

THE CONFEDERATE SENTINEL

These Dead but Sceptered Sovereigns...



January-February, 2014



Vol. II, Issue I



SCV Camp 2nd Lt. John Bethel Bowles

QM LEAPLEY EARNS 2013 SAM WATKINS AWARD

Quartermaster First Sergeant Londell Leapley has earned the distinction of being the first camp member to be presented the Sam Watkins Award for Unmatched Compatriotism in Service. Earned on the basis of points accumulated by participating in camp, division and national activities, the award is named in honor of the famed Private Sam "Rush" Watkins, a soldier in Company H of the First Tennessee Infantry. Watkins fought in every one of twenty consecutive battles, including the bloody fights at Shilo, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and Murfreesboro. Of the 120 men who enlisted in Company H in 1861, only seven were alive in April of 1865. The Camp Commander and Lieutenant Commander are ineligible for the award, which includes a small stipend.



Compatriot Leapley—we salute you and know that, in Heaven, Sam Watkins is smiling!

Through his diligence, generosity and loyalty, Compatriot Leapley has set a sterling example of service, loyalty and adherence to The Charge for every camp member to emulate. Congratulations,

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THE COMMANDER'S FIELD DESK



A chance conversation I had with our Maid of Honor, who volunteers at the Civil War Museum of Ohio museum led to my discovery that the museum had just received a donation of over 4,000 volumes of books, journals, and organizational literature related to the War Between the States / Civil War. My inspection revealed that the vast majority of the collection consists of Confederate militaria, including extensive unit histories, biographies of leading Confederate leaders, and copies of *Confederate Veteran* published between 1898 and 1932 under United Confederate Veterans. Many of the volumes are rare and highly prized by researchers. The goal of the museum's directors is to employ this collection to make the museum the foremost research library in Ohio. By extension, it will be the largest collection of Confederate military literature in the great Lakes Region. (Continued on page 4)

MINUTES, FEBRUARY MEETING



COMPATRIOTS ATTENDING:

Commander Henry B. Stobbs,
Quartermaster Lon Leapley, Past
Commander Don Blankenship, Color
Sergeant Wade Wedge, Enrolled
Recruit Casey Earl.

GUESTS ATTENDING:

Linda Young, Davie Auble, Peter Synk

The February meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM at the Seneca County Library, Tiffin. Compatriot Leapley, Acting Chaplain, opened with the invocation; CDR Stobbs led the Salute to the Confederate Flag, and Past Commander Blankenship led the Charge.

After an introduction of guests, Commander Stobbs presented the 2013 Sam Watkins Award to Compatriot Lon Leapley.

REPORTS:

Adjutant's Report / Camp

Treasury: Commander Stobbs reported on behalf of the adjutant that the camp held on balance \$230 after expenditures of \$20.00 for the 2013 Sam Watkins Award. Donations in kind included \$4.00 for a frame and \$4.65 in postage by CDR Stobbs.

Quartermaster Report: NTR

Recruiting Report: The camp is pleased to have submitted the approved application of Compatriot Recruit Casey Earl to National for processing. Mr. Earl was recruited by Color Sergeant Wade Wedge. Compatriot Wedge has also submitted the name of an additional potential recruit, Kyle Embody. Candidate Dave Auble was welcomed to the camp and, based on an initial genealogical review by CDR Stobbs, is

eligible for membership.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fundraising restrictions:

Commander Stobbs raised the issue of fundraising and described the proscription against raffles. After some discussion, it was agreed that future raffles will be conducted by the Margareta Bowles Ladies' Auxilliary. Comamnder Stobbs promised to speak with Camp Maid of honor Summer-Ramirez regarding the organization of a spring raffle for a barbecue grill and steaks from Miller's Meats.

Camp Flag: Discussion was held regarding whether or not to attempt to obtain a camp flag in time for the Division convention, which is to be held on March the 22nd. Consensus was reached that the flag should be purchased, and that freewill donations would be solicited to offset the cost. Commander Stobbs will work with Compatriot Reynolds to complete the project, which is estimated to cost \$260.

NEW BUSINESS:

Division Convention: Commander Stobbs announced that he had been contacted by Compatriot John McAlister, commander of Camp Brig. General Roswell S. Ripley # 1535 (Columbus), which will host the March division convention. Commander McAlister will soon forward additional information.

Camp Dues and April Elections:

Commander Stobbs reminded members present that those wishing to stand for office must notify the adjutant by Saturday, March 15th.

Camp dues (\$20.00) must be paid by election day, April 19th, or

waived due to hardship. Dues may be paid up to the day of the election; candidates not in good standing will be stricken from the ballot.

Facebook Fan Page: Commander Stobbs reminded members who used FB that the camp had a presence. Members who wish to post items should contact LCDR Harpel or Adjutant Stachoviak.

OPEN AGENDA:

College of Wooster Senior Peter Synk, who is conducting a study on what the Confederate Battle Flag means to various members of American society, conducted an open interview to discover how SCV members regard their heritage, the flag which represents it, and other topics related to what it means to support The Charge.

Compatriot Leapley brought up the subject of this year's Johnson's Island commemoration. CDR Stobbs stated that he did not yet have a date or details, but would contact the Ohio Division UDC at the earliest opportunity.

Color Sergeant Wedge told of potential recruit Kyle Embody, CDR Stobbs promised to contact him on Monday evening to discuss his potential membership.

JANUARY MEETING: The March, 2014 meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15th at 1:00 P.M. at the Tiffin-Seneca Library in Tiffin. It will be followed by a "pay as you go" dinner at Reino's Italian Restaurant. (Continued on page 3)

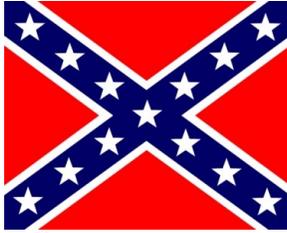


MINUTES, FEBRUARY MEETING, CONT.



ADJOURNMENT: The benediction was given by Past Commander Blankenship, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M. After Color Sergeant Wedge stowed the colors, CDR Stobbs, QM Leapley, PC Blankenship escorting Linda Young and Peter Sync adjourned to Reino's for an enjoyable repast and continued fellowship.

WHAT THE BATTLE FLAG OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA MEANS



What exactly is this? What is its significance? How shall we regard it in an age of hyper-sensitivity, multiculturalism, race-baiting, and all the babble-blather of a society that has apparently abandoned its path to diverge along an endless number of divergent trails, each leading to who knows where?

Firstly, this is not "the Confederate flag." It is, in point of fact, the Battle Flag of Northern Virginia. Its simple, beautiful and majestic design was replicated again and again by the various states of the Confederacy and numerous of their military units.

As to the design of this flag: the Red, white and blue elements derive from the colors chosen by our Founding Fathers to represent the ideals they held most sacred and which were taken from the design of the Great Seal of the United States. Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, said, "The colors of the pales (the vertical stripes) are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valour, and Blue, the color of the Chief (the broad band above the stripes) signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."

As for the stars in the Battle Flag, they do not, contrary to popular belief, represent the thirteen Confederate states—in actuality, they represent the thirteen original colonies. Prior to the start of the North's aggression against the South, each state was a constitutionally sovereign entity. The stars represented do not actually sit on top of the blue field of St. Andrew's Cross;

rather, they shine THROUGH them in self-determined brightness.

What about the "big blue X" itself, one might ask? Well, it is indeed an "X" - but not like you might think. On the one hand, it is the Greek letter *Chi*, which is the first letter in *Christ*. It is also the Cross of Saint Andrew, the apostle who was martyred in 60AD. Legend holds that he asked to be crucified on a cross of this shape because it represented his Lord and Master. True or not, his cross became closely linked with Christianity in Scotland when some of the saint's bones were taken to that island early in the 8th Century. It was ultimately chosen for the Battle Flag's design because so many Southerners were of Scottish and Scots-Irish descent and of the Anglican / Scots-Presbyterian / Episcopal persuasion: they recognized and affiliated instantly with this symbol which reminded them of their faith in God and Christ. At a time when many Northerners were moving away from traditional Christian values, the Southland was experiencing a powerful revival in "that Old-time Religion." During the war, there were over 150,000 soldier conversions.

This flag is indeed a battle flag. It represents the struggle against tyranny, as well as the eternal struggle for righteousness. It represents combative allegiance to the original ideals of 1776 and 1789. It represents the sovereignty of individuals and states within a federalist system.

Finally, let's examine what this flag is not. It is not a racist symbol, though some haters have co-opted it to that end. It is not a rejection of American ideals: if anything, it represents the hope to return to those ideals. It is not a symbol of hate: rather, it is a symbol of Christ's love for all us sinners. I love this flag. Don't you? - HBS



CAMP TO AID CIVIL WAR MUSEUM OF OHIO

(Continued from page 1) It was my reasoning that, by supporting the museum's efforts in whatever ways we can, compounded benefits would be gained by Camp 2Lt. John Bethel Bowles,

One thing that the museum needs and which is relatively inexpensive is a computer and program with which to catalog the collection. This will cost \$680. In exchange, the museum's directors have pledged permanent meeting space for the camp, publicity, and recognition on the museum's donor list.

I have applied for a grant of assistance to SCV for a major portion of that funding, but there is no guarantee that we will receive any of that funding at all. SCV generally wishes to see a 50/50 split between what the camps commit to raise and what the national organization is willing to commit, but I pleaded in my application for a bit more assistance. In total, I asked SCV for \$400.

Of the remainder, I have personally pledged \$100, and the camp has pledged \$100. I have committed an additional \$80.00 from camp members. Compatriot Leapley most graciously pledged another \$100, exceeding on his own the total additional membership commitment.

There is absolutely NO guarantee that SCV will support our request, and so I am acting upon the assumption that we are on our own. I started this project, and I am determined to see it through, with or without the help of SCV. Because the museum needs the funding very soon, I am going to borrow the funds from my personal line of credit to make sure they get the money. Meanwhile, I am prayerful that each of you will do whatever you can to help me offset the cost, pending word from SCV on whether or not our grant request has been approved. If you wish to make a donation, that would be wonderful. If you wish to advance a loan to the camp against our future fundraising efforts, that too would be a blessing.

This opportunity is too good to pass up: the chance to gain good will, to establish our presence in the community as a force for good, to have a home for our meetings at the museum... and to have our camp's good name associated with the museum. Gentlemen, it does not get much better than that.

Can you help? Will you help? If you can, please mail your contribution, or I will be glad to accept it formally

at the March meeting.

*Semper vigilantissimi,
H.B.S.*



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Effective Monday, 17 February, Past Camp Commander Don Blankenship has assumed the duties of Camp Chaplain, and will in keeping with Confederate tradition, bear the honorary title of Captain. A born-again Christian, Compatriot Blankenship, who previously led Camp John M. Jordan No. 581, intends to stand for election to the post in April.

On the face of it, it might seem that the chaplain's job is an easy one: open and close meetings with a prayer. Right? Wrong. When, as we each must, camp members pass away, the camp's chaplain is responsible to send notice to the division, army and SCV headquarters that a member in good standing has died. He also has the responsibility to send condolences to the next of kin, and to make sure that the departed compatriot is properly honored with a graveside or other ceremony. Often, the chaplain is asked to officiate at a memorial service, if not at the funeral itself.

The camp chaplain also has the responsibility to look out for the spiritual well-being of camp members through prayer, comfort, and an occasional "cheering on." He is responsible to make certain that the camp is living up to the ethical code of the Southern gentleman, which rests on a foundation of Christ's commandment to treat others as you would yourself want to be treated, to put the needs of others before your own, and to place obedience to God's will before all other things—not an easy task in this day and age.

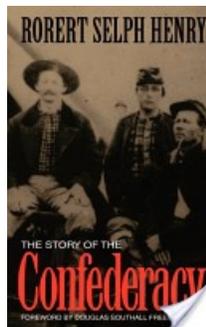
The camp chaplain Also has the responsibility to advise the camp's command staff with regard to ethics in making key decisions.

Thank you, Chaplain Blankenship, for taking on these heavy responsibilities, and God bless you.

BOOK REVIEW: THE STORY OF THE CONFEDERACY



Your reviewer tries from time to time to recommend a book that will add to your understanding of why our ancestors were willing to stand and fight as valiantly and



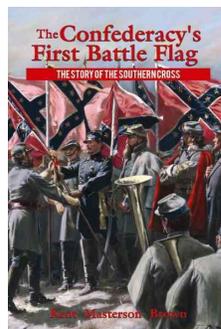
for as long as they did. One such book is Robert Self Henry's classic *The Story of the Confederacy*. Written in the 1920's and published in 1931, this highly rated book is currently available as a reprint at Amazon.com for \$18.62 new, and can be had used for as little as \$4.00. It is also in the stacks of the Heidel-

berg University library.

This history of the war, from gives a sympathetic and comprehensive account of the rise and fall of the Confederacy. Highly readable and flowing, it starts with the shelling of Fort Sumter, and ends in early April of 1865 when General Johnston surrendered to General Sherman.

Henry supports every campaign he writes about with regional illustrations so the reader can follow along quite easily. Moreover, he relates colorful anecdotes that pull the reader more deeply into his writing, including an hilarious episode in which a union soldier infiltrated the Confederate lines dressed in civilian clothing so that he could partake in a night "painting the town" in the company of local ladies before creeping back into federal territory the next morning.

Henry also manages quite well to capture the mood of the times: the frustration, despair, loyalty, camaraderie, hope and hopelessness, the pride and sorrow... all of the emotions that permeated both sides of that tragic and, likely, avoidable war. This complete one-volume history of the war is, while concise, thorough.



Another book that promises to be worth reading: is *The Confederacy's First Battle Flag: The Story of the Southern Cross*, by Kent Brown, which will be released March 14 and is available at Overstock.com as well as all the usual online purveyors and brick-and-mortar stores.

Your reviewer is most eager to get ahold of this book.



Did You Know: Thirty-seven Confederate generals have their birthdays in the month of February, including eight Virginians, seven Georgians, five Tennesseans, five North Carolinians, four South

Carolinians, three Kentuckians, two Alabamans,, one Louisianan, one Marylander, and one general from Washington, D.C. (LTG Richard Stoddert Ewell, on the 8th, 1837 in Georgetown). That's a lot of cake!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March Meeting Saturday, the 15th, 1:00 P.M., Tiffin-Seneca Public Library, 77 Jefferson Street, Tiffin. The meeting will be followed by an informal "get-together" at Reino's Restaurant.

March 22nd. Division Convention hosted by Camp Brig. General Roswell S. Ripley # 1535 (Columbus)... details to follow as soon as they are available.

March: If you want to stand for office, or wish to nominate someone, please let the commander or adjutant know by the 15th.

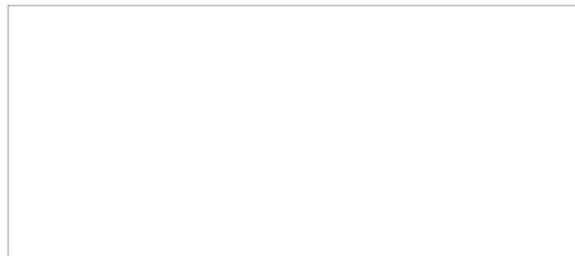
Camp E-mail: We have a camp e-mail address, and yours truly would be grateful to you if you would use it for camp communications. It is: scvcampbowles@gmail.com. I will share with each of you at the next meeting the password which you will need to receive mail at this address. Remember, it will be open for everyone to read, so keep it for camp communications only.

Sons of Confederate Veterans
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Adjutant / Treasurer—2LT Steve Stachoviak POB 223, Pemberville, OH 43450

Chaplain — Capt. Don Blankenship — 419-834-3876

Quartermaster—First Sergeant Lon Leapley

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Color Sergeant—Ordnance Sgt. Wade Wedge

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The Confederate Sentinel is the official publication of Camp Second Lieutenant John Bethel Bowles, Ohio Division, Army of Tennessee, Sons of Confederate Veterans. It is published monthly except December at 348 South Monroe Street, Tiffin, OH 44883. Henry B. Stobbs, MFA, editor. Contributions are welcome; please send e-mail contributions to scvcampbowles@gmail.com. Send mailed materials to the publication address.