

Captain Andrew T. Harlee's



Dispatch



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Escape From Point Lookout Prison

[Luther B. Lake] (Continued from last month)

After traveling day and night we came up to a house about dusk where the man was feeding his stock. He told us to go in the house and tell the madam to give us some cold grub. When he came in, he asked where we were from and "who are you?" We did not answer, but questioned him. His name was Dent, and he was a farmer. Asked if he was a Southern man, he said he was true blue, although General Grant had married a near relation. "Well, Mr. Dent, we are Confederate soldiers and made our escape from Point Lookout Prison, and we are trying hard to get back to General Lee's army." He shook hands with us all and said, "Boys, you are the first Confederate soldiers I ever saw. O! I am glad to see you." He went out of the room and when he came back, he said: "Boys, I told my wife who you are and she is going to get up as fine a supper as ever she did cook." And she certainly did. O! such a feast as we had. After supper we were invited to the parlor. Soon the lady of the house came in dressed in her finest, and he put on a clean shirt and collar. She played for us on the fine piano, and the first thing was Dixie. We decided to hunt the woods and find some place to sleep, but Mr. Dent said "No" emphatically. "You boys stay here tonight and have a good rest." He took us upstairs and put us in feather beds, and we slept soundly, never dreaming of the Yankees. The next morning, after writing a letter to the commander at Point Lookout, thanking



Point Lookout Prison

him for his kindness and the hard-tack, we bade Mr. Dent and his good lady good-by and began the long journey again. It is sufficient to say that we flanked Leonardtown, Chaptico, Port Tobacco, and other small towns in the section. When we were resting at night, one was always on guard. General Lee's old soldiers knew to perfection how to take precautions. One morning we passed a tobacco field in which a man was at work. "Hello, boys, you did not go very far last night. Where are you going now?" Our answer was "How far is it to the Potomac River?" "O, about half mile from here. Now, boys, I would like to know who you are and where you are going." "We want to cross the river over into Dixie." He said: "I will go with you and show you the way, but you had better go to the house with me and get your breakfast." But we told him we were in a hurry to cross the river. He told us his name was Bryan and for us to stop at a tall pine tree down in the woods, where he would bring something to eat and drink. We did

not have long to wait until two of the boys on picket duty escorted Mr. Bryan to us. "We then told him we were Rebel soldiers from Point Lookout Prison." "Well, well, I must shake hands with all of you." He then gave us the key to a fish house which he pointed out on the river, told us to get the boat in there and at night we could cross the river, which he said was two and one-half miles wide. "Up there is a watermelon patch. Help yourselves and I will bring your supper to you" We got the boat, muffled the oars, and made everything ready, also paid our respects to the watermelon patch. About dusk Mr. Bryan came with a basket of provisions, and, after eating, he helped us to get off. We landed safe and sound on the soil of old Virginia, and I, for one, kneeled down and kissed the soil. At daybreak we began to hunt for arms of some description and found five Springfield muskets, which we loaded with Minie balls and buckshot. We were then not far from Grant's army, about twenty-four miles below Washington City. In a short time we were ready to cross the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. It was dark, and we were right in the Yankee camp; did not know where the sentinels were, but, being good scouts, we soon found the railroad and thousands of camp fires. We succeeded in crossing between two camp fires about twenty-five yards apart and, I am glad to say, no one halted us. We were so close to one guard I heard him cough. I think he took us for stock of some kind—and we were old genuine Southern stock (short horns). In two days we reached my brother's home, the same place where the Yanks had captured us; but we did not sleep in the house any more. We slept that night between the corn rows. My brother and I went upstairs and got two six-shooters, which he had hidden up the chimney when we were captured. He had been afraid some of the homefolks would make a fire before we got back. This is only a synopsis of that escape. I never went to prison again, and I never surrendered at the end. No more Federal prison for me!

Group Watches as 91 Year Old Vet is Beaten

On May 15, 2007, it was reported in Detroit, that a 91-year-old War Vet was assaulted. A store surveillance video shows every blow that the old vet took to the face by a 22 year old man. The video also shows a group of people standing a few feet away and apparently decided not to get involved. Mr. Sims, who is the 91-year-old vet, was standing outside his car in the store parking lot when the 22 year old man, approached him and asked for a light for his cigarette. Then Mr. Sims was punched at least a half-dozen times in the side of his head; his attacker used the car door to knock him to the ground before taking the car keys from the old gentleman and driving off with his car. Mr. Sims was

treated at a hospital and released. As a local TV station interviewed Mr. Sims, he said that his attacker was of "very low character. If he wanted the car, he could have grabbed the keys and taken off."

[EDITOR] It is amazing that in the civilized place and time in which we live that a man who has lived 22 years, would have no more respect for another human being of 91 years, than to physically attack him because the elder man had something that this sorry excuse of a human being desired. One can only hope that in this liberal and PC environment in which we find ourselves living in, that this 22 year old piece of crap will receive proper punishment for his crime. While I sympathize with this old vet, I cannot help but find a parallel with his story and a whole group of even older vets who are constantly attacked by a mob much younger than themselves. I am speaking of the Confederate veteran. These veterans range from the approximate age of 160 years to 200 years old, they are constantly attacked, they are dead, yet hardly anyone comes to their aid. What's with that? I'll have to admit that I agree with Mr. Sims' description of those who attack these veterans as people "of very low character." The Confederate veteran, (our ancestors) their symbols, their character and their cause have been under attack for many years. It seems that we now have the largest and most vocal attackers in history coming against them. You and I have accepted the charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, where we made a promise to defend the good name of the Confederate soldier, and to also see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. Too often, I am afraid that we have become just like the crowd who stood and watched this 91 year old veteran take a terrible beating and decided that it would be better that we just don't get involved. This crowd could have stopped the beating and they could have stopped this thug from taking the old gentleman's car. But they did neither! You and I can help stop the beating of the old Confederate veteran and if we don't take a firm stand, we stand to loose much more than a car.

Has NASCAR Forgotten its Southern Roots? Has its Southern Fans Forgotten Theirs?

Over the past few years we have heard how NASCAR has forgotten its Southern roots. Fans all over the South have expressed their dissatisfaction over new tracks being built in the North, Central and Western parts of our country while NASCAR drops races and several of its race tracks in the Southland. That is enough to make any Southern race fan blow an engine. Many of our Southern race fans get upset when a driver who is not a Southern born, beer drinking, tobacco chewing, cussing, fightcha at the drop of a hat kind of guy wins a race. They feel like he just don't belong. Is that really the way we want others to see us? How are we seen as the SCV? Is our image a true reflection of ourselves? If not, what are we going to do about it? You can believe that if you don't create a good image, someone else will create it for you. What has this to do with NASCAR? Over and over again, there have been sports writers who have written articles about NASCAR fans who drink beer all day, have their bellies hanging out, only half of their teeth, nasty, stinking, unruly drunks who have that Southern accent. No matter if the race is in Michigan or in Darlington, S.C. Somehow, this Southern trash seems to find their way to the track. Most of this negative stuff is

written by those Northern sports writers who cannot believe that their own could act in this manner, thus attributing all the bad stuff to that bunch of Southerners—cause that is where the real NASCAR fans are from. As Southern people, we have come to expect the Northern media to drop every dirty bomb they can on us, but the question that should be answered today is: what are we doing to ourselves? In many ways, we don't need the Northern, New England types to destroy us, heck...we'll do it to ourselves. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is an organization that has been around officially, since 1896, which makes it 112 years old. Yet, we can only boast of a membership of 30,000. There is a new organization called ONMC, who boasts of 50,000 members. This organization is only two, repeat, two years old! Who is ONMC? The Official NASCAR Members Club! Now, if we are led to believe that NASCAR is truly a Southern sport, and this newfound club has 50,000 members, why on God's green earth is the Sons of Confederate Veterans stalemated at 30,000? After 112 years of open arms to its Southern sons, to honor its own, the Sons of Confederate Veterans cannot attract as many Southern sons as a newfound NASCAR club, who, in all probability wants to dump the South. It is somewhat hypocritical to complain about NASCAR loosing its Southern roots, when the Southern people themselves, seem to have all but abandoned their own heritage. Then, maybe racing is just more important than ones heritage. That is something that Southern folks need to address.

The Sin of Confederate Hero Worship

This is the title of an article written by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach. The anti-Confederate bug has bitten the good Rabbi, as others of late have also been severely bitten. This bite causes an immediate infection of the brain in which the victim of the bite no longer is able to think in a rational or a realistic manner. The good news is, that this is not usually a fatal bite. The bad news is, that it is contagious and sometimes these bitten victims band together with the media who has long ago been bitten—some of them more times than once! Our good Rabbi states, "As an American who loves his country, I am appalled by the persistence of Confederate hero worship in the South 140 years after the Civil War's end. After all, the South fought for a truly evil cause." Rabbi Smut Buttock, or whatever, says, "Aside from the slavery question, were these men not traitors to their country? The Confederate rebellion cost the United States 580,000 lives. It began when the South rejected the election of Abraham Lincoln, a president who they believed would abolish slavery but whom we Americans today regard as the greatest president ever to lead this country. The Rabbi now proceeds to compare the cause for which the Confederate leaders fought, namely slavery, as no more noble than the cause for which the terrorist mastermind Abu Musab Al Zarqawi fights for today in Baghdad. He says, "In every way, the enslavement of blacks that Lee and Davis fought to perpetuate is much more severe than any kind of enslavement that contemporary Muslim governments, however brutal and despotic, would currently inflict against their people. Although Mr. Rabbi gives Lee and Davis a point or two for being 'gentlemen,' he continues by saying, "But the cause for which these men fought was just as odious as that for which terrorists would lay down their lives today." The Rabbi stated that he did not compare the Confederate leadership to terrorist. "Davis and Lee never waged a war against civilians..." In the great wisdom of this

Rabbi, he emphatically states, "It is high time for the United States to remove statues of Confederate leaders. Are there any statues of Benedict Arnold in the United States? And would anyone dare erect one? And yet Arnold's treachery against the United States was child's play compared to the damage caused by Davis, Lee and Jackson. He indicates that 'we' should be ashamed of our past such as modern Germany is rightly ashamed of its past and the symbols of that past. The great men of that terrible war were those who ultimately freed the slave from bondage—most notably Lincoln, Grant, and Sherman." The rabid Rabbi says that any southern state capital flying the Confederate flag offends the sensibilities and perpetuates racial division. "Did we forget that it is the symbol of rebellion against the authority of the United States and stands for hatred of America?" Yet, in the beginning of the article, Rabbi what's-his-name began by saying, "This week, I took my family to Virginia in pursuit of one of my favorite summertime activities, visiting Civil War battlefields." He is baffled that after 140 years, that Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, J.E.B. Stuart, James Longstreet, and the other Confederate leaders are still venerated as heroes in the South! He complains of having driven down Robert E. Lee Drive and Jefferson Davis Highway—of seeing monuments to Stonewall and seeing the Confederate flag flying from cars and homes. My SCV brethren, how would you respond to this individual? I searched for a way to contact him but was not successful. So...I'll let you suffer my response to him.

Dear Rabbi Boteach, are you nuts? You insinuate that the Southern American does not love his country simply because many of us still revere Confederates as heroes. You should be reminded that many Southerners have given their lives, limbs and time to the defense of this country as volunteers who love our country. As a matter of fact, you may need to be informed that a large percentage of those fighting today are Southern born, dedicated patriots of these United States. It is insulting that you consider Southern men who understand their history as un-American. It is also an insult that you would stamp our Confederate heroes as traitors to their country. You need to understand something. **THOSE MEN WERE NOT TRAITORS!!!** As a matter of fact, they were **PATRIOTS!!!** These men had the same belief and hunger, to be free from an oppressive government as those men in our colonies who fought in the American Revolution against the British. These men did not wish to overthrow the mother country, but wished only to be free to govern themselves. These Confederate 'traitors,' as you choose to call them, were the real defenders of the Constitution of the United States as written after the struggle with the British. You also have the superior New England attitude that turned the stomach of the Southern patriot. That is the attitude in which you seem to think that you are the authority on subjects concerning all Americans. You have taken it upon yourself to speak for everyone by denouncing the South's rejection of Abe and then saying that "we" Americans today regard him as the greatest president ever to lead this country. Please, Rabbi, allow the rest of us to decide for ourselves who we think our greatest president was. When you say, "We Americans," just who are you speaking of? Are not "we" in the South, Americans also? Have you discarded those of the South as being so insignificant as to not having opinions worthy of your Yankee Rabbi self-made-importance? That's what caused the war in the beginning, Sir, Rabbi! You continue to spew your reckless venom by

saying that the cause of the Confederacy was worse than that of the terrorist in Baghdad. You are one sick, and rabid Rabbi! After comparing the Confederacy to terrorist, you then stated that you didn't compare the leadership to terrorist—that is puzzling! How thoughtful of you to admit that Davis and Lee never waged war against civilians, just before you declared that all statues of these men should be removed. Although those Southern leaders did not wage war against civilians, your 'real heroes' Lincoln, Grant and Sherman did wage such war—and you wonder why we don't choose to call them heroes? The next time you want to pursue one of your favorite summertime activities visiting Civil War battlefields, why don't you visit them in Yankee land? Oh, I forgot, there aren't very many of them. I guess that's because the Yankee invaded the South. Furthermore, Mr. Rabbi, if you don't like traveling down Robert E. Lee Drive or Jefferson Davis Highway, may I suggest that you simply stay above the Mason Dixon.

Last Month and This Month

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed a good one! Dr. Larry Nelson gave us a lesson that was most interesting and informative about the negotiations that took place of what it would take to bring an end to the war and the demands of each side. Once again, compatriot Roy Jackson fed us a fantastic meal. This month the meeting will be on June 21st. 4th Brigade Commander Allen Kelly will be our guest speaker. Come on out to the American Legion building and support our Camp and our 4th Brigade Commander. I am sure he will have an interesting topic. Compatriot Asa McDuffie will be providing the meal, so it is certain to be a good one. The meal should be ready around 6:30 and the meeting should begin around 7:00. It is your Camp, and its continued success depends on you.

SC Methodist...Remove Flag

At the SC Conference in Florence, the Methodist Church passed a resolution to ask the state legislature to remove the Confederate flag from State House grounds, calling the flag a divisive symbol. It should be noted that this was not a unanimous decision. This causes a short discussion about the word - divisive. The Webster's New World College Dictionary, says, '**divisive**' - "*causing division; esp., causing disagreement or dissension.*" One could easily ask, "Is divisive a bad thing?" The very fact that this resolution was passed without it being unanimous is certainly divisive. The simple fact that all Christians are not Methodist could be considered divisive. The fact that the Confederate flag doesn't do anything but fly next to the Confederate memorial at the State house is not divisive. Peoples differing opinions about the flag being there could be divisive. Just as these Methodist ministers disagree with their Baptist or Presbyterian brothers concerning matters of religion, so should they and others learn to disagree about other matters without trying to destroy those who do not think the same as they do.

Deo Vindice