

CALCASIEU GREYS

Volume 36, Issue 10, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lake Charles, Louisiana, Oct. 2017



Captain James W. Bryan

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will be from 6.30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, at Ryan's Buffet, 4501 Ryan St., Lake Charles, La. We'll have nominations for officers at this October meeting, and if there is time, a short program. Please make every attempt to make this important meeting. We'll have plenty of good food and Confederate fellowship.

FALL ASSEMBLY

The La. Div. Fall Assembly will be held at Ft. Randolph S. H. P. in Pineville, on Nov. 11. It will start at 9AM and end around 3PM. It will begin with a DEC meeting, but all members are encouraged to attend. We have 3 speakers scheduled at this time but may have 4. These are Past CIC Chuck McMichael, Lt. CIC Paul Gramling, and ATM Commander Johnnie Holley.

DUES REMINDER

Those members who didn't pay their dues before September 1 now owe an additional \$5.00 reinstatement fee. This is not a Camp policy, but a change made by National Headquarters. Please don't let this prevent you from renewing your membership.

Please send your annual dues of \$42, plus \$5 reinstatement fee, to Camp Adjutant Luke Dartez, 908 Henning Road, Sulphur, La. 70665-7673. Thank you for your continued support.

You can make your check out to Sons of Confederate Veterans.



There are a lot of what I call "establishment" historians who like to put down the southern truth about the War for Southern Independence as nothing but the so-called "Lost Cause" myth. But these same historians, in my opinion, are just perpetuating the northern version of the war as a noble crusade to free the slaves, save the so-called "Union" and overthrow the morally corrupt southern aristocracy. But the southerners who fought for and lived through the four years of northern aggression and conquest seem to be the best judges of why they were fighting and what they were fighting for. The North had a lot to cover up when the truth is readily apparent in the records that it was actually fighting to prevent the southern states from exercising the same God-given right to independence and self-government that the Founding Fathers outlined in the Declaration of Independence.

In fact, I think General Robert E. Lee answered most of the lies and distortions about the Confederate cause and soldiers in his own lifetime. Here are some examples:

"The South was fighting to perpetuate slavery." Gen. Lee replied:

"So far from engaging in a war to perpetuate slavery, I am rejoiced that slavery is abolished. I believe it will be greatly for the interests of the South. So fully am I satisfied of this, as regards Virginia especially, that I would cheerfully have lost all I have lost by war, and have suffered all I have suffered, to have this object attained."

As to the reason Gen. Lee was fighting, He said, "I have fought against the people of the North because I believed they were seeking to wrest from the South its dearest rights."

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Regarding the cause of the South, Gen. Lee said this:
“All that the South has ever desired was that the Union, as established by our forefathers, should be preserved, and that the government as originally organized should be administered in purity and truth.”

On the issue of State’s Rights, Gen. Lee said:

“The consolidation of the states into one vast empire, sure to be aggressive abroad and despotic at home, will be the certain precursor of ruin which has overwhelmed all that preceded it.”

Don’t believe the modern “politically correct” historians take on the history of the war. Look to the words of our Southern forefathers as to why they fought and for what they fought. Anything else will be nothing but modern opinions, biased assumptions and downright anti-Southern propaganda.

Gen. Lee was a man of the highest honor, integrity and truth. You can trust he was telling the truth because he lived every bit of the four years of the war, and five of the worst years of its aftermath.

HURRICANE RELIEF UPDATE

Over the past several weeks, we have seen the destruction of the hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Many of our brothers in the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and their families, have suffered great losses during this time. Although we lift these members up in our prayers, there IS something the SCV can do to help our compatriots through this time of need. The SCV Relief Fund is designed to help, monetarily, members striving through disaster situations. This fund is available to members in the amount of, up to \$500.00, depending on the individual circumstance. If you need this relief or know of any members that are in need, please go to the committee's page of the SCV National web site for instructions/guidelines in making a request.

I know from personal experience how much this fund can help a member in distress. We are all brothers.....and we help family...

Paul Gramling, Jr.

Lt. Commander-In-Chief

Sons Of Confederate Veterans

SPRINGFIELD MUSKET MANUAL

The Young-Sanders Research Center for the Civil War in Louisiana, in Franklin, La. just acquired an original 1863 Springfield rifle manual and has posted it on the internet for all to read at no cost. If interested, you can access it at:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/382dbc8a001/c72306f6-193f-4e34-8de0-d3ec58fc8cae.pdf>.

GEN. BEAUREGARD MONUMENT UPDATE:

The following email from the Beauregard Camp explains the steps being taken in regards to the Beauregard Monument. Please make the calls and/or emails per their request. We need to let it be known that we support the effort to move the monument to the Greenwood Cemetery.—J.C. Hanna, La. Div. Cmdr.

On September 6, Camp 130 Compatriot Dr Rick Marksbury, representing the Beauregard Monument Association and others, held a press conference at New Orleans City Park. He announced that a lawsuit would be filed against the Board of Commissioners of City Park, unless the Park takes immediate steps to resolve the issue of ownership of the Beauregard monument seized by the city of New Orleans in May 2017, for failure of the Commissioners to faithfully execute their responsibilities to defend the property of City Park. He announced that if no action was taken the suit would be filed. Mr Marksbury suggested that the reported offer of placement of the monument on the grounds of nearby Greenwood Cemetery, after the ownership of the monument was established as belonging to City Park, would be an acceptable compromise.

You are all encouraged to voice your support by contacting the following persons.

*Billy Nungesser, Lt
Gov,Louisiana, <https://www.crt.state.la.us/lt-governor/index> 225-342-7009*

*Jeff Landry, Attorney General
LA <https://www.ag.state.la.us> 225-326-6078*

John Hopper, City Park jhopper@nocp.org 504-259-1509

If you call Mr. Hopper, who is representing City Park, please RESPECTFULLY demand that City Park's Commissioners do the right thing to protect their ownership of their property (before the City goes on a fire sale of Park owned assets).

When calling the Lt governor and attorney general, please RESPECTFULLY demand they hold City Park responsible to do its job.

*Thank you
E Ernewein
Beauregard Camp 130 SCV*

BEAUREGARD PARISH MONUMENT DISCUSSED

DERIDDER, La. – A public discussion was held Oct. 1 at the Beauregard Parish Courthouse on the proposal to erect a statue of the parish namesake, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

Resident Charles Bordelon has been leading the effort to obtain the equestrian statue of Gen. Beauregard, which was taken down in New Orleans and is now in storage, for Beauregard Parish. He has also proposed building a new statue of Beauregard for the parish courthouse in a suit rather than in uniform. He invited other interested citizens to discuss the proposal in the public forum.

The Rev Mike Harris expressed his opposition to a statue of Beauregard in any form. He proposed, instead, a fountain spraying waters of different colors into a pool as a symbol of diversity in the parish.

Bordelon said the Beauregard statue has gained strong support and would bring all suggestions to the police jury as an alternate to taking the New Orleans Beauregard monument, which is currently in litigation.



Gen P.G.T. Beauregard

SCV ERECTS NEW CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has erected new Confederate monuments in Alabama and South Carolina.

At the ceremony in Brantley, Crenshaw County, Alabama on private property owned by the SCV. Five cannons were fired for the unveiling of the monument there. It is ringed by a black metal fence.

Meanwhile, in South Carolina, members of the Gen. Barnard E. Bee Camp No. 1575, Sons of Confederate Veterans, also unveiled another new Confederate monument in Aiken, South Carolina.

The monument memorializes Confederate soldiers who died in the Battle of Aiken, S.C. in Feb. 1865.

The monument, which cost \$5,000, is meant only to memorialize Confederate soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the South.

The war memorial is located on private property owned by Camp No. 1575.

CONFEDERATE VETERAN MAGAZINE

For the past several years, but especially over the past 2 years, the SCV has had countless correspondence "lost" through the U. S. Postal Service, specifically, but not limited to, our magazine. The headquarters has filed reports with the USPS, as well as hundreds of our members, and we've placed numerous notifications in our magazine addressing this issue. This has become almost epidemic with magazines damaged beyond recognition or members not receiving magazines for years. Over the past 6 months, the SCV has sent out boxes of magazines to whole camps whose members haven't received their magazines. Headquarters routinely sends members replacement magazines and this is a substantial cost to the organization. Over the past year, we have made modifications to the dust cover of the magazine and this has made a moderate improvement for some members. However, over the past two editions of the Confederate Veteran, a significant amount of members are not receiving it. In response to this, the SCV is experimenting with packaging to determine if it makes a difference in this issue.

Those members who have had no issues receiving their magazines see no reason to adapt to the changing situation, but those members who have had significant issues are beyond frustrated. Our headquarters wastes too much resources on providing replacement magazines, so this is a business decision for the good of our organization.

Our magazine is an important method by which many of our members receive official communications from the SCV leadership. Many of our members don't have email or Facebook, so the Confederate Veteran is essential for these members. It is our responsibility as an organization to adapt to our environment, regardless of how we feel about it. To ignore reality and continue business as usual is not a trait of a successful organization. We will continue to assess problems and adapt as required for the good of our organization.

We ask that members who have damaged or missing correspondence continue reporting these issues to the USPS inspectors. It is a federal crime to tamper with mail. We need to use all resources available to fix these problems. Regardless, we have a fiduciary responsibility to do all we can to ensure that our members receive the benefits of membership they pay for.

Thank you and continue to fulfill the Charge!

Mike Landree
Executive Director
Sons of Confederate Veterans

CIVIL WAR TRUST STATEMENT ON CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS

A message from Jim Lighthizer, Civil War Trust President

September 21, 2017

Dear Friend of Preservation,

From the beginning of the modern battlefield preservation movement, it has been the charge of the Civil War Trust and its predecessors to preserve American battlefields to educate the public about what happened on these Hallowed Grounds and the ongoing significance of those events. Battlefields are outdoor classrooms, teaching young and old alike about the sacrifices made during our nation's turbulent first century to secure the precious freedoms we enjoy today.

Battlefields are where crucial chapters of the American story were written, where ordinary citizens — farmers, merchants and laborers — displayed extraordinary valor. The United States is the oldest and most successful democratic republic in the world, thanks to the sacrifices made by these citizen soldiers. We see the battlefields on which they fought as living memorials to all Americans who have honorably served in our armed forces.

It is, however, a different kind of memorial that has been in the news recently, as debate has intensified over the role of Confederate monuments in our modern society. Hate groups have attempted to utilize some of these statues as gathering places to promote despicable and long discredited ideologies, displaying violence and intolerance that have no place in this great nation.

It is vital for the future of our country that Americans understand the full scope of our nation's complex story. Our history — both good and bad, heroic and shameful — shaped who we are as Americans today. Thus, history education is a foundation of good citizenship and a key ingredient in developing the leaders of tomorrow. Professional historians frequently caution against the tendency to look at historical events solely through a contemporary prism — when judged against modernity and contemporary values, it is the rare historical personality or era that is not found wanting.

As students of history, you know that these monuments are not monolithic. They were commissioned at various times, by various individuals and groups, for a variety of reasons. Each was specifically designed for its community and context. While some were erected as political statements, many more were intended as a locus for collective grief as an entire community mourned its fallen sons — an instinct as common after the Civil War as it is today with veterans of World War II and other conflicts of the last 70 years.

Accordingly, we see monuments and memorials — especially those on America's battlefields — as educational tools for teaching valuable lessons about national, and local, history. Given that perspectives on history can and do shift, rather than move or remove monuments, we encourage communities to augment these memorials with thorough interpretation to help the public reflect on the many layers of their history. We also recognize that such decisions will ultimately be made at the local level.

Since the events in Charlottesville, I have received many calls for the Trust to “do something” about the situation. The question may be slightly different, but the answer is one I have become familiar with giving, thanks to countless pleas for assistance saving a cemetery or museum or historic home: We save battlefields. And it is the strict adherence to that mission that has driven our success.

I am also aware of suggestions to move monuments from public parks to battlefields, museums, cemeteries and other locations. As a general rule, we believe monuments should remain where they were erected. Taking a historic resource out of its proper, historic context is rarely an advisable course of action. But in the case of moving monuments to battlefields, our imperative is to ensure their integrity in perpetuity — so future visitors can fully experience the landscapes the soldiers once saw. Aside from the immense costs in moving and maintaining such monuments, the Civil War Trust would not want to facilitate the loss of pristine battlefield landscapes by placing monuments where they were never intended.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending a survey to our membership, asking you to weigh in on this controversy. Tell us what you think! And as this debate continues to sweep across the country, please remember — and remind others of — the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address: “We are not enemies, but friends.... Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.”

Sincerely,

O. James Lighthizer, President, Civil War Trust

