



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

March 2018

Volume 5 Number 3

Commander's Corner

At our March meeting, there was a last minute change of speakers as Randy Watkins was unable to attend and talk about the Battle of Danville Courthouse. Our friend, Art Taylor was able to step in and gave a presentation on some of the Historic locations and personalities in Hanover Courthouse.

I hope you will attend our April 4th Camp meeting as there has been discussion about possibly changing our meeting location and by the time of the meeting there we should have the slate of Officers running for Virginia Division, SCV. We should also have any proposed amendments for our delegates to vote on.

One last thing, it is not too early to be thinking of supporting your Camp in its fund raising and recruiting efforts. The Hanover Tomato Festival in July and the Field Days of the Past in September are two of the Camp's favorite opportunities.

Remember April is Confederate History & Heritage Month! Hope to see you at some of these events.

Joe Wright, Commander



Mark Your Calendar

04/04/2018

ERFE Meeting

04/12/2018

OCR Meeting

04/20 -22/2018

VA State SCV
Meeting and VA
State OCR Meeting

05/09/2018

Clean up at
Oakwood Cemetery-
Graves Committee

05/12/2018

Confederate Memorial
Day Service,
Oakwood Cemetery
VA Flaggers

1st Lt. Commander's Report

Hello again, hope everyone is doing well. I would like to let you know that last month we had a change of speaker on the day of our meeting! Art Taylor came and spoke on Hanover Counties involvement in the Revolutionary war and the Civil war alike. His emphasis was on Caption Nelsons roll in forming an artillery unit and his part in the war itself. Thanks Art for stepping up to speak on short notice.

For our April meeting we will again be honored to here from Teresa Roane and her continued emphasis on minorities in the Confederate army. I learned so much last time she spoke and I'm looking forward to hear from her again.

March third was Confederate flag day. There was a ceremony put on at Oakwood Cemetery put on by the Virginia Division in honor of our beloved fallen. There was about a hundred in attendance with six from our camp. It was a very good event.

If you have a chance check in with Jim Tingle to see how you can help with the maintenance out at Oakwood Cemetery, I know he would appreciate the help.

April 4th is our next meeting at Bass Pro and we need everyone to attend if possible. We have some camp business that needs to be addressed and must have a quorum to make these decisions so please come.

Thanks,

Tim Tuck, 1st Lt Commander

Social Media Report:

Our public page on Facebook currently has 1166 likes.

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

EdmundRuffin
FireEaters.org



**A BIG FIRE EATER
WELCOME TO OUR
NEWEST MEMBER**

Joe Gregory

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

2nd Lt. Commander's Report

EXCITING NEWS!! NEW MEETING LOCATION! NEW MEETING DATE!

Please come to the April 4, 2018 meeting of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters to participate in this momentous decision. We want to make the best decision possible for the overall Camp membership. Your voice and your vote count.

At the February Camp meeting the possibility of moving to a new meeting location was discussed. From that discussion several restaurants were suggested, and Al Mills and Herb Carver agreed to investigate to see if any were suitable.

At the March Camp meeting reports were presented by Al Mills and Herb Carver.

First, Herb Carver said he investigated the Roma Restaurant in Sandston, in the Seven Pines area. He reported that the restaurant did not have a separate meeting room, and that they would require 35 people for us to have our meeting there. So this option was eliminated as not meeting our Camp's requirements.

Al Mills did considerable research into 3 separate restaurants.

- (1) **Cold Harbor Restaurant** does not stay open after 2:00 p.m., only being open for breakfast and lunch. This does not meet the Camp needs; so it has been eliminated from the discussions.
- (2) **Debbie's Kitchen** has a separate meeting room and would welcome the Camp meeting there. They are available starting as soon as April. If we anticipate 20 or more diners, they would set up a buffet for us. This is a possibility, depending on the Camp's feeling about its location.
- (3) **Roma's Restaurant** in Mechanicsville has a separate meeting room, which seats 50, and the manager is receptive to our meeting there. Use of our Flags and Banner are fine, and meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. is available. This restaurant is only available on the first Tuesday of the month, as another group meets there on Wednesdays. There are other SCV groups that meet there regularly. There is a buffet dinner available. The restaurant is located off U.S. 360 close to I-295 and not far from 360 (closer to I-295 than Anna's, where we used to meet).

The consensus of those attending was to seriously consider moving to Roma's in Mechanicsville, although this would mean moving the meeting date as well. Moving the meeting date requires a change to the Bylaws.

We need everyone to bring their suggestions to the April meeting for a full discussion and recommendations. Are there other restaurants convenient to the majority of members? Do these restaurants have separate meeting rooms and are they receptive to our meeting there? Does the membership want to change the meeting dates? All these questions and more need to be discussed fully. Please come and voice your preferences. We need to hear from everyone.

I know my personal preference is to meet every month at Teresa and Willie Wells' beautiful home near Carson, where I had such a great time and meal in December at the Christmas Party. But they would probably veto that idea.

My second personal preference is to meet every month here in Stafford, VA, which is where I live. There are numerous restaurants within a mile of my house (plus we have our Confederate Flag flying on I-95 here in Stafford). I would probably be the only member to vote for that location, however.

Seriously, we need your input and we want to make a good decision for the Camp. The best way for that to happen is to have all ideas discussed and considered.

See you on April 4.

Joe Howard

Chaplin's Report

Please let me know if you, a family member or close friend is ill or in distress, so that the person or family can be added to our Fire Eater Prayer List.

Please include Willie Wells and Scott Dailey in your prayers. Both of these Compatriots are recovering from successful surgery.

We pray that they both will have prompt and total recoveries.

We all know that prayer works, and if we can all join together in prayer on behalf of our members, associates, friends, and family members, it will undoubtedly make a difference in their lives.

Joe Howard

GRAVES & MONUMENTS COMMITTEE



March 5, 2018

Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters camp 3000 Graves and Monuments Committee removing debris from Confederate section of Oakwood we also replaced flags throughout the cemetery

Thursday March 15 , 2018

Members of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp 3000 Graves & Monuments Committee met in a private section of Oakwood cemetery to deliberate on whether or not to move forward with asking the camp for a yes or no vote on moving ahead to repair the grave of a Confederate Veteran in Oakwood private section. The E.R.F.E. Graves & Monuments Committee had a quorum and agreed to move bring the matter before the camp at the April meeting.

Herb Carver Jim Tingle and friend of the ERFE camp 3000 Robert Bower removed debris from Confederate sections - C - D - E .

Graves & Monuments Committee

Research: Out of 12 names recently researched in the private section of Oakwood 10 were Confederate Veterans .

Flags: Thursday we replaced 25 flags in the Confederate section and today the Oakwood grounds crew started their mowing operations.

Jim Tingle

Committee Chairman, Graves & Monuments

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

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



Upcoming Color Guard Events

Color Guard Report

I thought when we reached March, we would see the beginning of Spring and better weather. Well, I guess not yet. But we are starting to get more requests for our Color Guard.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, May 5 at 12 PM, we have been requested for a Headstone Ceremony for 3 members of the 42nd Virginia, 134 Wilson Mill Road, Bassett, VA.

Friday, May 11, at 11 AM, we will be posting Confederate Flags at the Yellow Tavern Monument at a ceremony held by the Richmond-Stonewall Jackson UDC Chapter #1705 to commemorate the mortal wounding of Major General J. E. B. Stuart.

Sunday, June 3 at 3 PM, we have been requested for a Headstone Ceremony for 2 Confederate Veterans in Green Hill Cemetery, 761 Lee Street, Danville, VA.

Saturday, July 21 at 10 AM, I will be posting the Colors for the Annual Commutation of the Battle of First Manassas sponsored by the Virginia Division, UDC.

With Confederate History Month and Memorial Day not far off, I expect our participation to be requested for events.

May 12 TBA - Confederate Memorial Day, Oakwood Cemetery, Richmond, VA

Color Sergeant Joe Wright

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

Teresa Roane



TR

Historian ♦ Archivist ♦ Speaker

Presentation Topics

Minorities in Confederate Military: Combat Support...or Hidden in Plain Sight

Historians have dismissed Men of Color who served as Combat Support. They do not understand logistics in the military. Documentations from the National Archives and other institutions, such as service records and payrolls, prove their service.

Minorities in Confederate Military Part Two: Men Lost to History

In the second presentation, Ms. Roane introduces photos of Men of Color who served in the Confederate military. She uses multiple sources to tell their stories.

Robert E. Lee: Engineer to President

Robert E. Lee's career is traced from his service in the U.S. Army in the Corps of Engineers and as a soldier. Ms. Roane continues the discussion about his leadership in the Confederate Army and his appointment as President of Washington College.

Why We Can't Keep Our Ancestors at the Door

In 2011, a symposium was held to discuss how to interpret the War during the Sesquicentennial. A historian said that since the War was about one cause so Southerners needed to leave their ancestors at the door. Ms. Roane explains why Southerner cannot leave their ancestors at the door by reading letters from the people who lived during that turbulent time.

Hurrah, Hurrah: The History of Confederate Flags

Did you know that there is no such thing as a Confederate Flag? This presentation introduces a small selection of Confederate Flags to the audience.

Why Confederate History is Relevant Today

This presentation shows the importance of Confederate history by using a comparison to other history months, such as Black, Women and Native American.

Women in the Confederacy

Ms. Roane tells the story of women and their roles during the War.

Davis Family and their Relationship with People of Color

Many people do not know that Jefferson and Varina Davis had a special relationship with People of Color. Ms. Roane uses letters to explore the complexity of their association.

Champion of the Black Confederate

Historians systematically have tried to erase or suppress the history of Black Confederates for decades, but yet it cannot be denied. Published books about it exist but the majority of modern historians have dismissed the evidence. The main issue is how one defines the Cause of the War Between the States. Modern historians ascribe the Cause to simply Slavery. This is the only War in human history that has one cause. If the War was about slavery, then how can People of Color who served in the Confederate military fit this narrative? Historians will respond that the men and women were forced. It is true that many were impressed. However, the conscription act will draft many into service with the Confederate military as well as the Union. The next argument is if these men wore a confederate uniform, then they were passing for White. That conclusion does not work because the Appomattox parole list records the complexion of the men went from light to dark.

However let us go back to the argument about muster rolls and payment. The compiled Confederate service records located at the National Archives consist of information from muster rolls. One can find records of combat support and combatants. Years ago one had to go to Washington, DC or perhaps examine copies of the records from a state archives. Nowadays, the website service Fold3 has made the information accessible to the public.

Thank goodness for
Quartermasters!

These men exist because of their paperwork. They had great handwriting which I love as an Archivist. Their records are easy to read and they are the bean counters for the military: Quartermasters recorded the reasons for pay. It was very important to keep track of the salaries of the combat support in the military. Why? They were paid more than the Privates. For example: Fortification workers made \$15.00 per month, assistant Cooks also made \$15.00 while Chief Cooks earned \$20.00 per month. Laundresses were paid \$10.00 to \$11.00 as a base pay and then they charged for each piece of clothing that they washed. The proof can be found on pay rolls at any archives that contained Confederate Quartermaster records. Please note that a portion of the salary went to the owners of the enslaved; however extra duty pay went directly to the person who did the work. Free People of Color received the same pay as the owners.

In conclusion, help me to understand why is it that that Men of Color who served in the United States Colored Troops who had the same military occupation specialty such as musicians, cooks and body servants as their Colored Confederate counterparts are considered to be soldiers while the Confederates are not? It would appear that a reappraisal of People of Color's role in the Confederacy deserves the respect as their USCT counterparts. The Confederate military recognized the skills and were willing to compensate their combat support personnel. In the early 20th century, almost all the former Confederate States provided provisions of these people's service by granting pensions.

© Teresa Roane

About Teresa Roane

Teresa Roane was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. She earned her B.A. in history at Virginia Commonwealth University. She worked for eight years at the Richmond Public Library followed by 15 years at the Valentine Museum's library. She was the Archivist at the Museum of the Confederacy for 7 ½ years. She has served on the boards of Friends of the Richmond Public Library, Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods and Historic Richmond Foundation.

She received the Heritage Preservation Award from the National SCV in 2012 and the Rebecca Jones Alford Bonnie Blue Medal from the North Carolina SCV in 2014. At the National SCV Reunion, she received the Commander in Chief Ladies Appreciation medal. At their 2015 convention, UDC North Carolina Division bestowed the Jefferson Davis Gold medal for excellence in history to Ms. Roane. She was honored with a Ladies Appreciation medal from the General Robert E. Lee SCV Camp. The National SCV bestowed the Dixie Defender award in July 2016. Teresa has given many presentations and workshops. She spends her free time reading, watching movies and walking battlefields.

To schedule a presentation, please contact Teresa via email:

georgewash1861@gmail.com



RESTORATION of the Riverview Ladies Memorial Pyramid

RIVERVIEW CEMETERY, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

In the mid 1920's a plot of land located in Riverview Cemetery, was donated to the Richmond Chapter #158 UDC by the R.E. Lee Camp Soldier's Home to provide burial sites for the ladies of the Confederate Home for Women.

These ladies (daughters, widows and granddaughters of Confederate Veterans) had resided at the Confederate Home for Women (previously know as the Confederate Home for Needy Ladies) on North Sheppard Street, Richmond, Virginia.

At some time after the 1920s, the pyramid was erected as a monument to the ladies.

There are approximately 120 ladies buried in this plot, their graves dating from the mid 1920's to the late 1990's.

Time and weather has taken its toll on the pyramid, concrete work and headstones. The mortar holding the pyramid



stones together has begun to crumble with age and fall out, leaving the internal structure exposed to the elements, particularly water when freezing and thawing can cause the stones to crack. Likewise the concrete work around the plot has

suffered as well. The sidewalk and surrounding curbing of the plot are in disrepair. A portion of the curbing has been completely broken apart and the step and "name plate" of the site is beginning to crumble. The headstones need to be reset and leveled to prevent damage from lawn care equipment.

These ladies were devoted to our Confederate Veterans and many were the steel magnolias that kept the South together during reconstruction and beyond.

It is only fitting for their final resting place to be maintained and cared for.

It is our goal to raise **\$3,600** to make repairs to the pyramid, concrete work and for the resetting of the headstones.

Let's all get behind this!!

We would love to begin work this spring. If we all pitch in, we can make it happen!

To Donate: make checks payable to:

Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter #1705
(Please note "Riverview Project" on the memo line)

PLEASE NOTE: Any funds received beyond our goal amount, will be earmarked for future work at the Riverview site, such as flags and additional grave markers.

Mail to:

Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter #1705
Attn: Sandy Wright, Chapter President
16463 Horseshoe Lane
Beaver Dam, VA 23015



PYRAMID RESTORATION

As you can see from the images, the mortar between the stone blocks has begun to crumble and fall out.

1. front view of pyramid
2. front below plaque area - no mortar is in some areas
3. front above plaque area - mortar loose and missing.
4. at the upper part of the image is a previous attempt at repairs that has also begun to deteriorate.



CONCRETE RESTORATION

The concrete around the Confederate Women's plot is in bad shape.

Here are a few of the issues:

5. view of sidewalk leading to pyramid.
6. edge of step top layer of concrete crumbling off
7. outer curbing broken
8. sidewalk - cracked and crumbling
9. outer curbing tilting outward.



HEADSTONES

In image 10, the headstones are tilted and in disarray. These are to be straightened and leveled to prevent further damage by lawn care equipment.

SAVE



**YOU
CAN
HELP**

MONUMENT AVENUE