



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

April 2018

Volume 5 Number 4

Commander’s Corner

The Ruffin Camp meeting, April 4, was a interesting and productive one. Our speaker was Teresa Roane and her presentation was on “Minorities in the Confederacy”. This was a more in depth presentation with copies of documents and pictures of these Confederates.

There was a discussion on the upcoming Virginia Division Convention and the proposed amendments which the Camp supports all but one amendment as well as the slate of Officers as presented by the Division Nominating Committee and which the Camp has chosen to support.

This election is important because some running for office support the efforts of the Department of Historic Resources in determining the locations of graves in the Confederate Section of Oakwood and some would prefer the status quo. The outcome of the election will also determine the makeup of the Oakwood Restoration Committee and therefore it direction.

An important proposal has been announced to amend the By-laws to change the day the Camp meets to allow a change in the location to the Roma’s Italian Restaurant in Mechanicsville.

The Camp will be setting up its store at both the **Hanover Tomato Festival** on July 14 and the **Field Days of the Past** on September 21 – 23. Please consider supporting the Camp by volunteering for these events. This is a great opportunity to promote our Heritage to a large number of citizens and recruit new members. And it’s fun!

Hope to see you at the May 2 meeting.

Joe Wright, Commander



Mark Your Calendar

1st Lt. Commander's Report

05/02/2018

ERFE Meeting

05/09/2018

Clean up at
Oakwood Cemetery-
Graves Committee

05/12/2018

Confederate
Memorial Day -
Oakwood Cemetery,
Richmond, VA
11:00 am.

05/14/2018

OCR Meeting

07/03/2018

ERFE Meeting - This
is a DATE CHANGE

Hope everyone is doing okay. We have had some bad weather in the last few days and I understand there has been damage to some homes. I hope that everyone made it through with good health.

For April's meeting we had Teresa Roane speak to us on the continuation of the topic of minorities in the Confederate Army. Did you know that the Confederate Army was by far more diverse than Union Army! There were a large volume of photos and material to cover the subject. You can always tell when a speaker grabs the audience by their interaction with the speaker. And boy was there lots of it! We thank Teresa for her insight on minorities and their part to combat Northern aggression. We look forward to hear from her again. For May we have Greg Eanes as our guess speaker. I can't wait to hear him.

In our last meeting we discussed the proposed move to another location for our meetings. This will be voted on in May so I encourage everyone to attend. On May 12th there is a ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery for Confederate Memorial Day come out and show your thanks for the sacrifice that those brave men gave for the cause.

Last but not least, April is Confederate History Month, have you told someone, and shared with then on what it means to you?

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



2nd Lt. Commander's Report

BE A PART OF CHARTING THE FUTURE OF THE EDMUND RUFFIN FIRE EATERS CAMP #3000!!!

At the May meeting of the Camp, we plan to vote on places for the Camp to meet for the foreseeable future.

We want your suggestions, your perspectives and ideas on what location would be best for the Camp and most convenient for the members to attend our meetings.

This is an important decision that will affect all our members, associates, friends and families.

At this point there are 2 viable alternatives that have been researched (there could be others that have not been considered, which is why we need all members to voice their preference).

1) **Debbie's Kitchen** located in western Hanover County off Route 33 near I-295, is available to the Camp any time we make the decision.

2) **Roma's Restaurant** in Mechanicsville, is located off Route 360 near I-295 (closer than Anna's), and is available to the Camp starting in June. It is not available on Wednesdays, but is available on Tuesdays. The idea is that if the majority is willing to meet on Tuesdays, Roma's might be the more centrally located alternative. If Tuesday's do not work for the majority of members, then Debbie's Kitchen is the only other alternative that has been suggested, researched and found to be suitable at this point in time.

If you have other ideas, please attend the May 2, 2018 meeting of the Camp at Bass Pro Shops to make your voice heard and your vote counted.

You can also let Commander Joe Wright about your thoughts, suggestions and concerns.

BE THERE ON MAY 2! YOU NEED TO BE PART OF THIS HISTORIC MOMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE FIRE EATERS CAMP.

Joe Howard

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

Restaurant/Meeting Report Update

April 4 , 20118

A. Debbie's Kitchen - contact : Beth - 752 - 2432

1. Available Now
2. Under 20 people - order from menu .
3. Menu prices - Average \$ 14.50 + tax & tip soft drinks, tea, etc extra
4. Above 20 people: option of buffet available. (Price dependent upon meat selection.)

B. Roma's, Mechanicsville - Contact : Sal Mannino - 559 - 9200

1. Tuesday Nights Available (starting June 5, 2018
2. 20 person minimum .
3. Buffet price \$ 17.00 a person + tax & tip, however, soft drinks (non-Alcoholic) included [\$ 2.50 value est] are in line with Debbie's Kitchen .
4. Also, all you can eat from buffet. (Extra food may be taken home)
5. Suggestion: From time to time camp members may be asked to purchase an extra meal so as to meet our 20 person minimum
6. Camp needs to contact Mr. Mannino asap to reserve room & food.

Submitted by:

Al Mills

Friday 4/6 /18

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



Aerial grave site of Edmund Ruffin at his Marlbourne Plantation in Virginia. In picture old school FireEaters Camp members (Mr. Tingle) following the charge.

Photo courtesy: Tripp Lewis, Tredegar Droneworks



On Thursday April 12 , 2018
Oakwood: Members of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp 3000 Graves & Monuments Committee Volunteers cleaned headstones of Confederate veterans interred in the private sections of the cemetery. We also replaced flags damaged by lawn equipment throughout the cemetery.



Saturday April 14 , 2018
Oakwood : Camp Adjutant/ Treasurer/Judge Advocate of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters camp 3000 and Chairman of the Graves & Monuments Committee Volunteers Jim Tingle worked in the Confederate section - A - bringing markers up to the proper height.



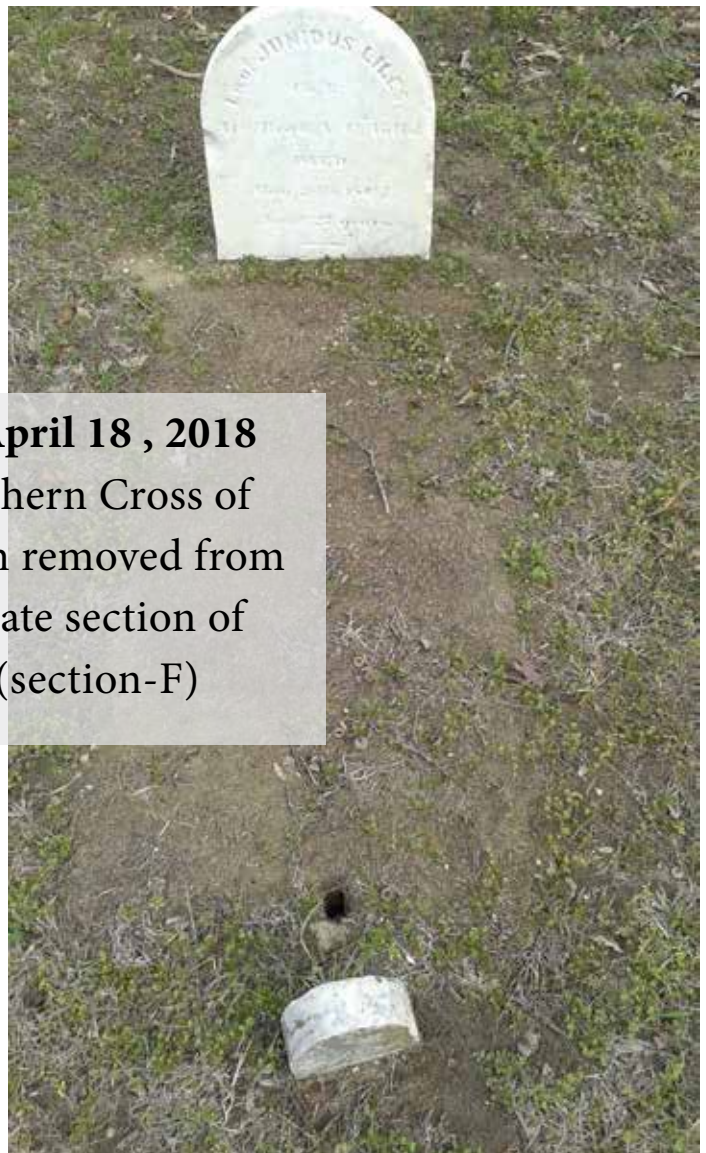
Wednesday April 18 , 2018
Grass cutting operation in the private section today at Oakwood the ERFE camp 3000 Graves & Monuments Committee Volunteers have

ALERT!



only had to replace 12 flags throughout the cemetery today. We also cleaned 6 headstones of Confederate veterans and in order to preserve a headstone of a Confederate veteran we reset the stone until such time as we can repair the headstone.

Jim Tingle,
Oakwood Committee



Wednesday April 18 , 2018
Another Southern Cross of
Honor has been removed from
the Confederate section of
Oakwood (section-F)

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 April, we would see the beginning of Spring and better weather. Well, we're getting closer – just to what I don't know. 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.

May 12 at 11 AM (maximum effort event) - Confederate Memorial Day, Oakwood Cemetery, Richmond, VA

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.

We are always looking for new members for the Color Guard so if anyone is interested in participating in the Color Guard, please contact me. You will need an enlisted Confederate uniform to join us.

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

Virginia Flaggers



CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY AT OAKWOOD CEMETERY



Saturday May 12th 2018 – 11AM

Reviving a grand tradition in Richmond
Honoring Our Confederate Dead



Keynote Speaker - Sgt. Major James S. Haymes, Jr.

White House Tour Guide, Education Specialist and Manager of Museum Operations
Museum of the Confederacy, May 2000-Sept 2016

Color Guard - Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters SCV Camp #3000

Honor Guard - Captain William Latane SCV Camp #1690

Music - Pipe Major David Hinton

Free to the Public.

Free Parking. All Welcome.

Attendees in period attire wishing
to join the processional, please plan to
arrive by 10:30 AM.

Handicapped parking;
Interpreter for the hearing impaired.

For more information or to sign up to
lay a wreath and/or bring greetings
from your organization.

info@vaflaggers.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**