field Days of the Past. The Camp voted to spend \$2800 for a new trailer.

It was good that we had a quorum attending the meeting so action could be taken. Our attendance has been low for several months now, and we did not have a quorum for two previous meetings. Although we had a quorum in June, we barely had the required number of members to constitute a quorum.

When we join the SCV and are sworn in to the Camp we pledge to support the Camp in its activities. The easiest and probably the most helpful support members can provide for the Camp is to attend the monthly meetings. Not only do you have the chance to fellowship with other Southerners, you have the opportunity to learn something about the South,

Social Media Report:

Our public page on Facebook currently has 1077 likes.

Members are reminded that they may also keep up with camp activities on our website:

EdmundRuffin
FireEaters.org

CAMP OFFICERS

Edmund Ruffin
Fire Eaters S.C.V.
Camp #3000

Joesph “Joe” Wright
Commander
varebel@embarqmail.com

Joe Howard
1st Lt. Commander
1stLtCommander@
EdmundRuffinFireEaters.org

Willie Wells
2nd Lt. Commander
2ndLtCommander@
EdmundRuffinFireEaters.org

Vacant
Chaplain

Jim Tingle
Sergeant at Arms
804.292.5457 (Cell)

Vacant
Quartermaster

J. Walter Smith
Adjutant/Treasurer/Judge
Advocate
JudgeAdvocate@
EdmundRuffinFireEaters.org

its history and matters involved with the War for Southern Independence.

There was a beautiful and moving ceremony for Confederate Memorial Day in May at Oakwood Cemetery. Our Camp was well represented there in the Color Guard and helping with parking, or just being present. The keynote speaker was Ronnie Roach, Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. He gave a very inspiring presentation, describing what each line of the Charge means. One of his important points was that to be a member of the SCV and a Camp means that you support the activities, and most notably you attend the monthly meetings.

Why do we not have more members attending our meetings? What can we do to encourage better attendance?

It is disappointing to me that men who have volunteered to be members and affirmed their desire to support our Camp consistently fail to attend our Camp meetings. Having a SCV Certificate on your wall, but you are not honoring your Southern ancestors and Southern heritage by not coming to meetings regularly. I recognize that everyone is busy, and that the Camp is a volunteer organization, but if you sign up, you certainly should make every effort to show up, at least half of the time.

A lot of effort goes into assembling and distributing the monthly The First Shot Newsletter, which is a pretty impressive document, in my opinion. We want to keep the members informed, which is why pains are taken to send the Newsletter and reminder letter to all members. It is personally embarrassing to me to get quality speakers for our monthly meetings, only to have 10 members show up to hear the presentation.

Compatriots, we can do better, and we should do better as Fire Eaters. Please come to our upcoming July 5, 2017 Camp meeting at the Bass Pro Shops on Lakeridge Parkway, near Ashland, VA. Bring your family. Eat at the restaurant there, or eat at one of the many restaurants in and around Ashland.

It would be very helpful if you could bring suggestions for attracting new members, and doing a better job of getting our existing members to attend our meetings.

Our speaker on July 5 will be Ed Harris, who will be speaking about General John Bell Hood.

Come out and enjoy being a real part of our Camp.

Joe Howard
1st Lt Commander



Willie Wells accepting a camp award from
Commander Wright.

FIND US ON FACE BOOK and BE SURE TO LIKE US!

<https://www.facebook.com/FireEaters3000>

Upcoming Color Guard Events

Color Guard Report

As Color Sergeant, notice went out well in advance of the June 4 2 PM Shockoe Hills Cemetery at a Head stone dedication for 35 Confederate, 8 Revolutionary War, and 3 War of 1812 Veterans.

The Friends of Shockoe Association President announced new rules – no flags other than those presented by Color Guards could be displays and no motorcycle type colors could be worn as those worn by the SCV and ANV Mechanized Cavalry members. This led to only 2 in our Confederate Color Guard being present at this ceremony.

Upcoming Event:

On July 22 Saturday, we will be posting Colors for the Virginia Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy's 156th Annual Commemoration of the First Manassas Battle.

Joe Wright
Color Sergeant

Any members not already on the Color Guard email list with enlisted uniforms of the Confederate Army, Navy or Marines who would like to participate in honoring Confederate Soldiers at graveside headstone and Iron Cross dedications, Monument Dedications and displaying the Confederate Colors in parades, please, contact me at varebel@embarqmail.com

Support the Graves & Monuments Committee by helping to fund the purchase of stick flags.

\$1⁰⁰

Fund a stick flag to mark a veterans grave.

Donate Today!

This is an ongoing project, and we thank you for your support in honoring our Confederate Veterans.



DONATE TODAY!

OAKWOOD CEMETERY

GRAVES & MONUMENTS COMMITTEE

On Saturday 6/3/17 Members of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Graves and Monuments Committee worked in section E of the Confederate section of Oakwood Cemetery. Jim Tingle and Walter Smith reset 22 stones

that had come out of the ground in Section C. The orange flags seen in the photos indicate which stones that were reset.



Monday June 19, 2017, Al Mills, Herb Carver and Jim Tingle, removed a large fallen tree limb from the Confederate section (F). They also were able to reset and additional 16 stone in Section C.



Herb Carver and I also went to Bird Dog Drive to clean that grave site.

- Jim Tingle