



# Captain A. T. Harlee's Dispatch



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## Andrew Turpin Harlee

Such a noble man was Andrew Harlee that our Camp is proud to carry his name. Some mention was made some time back that many of our Camp members might not know who Captain Andrew T. Harlee was. An attempt will be made in several issues following, to print facts of interest about Andrew T. Harlee. Some of those facts may not be concerning his life as a Confederate soldier, but his character as a Southern man, an example to be followed. It is important that we, as individuals, as members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and as a member of the Captain Andrew T. Harlee Camp, understand what it means and what should be expected of those who are affiliated with Captain Harlee's and the SCV names. Our "charge" compels us to 'emulate' the virtues of the Confederate soldier. Emulate, in a word, means to imitate. We have accepted the 'charge' as a part of our declaration to membership in this organization which was sanctioned by the Confederate soldier himself. We have chosen Captain Andrew T. Harlee as the namesake for this Camp. If we are going to use the name of Andrew T. Harlee, and if we are going to be a part of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, let's prepare ourselves to at least honor them by emulating their virtues. We need to take special care of those names that we select to be a part of ours. Let's be honest enough, that if we can't emulate those names, for goodness sake, don't bring embarrassment to those names. The Confederate Veterans earned their reputation and so did Andrew T. Harlee. It would be a shame for us, to harm what they have earned. Maybe the first place to begin is with Peter Harlee, the father of Andrew. This will possibly help us understand Andrew, his brothers (and sisters) somewhat better. Peter Harlee was born in 1805, the fourth son of Thomas Harlee, Sr. Some of the accomplishments of Peter Harlee, are as follows: On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1829, at the age of 24, he was commissioned Captain of the Harleesville Company of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 32<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, South Carolina Militia. Every officer equipped himself and served his country at his own expense. On February 25<sup>th</sup> of 1830, Peter Harlee married Ann Fulmore of Robeson County N. C. On September 1, 1847 he was appointed as Deputy Surveyor for the District of Marion. He made a map of the Marion District, S. C. showing townships, roads, and residences. This map was printed. Some of the things

relating to his character and personal life has been printed for us to enjoy. His second home was built near where the Harlee Cemetery is located. The lumber was sawn by hand and the nails were wrought in his blacksmith shop. This is the home where all of the children were born except the oldest son, Robert Zach. It is said that this plantation was typical of many others of ante bellum times. It was equipped for self-contained existence. It had its blacksmith and carpenter shops, leather tannery, harness and shoe shops, loom for weaving cloth, big boilers for making sugar and syrup, and also soap. Peter Harlee had instruments for extracting teeth, and "bleeding," and lancing and great quantities of "blue mass," asafetida and other sovereign remedies of olden times, for he was a doctor, dentist, and surgeon to his family and his slaves. His place was fully equipped according to the manner of the times except for a distillery, for unlike many of his kinsmen, he neither indulged in distilled refreshments nor approved of such indulgence. He attended not only to the material and physical life of his slaves but also to their spiritual well being. He gathered them, young and old, around him on Sundays, and taught them the Holy Scriptures. He was kind to his negroes and did not allow his overseers to whip or maltreat them. He was a scholarly man as well as a planter with other versatile arts. In his home were ancient works of English and other history, the prodigious volumes of Clarke's Commentaries on the Holy Scriptures and other works of similar character, poetry, the ancient classics, some in Latin, but no fiction except some novels by Sir Walter Scott, probably acquired unbeknown to him, for he did not approve the reading of "novels." All of these, and the texts on mathematics and surveying, bore evidences of diligent use. He is said to have been, and his portrait indicates that he was, of imposing appearance, tall and over 300 pounds in weight. His carriage, buggies, and their harness were especially constructed for his extraordinary size and weight. Although dignified in disposition, habits, and appearance he was affectionate to his family and kindly to his neighbors. He was generous and more inclined to be lavish than frugal. Peter Harlee died in March of 1860 before the War Between the States. All four of his sons entered the army of the Confederacy, Robert Z., Andrew T., John W. and Peter Stuart; the youngest entered the Army at age 15. (A note that may show how total emancipation of slaves financially devastated the South after the war; just compare the price of land during

this era to the investment of slaves. Peter Harlee sold a plantation near Sandy Bluff consisting of 1500 acres for \$7750.00 in 1854. At his passing in 1860, only 6 years later, his wife had the estate appraised. Listed in this appraisal were a total of twelve slaves valued at \$20,100.00.)

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### Events Past

On Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, the Captain Andrew T. Harlee Camp held its Christmas party. This was well attended, the food was fantastic and so was the fellowship. Many thanks to all who prepared the food and the decorations and thanks also to those who came and participated. The shotgun raffle was also held at this time. Chris Carmichael was the lucky winner. Congratulations to him. The Camp cleared a total of \$927.83 on the raffle. Thanks to all who sold tickets in order to help support the Camp financially. Rain took care of the turkey shoot on Saturday night, but Friday night was a lot of fun. All who came had a good time and the ladies of the OCR provided BBQ, hot dogs, coffee and hot chocolate.

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### Business Meeting

The meeting of Thursday, January 19 will be a business meeting. We will not have a speaker for the meeting, but it is necessary that everyone who can possibly come, to do so. This is our Camp and we all need to come and participate in the business of the Camp. If you don't come and help make decisions, then don't complain when something happens you don't like. There has been in the past, a few people who claim we have a 'click' in the Camp. It has been discovered to be the truth. The 'click' is those who participate in the activities of the Camp. That includes the business meetings. Be there and be part of the 'click'. Good participation and involvement will make things click. The Camp needs dedication and participation from ALL of its membership; our membership is based upon our kinship to a Confederate ancestor, do not allow anything or anyone to rob you of your inheritance.

Thom Thompson and crew will serve supper at 6:30 P.M. The business meeting begins at 7:00. Hope to see you there.

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### Convenient Amnesia

We have made mention of the forgotten slavery issue of the North on several occasions. Now, the New York Times is getting on board. Although there is much to be said of the slave issue in the North, it is rarely mentioned. Their article (Dec. 15, 2005) titled, "A Convenient Amnesia About Slavery," is a little breath of fresh air to those of the South who, have for many years tried to defend its homeland of the hypocritical Northern view of the South concerning issues of slavery. No one has denied that slavery existed in the old Cotton States, but revised history, all but denies its existence in the "free" States. This article begins, "Americans typically grow up believing that slavery was

confined to the cotton fields of the South and that the North was always made up of free states. The fact that slavery was practiced all over the early United States often comes as a shock to people in places like New York, where the myth of the free North has been surprisingly durable. The truth is that New York was at one time a center of the slave trade, with more black people enslaved than any other city in the country, with the possible exception of Charleston, S. C." They continue by saying: "By conveniently "forgetting" slavery, Northerners have historically absolved themselves of complicity while heaping blame onto the shoulders of the plantation South. This cultural amnesia will no longer be plausible after the country absorbs the New-York Historical Society's eye-opening exhibition, which vigorously debunks the myth of the "free" North."

[Editors Note] Thank you, very much to the New York Times. It is a very rare thing indeed for anyone with a printing press above the Mason Dixon to acknowledge anything of this nature. Although the Times published this story, I fail to see where they, or anyone else is stepping forward to accept any responsibility for allowing this 'myth' of the North to continue for so many years. While making a statement that Americans typically grow up believing that slavery was confined to the cotton fields of the South, the Times fail to mention *why* Americans grow up believing this 'myth. When they mention that the 'myth' of the free North has been surprisingly durable, I have to wonder, "*surprising to who?*" Now, this article does tell a story of the existence of slavery in the Manhattan area and its 'hellish environment'; it makes mention of some of the visitors to this historical society having been badly shaken to learn about the human bondage in this city. Their final statement: "This cultural amnesia will no longer be plausible after the country absorbs the New-York Historical Society's eye-opening exhibition, which vigorously debunks the myth of the "free" North", is not easily believable. The Times, is not keeping time with its own history. It seems that they are *assuming* that this cultural amnesia will now just disappear. They now *assume* that this country will actually absorb this eye-opening exhibition. It *assumes* that this country will accept the 'debunking' of the myth of the free North. I guess they *assume* that history as it has been wrongly written, will now be corrected. I guess they have been blinded to the fact that our history was not written for the purpose of historical correctness, but for the purpose of vindicating the victors while making villains of the conquered. We can only hope that this is a step in the right direction.

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### More Than 2000 Southern Women and Children Shipped Out of the Country

While old Sherman was running around the Southland doing his 'Northern duty', he found the towns of Marietta, Roswell and New Manchester in the State of Georgia, to be factory towns that were important to the Southern War effort. Naturally, since the vast majority of the able bodied men were at the front, most of those who were working in these factories were old men, women and children. Needless to say, old Gen. Sherman burned and destroyed the factories, towns, farms, livestock and food supplies of

these areas. Not being satisfied with destroying private homes and other properties, he must have become fearful that somehow, these women and children might come back to torment him. This famous General decided that he would place this dangerous factory working, fierce, fighting force of women and children on a train to the North. One can only suppose that he must have felt some sort of threat from them; that is, of course, unless he had other motives. Motives such as to destroy family ties or maybe to inflict further pain to the Southern people. A comment in the Louisville, Kentucky, newspaper concerning some of the women and children that Sherman had sent north, stated: "The train which arrived from Nashville last evening brought up from the South, 249 women and children, who are sent here by the orders of General Sherman to be transferred north of the Ohio river. These people are mostly in a destitute condition, having no means to provide for themselves a support." Of course those loving Yankees helped them by hiring them out to perform work at a price that was at no more than a subsistence level, making them virtually white slaves for the Yankees. More than 2000 women and children were sent into the North in this manner. The papers in the area advertised them as if they were the same as other commodities for sale. And so the Yankees maintained their illicit trade in human flesh. Even after the end of the war, the United States government never made an attempt to reunite these families.

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### **The Old Palmetto Flag**

During the parade at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual United Confederate Veterans reunion in Richmond Va., there were a number of old historical flags represented. Among those, it was reported that Capt. A. T. Harlee, of Dillon, S. C. bore in the parade the old palmetto flag that went through the war with Harlee's men. It was largely composed of holes.

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### **Quotes**

A sincere wish that the war would be a war "of extermination and that all [Southerners] would be driven like the Swine into the sea. May we carry fire and sword into their states till not one habitation is left standing."—MRS. W. T. Sherman

"To the petulant and persistent secessionist, why, death is mercy."—General William T. Sherman, Jan. 31, 1864

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### **What If?**

Using Sherman's example of Atlanta, where he bombarded that city and went on a binge of looting and burning. Using that example where he went so far as to loot graves to strip jewelry and other valuables from carcasses. Using that example where it was known that in Atlanta, there were approximately 4,000 private homes before the bombardment, and only about 400 left standing afterwards.

Using that example of Sherman where it was estimated that 90 percent of the city was demolished, including many churches. Again, using the Sherman example to depopulate the city, where thousands of women, children and old men were made homeless because Sherman ordered them to vacate the city, just as the dead of winter was approaching. Yet, revised history has little negative to say of the General. WHAT IF, General Stonewall Jackson had invaded Philadelphia, bombed the city into smoldering ruins, looted the civilians, raided the cemeteries of its dead to remove all valuables, destroyed or stole their rations, then ordered its citizens to vacate the city with only what they could carry—just as winter was arriving. Can you imagine what historians would still be writing today about that 'criminal', Stonewall Jackson?

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### **The Chaplain's Corner**

Dear fellow Son's and greetings in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the season to take stock of our lives when one year is coming to an end and another begins. We have just celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas, which is one of the two Holiest of Holy events in the Christian calendar. (Easter is the other) I pray that you take the time to examine both outwardly and inwardly your purpose on this earth. God loves you and it is no mistake that you are here. He has a master plan for your life. I pray that you have given your life over to His Son Jesus Christ and although, at times it is very difficult, you make every effort to serve Christ so that others may see the light of His Son that is in you. As we celebrated the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, it was a time to remember that it is better to give than to receive. Not only are we to give gifts of monetary value, but we should also give of our time and commitment to the truths and values that we hold dear. Those same values were what our forefathers fought for and many gave their lives for. What greater love is it than a man should lay down his life for another? Jesus Christ gave his life for us because His Father loves us so very much. In closing, from the book of Philemon chapter 1:4-7 reads, "I always thank my God as I remember in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints."

*Donald R. Hayes, Chaplain*

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### **Deo Vindice**