



THE NORTHEAST ALABAMA BRIGADE DISPATCH

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Northeast Alabama Brigade
P.O. Box 375
Capshaw, Alabama 35742

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Northeast Alabama Brigade Sons of Confederate Veterans

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E-mail Camp News & Announcements to www.NEBrigade@aol.com

Commanders Corner

Compatriots,

As we move into the winter months of the year most camps see a slight increase in meeting attendance. The activities of summer are now memories and as we pass Thanksgiving and begin the Christmas season we reflect on the past year. One part of General Stephen D. Lee's Charge to the SCV tells us that is our duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations; in this past year did we live up to that part of the Charge? Did our ranks grow and were we able to retain our current members? Have we started a Cadet program and if so, do you do activities geared towards the younger members? I hope the answer to all of these questions is yes! We have camps in the SCV where as many non-members attend a meeting as do members. I think this is great. I hope that one day they will join our ranks but for now I am happy that they are coming to our meetings and I hope that we are delivering the message to them that our history and heritage doesn't always fall in line with the published textbook. To the victors go the spoils and in this case the spoils included writing their version of how and why the war was fought. We have a long tough road to overcome the misinformation that is being presented in the classroom.

The Sesquicentennial celebration is our best opportunity to get the truth out to the public. The first big event is the reenactment of the inauguration of Jefferson Davis on February 18-19 in Montgomery. Our activities include a Division meet and greet on Friday night with entertainment by Kracker Dan and his Demon Minstrels. I saw them at the Division Reunion in Mobile a couple of year's back and they put on a great show. A parade following the route Jefferson Davis took 150 years ago will be held the next morning with the reenactment of Davis taking the oath on the steps of the capitol. Saturday night we will have an inauguration banquet with a dynamic speaker. We need everyone to make plans to attend this National event. The banquet tickets and event medals are limited so don't let them slip away due to procrastination. There will be other items available for sale to mark the occasion. The host hotel was close to being sold out but there are plenty of rooms available in Montgomery at different price levels.

Programs and speakers are but one way to help your meeting attendance grow. There are several speakers available within the Brigade and some area's border other Brigades that have speakers who will also fill in at our camp meetings. If you have a speaker who is willing to go to other camps please share them with the other camps. We are all in the same boat as we try to make our programs interesting and informative. Remember to advertise in your local meeting section of the area newsletter that you have an upcoming meeting and who the speaker is. You may have that history buff show up because the topic is something he or she is studying.

Christmas is the time of the year where we try to help others and this year it is equally important to look into our communities and help where we can. If your camp can help financially, pick out a veteran that needs help or a needy family. Names are available from a variety of sources. Conduct a food drive or simply invite them to your camps Christmas dinner. The best publicity your camp can receive is from word of mouth advertising as people commend your camp for its generosity. Just remember to do as our ancestors did and provide that generosity with a big dose of humility.

I close now with Season's Greetings to all of you from my family to yours. I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As always lets remember to keep the reason for this holiday season in the forefront of our thought. Pray for our troops that are serving stateside as well as those serving abroad.

Jimmy Hill

Commander
NE Brigade

Brigade Camps

#232 – COL. Snodgrass - Stevenson

Meeting: 1st Tuesday, 6 PM, Contact Adjutant or Commander for location
Commander: Fred Hicks (256) 605-9145 www.fdhicks@farmerstel.com
Adjutant: Ted Howell (256) 605-2031 www.hted68@yahoo.com

#357 – COL. Egbert J. Jones – Huntsville

Meeting: 1st Thursday, 7 PM Valley United Methodist Church, 1410 Drake Ave. S.E
Commander: Tim Carson (256) 603-4808, timber1.35810@yahoo.com
Adjutant: Gerald W. Moore (256) 859-3525, gwmrsr@hiwaay.net
www.geocities.com/huntsvillescv

#452 – CPT John Rayburn – Guntersville

Meeting: 1st Monday, Albertville Public Library, 7 PM
Commander: John Taylor (256) 593-0402 jwt101843@gmail.com
Adjutant: Larry A. McCoy (205) 582-6090 scv@mccoynet.com

#580 – Decatur Sons of Liberty – Decatur

Meeting: 3rd Monday of Month, 7 PM, Elks Lodge, Centron Drive
Commander: Jim Sherrill JSherrill2112@peoplepc.com
Adjutant: Lawrence J. Thomson (256) 881-3712 thomsonlarry@hotmail.com

#768 – CPT Thomas H. Hobbs – Athens

Meeting: 3rd Thursday, 7 PM, Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives, Pryor St, Athens
Commander: Michael W. Kelley (256) 230-0255 auae@bellsouth.net
1st Lt. Commander: Tom Strain (256) 990-5472 tomstrain@bellsouth.net
2nd Lt. Commander: David Griggs (256) 233-0672 griggsdave@hotmail.com
Adjutant: Mark Curley: (256) 679-9632 hobbssc768@mchsi.com
www.scv768.org

#1442 – Thomas J. Denney – Cullman

Meeting: 4th Tuesday, 7 PM, Willingham Scrap Yard, Hwy 278
Commander: Ed Green (256) 734-4077 eoglide@gmail.com
Adjutant: Wayne Willingham (256) 739-6686 willingw@momentum.net

#1824 – DeKalb Rifles – Sylvania

Meeting: Announced by Camp Commander
Commander: Gary D. Carlyle (205) 657-5565 rebcarlyle@yahoo.com
Adjutant: Harold A. Bouldin (256) 623-2565 habouldin@gmail.com

A Camps Purpose

The current issue of the *Confederate Veteran* has a poignant article by Lt. Commander in Chief Kelley Barrow. The article focuses on a Camp's Purpose; note that I did not say the purpose of a Camp.

The purpose of a Camp is very clear. It is a group of men who share the same desire to honor their Confederate ancestor and to perpetuate the true history of the South. You can look at S.D. Lee's Charge to the SCV for the purpose of a Camp and it's members.

The Camps Purpose is defined by the members and / or the camp leadership. For some camps their purpose is **educational**, they get together monthly and discuss various aspects of the period leading up to the Confederacy and into reconstruction. This is done by having speakers or just having open discussions. For other camps their purpose is to get together for the **camaraderie** that a fraternal organization offers, many times people refer to this as a meet, eat and retreat camp. Still for others, their Camps purpose is to **reenact as a unit**. In this way they combine the two listed above. A Camps purpose can be anything the members choose it to be, one purpose is not better than another. However, defining your Camps purpose to a narrow point limits your ability to grow.

A Camps purpose becomes its pulse. A multi-faceted purpose is one that is inclusive. The camp makes the decision to educate through programs, it includes the reenacting community, and it becomes community oriented. It works on projects that promote our history and heritage while participating in local events that promote where we live.

I encourage all of you to read or re-read Commander Barrow's article. Take a good look at your camp, what is its "Purpose"? What direction do you and your members want to take your camp?

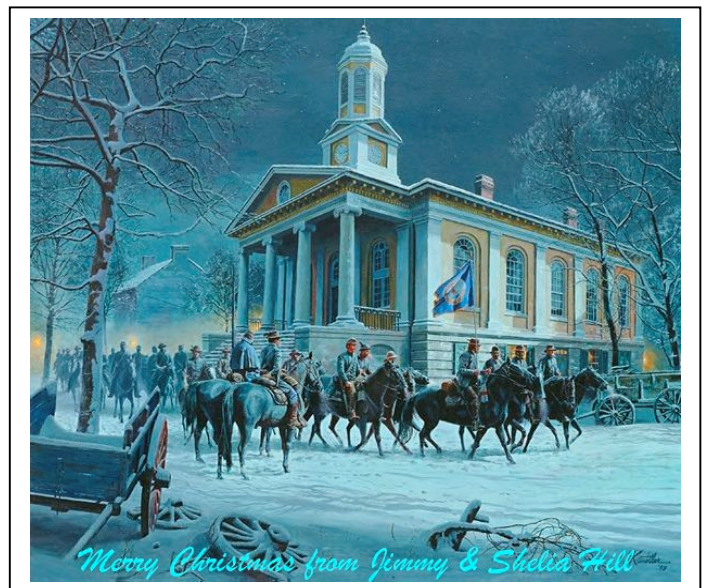
The direction you choose can always be changed and it will change as new officers are elected or new members join the camp and old members depart.

What is your Camps Purpose?

Hoods Retreat

Buzz Estes of the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp in Athens has been trying to put together a driving tour of Hood's retreat from Nashville. On Saturday December 11th, nine people joined in for the first tour. We left from a couple of different places and met at Elm Springs for a tour of SCV headquarters. Ben and Sandy Sewell gave us a great tour of the house and opened the gift shop up for the group. From Elm Springs we drove to Spring Hill and we stopped at the home of Absalom Thomas. Although it is now a private residence there is a plaque and a pull off spot to take pictures. This is the home where General Hood stayed the night the Yankees moved quietly through Spring Hill and up to Franklin. After taking some pictures we went to Rippavilla Mansion where we took the tour with SCV member Chuck Burn. Since we were mostly a SCV group he allowed one photo to be taken inside the house. We had our picture made in front of the fireplace in the dining room behind the actual table where General Hood, Gov.Harris, General Forrest and others had breakfast. This was the breakfast meeting where Hood exploded upon learning that the Union army had passed through to Franklin. After a short lunch break, we met up with Cathy Wood of Giles County to begin the final part of the tour. Cathy took us down Highway 31, which was the route Hood took as he moved his army south. Various markers along the way tell parts of the story. We went to the Sam Davis Museum in Pulaski and then to the spot where he was captured. Our final stop of the day was at the location of the skirmish of Sugar Creek. Here General Forrest put up a final stand that allowed the Army of Tennessee to cross back into Alabama and ended the threat of rear action against them.

The weather cooperated for most of the day until we reached Giles County. An interesting tour which will get better with some adjustments. We will keep you informed on the date of the next tour date.





Members of Colonel Snodgrass Camp 232, Stevenson and the Mechanized Cavalry on a recent grave clean up detail. Members that participated were Commander Fred Hicks, Adjutant Ted Howell, Bear Butler, Quenton Knight, Dave Bean and Bryan Roberts



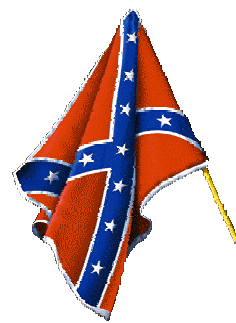
Members of the Capt. Thomas H. Hobbs Camp, Athens and the Mary Fielding Chapter, OCR recently marched in the Athens Veterans Day Parade. Rita Majors and Cheryl Curley along with Commander Mike Kelley, Mark Curley, Almon Majors, David Griggs, Charles Kilpatrick, Bill Norton, William Pepper, Charles Byrd and Jimmy Hill.

General Stephen D. Lee's Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will submit 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 he loved and which made him glorious and which your also cherish”.

Salute to the Confederate Flag

I Salute the Confederate Flag with affection, reverence, and undying devotion to the Cause for which it stands.



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