



"CONFEDERATE GRAYS"



Newsletter of the Norfolk County Grays

SCV Camp No. 1549

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June 2011

Officers

Mark Johnson
Commander

Kenzy Joyner
Lt. Commander

Justin Matthews
Adjutant

Kenzy Joyner
Color Sergeant

Frank Earnest
Public Relations Officer

Vance Tysor III
Treasurer

Edward James Sawyer
Chaplain

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Contact information:

Mark B. Johnson, *Cmdr*

Norfolk County Grays Meeting June 15, 2011

Gus & George's Spaghetti & Steak Restaurant
4312 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, Va.
(757-340-6587)
Just east of Independence Blvd
Map on Last Page of Newsletter

**Guest Speaker for the June Norfolk County Grays meeting will be:
Armand Dufresne**

Topic: Provost Guard during War Between the States

Next Norfolk County Grays Camp Meeting July 20, 2011

**Speaker: Jamie Radtke,
Virginia State Primary Senatorial Candidate
Topic: Constitutional Fundamentals**

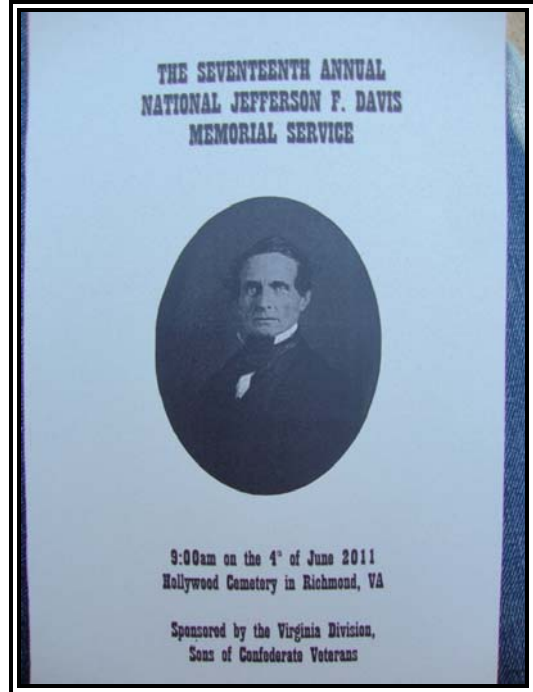
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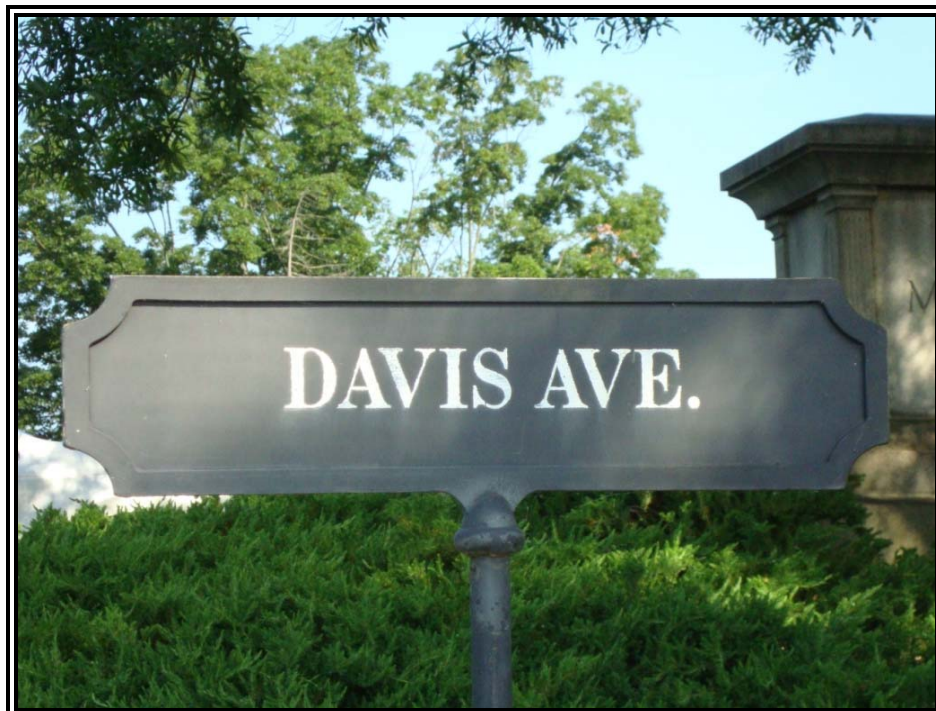
**Pictures from the 17th Annual National
President Jefferson F. Davis Memorial Service
June 4, 2011
Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia**



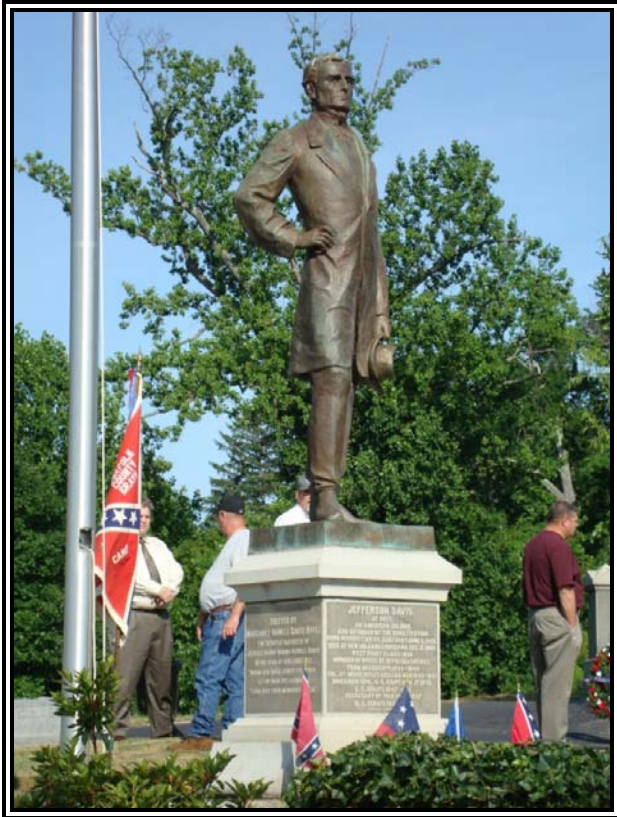
Cannons lined up for the salute



The memorial service brochure



**Pictures from the 17th Annual National
President Jefferson F. Davis Memorial Service
(Continued)**



The Jefferson Davis Monument



The Battle Flag in the sun



Overlooking the gathered crowd

**Pictures from the 17th Annual National
President Jefferson F. Davis Memorial Service
(Continued)**



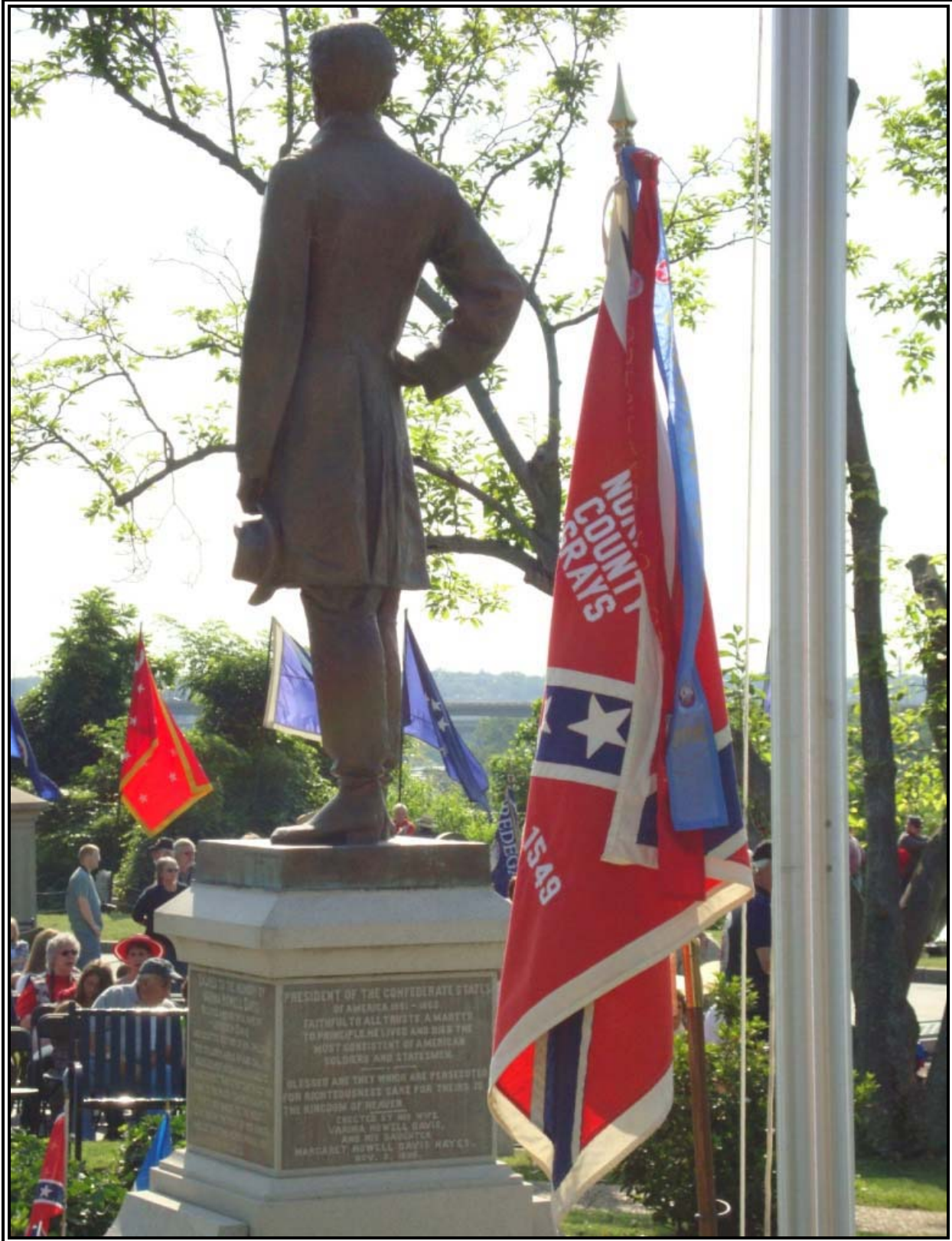
Virginia State Primary Senatorial Candidate, Jamie Radtke



SCV Lt. Commander-In-Chief, Charles Kelly Barrow



**Pictures from the 17th Annual National
President Jefferson F. Davis Memorial Service
(Continued)**



The Norfolk County Grays flag flies behind the Jefferson Davis Statue

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - ALMANAC



June 1861



- June 3, 1861 - Stephen A. Douglas dies from typhoid fever, Chicago, IL
- June 3, 1861 - **Battle of Philippi**
- June 4, 1861 - Delegates to the Second Wheeling Convention are selected.
- June 8, 1861 - By a vote of 108,339 to 47,233, Tennessee decides to secede from the United States
- June 8, 1861 - Virginia turns its state militia over to the Confederate States of America
- June 10, 1861 - **Battle of Big Bethel**
- June 11, 1861 - First session of the Second Wheeling Convention (June 11 - June 25)
- June 14, 1861 - Joe Johnston begins to withdraw from Harpers Ferry by blowing up the 800-foot B&O trestle over the Potomac River

- June 17, 1861 - Nathaniel Lyons captures Boonville
- June 21, 1861 - North Carolina Secession Convention votes to unfurl a new flag, a blue field with red and white bars with an insignia and two dates: May 20th, 1775 (Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence) and May 20th, 1861 (Secession from the United States).

- June 23, 1861 - Thomas Jackson destroys 42 engines and nearly 400 cars of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Martinsburg, Virginia



THE BATTLE OF PHILIPPI (WEST VIRGINIA)



Taken from Wikipedia. Follow this link to the full article: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Philippi_\(West_Virginia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Philippi_(West_Virginia))

The Battle of Philippi—also known mockingly as "The Philippi Races"—was fought on June 3, 1861, in and around Philippi, Virginia (now West Virginia) as part of the Western Virginia Campaign of the American Civil War. It was the first organized land action in the war, but is often treated dismissively as a skirmish rather than a significant battle.

Background

After the commencement of hostilities at Fort Sumter in April 1861, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan returned to the Army and, on May 13, assumed command of the Department of the Ohio, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. McClellan planned an offensive into what is now the State of West Virginia (at that time the northwestern part of the Commonwealth of Virginia) that he optimistically hoped would eventuate in a campaign against the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. His immediate objectives, however, were to occupy the territory to protect the predominantly pro-Union populace of the area, and to keep open the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line, which was a critical supply line for the Union.

On May 26, McClellan, in response to the burning of bridges on the Baltimore & Ohio near the town of Farmington, ordered Col. Benjamin Franklin Kelley of the (Union) 1st Virginia Infantry with his regiment and Company A of the 2nd Virginia Infantry, to advance from Wheeling to the area of the sabotage and secure the important bridge over the Monongahela River at Fairmont, a distance of about 70 miles (110 km) southeast of Wheeling. In this Kelley's men were supported by the 16th Ohio Infantry under Col. James Irvine. After securing Fairmont, the 1st Virginia advanced again and seized the important railroad junction of Grafton, about 15 miles (24 km) southwest of Fairmont, on May 30.

Meanwhile, the 14th Ohio Infantry Regiment, under Col. James B. Steedman, was ordered to occupy Parkersburg and then also proceed to Grafton, about 90 miles (140 km) to the east. By May 28, McClellan had ordered a total of about 3,000 troops into Western Virginia and placed them under the overall command of Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Morris, commander of Indiana Volunteers.

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - ALMANAC



THE BATTLE OF PHILIPPI, WEST VIRGINIA (CONT.)



Taken from Wikipedia. Follow this link to the full article: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Philippi_\(West_Virginia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Philippi_(West_Virginia))

Confederate Col. George A. Porterfield had been assigned to command of state forces in northwestern Virginia on May 4 and ordered to Grafton to take charge of enlistments in that area. As the Union columns advanced, Porterfield's poorly armed 800 recruits retreated to Philippi, about 17 miles (27 km) south of Grafton. At Philippi, a covered bridge spanned the Tygart Valley River and was an important segment of the vital Beverly-Fairmont Turnpike.

Battle

Col. Kelley devised a two-prong attack against the Confederate forces in Philippi, approved by Gen. Morris on his arrival in Grafton on June 1. The principal advance would be 1,600 men led by Kelley himself, and would include six companies of his own regiment, nine of the 9th Indiana Infantry Regiment under Col. Robert H. Milroy, and six of the 16th Ohio Infantry. In order to deceive the enemy into believing their objective was Harpers Ferry, they departed by train to the east. They de-trained at the small village of Thornton and marched south on a back road (on the same side of the river as Philippi) intending to arrive at the rear of the town.

Meanwhile, the 7th Indiana under Col. Ebenezer Dumont were sent to Webster, about 3.5 miles (5.6 km) southwest of Grafton. There they would combine with the 6th Indiana under Col. Thomas T. Crittenden and the 14th Ohio under Col. Steedman. The column, with a total of 1,400 men under the command of Col. Dumont (with the assistance of Col. Frederick W. Lander, volunteer aide-de-camp to Gen. McClellan), would march directly south from Webster on the Turnpike. In this way, the Union force would execute a double envelopment of the Confederates.

On June 2, the two Union columns set off to converge on Philippi. After an overnight march in rainy weather, both columns arrived at Philippi before dawn on June 3. Morris had planned a predawn assault that would be signaled by a pistol shot. The untrained Confederate troops had failed to establish picket lines to provide perimeter security, choosing instead to escape the cold rain that fell at morning and stay inside their tents. A Confederate sympathizer, Mrs. Thomas Humphreys, saw the approaching Union troops and sent her young son on horseback to warn the Confederates. While Mrs. Humphreys watched, Union pickets captured the boy and she fired her pistol at the Union soldiers. Although she missed, her shots started the attack prematurely.

The Union forces began firing their artillery, which awakened the sleeping Confederates. After firing a few shots at the advancing Union troops, the Southerners broke lines and began running frantically to the south, some still in their bed clothes, which caused journalists to refer to the battle as the "Races at Philippi". Dumont's troops entered the town from the bridge (Col. Lander's ride down the steep hillside through heavy underbrush was considered such a feat of horsemanship that *Leslie's Weekly* gave an illustrated account of it shortly afterward), but Kelley's column had arrived from the north on the wrong road and were unable to block the Confederate escape. Col. Kelley himself was shot while chasing some of the retreating Confederates, but Col. Lander personally chased down and captured the soldier who shot Kelley. The remaining Confederate troops retreated to Huttonsville, about 45 miles (72 km) to the south.

Aftermath

The Union victory in a relatively bloodless battle propelled the young General McClellan into the national spotlight, and he was soon given command of all Union armies. The battle also inspired more vocal protests in the Western part of Virginia against secession. A few days later in Wheeling, the Wheeling Convention nullified the Virginia ordinance of secession and named Francis H. Pierpont governor.

There were two significant Confederate casualties. Both were treated with battlefield amputations, believed to be the first such operations of the war. One of the soldiers was a Virginia Military Institute cadet, Fauntleroy Daingerfield. The other young Confederate was James E. Hanger, an 18-year old college student. After recovering, Hanger returned to his hometown in Virginia. He made an artificial leg for himself from barrel staves with a hinge at the knee. His design worked so well, the Virginia State Legislature

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - ALMANAC



THE BATTLE OF PHILIPPI, WEST VIRGINIA (CONT.)



Taken from Wikipedia. Follow this link to the full article: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Philippi_\(West_Virginia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Philippi_(West_Virginia))

commissioned him to manufacture the "Hanger Limb" for other wounded Civil War veterans. Mr. Hanger patented his prosthetic device and founded what is now the Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. As of 2007, Hanger Orthopedic Group is the United States market leader in the manufacture of artificial limbs.

After the battle, Col. Porterfield was replaced in command of Confederate forces in western Virginia by Brig. Gen. Robert S. Garnett. The companies of Confederate recruits present at Philippi became part of various regiments, including the 9th Virginia Infantry Battalion, 25th Virginia Infantry, 31st Virginia Infantry, 11th Virginia Cavalry, and the 14th Virginia Cavalry. The Barbour Lighthouse Cavalry, commanded by Capt. William Jenkins, disbanded after the retreat from Philippi.

The celebrated short-story writer and satirist Ambrose Bierce was a raw recruit present at the Battle of Philippi. Twenty years later, he wrote, in an autobiographical fragment he called *On a Mountain*:

We gave ourselves, this aristocracy of service, no end of military airs; some of us even going to the extreme of keeping our jackets buttoned and our hair combed. We had been in action, too; had shot off a Confederate leg at Philippi, "the first battle of the war," and had lost as many as a dozen men at Laurel Hill and Carrick's Ford, whither the enemy had fled in trying, Heaven knows why, to get away from us.

Further Reading

- [Official Records of the Battle of Philippi](#)
- [Battle of Philippi Bridge](#)



THE BATTLE OF BIG BETHEL



Taken from Wikipedia. Follow this link to the full article: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Big_Bethel

The Battle of Big Bethel, also known as the Battle of Bethel Church or Great Bethel was an American Civil War battle that took place on June 10, 1861, in Hampton and York County, Virginia, (near the present-day unincorporated community of Tabb).

Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler sent converging columns from Hampton and Newport News against advanced Confederate outposts at Little and Big Bethel churches. Confederates abandoned Little Bethel and fell back to their entrenchments behind Brick Kiln Creek, near Big Bethel Church. The Federals, under immediate command of Brig. Gen. Ebenezer W. Peirce, pursued, attacked frontally along the road, and were repulsed. Crossing downstream, the 5th New York Zouaves attempted to turn the Confederate left flank, but were repulsed. The Union forces were disorganized and retired, returning to Hampton and Newport News.

Big Bethel was the first Civil War land battle in present-day Virginia, and arguably the first land battle of the entire war. The other contender for first battle, the Battle of Philippi, on June 3, 1861, in present-day West Virginia (then part of Virginia), is considered by some as a skirmish rather than a full battle.

Background

Butler was in command at Fort Monroe near Hampton in support of the Union blockade of Chesapeake Bay. Control of this fort at the tip of the Virginia Peninsula also allowed the Union to occupy the adjacent towns of Hampton and Newport News. In order to block Union forces from advancing further up the Peninsula, Confederate forces under Col. John B. Magruder had built a defensive line with outposts at Little Bethel Church, about 8 miles (13 km) from Hampton, and at Big Bethel Church, a short distance further north, along Marsh Creek (now named Brick Kiln Creek), a tributary of Back Creek. Magruder's force of 1,200 men included Col. Daniel Harvey Hill's 1st North Carolina Infantry, Lt. Col. William D. Stuart's 3rd Virginia Infantry, a cavalry battalion under Maj. E. B.

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - ALMANAC



THE BATTLE OF BIG BETHEL

(CONT.)

Taken from Wikipedia. Follow this link to the full article: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Big_Bethel

Montague, and the Richmond Howitzer battalion under Maj. George W. Randolph (future Confederate Secretary of War).

Battle

Finding his men harassed daily by squads from these outposts, Butler sent against them 3,500 men in converging columns from Hampton and Newport News, under the immediate command of Brig. Gen. Ebenezer W. Pierce. The advance was led by the 5th New York Volunteer Infantry under Col. Abram Duryée (Duryée's Zouaves). But as Duryée's men were to open the attack, the 7th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment under Col. John E. Bendix opened fire on the 3rd New York, clad in gray uniforms, behind them, thinking the Confederates were behind them as well as in front. Thinking they had been cut off, Duryée's men withdrew and the element of surprise was lost. The 3rd New York suffered 21 wounded (two mortally) in the incident.

The Confederates abandoned Little Bethel and fell back to their entrenchments behind Brick Kiln Creek near Big Bethel Church. The Federal forces pursued and attacked in piecemeal fashion along the right side of the road (an advance on the left side faltered in confusion). Of the various assaults made on the Confederate line, only the 1st Vermont Infantry under Lt. Col. Peter T. Washburn made it across the creek. Maj. Theodore Winthrop (of the 7th New York but serving on the staff of Gen. Pierce) led a detachment of troops from the 5th New York, 1st Vermont, and 4th Massachusetts in an attempt to turn the Confederate left flank. Crossing downstream, his attack was also repulsed. Winthrop, a brilliant young author, was killed in the attack. The other notable Union death was Lt. John Trout Greble, commanding a three-gun battery of the 2nd U.S. Artillery. Greble was the first graduate of West Point and first regular army officer killed in the war. The disorganized Union forces retired, returning to Hampton and Newport News.

Aftermath

Total Federal casualties were 79. The 5th New York itself suffered 31 casualties, including seven killed or mortally wounded.

The Confederates suffered only one killed and seven wounded. Maj. Randolph's artillery and Hill's 1st North Carolina troops were commended by Magruder for their actions. Within hours of the battle, Magruder withdrew his forces to Yorktown, where he established a line protected by the Warwick River.

Battlefield Preservation

Most of the Big Bethel battlefield, and the whole Little Bethel site, have not been preserved. Today the sites are generally covered with residential and commercial development. Brick Kiln Creek has also been dammed, creating the Big Bethel Reservoir on the battlefield site. The fragments of the site that remain are not readily identifiable. The site of Lt. Greble's death is now a convenience store. A group of local preservationists has developed a plan to preserve areas, currently located on Langley Air Force Base, containing a remnant of an earthwork and the memorial to Henry Lawson Wyatt, the only Confederate soldier killed in the battle.

Further Reading

- [Gone and forgotten: the battle of Big Bethel](#)
- [Baptism of Fire: Big Bethel to the Peninsula](#)
- [Official reports of the battle](#)





UPCOMING EVENTS

June 9, 2011

Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg presents: The 146th **COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE OF THE ‘BATTLE OF OLD MEN AND BOYS’** at Blandford Church, Petersburg, VA - Time: 5 pm, Cost: FREE, For more information, contact: Martha Atkinson, (804) 733-2396. (This annual Memorial Service will be held to honor the sacrifices of the Home Militia of the City of Petersburg who gave their lives defending this City during the first skirmish which began the “Siege of Petersburg” in 1864.)

June 17-19, 2011

First Battle of Martinsville, VA hosted by the Stuart-Hairston Camp #515 Camp. Located on more than 60 acres of open fields at Martinsville's Smith River Sport Complex. Battles Saturday and Sunday with artillery night fire. Join us as history comes alive! General Jerry R. Parsons, Commander, Confederate Forces. General Keith Cornelius, Commander, Federal Forces. Contact Daniel Young, The Blacksmith at 276-629-7355 or 276-358-1557. For info and pre-registration form, e-mail scv515@gmail.com. [Click here to print a flyer for this event.](#)



**Location of Gus & George's Spaghetti & Steak Restaurant
Meetings begin at 7:00 PM**



To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit 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 he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember that it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.

*Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee
Commander General
United Confederate Veterans
1906*