



"CONFEDERATE GRAYS"

Newsletter of the Norfolk County Grays



SCV Camp No. 1549

Volume 2

Issue 11

November 2010

Officers

Mark Johnson
Commander

Frank Earnest
Lt. Commander

Bill Mixon
Adjutant

Kenzy Joyner
Color Sergeant

Frank Earnest
Public Relations Officer

Thomas Simmons
Treasurer

David Brimer
Chaplain

.....
Contact information:

Mark B. Johnson, *Cmdr*

Next Meeting

November 17, 2010

7:00 pm

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

Guest Speaker:

Henry E. Kidd

Member of the Dearing-Beauregard Camp# 1813
Colonial Heights, Virginia
Past Commander of the Virginia Division
Past Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia S.C.V.

Mr. Kidd is well known for his drawings of War Between the States subjects. It should be noted that many of his prints have been published in the Confederate Veterans magazine. Mr. Kidd will be speaking about his book and will provide copies, which can be purchased.



December 15, 2010 Meeting

Annual Ancestors Christmas Remembrance Tree



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It is with great regret & profound distress that I announce the resignation of long time compatriot, and dear friend, Thomas C. Davis, Jr., from Camp 1549.

Tom's dedication and contributions to this camp are irreplaceable and he will be sorely missed. As long as this camp remains in existence he will always be welcome in its fold. It is hoped, truly hoped, that his steadfast defense of our Southern principles and unfailing adherence to duty will remain a standard with which this camp will strive to emulate for the remainder of its active life.

Thank you Compatriot Davis.

Bill Mixon / Adjutant
& fellow compatriots

"I look forward to better days, and trust that time and experience, the great teachers of men, under the guidance of an ever-merciful God, may save us from destruction and restore to us the bright hopes and prospects of the past."

R. E. Lee



UPCOMING EVENTS



November 11, 2010 Veterans Day Parade, Virginia Beach, Va.

Wednesday, November 17, 2010 Norfolk County Grays Monthly Meeting (See Newsletter for additional details concerning Camp Elections)

Wednesday, December 15, 2010 Norfolk County Grays Monthly Meeting (See Newsletter for additional details concerning "Ancestor Christmas Tree")

Saturday, January 7, 2011, Princess Anne Camp, Lee-Jackson Banquet

Saturday, January 15, 2011, Norfolk County Grays, Lee-Jackson Banquet (Additional details in newsletter)

April 8, 2011 20th Anniversary of Norfolk County Grays

Highlights of October 2010 Camp Meeting Speaker:

J. Corey Thornton

Curator of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum and Lightship Portsmouth Museum.

Mr. Corey Thornton, curator of the Portsmouth naval shipyard transported those members in attendance back in time to when Gosport Naval Yard was the center of military activity in the city of Portsmouth. We were shown pictures of the first dry dock built in the western hemisphere, right here in Portsmouth, Virginia and then taken back into time to April of 1861.

The destruction of the navy yard and ships were underway by the afternoon of April 20th. McCauley had closed the yard and sent workers home at noon except for those who remained loyal to the Union. McCauley used the Unionist workers, sailors and marines to prepare the yard. Though trying to keep the preparations quiet, word quickly spread throughout Portsmouth and a town meeting was called. A Citizens Committee was formed and together with officers of the Virginia militia tried to get in to dissuade McCauley from taking action. McCauley refused to see anyone on the matter.

Those ships that were essentially deemed too unfit to evacuate were either scuttled or burned. The ships scuttled (or sunken), the *Delaware* and *Columbus*, did not totally submerge due to their massive sizes. Vessels burned at their moorings typically burn to their waterlines and sink right after the flames are extinguished by the water. The vessels burned at Gosport included the warships: *Pennsylvania*, *Germantown*, *Plymouth*, *Dolphin*, *Raritan* and *Columbia*. Included among the burned vessels but under very different circumstances was the *New York*, which was on the stocks inside Ship House A when it burned.

In the shipyard McCauley ordered all facilities to be burned; the cannon, maintained at the yard for installation on vessels, were to be spiked; and dry dock one to be exploded. By 8:00 P.M. Paulding's task force, comprised of 350 soldiers from the Third Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (operating from a base of operations at Fort Monroe), had reached Gosport Navy Yard. Paulding assumed command and after assessing that ships were burning and sinking and that preparative efforts in the yard were in disarray, he decided to finish what McCauley had started. Paulding set to organizing the preparations. Soldiers from the Third Massachusetts were posted outside the yard's quay wall to deter an angry mob from preventing operations.

Unfortunately, the hurried preparations were for the most part ineffective. Some facilities were burned, but the ordinance building remained, having failed to burn, the spiked cannons were salvageable and the destruction of the dry dock was bungled. As the fuses were burning their way to two barrels of powder in the dry dock, it was flooded by C.F.M. Spotswood, a lieutenant in the newly established Virginia State Navy. Though participating in the preparations to destroy the yard, Spotswood was concerned that the explosion of the dry dock would rain down granite debris on Portsmouth. While stationed at Gosport Spotswood had

become acquainted with a number of Portsmouth citizens and to ensure their safety he flooded the dry dock to put out the fuses and in doing so saved the dry dock.

On April 21, 1861 when Federal forces evacuated the United States Navy Yard at Gosport, it became the property of Virginia under the direction of its state navy. Captain Robert Pegram, who had resigned his commission in the U.S. Navy when Virginia seceded, was appointed the rank of captain in the Virginia State Navy and ordered by Governor Letcher to assume command of the navy yard. Two days later Commodore French Forrest, a veteran naval officer formerly of the U.S. Navy, relieved Pegram of command and served as the shipyard's commander until March 24, 1862. When Virginia joined the Confederate States of America in June 1861, Governor Letcher ordered the transfer of the navy yard to the Confederate government.

After the Confederates had evacuated the shipyard, its name was changed from the United States Navy Yard, Gosport, Virginia to the 'United States Navy Yard, Norfolk, Virginia.' The first officer to take the helm as shipyard commander was Commodore John W. Livingston who assumed command on May 10, 1862 and served until November 16, 1864. Livingston's successor was Captain John M. Berrien who served from November 16, 1864 to October 31, 1865. Every part of the yard not destroyed by the Confederates was used to repair Union ships. It is unlikely that any new ship construction took place because the ship houses had been destroyed and the dry dock was employed for quick repair of ships only.

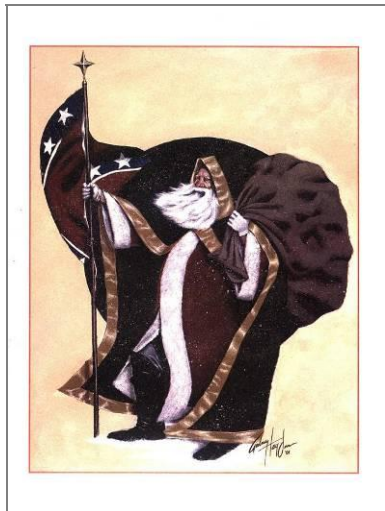


Above Left – Mr. Corey Thornton, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Curator being introduced to camp.

Top Right –A.N.V Commander B. Frank Earnest presenting Mr. Thornton with token of appreciation from the Norfolk County Grays.

CHANGE of COMMAND MEETING
And AWARDS NIGHT

Nominations for all camp officers will be held Wednesday November 17 during the camp's regular camp meeting. It is during this time that members can nominate themselves or someone else for an elected position within the camp. Later during the November meeting, camp officer's elections will be held and the new officers will be officially sworn in at our Lee-Jackson Banquet, January 15, 2011.



Ancestors Remembrance Tree



In continuing with a camp tradition, the Christmas Remembrance Tree will be decorated during the December camp meeting. The tree will be adorned by small, personally made ornaments, which are meant to recognize your ancestor/s who served the South during the "2nd War of Independence."

Each compatriot will be given an opportunity to place their ornament on the Ancestors Christmas Remembrance Tree, light a memorial candle and share a few words about the person you are remembering.

If by chance you leave home without an ornament, material will be available at the camp meeting for you to make one.

A special thank you is extended to

Compatriot Mark Leatherwood represented the Norfolk County Grays just recently on October 8th at the General William Mahone Memorial Service held at Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, Virginia. It is also noted that November 9th is Compatriot Leatherwood's birthday.

Saturday October 30th, Dedication Service for:

Brigadier General Richard L. Page

and

Colonel John S. Green



Brig. Gen. Richard L. Page



Col. John S. Green

The service began shortly after 10 am under beautiful “Carolina Blue “skies at Col Green's Grave side with the invocation by Norfolk County Grays Chaplin B. Frank Earnest. Commander Johnson recognized distinguished guests who were present and then introduced Indiana Division SCV Commander Ritchie who spoke fondly about his ancestor Col. Green literally leaving the plow to take up arms against an invading army from the north.

Army of Northern Virginia Commander B. Frank Earnest then spoke briefly about the 6th Virginia Calvary and Virginia's Wartime Governor Letcher's son who is buried next to Col. Green and his wife. " Governor Letcher's son was only 9yrs. old ", said Commander Earnest, "when Yankee soldiers burned Governor Letcher's home while his wife and children were there". Nothing was saved, not even a babies cradle which Mrs. Letcher tried to save until it was yanked from her hands by a U.S. Soldier and thrown back into the fire.

After Commander Earnest spoke, Commander Ritchie knelt and unveiled the new flat marker for Col. Green. It was a powerful moment for all in attendance.

Then the group moved to Brig. Gen. Page's graveside where the military service continued with an opening prayer by Camp Chaplin David Brimer. Norfolk County Grays Commander, Mark Johnson introduced Stephen Lee Ritchie (Commander of the Indiana Division of the SCV) who provided another moving speech. After the second speaker (A.N.V. Commander B. Frank Earnest) spoke, Mrs. Billie Earnest (Past 6th District Chairperson of the UDC) read the official Daughters of the Confederacy Stone Dedication Ritual to all in attendance. Then Commander Johnson and Virginia Division Commander Rose unveiled the new stone.

At this time, the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues, commanded by Captain Rick Cox, provided an artillery salute, followed by a rifle salute provided by Virginia Division, 1st Brigade, SCV rifle squad.

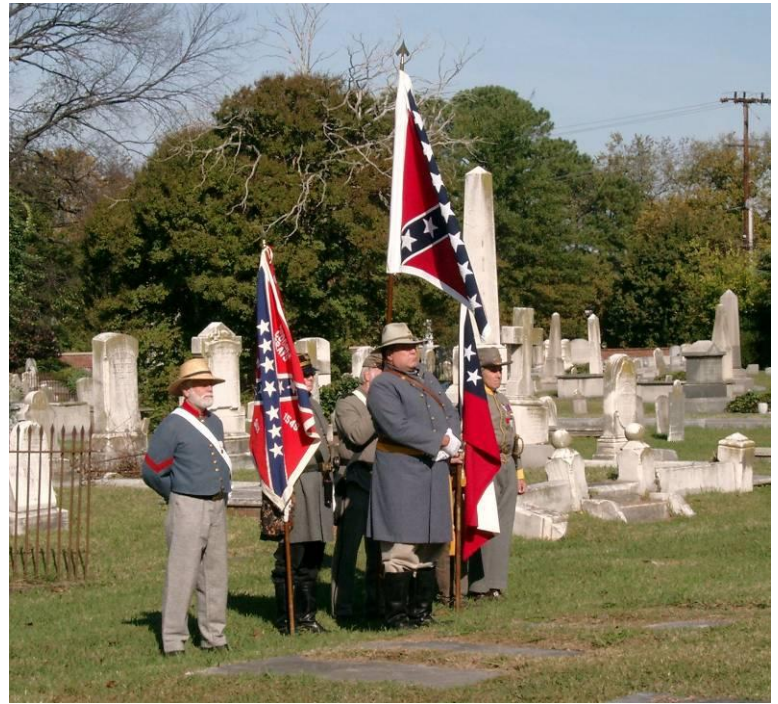
Following the artillery and rifle salutes, taps was played by Rodney Quick, Past Commander of the Norfolk County Grays, in honor of these men, which again rendered a moment of remembrance for all the brave Southerners who served the South.

At the conclusion of taps, wreathes were presented by Mrs. William Mixon (President of the Hampton Chapter of the UDC), Commander K. Harris (Virginia Division, 1st Brigade) and Commander Armistead (13th Mechanized Calvary). Individuals who attended paid respect to these men by placing flowers on these new markers. In Chaplain Brimer's benediction, he reminded us of the sacrifices these men made for the South and provided us with words of encouragement as he concluded his benediction.



Top Left: Commander, Indiana SCV Stephen Ritchie honoring his relatives

Top Right: Commander, Indiana SCV Stephen Ritchie and his cousin, Jackie Ritchie, President of the General John Hunt Morgan Chapter, No. 2485, United Daughters of the Confederacy



Top Left: Color Sergeant K. Joyner and Adjutant B. Mixon preparing to participate in Color Guard.

Top Right: 1st Brigade Color Guard

Bottom Left: Chaplain David Brimer and John Pelletier, Past Commander Norfolk County Grays

Bottom Right: VA Div. 1st Brigade, SCV, Rifle squad, Left to right, R. Shirley, K. Haskett, T. Simmons, and K. Coers



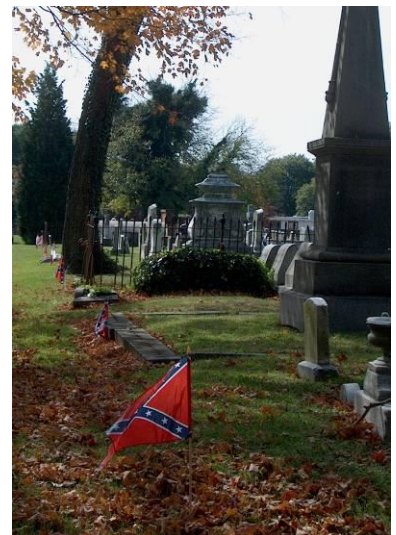


Top Left: Indiana Commander SCV, Stephen Ritchie speaking with ANV Commander B. Frank Earnest speaking later.

Top Right: Captain Rick Cox, Commander of the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues

Bottom Left: 12 Lb. Field Howitzer and the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues gun crew.

Bottom Right: In the stillness of the early morning....



The Sons of Confederate Veterans Norfolk County Grays Camp 1549 request the honor of your presence at their 2nd annual Lee-Jackson, Pickett, Maury Banquet.

Guest speaker will be:

Al Stone
Actor, Historian and Orator

Al has been portraying General Robert E. Lee for over 10 years, with more that 100 presentations to more than 60,000 people. His knowledge of General Lee and Constitutional issues has astounded many a listener.

Location:

Gus and George's Spaghetti & Steak House
4312 Virginia Beach Blvd, Va. Beach
757-340-6584

Date & Time:

January 15, 2011
Social Hour.....6:00 PM
Mixed drinks are available but not included in the price
Dinner Hour.....7:00 PM

Cost

\$30.00 per person or \$50.00 per couple

Your choices are listed below:

Each choice will be served with a salad, baked potato or fries, bread, coffee or tea.
Desert will be the same delicious cakes that we had last year.

Please circle your choice, detach the bottom slip, and forward your check payable to:

Norfolk County Grays Camp 1549
945 Banyan Drive
Va. Beach, Va. 23462

Confederate items will be available.

Come and have a wonderful time!

Dalmonico Steak

Seafood Platter

Chicken Teriyaki

Spaghetti Combo

2011 NORFOLK COUNTY GRAYS

“LEE-JACKSON DINNER”

In Attendance:

General Robert E. Lee (Portrayed by Al Stone)



General Robert E. Lee portrayed by Al Stone The son of Henry “Lighthorse Harry” Lee, a favorite general of George Washington, Robert Edward Lee entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he finished 2nd in the class of 1829. In April of 1861, duty and his oath to the United States Constitution forced then Colonel Lee to refuse command of the army that was about to take the field against the seceding states. Shortly afterwards he accepted a general’s position in the newly formed Confederate States Army where he served the first year as a Senior Military Advisor to President Jefferson Davis. In June of 1862, he assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia, leading it to numerous victories for the next three years, in spite of the Union’s overwhelming numbers and resources. In early April of 1865, it was obvious that continued fighting would result in the needless effusion of blood. On April 9th, he met with General U.S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia where he surrendered the once great army that had defended the Confederate States of America so valiantly. On October 1, 1865, he assumed the presidency of Washington College where he continued to serve until his death on October 12, 1870.

DID YOU KNOW???



General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson is forever honored in Roanoke’s oldest black Presbyterian Church via a stained glass window. He is recognized for having founded a Sunday school for slaves.



James R. Randall, a Marylander, wrote the song, “Maryland, My Maryland” in hopes of convincing Maryland to join the Confederacy in 1861.



At one time there were over 160,000 ex- confederates in the ranks of the United Confederate Veterans organization.



During the dedication of the Jefferson Davis monument in Richmond in 1907 over 200,000 viewed the event.



When asked about her faith, Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts, replied, “My faith is my papa’s faith, the Confederate faith.”



**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*