

Captain A. T. Harllee's



Dispatch

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Last Month's Meeting



April's Meeting was a good one. We didn't have a traditional speaker for the meeting, but it turned out to be a good one anyway. Pictured at the left, is a photo we had in an October issue of the Dispatch of Nelson Winbush and his Grandfather, Louis Napoleon Nelson. The speaker at last month's meeting was Nelson Winbush. Although he was not here in person, he had been recorded as he gave a presentation about his grandfather. Much of what he said put to rest much of what revised history has to say

about Blacks serving in the Confederacy. Mr. Winbush seemed to be proud of his Grandfather's service in Co. M, 7th Tennessee Cavalry. Mr. Winbush noted that his Grandfather served under Nathan Bedford Forrest and defended Forrest's reputation smeared by some of history's race mongers. He showed pictures and historical records of his Grandfather. One of the pictures he presented, was one of his Grandfather at a Confederate Veterans Reunion. He remarked that his Grandfather attended 39 of these reunions; the last one was the year prior to his death in 1935. Pvt. Nelson was buried in full Confederate uniform with a Battle Flag draping his coffin. I guess Mr. Winbush was proud of his Grandfather's service, because it seems that his Grandfather was proud of it. Should anyone think that Mr. Winbush is just an ignorant black guy who has been "tricked" into saying these things, you must know that he comes from a family of educators and was a retired assistant principal at a high school in Florida.

We had a good meal of catfish nuggets, fries, slaw and good 'ole cornbread. This was a meal that would make a Southern feller proud. If you missed the meeting, you missed a good one.

Were Blacks Forced to Fight?

The article above could cause a person to ask some serious questions about the service of Blacks in the Confederate Army. It has been said that the only reason blacks served in the Confederacy was because they were forced to do so. Some historians, and students of history, will grudgingly admit that some blacks did fight for the South, but will very quickly add that they were "forced" to fight. This implies that their service is

diminished, or dismissed, if they were "forced" to fight. I have read an article concerning such matters and will share a portion of it—because it makes good sense. Vernon R. Padgett, Ph. D., wrote this article and makes some very good points. It is assumed that all the blacks who did serve were slaves, because it would be much easier to "force" them to serve. Many blacks who did serve, were free men of color. Depending upon who is giving the estimates, the estimations of free men of color in the South was between 186,000 and 500,000; a total estimate of blacks in the South was 3,880,000. Mr. Padgett remarks that when you discuss "forcing" men to fight, we must speak not only of forcing slaves to fight, but also about forcing Free Men to fight. Free white men were also "forced" to fight—the South had the first draft in American history—yet we hear nothing about how whites were "forced" to fight for the South, nor of their service being dismissed because of it. An interesting fact about Free Men of Color is that according to the 1860 Census, there were more Free Men of Color in the slave states than in the free states. Just for the record, there was a draft in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Does anyone dismiss the service of those soldiers and sailors because they were drafted? I think not! Yet, they were "forced" to fight. Another misconception given by those who try to diminish the part of the black soldier of the South is when they remark that blacks were only used in positions such as cooks, bodyguards or labor. Today in military service there are those who perform these same services to their country—try telling them that they are not real soldiers! However, Union Surgeon, Dr. Lewis Steiner, Chief Inspector of the United States Sanitary Commission observed General Stonewall Jackson's occupation of Frederick, Maryland, in 1862. He wrote "Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number [of 64,000 Confederate troops]. These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only cast-off or captured United States uniforms, but also coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie knives, dirks, etc. ...and were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army." Why would anyone turn over their weapons to someone who was being forced to serve against their will? More strong evidence against this theory that blacks were "forced to fight" is the fact that a number of blacks were captured by the Yankees and when they had the opportunity, many of them escaped and went back to the South. (Just so you know who some of the were: Dawson Pugh, Clay Hickerson, Dave Burns Henry Church and George Washington Yancey who escaped from the Yankees at least three times.) Why would anyone "forced to fight" escape from his 'liberators' and make his way back through two lines of armed soldiers just to join up with those who had forced him to fight in the first

place? To conclude some of the points made by Mr. Padgett, we must take a look at some of these Black Confederates well after



Alabama Confederate Veterans Reunion in 1890 where over 40 Black Southern men were present

the War had ended. Our speaker last month, Nelson Winbush who told of his Grandfather attending 39 Confederate Veterans Reunions gives a perfect example not given by Mr. Padgett. Another is the picture above where at the Alabama Confederate Veterans Reunion in 1890, over 40 Black Southern men were present. "Forced to fight?" I wonder if they were "forced" to attend those Confederate Veterans Reunions? Why did blacks fight for the South? Blacks fought for the same reason that whites fought for the South: To defend their homes, their families, and their way of life.

The Harlee Guard Has Been Busy

The Harlee Guard has been helping to promote the Charge of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. They have been very active for the last little while. On April 12th they helped to dedicate a Confederate Cross of Honor and a military grave marker for Pvt. Malcom Calder who is buried at the Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery in Latta. This service was well attended by the ancestors of Pvt. Calder. Because of the Guard's participation, we may possibly gain a member or two into the Dillon Camp. On the 19th, the Harlee Guard made a trip to Lexington where a monument has been erected to the honor of at least sixty-two Confederate Veterans whose graves now lie under water at Lake Murray. Originally, the plans were to have this monument placed at the water near the lake, but that request was denied.



Lake Murray Memorial Monument at Lexington, SC

Instead, the monument is at Corley Street Park in Lexington. The 15th Regiment SC Volunteers Camp 51, who has worked so hard for the past five years or so, to see this monument dedicated to these veterans, invited the Harlee Guard. On the 26th, the Harlee Guard went to the Marion Memorial Service, which was held this year at the Old Town Cemetery in



Marion. The Marion Camp is planning to help the city of Marion with some much-needed improvements to this cemetery. There is believed to be at least forty Confederate veterans buried here.



Among them are brothers to their Camp's namesake Gen. Nathan G. Evans. The Marion Camp had a very nice service where all veterans from all wars buried in this cemetery were honored. The same afternoon of the 26th the Harlee Guard helped to

honor the Confederate veterans from the Dillon area. Our service was held again at the Harlee Family Cemetery at Little Rock. We had a real good service where Davis McClam was the key speaker and Mrs. Mattie Strickland was there to represent the UDC. The ladies of the OCR and the Black Rose placed a reef on Captain Harlee's grave. The service for our Camp was well attended by our members and the community. A hearty "thank you" is in order for your faithfulness. On May 4th the Harlee Guard was invited to Manning for their service. At the time of this writing, it is just before this event and of course no picture is available. The Harlee Guard is also committed to the Confederate Memorial Service in Florence on May 10.

This Month's Meeting is on May 15

The Andrew T. Harlee Camp 2010 will meet this month on May 15. We will meet at our regular meeting place at the American Legion Building on Hwy 9 East. Our evening meal will begin around 6:30 PM. This month's cook will be Compatriot Leroy Jackson. Everyone knows when Leroy cooks—we all eat good! The meeting will begin around 7 PM when Commander Quick will 'drop the gavel' to call the meeting to order. This month's speaker will be Vic Phillips from Florence and he will be speaking on the Palmetto Sharpshooters. Vic is a well-studied Compatriot and always does an outstanding job on his presentations. You don't want to miss this one. Please bring someone with you and let's show him good Southern hospitality—Confederate style! Remember to talk to your friends and family about joining our Camp. We need to start working on a strong recruiting program and it can only be done with your help. The overall success of this Camp depends on you.

Compatriot Hoyt Jackson Crosses the River

Compatriot, friend and family to many in our Camp, 'crossed over the river and is resting in the shade of the trees' on the other side. Our sympathies and condolences are extended to the family of Hoyt Jackson. Hoyt was born December 7, 1923 and crossed the river on April 11, 2008. He was probably one of the most knowledgeable of his family's history as anyone. At the age of 84 his mind was sharp and quick; unfortunately his aging body wasn't able to keep up with that energetic mind he possessed. He was a charter member of the Andrew T. Harlee Camp with

his signature on the charter placed between his nephews Daryl Hardwick and Leroy Jackson. He will be missed by his family and friends. The old store building/bus station is already very empty looking. Hoyt Jackson was a pillar in this community, a fixture that cannot be replaced, but he will live on in our hearts and our memories.

Another Look at Pvt. Sam R. Watkins

There are so many things in the memoir written by Sam Watkins that it would take forever to write about them all. He was a very colorful writer with the ability to express himself in a most Southern way. He was vigilant in making the reader of his memoir know that the thoughts were that of a private and not of some officer. He was very honest in his views and saw some



things that only someone present at that time would be able to describe so vividly. The following is one of those things that he saw and described so well. "Whether you believe it or not is for you to say," said Watkins. "At a little village called Hampshire Crossing, our regiment was ordered to go to a little stream called St. John's Run, to relieve the 14th Georgia Regiment and the 3rd Arkansas. I cannot tell the facts as I desire to. In fact, my hand trembles so, and my feelings are so overcome, that it is hard for me to write at all. But we went to the place that we were ordered to go to, and when we arrived

there we found the guard sure enough. If I remember correctly, there were just eleven of them. Some were sitting down and some were laying down; but each and every one was as cold and as hard frozen as the icicles that hung from their hands and faces and clothing—dead! They had died at their post of duty. Two of them, a little in advance of the others, were standing with their guns in their hands, as cold and as hard frozen as a monument of marble—standing sentinel with loaded guns in their frozen hands! The tale is told. Were they true men? Does He who noteth the sparrow's fall, and numbers the hairs of our heads, have any interest in one like ourselves? Yes; He doeth all things well. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without His consent." This, my fellow Compatriots is a story of some of the hardships that our Confederate ancestors suffered. Is this a story that means nothing at all to you? If it is, you may want to check your bloodline! There are many who were once among us that have seemed to forget why they became a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. There are even some that are still among us who have become very slothful and no longer attend meetings or seem to appreciate the heritage bequeathed to us by our Confederate ancestors. If our present political pattern continues, we will one day wonder what happened to our right to honor these heroes. If you are one who is no longer interested and are not active in giving the deserved honor to our ancestors, then you may possibly be the weak link that the enemy is looking for. We should be like the guards that Sam Watkins went to relieve; we should stand guard over the memory, virtues, principals and history of the Confederate soldier and be true to that duty no matter the cost.

South Carolina Soldier too Tough to Tame

Sgt. Berry Greenwood Benson was with Co. H, 1st SC Vol. Infantry. He was described as a cheerful comrade in adversity, a lethal soldier and intrepid scout, who was captured behind enemy lines while scouting at Spotsylvania and sent to Pt. Lookout. He escaped two days later and swam the Potomac but was recaptured and sent to Elmira. He escaped from there by tunnel and walked back to rejoin his regiment at Petersburg, VA. He refused to surrender at Appomattox, evaded the enemy sentries and walked home with his arms. His service confirms that a good soldier makes a very bad prisoner. [Copied from "The Parapet"]

Confederate Heritage is Not for Sale

[Elliott Cummings Past Commander of MD SCV]

A portion of a speech given by Past Commander Cummings in 1995 at an annual Lee/Jackson banquet. "We are here because Gen. Lee and Gen. Jackson are the embodiment of our proud Confederate heritage. They represent, for us, a once free nation that sought only to exercise its right to independence as other Southerners: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Patrick Henry had done only 80 years before. If measured in terms of time, the government and the army of the Confederate nation existed for only four short years, but the Confederacy did not and will never die. The Confederate nation lives on because its people and their descendants live on. It lives in the hearts of each of you who share the blood of those brave patriots that served its cause. To us the Confederacy is more than bronze and marble statues erected before the advent of today's political orthodoxy. It may be a fading tin type of a young boy in gray who was our g' great grandfather, it may be a surviving letter sent by a Confederate soldier from the muddy entrenchments at Petersburg, or it can just be the memory of an elderly relative retelling the story of an aging Confederate veteran seeing Marse Robert or old Jack pass by his regiment. Our Confederate heritage and the memory of the nation it represents is as sacred and important to us as the heritage of any other American. No group or organization, no politician or bureaucrat has a veto over our songs, our flags, or our monuments. Those that seek respect for their history must learn to give the same to others. The history of the Confederate soldier and the confederate nation has been purchased with the blood of 250,000 of our dead and has been paid for by the suffering and sacrifice of the Southern soldier and the Southern people. It will not be compromised, it will not be surrendered, and it will not be sold at ANY price."

[AMEN BROTHER!!]

DEO VINDICE