SCV National Reunion and Convention

Commander’s Comments
Ken Cook, Division Commander

The second quarter has been another good one for the Oklahoma Division. Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh of Tulsa and Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore held impressive Confederate Memorial Day services. Several camps held different types of events. (See below in the Camp News and Activities Section.) The Division had a good convention and reunion this year. About ten per cent of our members attended. Details are in the Report of the Division Convention below. See also the Financial Report and Budget for 2017-18.

We ask all members to carefully study the Division’s Strategic Plan for 2017-18. The Plan was accepted unanimously, without questions or debate. We assume that everyone at the Convention accepts it whole heartily and intends to work to fulfill the goals set forth therein.

We remind compatriots of the Charge and the individual and collective responsibilities it places on us. We cannot compel either individual members or camps to fulfill their responsibilities under the Charge. Individual members must accept that responsibility for themselves and must insist their camp officers accept and discharge their leadership responsibilities.

We choose to be optimistic and expect that all compatriots and camps will shoulder their responsibilities to the memory of our Confederate veterans, and for the advancement of our struggle to retain our unique Southern heritage and culture.

N. B. Forest, Camp 215, of Memphis will host the 2017 Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, July 18-23, at the Memphis Cook Convention Center in downtown Memphis. The primary hotel is the Sheraton (downtown). The overflow hotel is the Crowne Plaza.

The Reunion is within reasonably easy driving distance, which will hopefully enable many Oklahoma Division compatriots to attend. For more information, go to the official Reunion website at http://scvmemphis2017.org.

Oklahoma Division Commander Ken Cook and Division Lt. Commander Rex Cash presented Division Graves Registrar Bernie Cooper with the Division’s 2017 Harold Tydings Award at Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh’s Confederate Memorial Day Service – May 20.
### Oklahoma Division Financial Report

**Business Year 2016-17**

**April 22, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank Balance as of May 7, 2016</th>
<th>$4,150.05</th>
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**Income**

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<tr>
<th>Dues</th>
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**Operating Expenses**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Website management and hosting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flag Rally</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award plaque and miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Transfer to Project Fund</td>
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<td>Operating Balance</td>
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**Project Fund**

| Transfer from Ardmore Monument Fund | $2,000.00 |
| National SCV Relief Fund           | -$500.00  |
| Transfer from Operating Balance    | $3,000.00 |
| Project Fund Balance               | $4,500.00 |

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<tr>
<th>Bank Balance as of April 17, 2017</th>
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| Guardian Funds held in Trust      | -$190.00 |
| Oklahoma Division Funds Balance   | $6,520.36 |

*(Presented by Adjutant James Orebaugh)*

### Calendar of Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Confederate Memorial Day Event – Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18-23</td>
<td>SCV National Reunion, Memphis, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>DEC Summer Meeting – McCloud</td>
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### Oklahoma Division Budget

**Business Year 2017-18**

**Revenue:**

(Dues based on 424 members @$5 per member):

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<tr>
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**Expenses:**

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<td>Convention refreshments</td>
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<td>Flag Day rally</td>
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<td>New camp development</td>
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<td>Unallocated Budget Surplus</td>
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*(Presented by Commander Ken Cook)*

### National Dues

The National SCV fiscal and business years end on July 31. Except for life members, National dues are due and payable on or before August 31. Dues for annual members are $30.

Camp commanders have been notified that National has shortened the grace period from ninety days to thirty days. Dues are due at National on or before August 31. Camp commanders need to immediately notify all members of this new situation, if you haven’t already done so.

Camp commanders or adjutants, whoever has that responsibility in your camp, need to send your first dues notices now. This is typically done by email, but for those members without email, they need to be called or sent a letter. This will require a little work until members are accustomed to the new procedures.

Any member’s dues not received at National by August 31, will require a $5 reinstatement fee.

Camp commanders, need to give this matter their immediate and fullest attention. We cannot lose members because they were not informed of the changes.
Report of the Division Convention

Ken Cook, Division Commander

The Oklahoma Division held its annual Convention and Reunion at Shawnee on April 22. The convention was opened with a welcome statement from Compatriot Allen Harrison, commander of the host camp, Col. Tandy Walker of Shawnee. Following the welcome, the customary opening ceremonies were undertaken. Adjutant Jim Orebaugh called the roll of camps and confirmed a quorum.

After the reading of the Minutes of the 2016 Convention by Division Adjutant Orebaugh, Lt. Commander Rex Cash gave the Membership Report. The Division experienced a net membership gain of 14.9 per cent from the last convention, giving the Division 424 members. Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore is the largest camp. Camp Pvt. Drury Warren of Ponca City had the largest membership increase. Chief of Heritage Operations, Bryce Hill, happily had no heritage issues to report. Lt. Commander Cash, Chairman of the Reunion Committee, formed to determine the feasibility of the Oklahoma Division hosting a future National reunion, gave an update. The Committee’s conclusion was that for the time being, it would not be financially feasible to attempt to host a national reunion. The Committee will continue its work on the matter. Adjutant Orebaugh presented the 2016-17 Financial Statement. The Division is financially healthy, and we have established a Project Fund with our surplus revenue. Commander Cook presented the 2017-18 budget, which was approved without objection. The Harold Tydings Award Committee reported on their recommended revisions for the Award, which were approved without objection.

Commander Cook reported on the state of the Division. In addition to the membership growth and the financial good health reported earlier, the Division has added two new camps since the 2016 convention. The camp in Shawnee is a reconstitution of a previously failed camp. The camp began with eight members and grew to twenty by convention time. We chartered a new camp in Ringling, and through the efforts of Indian Nations/Red River Brigade Commander, Virgil Chain, we successfully relocated a failing camp in Elk City to Altus, where recruiting opportunities are more favorable, and where local SCV members are enthusiastic about the camp. During the past year, the Division conducted a very successful Confederate Flag Day Rally with an estimated 150 people in attendance. Several camps undertook meaningful projects and Confederate Memorial Day services during the past year. Commander Cook presented the 2017-18 Strategic Plan, which was previously approved by the DEC and was approved by the convention without objection. (The Strategic Plan is printed in full below.) Commander Cook pulled the proposed Constitution from the agenda because he was uncomfortable with the short time frame in which camps had to review it, and because it was clear that more work needs to be done on it.

The Convention approved the Indian Nations/Red River Brigade Color Guard as the official Color Guard of the Oklahoma Division.

Commander Charlie Wilson of Camp Pvt. Drury Warren, and the Division’s top recruiter, gave a program on gun show recruiting. Adjutant Larry Logan of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain, whose camp of fifty-six members has achieved one hundred per cent retention for the past two years, gave a program on membership retention. Commander Cook presented the featured program, entitled “The Lost Cause”. He presented the program on behalf of Division Historian Bently Couch, who was unable to attend because of illness. Camp Col. William Penn Adair Commander, Jim Herndon, Chairman of the Division Guardian Program, made a presentation on the Guardian Program and announced several Guardian Certificate recipients.

Larry Logan, Chairman of the Harold Tydings Award Committee, announced this year’s recipient: Division Graves Registrar, Bernie Cooper, who received the award for his many years of outstanding service as Division Graves Registrar. The Award is the Division’s highest service award.

In summation, the Oklahoma Division had a good Convention with about ten per cent of our membership in attendance. Altogether, the Division had a good year and is in its best condition since it was reconstituted eleven years ago. The Division has continued to grow and improve each year since. We are looking forward to continued growth and further improvement during the 2017-18 year.

Oklahoma Division Color Guard

As stated in the Report of the Division Convention, the Indian Nations/Red River Brigade Color Guard is now the Oklahoma Division Color Guard and will be referred to by that name hereafter. The Color Guard’s official responsibilities are limited to Division activities. They will continue to participate in camp and brigade activities at their discretion. The Color Guard’s membership qualifications and the rules under which they operate remain the responsibility of the Color Guard. For anyone interested in joining the Color Guard, contact Indian Nations/Red River Brigade Commander Virgil Chain at ych@martineer.net or 580-351-8400.

We don’t know how many divisions have a division color guard, but the Oklahoma Division now has one for the first time ever. We believe all Division members will be proud of our new Oklahoma Division Color Guard.
Oklahoma Division Strategic Plan
2017-18

Authority:
The Constitution of the Oklahoma Division mandates the DEC formulate, approve and implement an annual strategic plan.

Purpose:
The 2017-18 Division Strategic Plan is intended to describe actions and to establish goals that will (1.) help ensure that all members understand their responsibilities, individually and collectively, in fulfilling the SCV Mission – furtherance of the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, (2.) support the goal of increasing and retaining membership in order to replace inevitable losses and to keep the Division continuously refreshed with men who share our commitment to protect our Confederate heritage and further our mission, (3.) to enhance the knowledge of our members in the history of the Confederate Period, and (4.) to emphasize the importance of cultivating friends who may join with us in defending our Confederate heritage.

Background:
The Charge mandates just five simple duties for members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans: (1.) defend the Confederate soldier’s good name, (2.) assume the guardianship of his history, (3.) emulate his virtues, (4.) perpetuate his principles and (5.) do their part in furthering the SCV’s mission. Division leadership and Brigade commanders cannot dictate how camps are run, Division leadership cannot mandate that camps undertake projects, events or activities. Still, camps are not stand-alone entities without relationships to the Division and the National SCV. They are an integral part of the SCV at all levels and are expected to act at all times within the spirit and literal meaning of the Charge and do their part in furthering the SCV’s mission. Division leadership and Brigade commanders can, however, provide all the help they can by encouragement, ideas, suggestions and advice. They are at the disposal of the camps when needed. We offer the following suggestions and advice to assist camps in fulfilling their responsibilities in regard to this Strategic Plan:
The National SCV mandates a minimum of four meetings per year. Four meetings won’t get the job done. Camps must conduct meaningful meetings, each month they reasonably can. Meetings can be the customary, structured monthly meeting, or they can be special meetings, such as dinners, luncheons or special events or activities. Regardless of the meeting type, a formal program is imperative. Informative programs are the most common way in which most members learn about the history of the Confederate soldier and the War for Southern Independence. A speaker outside the SCV may be desirable for his or her expertise or for a specific subject, but many camps have demonstrated by practice that an outside speaker is not necessary for an informative program. Every member of the SCV has a Confederate soldier ancestor with a personal story worth telling. We must remember that we are not a social or eating club. Camp meetings have a distinct purpose. There is no excuse for not having good meeting programs each month. Camp commanders must give their members a reason to attend camp meetings.

1. Members must make every effort to attend their camp’s monthly meetings. We recognize that many members are unable to attend every meeting, and maybe none, because
of conflicting obligations, age, health or work, and many live far from their camps. Those who are able to attend need to do so. Camp commanders are obligated to determine why members consistently do not attend. If those absent members have concerns about the camp or any of the other members, it is the Commander’s obligation to do what he can to make corrections or adjustments, if practical or possible.

2. Camps must engage in at least one meaningful project or event each year. The most successful camps within the Division regularly have multiple events and/or projects. Such events include the most important event of the year – Confederate Memorial Day. This is the one time of the year when camps gather to celebrate the lives of our Confederate soldier ancestors and remember their service and sacrifice. A camp doesn’t need a cemetery full of Confederate graves or a monument or memorial in order to conduct a Memorial Day service. One grave is sufficient. As far as we can determine, every camp in the Division is situated in, or reasonably near, a community that has one or more cemeteries with at least one Confederate grave in at least one of them. If, for some reason a camp cannot have a Memorial Day service by itself, it can partner with another camp. There is no excuse for a camp not to hold or participate in an annual Confederate Memorial Day service. Other appropriate events include joint meetings with the UDC, special dinners that may include spouses, such as during the Christmas season, picnics that could include families, or any other appropriate event that brings camp members together for a common purpose. Salutary effects of these kinds of events are that they encourage camp members to work together and engender a sense of purpose and belonging. Camps must have projects that contribute to the memory and recognition of the Confederate veteran. Most commonly, these include Confederate grave cleanup, headstone or Cross of Honor placement, or simple, but meaningful things such as placement of flags or wreaths on appropriate occasions. The type and frequency of camp projects that keep the memory of the Confederate soldier alive are limited only by imagination and willingness.

3. Successful membership recruitment is the life blood of the SCV. Without it, the organization will stagnate and eventually die. Membership recruitment must begin at the camp level. We cannot wait until someone tracks us down and asks to join. Most people are probably unaware that there is a SCV camp in their community. Many have actually never heard of the SCV, and most who have heard probably know nothing about us or what we stand for, or else something negative. It is our responsibility to search for members and to educate them about the SCV and its purposes. We have said this on many occasions, but gun shows or shooting events have proven to be the most successful venue in which recruiters find the most potential members. There are several gun shows in various Oklahoma cities and towns every year. Some are large. Others are relatively small. But, all of them attract people, some of whom may have an interest in the SCV, once they know about us. Gun shows are not the only way to attract potential members. Each camp can decide for itself how to undertake membership recruitment, but they must do it. Individual members should talk to people about the SCV at every opportunity. Many potential recruits will need help in identifying Confederate ancestors. We are the best organization on the planet to help them, so we must make the offer, and follow-up on it. Like projects and events, only lack of imagination or willingness are impediments to successful membership recruitment.

4. Hand in hand with recruitment is membership retention. Expending time, effort and sometimes money on recruiting will be, in part, negated unless we retain the new members as well as the ones we already have. We believe the suggestions made herein regarding camp activities, projects and events will go a long way towards membership retention. Collegial and informative meetings are a must. If members feel they have a meaningful purpose in being part of the SCV, they will more likely want to remain a part of it. To underscore the importance of membership retention, the SCV currently has three times as many former members than it has active members. Some are undoubtedly deceased, but the overwhelming majority are not. Examine the reasons your members don’t renew their memberships. Lack of contact may be the biggest cause. People want to feel wanted. They like to be asked.

5. Community relations, interaction, involvement or whatever term one chooses, is also critical to our success. SCV members do not live in a vacuum. We are members of a community. There are numerous activities a camp can undertake and with little or no cost to the camp or members, other than time and effort. Such examples include the following: Interacting with local high school JROTC programs for the Hundley Award. (This is probably doable only in the larger cities.) Law enforcement recognition with the appropriate SCV designated certificate of appreciation. This can be especially valuable in smaller communities, where members are more likely to know their law enforcement officers. Recognition of camp members who make extraordinary contributions to the camp, such as long-term or extraordinary camp service, projects, activities, etc. Affiliation or interaction with a local historical or genealogical society, memorial association or history museum. Historical societies and history museums are interested in history. We are all about history. Such associations may offer opportunities for an interchange of speakers, which can give us an opportunity to tell our story and in the process, dispel some myths and improve public perception of us. These kinds of activities introduce us to members of the communities and show them that we are not radicals or racists or some other creature they must fear or hate. We don’t have to agree with them, or they with us. We are
trying to win friends, not converts with these interactions. Done properly, these interactions will help create friendly attitudes toward us and maybe allies. Once again, only lack of imagination and willingness prevents such interaction.

6. Brigade commanders are the officers closest to the camps, which they serve. Brigade Commander is not a ceremonial office. Brigade commanders have positive responsibilities. The position was created to assist camps within the Brigades. This cannot be accomplished if Brigade commanders know little or nothing about their camps. Brigade commanders must take a proactive interest in their camps by visiting every camp in the Brigade at least once each year and submitting reports of their visits and their findings or opinions of the camp, to the Division Commander.

Goals:

We expect Camp and Brigade commanders to take seriously the suggestions and advice set forth in the Strategic Plan, and to begin immediately to determine what they and their camps will do to further the SCV Mission as set forth herein.

1. We ask all Camp commanders to submit, to the Division Commander, a report, due by May 15, 2017, his camp’s plans for projects, events and activities outside regular camp meetings for the period between the 2017 and 2018 Division Conventions.
2. We expect to add at least two new camps by the 2018 Division Convention. Current possibilities are Lawton and South Coffeyville. We will be attentive to additional possibilities.
3. We will increase our Division membership by at least fifteen per cent by the 2018 Division Convention.
4. We will pursue the possibility of hosting a future National SCV Reunion in Oklahoma.

Summation:

This Strategic Plan is a statement of intentions and a road map for the success and growth of the Oklahoma Division for the next year. The actions and goals set forth herein are straight forward, simple and achievable. However, for them to be achievable, all members of the Division must do their part, and officers at all levels must demonstrate the requisite leadership to see the Plan through. Otherwise, it is only an aspiration, not a firm plan of what the Division intends to accomplish over the life of the Plan, and where the Division will be at the expiration of the Plan. When the DEC members approved this Strategic Plan, they made it theirs. The same applies at Convention. When approved at Convention, all members become executors of the plan and must be committed to its success. Camp commanders must present the Strategic Plan to their members, discuss it and map out what their camps are doing, or will do, to help make it successful.

Report of Enid Gun Show
Charley Wilson

Last Saturday (April 8), Steve Sanders of the Bartlesville SCV Camp, and I managed a table for the Sons of Confederate Veterans at the Gun Show in Enid, Oklahoma. It was a nice day, and attendance was not as much as usual according to locals. However, this could have been the first SCV recruiting venture for Gun Shows at Enid, and we discovered there is interest to support the true history of the Confederate veterans and the South.

Met a distant cousin who did not know anything about his Confederate ancestor. He passed by our table when we were busy, so I caught up with him in the aisle while he was buying ammo. When he told me his last name, I recognized it from genealogy that I was familiar. His Confederate ancestor is Elijah M. Wilson. One of Elijah's sons moved to the vicinity of Enid about the time of the Land Run.

Some students of OBU were there. They didn't seem to know anything about the recent removal of the Confederate flag from the window at OBU. They didn't know any Confederate history either. I told what I could in a short time, and they moved on.

Like most places, there's Confederate interest in Enid and we've got be there to assist them to discover it. It's too early to predict how many members we will gain from this Gun Show in Enid due to the low attendance that day. We shall return for their next Gun Show.

Commander Wilson and Compatriot Sanders at the Enid Gun Show

“Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late. It means the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision.” Major General Patrick R. Cleburne
A Forgotten Virginian in Arizona
Compatriot Brandon Porter

Two men rode out of the lawless town of Gillett, a mining boom camp in the heart of Arizona. One man, a Confederate veteran known for his fair dealings and kind nature, the other man a drunken troublemaker. The veteran had taken the drunkard into his custody with the intentions of sobering him up. Sadly, this noble act by this son of the South would be his demise. The year is 1878; its summer on the Arizona frontier. This territory was the Wild West, and the tiny boom town of Gillett was something you would see out of and old western film. Bandits would frequently rob the stage coach near town, rogue Apache and Yavapai Indians would attack throughout the area. and the occasional shootout would interrupt the morning silence. This little town would see the likes of Doc Holiday and Wyatt Earp pass though in its heyday.

It was in this setting that a native Virginian made his home. Samuel Weir was born to John B. Weir and Margaret Brook Weir in 1842 in Rockbridge County, Virginia. Details of his childhood are lost to time, but what is known is he had several siblings, and his mother and father lived past his adulthood. When the War Between the States started, Samuel and his younger brother, Alexander, enlisted in the 2nd Rockbridge Dragoons, an Independent Cavalry Company with Captain John R. McNutt commanding. Later, this company would become Company H of the 14th Virginia Cavalry Regiment. They enlisted one week after Virginia had joined the Confederacy. All accounts show that Samuel had proven to be an excellent soldier, being promoted to Corporal on April 1st of 1864 and then Company 1st Sergeant on September 1st 1864. The 14th Virginia Cavalry seen a great deal of action, even fighting in Gettysburg. It is written that his Company Commander made this reflection of Sam: "his kind, cheerful and generous disposition, his bravery and magnanimity in all emergencies". When the Regiment disbanded in April of 1865, Samuel returned home. Some years later Sam would make a new life in Arizona Territory. After sometime in Prescott, he would make his way to the central Arizona mining town of Gillett. In Gillett, Sam was known to be a man of respectability and one who helped those in need.

On June 12, 1878, a drunken known as John Setwright had broken a bottle over another man's head while in a saloon. Town deputy Burnett had arrested Setwright for his actions. Sam approached the deputy and agreed to take Setwright into his custody to sober him up. Sam must have known Setwright somehow. The two were last seen slowly riding out of the little desert burg. A short time later, Sam’s mule returned to Gillett without him. A party of concerned citizens went looking for Sam and found him a short distance away. Samuel Weir, a veteran of the War of Southern Independence had been shot through the head. Setwright, the culprit, was found on his horse a mile away. Setwright was hanged by an angry mob from a cottonwood tree that day near the Agua Fria River. Sam undoubtedly had no idea of his approaching death as he never drew his pistol. He died an honorable man trying to help another person. Gillett today is nothing more than dirt, rocks and cactus. The cemetery where Sam is buried is no more. Sam's remains are still there but the exact spot is unmarked and lost to the sands of time. Samuel's mortal remains may be lost, but we can keep his memory alive by remembering his sacrifice to his country and the good deeds he performed.

Samuel Weir

Compatriot Porter is a member of Camp Col. Daniel N., McIntosh of Tulsa and a descendant of Col. McIntosh. A native of Arizona, he lives in White City, Oregon.

Confederate Navy scuttles CSS Virginia after Union forces occupy Norfolk – May 11, 1862
(Contributed by Division Historian Bently Couch)
Camp News and Activities

At its meeting on March 11, Camp BG Stand Watie of Ardmore welcomed its newest member, Compatriot Joe Taylor of Ardmore. Compatriot Taylor’s wife is a member of the local UDC chapter.

On Saturday, April 1, seven Oklahoma compatriots representing three camps were treated to a personalized walking tour of Honey Springs Battlefield by Andy Slauctaj (pronounced Sloste), a Battlefield employee. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed themselves. Afterwards, they gathered for lunch at June’s Restaurant in Checotah. The tour was sponsored by Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore.

Commander Robert Carroll presenting Compatriot Joe Taylor with his SCV Membership Certificate.

On March 23, Camp Col. Tandy Walker of Shawnee held its regular monthly meeting. Guests were Ft. Washita Brigade Commander Jerry Patrick and Gene and Tony Goodman. Commander Harrison presented the program based on the SCV publication, *The Gray Book*.

Tour members, clockwise from the bottom left: Kevin White (Muskogee), Ben McIntosh (McAlester), Jimmy Carter (Moore), Mason Page (Muskogee), Stan Dowling (Moore), Shawn Hernandez (Moore) and Larry Logan (Moore), who contributed the photos and report.
Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore had a recruiting table at the Single Action Shooting Society Southwest Regionals “Land Run” at the Oklahoma City Gun Club, on April 7. Six camp members helped with the event. They collected six SCV prospects, including two in the Moore area.

(L. to R.) Larry Logan, Rocky Waddell, Gary Brewster, Clyde Green and Jerry Patrick at the Land Run shooting event

Camp Col. Dew Moore Wisdom of Muskogee had a presence in the annual Muskogee Azalea Festival parade on Saturday, April 8.

Camp Capt. Benjamin F. Smallwood of Coalgate welcomed two new members at its meeting on Saturday, April 8, at the Coal County Library. Commander Tommy Ballentine, Sr. presented SCV Certificates of Membership to Compatriots Billy Weir and John Hampton. The Camp also revealed their new Camp flag (see below). Mr. Nickolas “Nick” Wallace, Choctaw Nation Archeological Technician presented the program on various weapons of the 1861-65 period.

Compatriots Billy Weir (L) and John Hampton displaying their SCV Membership Certificates

Choctaw Nation Archeological Technician, Nick Wallace, presenting his program on weapons of the War for Southern Independence.
Camp Capt. Benjamin F. Smallwood of Coalgate has come up with a novel idea, at least within the Oklahoma Division. They have created a Camp flag, apparently drawing on the custom of Confederate regiments stitching their regimental designations on their battle flags.

Commander Tommy Ballentine, Sr., Camp Benjamin F. Smallwood, has resigned his office. His conflicts with work proved too much for him to give the necessary attention to his role as camp commander. The camp meets on Saturday, and he has to work almost every Saturday. The same situation applies to his son, Tommy, Jr., who works at the same place and is camp adjutant. He also resigned his office. The new camp commander is Ronald M. Miller, the former commander of the old, defunct Coalgate camp. Compatriot Alvin Johnson is the new camp adjutant. Compatriot Johnson has been the heart and soul of Camp Smallwood. He was the primary organizer of the camp and has kept it going since. He has striven to increase membership, organize monthly meetings and programs and organize camp events. He is currently planning a parade in Coalgate in connection with an event to memorialize Captain Smallwood to be held on Saturday, August 12. He has undertaken the effort to bring the old Coalgate camp members back into the SCV. Six of the members of the former Coalgate camp will be reinstating and joining Camp Smallwood.

Division Commander: This is an excellent program to promote community relations and gain positive exposure for the SCV. It is probably doable only in the larger cities, where the high school(s) are more likely to have JROTC programs. I ask camp commanders in larger cities in Oklahoma to investigate the possibility of your camps becoming involved in this program. Currently, only the camps in Oklahoma City and Tulsa are actively participating in the program.

Camp Capt. James J. McAlester of McAlester met for their April meeting on the 15th at the Pittsburg County Genealogical and Historical Society. The special guest was Ft. Washita Brigade Commander Jerry Patrick. The meeting program was given by Friend of the SCV, Nona Wood, who talked about the many resources found within the Genealogical building. As a member of the Pittsburg County Genealogical and Historical Society, Ms. Wood was available to help those who wanted to research their ancestors, while others roamed through the building and marveled at the many genealogical and historical documents.

Commander Couch presented the Camp’s newest member, James C. Nevels with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Nevels’ confederate ancestor is Martin Simon Nevels, Co. C, 4th Mississippi Cavalry.
Commander Couch presenting compatriot Nevels with his SCV Membership Certificate (Photo by Patrick Self)

After the meeting and lunch, most members re-assembled at Jeff-Lee Pool and Park area, where Camp members and spouses picked up trash, cut weeds and performed general clean-up on an area that was established by the United Confederate Veterans of Oklahoma in McAlester's early history. Camp McAlester has adopted the park as an on-going project.

Camp McAlester compatriots next to the Jeff-Lee Camp No. 68, UCV stone pillar at Jeff-Lee Park: (Rear) James Nevels, Ralph Morton, Steve Ward, Bob Pattison, Patrick Self, Ronnie Keesee; (Front) Ben McIntosh, David Boyer, Dan Houser, Bently Couch. (Photo by Kathy Ward)

Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore, at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 18, welcomed its newest member, Compatriot Terry Garrett. The Camp also bade farewell to members Robert Findley and his son Robert, Jr. They are transferring their membership to the new camp at Altus, near their home. The program was presented by Adjutant Greg Parker of Camp BG Albert Pike of El Reno. His subject was handguns before and during the War for Southern Independence.

The City of McAlester has installed a sign on behalf of Camp McAlester, letting the world know that the Camp will be taking care of the Jeff-Lee Pool and Park as part of Keep McAlester Beautiful Adopt-A-Block Program. (Photo by Bently Couch)

Commander Jerry Patrick presenting Compatriot Garrett with his SCV Membership Certificate. Deputy Adjutant Jimmy Carter, is on the right.
Compatriots Robert, Sr. and Robert, Jr. Findley standing – Commander Patrick and Deputy Adjutant Carter seated.

Greg Parker presenting his program on handguns. He had about a dozen examples at the meeting.

Camp Pvts. Grayson & Brewer of Elk City has relocated to Altus. The Camp has not been active for the past few years and most of its members don’t live in, or near, Elk City. Its commander has actually moved out of state, without informing anyone at Division, and the adjutant lives in Altus.

A few months ago, the Division began actively to explore the feasibility of organizing a camp in Altus. Indian Nations/Red River Brigade Commander Virgil Chain, with assistance from Division Quartermaster Jerry Patrick and Compatriot Robert Findley, Sr., began the efforts with a gun show in February. Compatriot Findley lives in the Altus area, but has been a member of the camp at Moore.

Commander Chain came up with the idea of relocating the Elk City camp to Altus. This would accomplish two goals at once: revitalizing the existing camp and locating it in an area more conducive to membership recruitment. After the War for Southern Independence, many Confederate veterans settled in what was then Greer County, Texas. We expect many of their descendants still live in the area. Old Greer County is the area of Oklahoma, west of the North Fork of the Red River. The relocated camp starts out in a good position with twelve members and a lot of enthusiasm. We believe they have the potential easily to grow to twenty or more members by year-end.

On Monday, April 24, members of the Oklahoma Division’s Cherokee Brigade and Muskogee’s Nathan B. Forrest Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy gathered at Greenhill Cemetery in Muskogee to dedicate the last of six headstones for previously unmarked graves of Confederate soldiers. The first five headstones were dedicated on October 29, 2016, but for some reason, the headstone of Pvt. Walter Agnew, 2nd Cherokee Mounted Volunteers, was not ordered with the first five.

Pvt. Agnew’s granddaughter, Mrs. Ada Agnew Scott, and several members of her family were in attendance. Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief, Joe Crittenden, presented Mrs. Scott with the Cherokee Nation’s Warrior Award honoring her grandfather’s military service. Deputy Chief Crittenden was accompanied by his Administrative Assistant, Ethan Green.

The Oklahoma Division and Cherokee Brigade were represented by Division Commander Ken Cook and Cherokee Brigade Commander Bruce Bishop. Commander, Ron Burton Camp Col. John Jumper of Claremore, and Compatriot George Fletcher representing Camp Col. Dew Moore Wisdom of Muskogee were also in attendance.

Mrs. Ada Scott, holding her grandfather’s Warrior Award, with her family, standing next to Deputy Chief Joe Crittenden.
Camp Col. Tandy Walker of Shawnee held its regular monthly meeting on April 27. At the meeting, Commander Allen Harrison presented SCV membership certificates to Ronald J. Gwynn whose ancestor, Major Hugh Garvin Gwynn was adjutant with the 23rd Tennessee Infantry (Martin’s) Regiment and Charles M Brown whose ancestor, 2nd Lieutenant Robert Cicero Montgomery served with the 9th Battalion, Georgia Artillery. Commander Harrison presented a Certificate of Membership to John C. Imes of Oklahoma City earlier in the month. His ancestor is Capt. Frederick Augustus Kerr, Sr., 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles. Commander Harrison presented the meeting program “The Emancipation Proclamation”, with knowledgeable input from Division Lt. Commander Rex Cash, a guest at the meeting.

Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh of Tulsa sponsored the H. L. Hunley Award for an outstanding cadet in the Broken Arrow High School Air Force JROTC program. On May 1, Commander Bruce Bishop presented the Award to Cadet Staff Sergeant Tristan Box.
On May 4, Compatriot Rob Weaver of Camp Capt. Clem Vann Rogers of Oklahoma City presented the H. L. Hunley Award to Cadet Seaman Jordan Holderness of the JROTC unit at Oklahoma City’s Capitol Hill High School.

At the monthly meeting of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore, on May 17, Commander Jerry Patrick presented Guardian Certificates to three camp members.

Commander Patrick, Guardian Certificate recipients Jimmy Carter, Richard McDonald and Dallas Carter; Lt. Commander Rocky Waddell is on the right.

Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh of Tulsa held its annual Confederate Memorial Day service at the site of the Camp’s Monument to the Confederate Soldiers of Indian Territory in Tulsa’s Rose Hill Memorial Park Cemetery on Saturday, May 20. The featured speaker was Oklahoma Division Lt. Commander Rex Cash. Division Commander Ken Cook and Lt. Commander Cash presented Division Graves Registrar Bernie Cooper with the Division’s 2017 Harold Tydings Award at the service. (Photo on page one)

At the May 20 meeting of Camp Capt. James J. McAlester of McAlester, members were honored to have the Chief of the Kusa Nunahi Tribal Band of Cherokee, James Skelton and his wife Andrea, as distinguished guests. Camp members voted unanimously to approve the Camp’s updated Constitution and By-Laws. Through collected donations, the Camp is inching toward sponsoring a display illustrating the Seminole’s role in the Confederacy at the Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka. Members discussed proposed Camp projects, activities, and events through April 2018. Guest speaker, Commander Allen Harrison of Camp Col. Tandy Walker of Shawnee, presented his program on the Emancipation Proclamation.
Camp Col. Tandy Walker of Shawnee held its May meeting on the 25th. Camp Chaplain, Warren Boles, presented the Camp’s twenty-third member, Steven Webb, with his SCV Certificate of Membership. Compatriot Webb’s Confederate ancestor is Pvt. Lewis Ledbetter Petty, Co C, 7th Arkansas Cavalry (Hill’s) Regiment. Compatriot Webb was accompanied by his wife, Wileen (Willie). Ms. Judith Michener, Regent of the Shawnee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented the program, which included genealogical research on the internet and at the Oklahoma Historical Society Library in Oklahoma City.

The DAR’s latest project is researching the burial sites of all veterans buried in Pottawatomie County. Camp Walker will assist with the project, which includes burial sites of Confederate veterans.

On Saturday, May 27, thirty Southern patriots gathered at Naples Cemetery in northern Grady County for Moore’s Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain Confederate Memorial Day service. This year’s honored veteran was Pvt. Martin Wilson, 15th Arkansas Infantry. Camp McCurtain compatriots have identified eighteen Confederate graves in this small, rural cemetery. Maintenance of the cemetery is an ongoing Camp project.
Heritage News & Events

Forwarding the Colors

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cyrus Haines, a member of **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** of Moore displaying the Confederate Battle Flag on Patton Tower at Patton Army Heliport, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. CWO2 Harris is a member of the 245th Airfield Operations Battalion, 45th Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma National Guard. The 245th is currently deployed in Kuwait.

Confederate Museum Contributors

Compatriot Mike Weeks of **Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain** of Moore, and his wife, Susie, present their founders check for the new museum at Elm Springs to SCV Executive Director Mike Landree.

In Memoriam

**Real Son Mike Yancey**

Mike Young Yancey, age ninety-three, of Cordova, Tennessee, went to be with his Lord on Saturday morning, April 1, 2017. He was born December 12, 1923. He is the son of Confederate Army veteran, John Samuel Yancey of the Mississippi Partisan Rangers of the Confederate Army. His mother was Nancy Pearl (Pickens) Yancey. Mike has been married to his wife, Louise (Wildmon) Yancey, for seventy-three years. Mike is retired from the United States Navy after twenty-three years of service to our country. He served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. His hobbies included collecting revolvers, making leather holsters for his collection and fishing. (Excerpted from obituary published in *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tennessee, April 2, 2017. Contributed by Charles Wilson)

Update: Judge Issues Temporary Injunction to Halt Lee Statue Removal

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (WVIR) A Charlottesville judge says a Confederate statue cannot be touched, for now. Both sides battling it out over an injunction to stop the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue and renaming of the park it’s in were in court for hours on Tuesday.

Charlottesville Circuit Court Judge Richard Moore took about 25 minutes to come to his decision. Both sides spent much of the afternoon debating state code. The judge said he issued the six-month injunction to prevent City Council from removing the statue because irreparable harm could be done to the War memorial. But the judge said renaming the park isn't irreparable and can be done.

"That hearing really hasn't been held yet. That's not a ruling. That's just a statement. So, we haven't presented anything yet," Kristin Szakos, Charlottesville City Councilor, said. "I think the message it sends to the community is that this is a case about the rule of law and we need to respect that," Ralph Main, plaintiff's attorney, said. A court hearing is set for June 19. That's when both sides will pick another date to go over some motions in the case. The plaintiff's attorney said he doesn't know how long this case will eventually take.

A group of protesters gathered outside the courthouse around 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 2. The group chanted, "hey hey!
ho ho! White supremacy has got to go,” and “remove the statue and the hate. There’s no need to litigate.”


The city offered to let the Lee statue stay where it is for four months while the court tackles the issue. However, that proposal was rejected. Attorneys for the plaintiffs presented witnesses as part of their argument that the Lee statue is a memorial to a military veteran. An expert on Confederate history, a librarian for the Historical Society, and a volunteer who helped to get the statue onto the National Historic Registry were all called to testify for the plaintiff.

City Councilors voted 3-2 on February 6 to remove the Gen. Lee statue and rename Lee Park. Mayor Mike Signer and councilor Kathy Galvin voted against the measure. A similar vote on April 17 approved plans to sell the statue to an educational institution, museum, or nonprofit group. Court documents filed in the past week claim removing the monument is an illegal use of taxpayer dollars. The plaintiffs also believe Virginia’s monument protection law forbids the city from moving through with City Council’s plans.

Charlottesville’s legal team claims the statue is not covered by that law, because it’s unclear that it’s a memorial to a veteran. The Lee statue does not contain any words that reference the Civil War, veterans, or the military. Additionally, the lawsuit argues that if the city is allowed to move forward with removing the statue, then it would set off a series of events that cannot be undone. The city denies that the plaintiffs or the public would suffer irreparable harm if the plans for the statue move forward.

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**Message from the Chaplin**

Frank Gilbert, Division Chaplain

**ENDURE HARDNESS AS A GOOD SOLDIER**

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 2:3 (KJV)

In our Christian walk, we have to endure hardness to be followers of Christ. In our walk as Sons of Confederate Veterans, we are seeing that hardness is flying at us from every direction and with greater intensity than ever before. What are we to do? As I see it we have two choices. We can be spectators or we can be good soldiers. Let’s look at each.

What are spectators? Basically, they are watchers, who see the action unfolding around them. Are they needed? Yes, in varying degrees. In sports, they are most definitely needed. Without them the games would not go on. They pay the freight. How much are they needed in the SCV? They are needed, but not as much as they are for sports. They help our coffers, and it sounds good if a camp commander can say "Our camp has fifty members this year." However, that claim rings very hollow when events take place, and his camp has three or four Compatriots show up. Our enemies don’t notice our spectators, only our good soldiers.

What are good soldiers? They are the Compatriots on the front lines, in the trenches, and who are taking the enemies blows right now, even as we speak. Can you spot them? Oh yes, they are easy to see. Watch your local camp. Look for the Compatriots who work: they volunteer to help; they show up for meetings and events every time they can; and they are very passionate about our Cause. They are the ones the other camp members want to be around, and usually they are the ones who help make the meaningful decisions. And, they are leaders, but they may or may not hold the position. Remember this fact: The position doesn’t make the leader; the leader makes the position.

Look at New Orleans and other places, brothers. Hardness is here. The question is how are you going to endure it? As a spectator, or as a good soldier? Let’s follow the Word and be good soldiers!
Oklahoma Division Reunion and Convention
Shawnee, OK – April 22, 2017

Convention Attendees

Commander Ken Cook addressing the Convention with (L. to R.) Lt. Commander Rex Cash, Adjutant James Orebaugh and Judge Advocate and Chief of Heritage Operations Bryce Hill

Adjutant Orebaugh reading the Minutes of the 2016 Convention

Lt. Commander Cash addressing the Convention
Judge Advocate and Chief of Heritage Operations Hill presenting the proposed revised Division Constitution

Compatriot Robert Findley addressing the Convention on the relocation of the Elk City camp to Altus

Camp Pvt. Drury Warren of Ponca City Commander Charlie Wilson presenting his program on gun show recruiting

Adjutant Larry Logan of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain of Moore presenting his program on membership retention
James Herndon, Chairman of the Oklahoma Guardian Program and Commander of Camp Col. William Penn Adair of Bartlesville, giving his presentation on the Guardian Program.

Harold Tydings Award Committee Chairman Larry Logan presenting the Harold Tydings Award to Commander Bruce Bishop of Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh of Tulsa on behalf of Division Graves Registrar Bernie Cooper, with Lt Commander Cash and Past-Division Commander Allen Harrison.

Oklahoma Division Color Guard, commanded by Color Sergeant Steve Stricklan, retiring the colors.

(Convention photos courtesy of Bruce Bishop)
Confederate Memorial Day
Hosted by
Col. Jackson F. McCurtain, Camp No. 513
Saturday, June 24, 2017
at
Calvary Free Will Baptist Church – 3730 N. Porter, Norman, OK

Ms. Susan Hathaway of the Virginia Flaggers will be the guest speaker at the event. Other guests will be National SCV Lt. Commander Paul Grambling and Army of Trans-Mississippi Commander Johnnie Holley and their wives.

A spaghetti and meatball dinner with all the trimmings, tea, water and dessert will be served, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Cost of the dinner is $15, payable at the time. Please bring the correct amount, as change may be limited.

Dinner will be served in the church’s gymnasium. The facility is air conditioned, but it is a gymnasium, and it will be summertime in Oklahoma, so it may be a little warm. The program will begin at 7:00 in the church sanctuary, please dress comfortably, but appropriately.

Contact Camp Adjutant Larry Logan at larry_logan@hotmail.com for more information or to place your reservation. (That’s an underline between Larry and Logan.)

Directions: Go to I-35 and Tecumseh Road in north Norman. Exit east off I-35, and go east to Porter. At Porter, turn left, or north, and go 1/4 mile north. The church is on your left.