



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 2018

Volume 5 Number 6

Commander’s Corner

I would like to encourage the members of the Camp and associated organizations to attend the monthly meetings. We value your opinions and want your input. This IS your organization.

The June 6th meeting, we had Randy Watkins as our speaker. He spoke on the Battles of 1864. He stressed the importance of the five Railroads and major roads and how they affected the strategy of the battles around Petersburg and Richmond.

We hope you will support the Camp at the July 14th Hanover Tomato Festival and September 21 – 23 Field Days of the Past. These events not only allow the Camp to raise funds but to interact with the public and educate them on the truth about the War of Northern Aggression. We will be providing information on our organization and meetings with the hope of recruiting a few new active members.

Hope to see you at the July 3 meeting.

Joe Wright, Commander



Mark Your Calendar

07/03/2018

ERFE Meeting - This is a DATE CHANGE

07/09/2018

OCR Meeting

July 2018

SCV National Reunion, TN.

07/14/2018

Hanover Tomato Festival - Fundraiser

09/14-16/2018

Field Days of the Past - Fundraiser

December 2018

Mechanicsville Christmas Parade

1st Lt. Commander's Report

Hello everyone, hope you've had a great month of June. I spent most of the month in Minnesota talking a little time off, therefore my report will be short.

Randy Watkins spoke to the camp at the June meeting and covered the battles in the spring south of Petersburg in 1865. I understand it was well liked. Next month we will have Les Updike as our guest speaker. He hasn't given me a topic yet but I'm sure it will be a good one.

I want to encourage everyone to make our meetings and help with the committees. See Jim Tingle, he's always looking for help. Also don't forget the tomato festival and the field days of the past. Lets get out there and sell ourselves to the public and our merchandise as well. These are our two major events for the year.

Hope to see everyone on the third! Remember our meeting is on the third this month because of the holiday

Tim Tuck
1st Lt. Commander

Social Media Report:

Our public page on Facebook currently has 1287 likes.

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

EdmundRuffin
FireEaters.org

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!

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

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

Upcoming Color Guard Events

Color Guard Report

On Sunday, June 3, our Color Guard traveled down to Danville. An invitation was extended by Anne Eliza Johns Chapter #164, United Daughters of the Confederacy President, Mrs. Sharon Jennings. The ceremony was held at the Green Hill Cemetery. This a beautiful and well-kept cemetery. Unlike Central Virginia on that day, the weather was sunny and pleasant. We provided a five man Color Guard for their event and I had been requested to read the poem "We Drank From The Same Canteen"

This ceremony had three very good speakers and rifle salutes were performed by the 18th Virginia Infantry Re-actors.

Upcoming Events:

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

September: We have been asked to provide a Color Guard for a dedication of Headstones for two Confederate Veterans in Ferrum, VA – this will probably be held in September. As I get more information on this event I will pass it on to you.

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

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**