“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish.”  (Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906)

New Roadside Memorial Battle Flag raised in Petersburg, Virginia – July 27, 2019

(Contributed by Charley Wilson)

Double rainbow over the General Lee statue Richmond – July 13, 2019

(Contributed by Scott Peeler)

Calendar of Events

November 11 – Veterans Day
March 4 – Confederate Flag Day
April 25 – Oklahoma Division Convention, Shawnee
DEC Summer Meeting
Steve Ward, Division Adjutant

The Oklahoma Division summer DEC meeting was held Saturday, September 7 at Curtis Watson’s Catfish Restaurant in McLoud, OK. After a delicious meal, the meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by Division Adjutant Steve Ward who was appointed to chair the meeting by Division Commander James Orebaugh, when he was unable to attend. The invocation by Commander Allen Harrison was followed by the salute to the Confederate Flag. Roll call of DEC members by Adjutant Ward revealed that only eight voting members (nine total) were present, not enough to make a quorum. Adjutant Ward then read the minutes of the previous DEC meeting, which were approved with one correction. Adjutant Ward welcomed those who cared enough to attend.

First order of business was the Annual Camp Reports. Adjutant Ward reported all but two Oklahoma Camps submitted an Annual Camp Report. From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 the Division had a net loss of twenty-nine members. The Camp Reports were assembled with their respective rosters and submitted to the Division Commander and HQ.

Division Chief Recruiting Officer Charlie Wilson circulated a sheet of upcoming gun shows in Oklahoma and encouraged everyone to man a recruiting table. He stated that he would be glad to travel to any gun show to show how to properly recruit. He also encouraged everyone to recruit no matter where you are – barber shop, eating at a restaurant, standing in line, etc.

Adjutant Ward discussed the ability that all members have to continue recruiting for the SCV even when we “cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees”. Your obituary should mention you were “a proud member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans”. Your headstone should have the SCV logo etched into it, or at the very least, affix an SCV medallion to it. Commander Bently Couch (Camp Captain James J. McAlester) suggested in lieu of flowers have donations made out to the Sons of Confederate Veterans Stand Watie Scholarship Fund (for example).

Division IT Officer Steve Ward discussed updates to the Division website: The Calendar has been filled out through December. DOCS webpage now contains Division Constitution, Membership Application, Annual Camp Report, and Oklahoma Confederate Graves information by County, downloadable as an Excel spreadsheet (.xls format).

Judge Advocate and Chief of Heritage Operations Bryce Hill, reported that there have been no further Confederate heritage violations in Oklahoma since the last DEC meeting. He is still in communications with Tulsa Public Schools to determine when they will auction off the Robert E. Lee portrait and other items the Tulsa camp gave to Lee School (now Council Oak school) so they can be bought back.

Commander Couch started the round table discussions with his communications with several vendors who sell flag poles but recommended an Oklahoma City vendor who sells a turn-key operation for getting one installed. Giant battle flags can be purchased from the SCV Store. Commander Charley Wilson has been talking to the land owner and will be instrumental in getting a survey done (any Registered Professional Land Surveyors reading this?) and drawing up an easement.

Kudos were given to Rex Cash for his “That Is What This Flag Stands For!” article published in the latest Sept-Oct issue of the Confederate Veteran magazine.

Col. William Clark Quantrill Camp Commander, James Lister III, spoke about the warm reception they received from the mayor, town council and hotel staff in Jefferson, Texas, during the 2019 Mechanized Cavalry Annual.

BUY SOUTHERN! – Adjutant Steve Ward spoke about how Southern thought processes should be part of our everyday life. This includes reading labels and buying food, beverages, and other items manufactured in the South.

Awards were handed out to Division Adjutant Steve Ward (Distinguished Service Medal), Commander Allen Harrison (Dixie Club), and Commander Charley Wilson (Dixie Club)

The next DEC meeting was tabled until we can discuss it with Division Commander Orebaugh. Singing of “Dixie” was led by Division Color Sergeant Steven Stricklan. Commander Allen Harrison, Camp Col. Tandy Walker, offered the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.
In 1965, Texas novelist William Humphrey wrote:

“If the Civil War is more alive to the Southerner than the Northerner it is because all of the past is, and this is so because the Southerner has a sense of having been present there himself in the person of one or more of his ancestors. The war filled merely a chapter in his . . . [family history] . . . transmitted orally from father to son [as] the proverbs, prophecies, legends, laws, traditions-of-origin and tales-of-wanderings of his own tribe . . . It is this feeling of identity with the dead (who are past) which characterizes and explains the Southerner.

It is with kin, not causes, that the Southerner is linked. Confederate Great-grandfather . . . is not remembered for his (probably undistinguished) part in the Battle of Bull Run; rather Bull Run is remembered because Great-grandfather was there. For the Southerner the Civil War is in the family.

Clannishness was, and is, the key to his temperament, and he went off to war to protect not Alabama but only those thirty or forty acres of its sandy hillside, or stiff red clay, which he broke his back tilling, and which was as big a country as his mind could hold.”

Undoubtedly Humphrey was revealing feelings carried forward from his Texas childhood during the 1930s. Back then a few veterans were still alive to pass along their memories to youngsters like Bill. He later used those recollections to portray an incident in his best-known novel, Home from the Hill, which Vincente Minelli made into a movie.

About twenty years after the war, a foppish stranger stepped off the Dallas-bound train when it stopped at Clarksville. Even though he spoke English none of the whittlers at the station could understand him, which they later learned was due to his Italian accent. But eventually the stranger—who identified himself as a professor—was granted an audience with the aldermen during which he explained that he could build a marble monument to the Confederate infantryman for $5,000. For $25,000 he could erect one depicting a mounted cavalryman, or an officer.

The town chose the $5,000 option. After the professor labored creatively and submitted a finished design the aldermen gave him a $2,500 deposit. A year later he returned with the sculpted components and erected the statue. The unveiling was a celebration that attracted nearly everyone in town, white and black.

A good, many years elapsed before anyone from Clarksville traveled far along the railroad from whence the sculptor arrived. But when one resident eventually travelled to Georgia, he noticed that there was “hardly a town of monument-
aspiration size along the railway line all the way to Atlanta without a copy of our soldier.”

Statue critics say the Confederate soldier fought for slavery. But fewer than thirty per cent of Southern families owned slaves. In truth, according to historian William C. Davis, “The widespread Northern myth that Confederates went to the battlefield to perpetuate slavery is just that, a myth. Their letters and diaries, in the tens of thousands, reveal again and again that they fought because their Southern homeland was invaded...”

Moreover, when their impoverished families were finally able to collect enough money to erect memorials, they honored the soldier for his battlefield sacrifices. It’s obvious in the words contained in monument inscriptions. A typical example is on the Silent Sam statue torn down two years ago by a mob of Chapel Hill students at the University of North Carolina. It reads:

“To the Memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of the Southern Confederacy. Who fought to uphold the right declared by the pen of Jefferson and achieved by the sword of Washington. With sublime self-sacrifice they battled to preserve the independence of the states which was won from Great Britain, and to perpetuate the constitutional government which was established by the fathers. Actuated by the purest patriotism they performed deeds of prowess such as thrilled the heart of mankind with admiration.”

Valid points surrendered to the big-government dogma of our age.

Knoxville unveiled her first Confederate statue in 1892, well ahead of most other Southern towns. Since that was only twenty-seven years after the War had ended, the dedication speaker was undoubtedly acquainted with many veterans when he said, “the Southern soldier believed his allegiance was due, first to his state and then to the general government... So, when his state called for his service, he responded believing it to be his duty.” Without foreknowledge of the Spanish-American war still six years in the future he added presciently, “I am persuaded that the soldier from Mississippi or Louisiana would give his life in defense of his country today as readily as one from Massachusetts or Maine.” Finally, he quotes a mother’s elegy that serves as a soldier’s epitaph:

“What need of question now, whether he was wrong or right? He wields no warlike weapons now, returns no foeman’s thrust Who but a coward would revile an honest soldier’s dust?”

Brave words that too many of today’s academic historians defy behind tenured sinecures, to their everlasting shame. Some day they may find themselves as regretful as Jane Fonda over her Hanoi visit during the Vietnam War.

Few today comprehend the magnitude of the Confederate warrior’s sacrifice. About 300,000 Confederate soldiers died when the region’s population was only nine million. If the United States were to suffer proportional casualties in a war today our losses would total 11 million, which would be twenty-six times greater than our dead of World War II.

Given such oblations, the Confederate soldier’s surviving family members wanted to memorialize him. Memorial Day evolved after Federal occupation troops observed Southern women spreading flowers upon the graves of their husbands, sons and brothers during the war. A year after the war, the ladies of Columbus, Mississippi, strewed flowers on the graves...
of both the Confederate and Union dead in the town’s Friendship Cemetery. Their gesture started a movement that spread and in the North. May 30th was selected as National Memorial Day in 1868.

Since the war had impoverished the South, the Southern ladies could do little more than lay down flowers. There was no money for statues and Union veterans initially opposed permanent Confederate memorials. But when the sons of Confederate veterans eagerly joined the U.S. Army to help win the Spanish-American War, the aging Union Civil War soldiers concluded that their former rivals were also Americans, who deserved memorial recognition.

Thus, the twenty years from 1898 to 1918 witnessed the installation of eighty per cent of the signature courthouse square Confederate statues still standing in many Southern towns. During that period the typical surviving Confederate soldier aged from fifty-eight years to seventy-eight years. Memorial placements—North and South—surged between 1911 and 1915 because it was the War’s semi-centennial and the old soldiers were fading away.

Today a vocal minority holds Confederate soldiers in contempt, much like the many Americans who sneered at returning Vietnam veterans in the 1960s and 70s. Mixed in with chants of “Hey, hey, LBJ, how many babies did you kill today?” some civilians mocked the soldiers. Today most Americans old enough to remember cringe with shame when recalling such incidents.

As reported in The New York Times, for example, in 1968 a one-armed vet was accosted at a Colorado college. Pointing to the missing limb another student asked, “Did you get that in Vietnam?” The veteran said, “Yes.” “Serves you right,” said the student.

It took years, but eventually the public abandoned the ridiculers and gave Vietnam vets their due credit thereby underscoring the maxim: “Whoever marries the spirit of this age will find himself a widower in the next.”

Thus, we should be aware that decisions to tear down century-old monuments put us at risk for future remorse. Dishonoring such monuments demeans later generations of American warriors who were inspired by the Confederate soldier.

Consider, for example, that post-Civil-War Southerners consistently came to our nation’s defense more readily than did other Americans. Even presently, forty-four percent of American military personnel are from the South notwithstanding that it represents just thirty-six per cent of the nation’s population.

Tennessee’s Alvin York was America’s most famous infantryman in World War I. Although his grandfather was a Union deserter, two of his grand-uncles sided with the Confederacy. Texan Audie Murphy was the most decorated soldier of World War II. In Vietnam, Arkansas sniper Carlos Hathcock killed more enemy than anyone and even put a bullet in the eye of an opposing sniper through the foe’s telescopic sight. (Steven Spielberg theatrically copied this in his movie, Saving Private Ryan.) Each man was born into the grinding poverty that typified much of the South for a century after the Civil War. As boys they hunted game for food, not sport.

During World War II, the first American flag to fly over the captured Japanese fortress (Shuri Castle) on Okinawa was a Confederate Battle Flag. It was put there by a group of marines to honor their company commander—that happened to be a South Carolinian who suffered a paralyzing wound in the victorious assault. Some of the tank crews that freed prisoners from German concentration camps also flew the Confederate Battle Flag.

The academic community is at the forefront of those wanting to remove Confederate statues, which they characterize as racist. In doing so they violate the American Historical Society’s warning against “presentism,” which is defined as an uncritical tendency to interpret the past in terms of modern values. It fails to recognize that racial attitudes throughout America 150 years ago were different than they are today. That is why Abraham Lincoln said during an 1858 debate, “…I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races.…”

Finally, toppling Confederate statues has evolved into a mob sport, with impunity for the vandals. Since such conduct requires no more bravery than kicking a puppy, we may wonder what comes next. Arcata, California, has already removed a statue of President McKinly. Notre Dame University has covered a mural that celebrates Christopher Columbus’s discovery voyages. Anti-statue activists are behaving much like the leaders of the former Soviet Union where censorship and rewritten history was part of the state’s effort to ensure that the correct political spin was put on their history. In response, George Or-
well warned, “The most effective way to destroy a people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”

One argument used by those wanting to remove Confederate statues is that contemporary blacks had little chance to oppose them when they were erected. Aside from anecdotal evidence that blacks joined white crowds to observe the dedication ceremonies, one example in Mississippi provides undeniable evidence of explicit high-level black support. In 1890, the Mississippi legislature voted on a bill to appropriate $10,000 for a Confederate monument. The vote in the lower chamber was 57-to-41 in favor. All six black representatives voted “yea.”

Mr. Speaker! I have risen here in my place to offer a few words on the bill. . .I was sorry to hear the speech of the young gentleman from Marshall County. I am sorry that any son of a soldier should go on record as opposed to the erection of a monument in honor of the brave dead.

And, sir, I am convinced that had he seen what I saw at Seven Pines and in the Seven Days fighting around Richmond, the battlefield covered with the mangled forms of those who fought . . . for their country’s honor, he would not have made that speech. . . . When the news came that the South had been invaded, those men went forth to fight for what they believed, and they made no requests for monuments . . . But, they died, and their virtues should be remembered.

Sir, I went with them. I too wore the gray, the same color my master wore. We stayed four long years, and if that war had gone on till now, I would have been there yet . . . I want to honor those brave men who died for their convictions.

When my mother died, I was a boy. Who, Sir, then acted the part of a mother to an orphaned slave boy, but my old mistress? Were she living now, or could speak to me from those high realms where are gathered the sainted dead, she would tell me to vote for this bill. And, Sir, I shall vote for it. I want it known to all the world that my voice is given in favor of the bill to erect a monument in honor of the Confederate dead.”

Harris was about thirty years old when he went off with his master to fight on the side of the Confederacy. After the War, he studied law at the offices of Percy and Yerger in Greenville, Mississippi. The firm’s co-founder was William Alexander Percy, a former Confederate Colonel. In 1867 Percy successfully defended ex-slave, Holt Collier, who had been accused of murdering a federal officer.

Holt fought as a Confederate sharpshooter during the War and later was a guide for Theodore Roosevelt when the President visited Mississippi on a bear hunt in 1902. When word got out that Roosevelt declined to shoot a bear that Holt had trapped for him, a toy manufacturer started mass producing stuffed bears for infants. He named them Teddy Bears.

Percy’s son (LeRoy) fathered a second William Alexander Percy who authored Lanterns on the Levee in 1941. When future novelist and physician Walker Percy was orphaned at age fifteen in 1931, he went to live with his older cousin, the second W. A. Percy. While in Greenville, Walker became best friends with high school classmate Shelby Foote who had been fatherless since age five. During the next three years the two youths were treated like nuclear family in the W. A. Percy household. The patriarch officially adopted Walker and became a mentor to Shelby. Later, Walker won the National Book Award for The Moviegoer while Shelby became best known for his three-volume narrative history of the Civil War.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) wants Confederate statues removed from public spaces. Several years ago, they published a chart depicting the dates when Confederate statues were erected. They attempted to associate the construction of Confederate statues with three eras they claim correlate to white hostility toward blacks. The attempts are as phony as a football bat.

The SPLC portrays the first twenty-year period from 1880 to 1900 as a time when Southern blacks lost voting rights and Jim Crow was enacted. Their case for this period is weak because comparatively few statues were assembled at the time. Similarly, Jim Crow and voting rights issues largely applied only to the second half of the period.

Many more statues were constructed during the second era from 1900 to 1920, which the SPLC correlates to racial lynchings and a resurgent KKK. In reality, lynchings were steadily declining during the entire period and the KKK was not resurgent until after 1920. At the start of the 1920s the KKK had only a few thousand members. Five years later, however, membership ranged between two to five million because it had become a national—not regional—organization. Indiana had more members than any state. Oregon, Kansas, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Washington and Ohio were other strongholds outside the South. Nonetheless, by the start of the 1930s the Klan’s numbers had dwindled to insignificance.

In truth, four factors that the SPLC evades caused the building surge during the 1900–1920 interval. First, since the old soldiers were dying-off, family members wanted to honor them while they were still around. A twenty-one-year-old who went to war in 1861 was sixty years old in 1900 and seventy-five in 1915. Second, the Civil War’s semi-centennial commemoration was a major factor motivating statue construction. Nineteen-eleven marked the fiftieth anniversary of the start of the war and 1915 was the fiftieth anniversary of its end. Third, both of the preceding points contributed to a simultaneous surge in the number of statues erected to honor Union veterans. It is only natural that Confederate descendants wanted to follow suit at the same time. Fourth, post-war impoverished Southerners generally did not have enough money to pay for memorials until the turn of the century. Notwithstanding its population growth, the region did not recover to its of pre-war economic activity level until 1900.

Few people today appreciate the efforts required to fund the century-old statues. A typical example is the 1905 monument in Chester, South Carolina. When erected blacks accounted for about forty per cent of the town’s 4,500 people as compared to sixty per cent of its present 5,500 population. Fundraising began the year after the war ended in 1865 when school children were only able to raise pocket change. A sec-
ond effort four years later in 1870 collected only a few dollars. In 1890, a Chester woman raised $200 with a theatrical performance. Finally, in 1900 the United Daughters of the Confederacy took charge and by the end of 1904 had about $420. Next the UDC launched a public subscription involving many small donations from Chester residents including some blacks. That increased the treasury to $2,100, which was enough to pay for the monument. In May 1905, they laid the cornerstone before a crowd that also included a minority of African-Americans.

But, to return to the SPLC’s analysis, consider the third surge of statue placements during the 1960s. The Poverty Center fallaciously attributes it to white protest against school integration and MLK’s Civil Rights Movement. In reality, the SPLC’s own graph shows that the deployment of new statues during the 1960s was a minor swell compared to the semi-centennial. Moreover, it most likely reflected the centennial commemoration as opposed to protests against black progress.

The preceding chart underscores the importance of the semi-centennial and dwindling veteran population as true motivating factors for erecting the signature public square statues. The yellow bars represent the statues placed on courthouse grounds, as opposed to cemeteries, battlefields, and private property. As may be seen, they are heavily concentrated in the semi-centennial era. There can be little doubt that they were built with some urgency caused by the shrinking numbers of vets. Only a cynic could conclude otherwise.

Unfortunately, most academic historians are cynics. Remarks by Mercer University’s Dr. Sarah Gardner reveal good examples. “It took the North’s abandonment of Reconstruction,” she argues, “before Confederate apologists could enshrine their views in public squares.” No, Dr. Gardner. In reality, since the Carpetbag regimes ended only a dozen years after the Civil War, it’s obvious that lingering Southern poverty was the chief reason that most Confederate statue-building was delayed until the twentieth century when Republican Reconstruction had been over for twenty-three years.

Even though she admits that ninety per cent of the Rebel statues were erected after 1895 she concludes, “The purpose of these statues was not to honor the Confederate dead but to assert and celebrate white supremacy in the present.” Since the most active statue-building part of that period also considered the dwindling ranks of Confederate veterans, only the most extreme cynic could reach her conclusion.

Finally, she argues that the long-delayed work on the Davis, Lee, and Jackson carvings at Stone Mountain in 1963 had “nothing to do with honoring the Confederate dead of the 1860s and everything to do with asserting white supremacy . . . in the 1960s.” No, Dr. Gardner. Since 1963 was a hundred years after the war’s mid-point, it’s more likely that the Centennial Commemoration triggered a restart of the Stone Mountain carvings. Consider also, for example, that the U. S. Post Office issued five postage stamps between 1961 and 1965 to commemorate the Civil War Centennial. The chances they did that to assert “white supremacy” are about as slim as an Apache Indian getting elected Pope.

Rather than taking down Confederate monuments, we should be adding new ones that address the subjects of slavery, the Underground Railroad, black soldiers and Reconstruction as well as the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras. Adding new monuments for more recent heroes while keeping the old ones in place provides a tangible record of how our society evolved.

Such trends had already been in place long before Dylan Roof provided the cultural elite an excuse to tear down Confederate symbols in 2015. In 2007, for example, Arkansas erected statues on its state capitol grounds to the nine black teenagers who integrated Little Rock’s Central High School fifty years earlier in 1957. Similarly, Richmond, Virginia honored pioneering black tennis player Arthur Ashe even earlier in 1996. They built a statue of him on Monument Avenue, which is chiefly populated with Confederate heroes.

Consider also street-name memorials to Martin Luther King. Former Confederate states have far more MLK streets and avenues than similarly sized Northern states. North Carolina and New Jersey, for example, have comparable populations but the Southern state has twenty-nine MLK streets whereas the Northern one has only eight. Similarly, even though Ohio has four times the population of Mississippi, the Buckeye State has only eight MLK streets whereas the state with the Confederate banner in its flag has sixteen.

I struggled for a way to end this speech on a positive note until I read a recent blog post by Richard Williams at Relics & Bones. He quoted the wisdom of Will Durant, who said, “To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves.” Thus, even though pictures of students triumphantly kicking a fallen statue may anger us, Durant’s quote indicates that their conduct is really a grotesque display of narcissism.

Although saving Confederate statues may be hard, we must try. Never think your corner of the world is too small to have an impact, even if that part is simply in your own family circle.

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It is always those in power who censor, which they do for a single reason: to retain power.
Judge Blocks Removal of Confederate Statue That Sparked Charlottesville Protest
Shannon Van Sant – NPR.org

A Virginia judge has blocked efforts to remove the statue of Confederate general Robert E. Lee that was at the center of the deadly violence that erupted in Charlottesville in 2017.

In a ruling issued this week, Judge Richard E. Moore said that any effort to remove the Lee statue would violate a state historic preservation statute and issued a permanent injunction preventing its removal. His decision extended to a separate monument to Confederate general Stonewall Jackson that city leaders and local activists had hoped to get rid of.

In 2017 Charlottesville’s city council voted to remove the two statues, saying they were examples of racism.

Local residents filed a lawsuit in response, saying the council vote violated a state law barring the removal of war memorials. That August, white nationalists rallied in the city to protest the removal of the Lee statue. The rally would lead to the death of 32-year-old counter-protester Heather Heyer, and two state troopers who were killed in a helicopter crash while patrolling the rally.

In the aftermath of the violence, black shrouds were placed over the two statues, but in February 2018, Moore ordered them removed.

In his latest ruling, Moore cited the intent of the preservation law, saying, "I don't think I can infer that a historical preservation statute was intended to be racist," he said. "Certainly, [racism] was on their minds, but we should not judge the current law by that intent."

Moore determined damages could not be awarded, but that attorneys' fees would be given to the plaintiffs' counsel.

Camp News and Activities

It was a bittersweet June meeting for Camp Capt. James J. McAlester (McAlester). The Camp’s meeting venue, Western Sizzlin, is closing its doors due to a decline in business from the months of roadway construction that ran in front of the restaurant. Western Sizzlin owner Marty House and his staff provided the Camp with a comfortable and spacious meeting room, tasty Southern food and great service for many Camp meetings. Camp members them much success in the future.

Marty House, owner of the Western Sizzlin posing with five flags of the Confederacy. (Photo by Patrick Self)

Camp Commander Bently Couch swore in two new members, Bret Hinds and David Dailey, who were recruited from the March gun show in McAlester.

Commander Couch swearing in new members, Bret Hinds and David Dailey. (Photo by Steve Ward)
Commander Couch gave a presentation entitled, “I can make more generals, but horses cost money”, a quote from Abraham Lincoln. Commander Couch discussed why Abraham Lincoln had to repeatedly appoint different Commanding Generals for the Union Army throughout the war to prevent Southern independence.

After the meeting was over, several compatriots including Commander Couch, Lt. Commander Patrick Self and Shawnee Camp Commander, Allen Harrison, drove south on US Hwy 69 to Angel’s Diner to speak with the owners about meeting there for the July Camp meeting.

At the June meeting of Camp Jackson F. McCurtain (Moore) on the 15th, Lt. Commander Jimmy Carter proudly presented Past-Commander Jerry Patrick with a Confederate Battle Flag license plate as he starts a new camp in Lawton. The Camp thanked Commander Patrick for his service and recognized that seven of the Camp’s members will provide the core of the new camp’s initial membership (The charter for the new Lawton camp is in process.)

On July 20 & 21, Camp Col. Tandy Walker (Shawnee) had a recruiting table at the G&S gun show in Shawnee. They acquired about a dozen leads for prospective membership. The Camp also had a Confederate merchandise table at the gun show and made $180 in sales. Profits from the sales have been earmarked by Camp members to help fund a large pole and battle flag south of McAlester on land owned by a member of Camp Capt. Jams J. McAlester from Eufaula.

At the July meeting of Camp Col. Tandy Walker on the 25th, Commander Allen Harrison gave the program. He read excerpts from the book by Paul C. Graham entitled When the Yankees Come, a book of slave narratives. He also read Chapter 12 from the book, The Mexican War, Expansion to California and the Compromise of 1850, by Egon Richard Tausch. A report was given on the Confederate merchandise sales at the July 20-21 gun show. Even more sales were made to Camp members at the Camp’s June and July meetings. A big “thank you” to the volunteers who manned the sales table. Lt. Commander Ron Gwynn and Commander Harrison manned a recruiting table approximately forty feet from the sales table. Adjutant Brent Haught gave a report on the SCV reunion in Mobile, Alabama.
Adjutant Brent Haught giving a report on the SCV Reunion in Mobile, Alabama, which he and his wife, Denise, attended.

At the July 9th meeting of Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh (Tulsa), Commander Deryk Newberry presented the Camp’s newest member, Lane Dyer, with his SCV Membership Certificate. Past-Commander Todd Cathey presented an excellent program entitled “Prelude to Disaster, Battles of Fort Henry and Donaldson”, the subject of his forthcoming book.

At the April 2016 Camp meeting, Compatriot Ron Clark gave a concise history of the 31st Texas Cavalry Regiment. They were organized in central Texas in the spring of 1862, fought with the ATM and were surrendered in June 1865. Compatriot Clark revealed a beautiful regimental flag of the 31st Texas Cavalry, which his wife, Chris, made.

Commander Newberry presenting new member, Lane Dyer, with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Dyer’s Confederate ancestor is PVT James Martin Kelly, Co. G, 10th Alabama Infantry.

The month of July got off to a rough start for Camp Capt. James J. McAlester. Chris Clark informed them that her husband and SCV member, Ron Clark, crossed over the river and rests under the shade of the trees on July 1. Ron was a former member of the Camp McAlester. Three years ago, he transferred to the Upshur County Patriots Camp in Gilmer, Texas. Ron joined the SCV based on the service of his ancestor Lt. Robert Earp of Company E, 31st Texas Cavalry. Ron was seventy-eight years old and resided in Eufaula. He will be missed.

Thanks to the efforts of Camp Commander Bently Couch, Lt. Commander Patrick Self, and Shawnee Camp Commander Allen Harrison, it was the Camp’s good fortune to have Angel’s Diner in McAlester agree to host the July 20 meeting after the Camp’s previous venue, Western Sizzlin, closed its doors in June due to a decline in business. After finishing the meal and a short business session, the scheduled presenter was absent, so Camp Adjutant Steve Ward spoke about the South’s role in putting a man on the moon, since this meeting day was fifty years TO THE DAY that our country accomplished this magnificent feat. Three Oklahoma astronauts were featured in his talk – Gordon Cooper, Thomas Stafford, and John B. Herrington, the first Native American astronaut. Adjutant Ward invited attendees to share their memories of that historic day in 1969, and several did.

Compatriot James Skelton brought his vast collection of framed Confederate regimental flag photos to sell, with the proceeds generously donated to the Camp’s treasury.

By unanimous vote, the Camp decided to continue using Angel’s Diner as the monthly Camp meeting venue.
Immediately after the meeting adjourned, most attendees drove to the Jeff-Lee Pool/Park area to participate in the Camp’s quarterly litter clean-up there.

An excellent turnout of members was had for the Jeff-Lee Pool/Park litter clean-up. Commander Couch (far left) shows everyone the proper hat to wear when working in the Oklahoma sun. Ice cold bottled water was provided by David Nix (2nd from right). This photo was featured in the August 2019 Keep McAlester Beautiful newsletter. (Photo by Kathy Ward)

On August 10 & 11, for the third consecutive year, Camp Col. Tandy Walker had a recruiting table at the Indian Territory Antique & Collector Arms Show at the Shawnee Expo Center. The recruiters signed-up two new members at the show and has a recruit in process. He is a great-grandson of Col. Tandy Walker, 1st Regiment, Choctaw and Chickasaw Mounted Rifles. Like G & S gun shows the promoters gave the Camp a free table to recruit. The recruiters secured ten very solid leads for membership.

Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh held its annual Awards Luncheon on Saturday, August 17. UDC members from the two Tulsa chapters and chapters from Oklahoma City, Ardmore and Holdenville, including Ms. Rebecca Wester, President of the Oklahoma Division and Mary Dixon, Vice President.

Division Past-Commander, Dr. Les Tucker, presented the program. He spoke on the current issues affecting the SCV. It was a very interesting and informative presentation. Ms. Lois Olzawski of Sarah Watie Chapter (Tulsa) gave her customary poetry reading. Mountain Railway, a local band that plays music of the Southern Highlands, provided musical entertainment.

Division Past-Commander Tucker presented the Camp’s newest member, Clint Anderson, with his SCV Membership Certificate. He also presented Camp McIntosh’s highest service award, the Dode McIntosh Award, to Camp Adjutant Robert Woodall, Jr.

On August 10 & 11, for the third consecutive year, Camp Col. Tandy Walker had a recruiting table at the Indian Territory Antique & Collector Arms Show at the Shawnee Expo Center. The recruiters signed-up two new members at the show and has a recruit in process. He is a great-grandson of Col. Tandy Walker, 1st Regiment, Choctaw and Chickasaw Mounted Rifles. Like G & S gun shows the promoters gave the Camp a free table to recruit. The recruiters secured ten very solid leads for membership.

Camp Adjutant Robert Woodall, Jr. with his Dode McIntosh Award

(L. to R.) Commander Deryk Newberry, Division Past-Commander Les Tucker, newest member, Clint Anderson, holding his SCV Membership Certificate and previous newest member, Lane Dyer

Bryan and Kay Newland at working the recruiting table.
At the August meeting of Camp Col. Jackson F. McCurtain, Lt. Commander Jimmy Carter presented four Certificate of Appreciation to local law enforcement officers. A Certificate was presented to Mark Hamm, former Cleveland County deputy sheriff, security adviser to Toby Keith, and currently a Moore city councilman.

The Camp also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Canine Officer Ryan Stark of the Oklahoma City Police Department. Because of Oklahoma City PD policy, he cannot be pictured on social media in an unsanctioned Oklahoma City PD event. This may not include our newsletter but he does not want to be pictured in order to avoid any issues being brought forth. He is well known and was the subject of many news stories about two years ago when his partner, Kye, was stabbed to death while he and Ryan were attempting to apprehend a criminal. Kye was given full honors at his funeral and kept Ryan from being injured.

Camp McCurtain also presented a Certificate of appreciation to Lt. Kyle Dudley of the Moore Police Department. He could not attend the meeting being on duty, so Lt. Commander Carter presented Lt. Dudley him his Certificate of Appreciation at his office.
Lt. Commander Ed Granger presents Steve Alcorn a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding program: “Nathan Bedford Forrest’s Greatest Victory”.

3rd Lt. Commander Ed Granger presents Steve Alcorn a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding program: “Nathan Bedford Forrest’s Greatest Victory”.

Lt. Commander Carter presents Wayne Wendling with a Certificate of Appreciation. Wayne has paid for the regular mowing of Naples Cemetery for the last year. “Thanks” Wayne from Camp McCurtain and the twenty Confederate Veterans buried in the cemetery. Care Committee member, Mark Attersone, is on the right.

Camp Member J. R. Hopper brought this original $500 Confederate States of America note to the meeting to share with other Camp members. The note is dated November 17, 1864, and is payable two years after the ratification of a peace treaty between the Confederate States and the United States.

At the August 22 meeting of Camp Col. Tandy Walker, Commander Harrison gave a recruiting report on the August 10 Antique Gun Show in Shawnee, followed by the main program, which he presented. He presented Chapter 13, "Understanding the Conflict Between the North and South Over the Role of the Federal Government in the Economy", from Dr. Clyde N. Wilson’s book, Understanding the War Between the States. Commander Harrison also presented SCV Membership Certificates to the Camp’s two newest members: Danny R. Treesh and Ferlin F. Johnson.

Commander Harrison presenting Ferlin J. Johnson with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Johnson’s Confederate ancestor is PVT Miles H. Casey, Co. K, 7th Arkansas Cavalry (Hill’s) Regiment.
Commander Harrison presenting Danny R. Treesh with his SCV Membership Certificate. Compatriot Treesh’s Confederate ancestor is PVT Logan Henderson Mayfield, Co. B 3rd Missouri Infantry, State Guard, 7th Division.

Division Commander James L. Orebaugh was the guest speaker at the August 17 meeting of Camp Capt. James J. McAlester. He spoke about the many Confederate records decaying at the National Archives in Washington D.C. and the dire need to preserve them for many generations to come.

Compatriot James Nevels shared a recent edition of the McAlester News Capital, which had an article on Perryville and information about the Battle of Perryville. A historic marker about Perryville and the Battle of Perryville once stood at the intersection of old highway 69 and Chambers Road. The Camp discussed replacing the missing marker. Compatriot James Skelton donated a recruiting sign, which he made to be used at our table at gun shows. He also again brought his vast collection of framed Confederate regimental flag photos to sell, with the proceeds generously donated to the Camp’s treasury. (See photo of marker on page 3.)

Again, this year Camp Ptos. Greyson & Brewer (Altus) and Camp Shelby’s Iron Men (Duncan) represented the Oklahoma Division in the annual Elk City Rodeo Parade on September 1. They received the same warm reception as in previous years. (The members in the photos were not unidentified.)
Palmyra is a small town in northeast Missouri, just north of Hannibal. Before and during the War, the citizens in the area held a strong Southern sentiment. On September 12, 1862, Confederate Colonel Joseph C. Porter and his troops rode into Palmyra in an effort to free the town from Yankee occupation. To ensure their own safety, they detained Yankee spies. One of them was Andrew Allsman, a Union sympathizer who had betrayed many of his Southern neighbors.

Allsman had kept Union forces well informed of Southerners activities. The information he supplied to the Union military resulted in thousands of people being arrested, simply for speaking of their sentiment for the Southern Cause. He was frequently called upon to testify of the “disloyalty” of local citizens. If Allsman said a man was a Southern sympathizer, the U.S. authorities believed him. The accused Rebels were thrown into jail, without charge. Their families were robbed by Union men. Naturally, there was deep resentment for Allsman in the town of Palmyra.

Three days after Allsman’s capture, Colonel Porter could no longer hold him as he slowed down the movement of his troops. Allsman was offered release, but he did not want to be left alone while on his way back home, for he feared that his enemies would kill him. Colonel Porter allowed him to choose six of Porter’s men as an escort to the nearest home of a Yankee sympathizer, to Palmyra city limits, or to the nearest Union lines. While in route, other Confederate men approached Allsman and his escorts. These men took charge of Allsman and continued the trip. No one is quite sure what happened after that. When the Federals re-occupied the town, Allsman had disappeared. No one could tell whether he had been made prisoner, or fled from fear, or had left the town for some other business. The informant was gone. If he was killed, his body was never found.

On October 8, 1862, McNeil, the senior union officer that took control of Palmyra, gave notice in the local newspaper that if Allsman was not returned within ten days, he would retaliate: ten of Porter’s men, held as prisoners of war, would be executed. The ten days passed, and Allsman did not return; he might have been dead, or he might have been in a different part of the country transacting some business. No matter, he was absent. The ten men were duly executed.

Friends or family took seven of the corpses. Three were buried by the military in the public cemetery. In recognition of his “faithful service to the Union”, McNeil was promoted to brevet rank of Major General of Volunteers.

The execution of these prisoners of war, which was widely discussed in the media, enraged and horrified citizens on both sides of the conflict. Ultimately, the massacre is remembered as one of the most barbaric events of the Civil War. Colonel John McNeil, who ordered the execution, became known as the "Butcher of Palmyra."

In February 1907, the Palmyra Confederate Monument Association erected a granite monument on the Palmyra courthouse grounds. It lists the names of the ten victims of the massacre.
J. C. Hanna Announces Candidacy for ATM Commander

Compatriots of the ATM:

In January of 1864, Major General Patrick Cleburne said "Surrender means that 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 all the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision."

He also said "if this cause that is so dear to my heart is doomed to fail, I pray heaven may let me fall with it, while my face is toward the enemy and my arm battling for that which I know to be right."

Prophetically, both came true! General Cleburne died in the 1864 Battle of Franklin. And after 154 years of propaganda, we have entered a time when all things related to the Confederacy are being erased—first the flag, then the grand monuments, then the names of schools, buildings and streets. All so that history will be completely forgotten.

But there is one thing our well-financed detractors did not and cannot change—our Southern Brotherhood! Those brave men that fought and died for the right to live free passed that conviction to us through the blood ties that bind our families. So, we will not give up! We will not surrender again!

My membership in the SCV began in 2003 with my present status as a Division and National Life Member. I am also a member of the Mechanized Cavalry, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a retired Sergeant with the Louisiana State Police. In the past six years, my recruiting has resulted in 561 new members for which I have been awarded five consecutive Edward Darling Awards as top recruiter in the Confederation.

But my biggest reward has been the honor of serving as your ATM Councilman and Chairman of the National Genealogy Committee. From California to Stone Mountain, I have attended many camp gatherings and events always being impressed by the dedication of my fellow compatriots to The Charge. And, the interest and enthusiasm a new member has for his Confederate Ancestor is proof that our adversaries have not won.

And now, I ask you for the privilege to serve as Commander of the Army of Trans-Mississippi. In that position, I pledge to work to unify and grow our organization, protect the history of the Confederacy and as General Cleburne said battle “for that which I know to be right”. Your vote and support would be greatly appreciated!

Perseverate in Pugna!!!
J. C. Hanna

Division Commander Orebaugh Weds

Oklahoma Division Commander Jim Orebaugh got married July 21 at an impromptu meeting of 5th Platoon, Company F, 1st Battalion, Mechanized Cavalry near Marlow. Members of the Duncan and Altus camps were present as well as several of Mrs. Orebaugh’s family. Tony “Medicine Man” Morgan, the 5th Platoon chaplain and member of the Duncan camp, officiated. (Reported by Robert Findlay.)
“Lest We Forget”

Recently erected Confederate monument at Chickamauga, Georgia

The Southern Advocate is the voice of the Oklahoma Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, a non-profit organization of patriotic, historical, sectional and genealogical orientation, as a service to its Compatriots and their friends. Opinions reflect the views of the writers and are not necessarily a statement of the Division, SCV or their policies. Contents may be reproduced only when in the best interest of the SCV. Comments and articles to the newsletter are solicited. Please direct articles, photos, comments, suggestions, etc. to the Editor at khcook469@gmail.com.