



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins
SCV Camp 1569**

Volume X Number VI

June 2011



Honoring the Gray

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Commander's Comments

At this time of this writing I hope you are doing well. It is already hard to believe that the year is half gone. We have had a productive year thus far, and I would like to take this time to reflect on the accomplishments of the camp.

In January the camp donated a Four Volume Roster of South Carolina Confederate Soldiers to the York County Library. Several of our camp members worked at the the Robertson-Crawford Family Cemetery in February/March. Also in March The Micah Jenkins Camp helped to charter a new chapter of the Order of Confederate Rose for York County.

The camp presented two H.L. Hunley Awards at Fort Mill High School, & Nations Ford High School in early May. At the end of month we held our yearly Memorial Day Service at Laurelwood Cemetery. I would personally like to thank the Ann White Chapter of the UDC, 6th Regiment SCVI, and the Caroline J. Jenkins Chapter of the OCR for making our Memorial Day Service such a great success.

Looking down the road for the second half of the year, we have several events on the schedule. These include Summerfest in August, the reenactment at Brattonsville, plus the 20th Anniversary of our camp charter both planned for October and the Lowry's Parade during the Christmas Season.

I would like to form a Homecoming Committee for our 20th Anniversary in the next several weeks. I will be asking all of our camp members and the ladies of the OCR as well to help participate in the planning for this event. There are several ideas already in the works which I will be revealing to the camp in the next few months.

On Tuesday, May 17th, I was able to present the H.L. Hunley Award to Cadet Lance Corporal Callie King at Nations Ford High School.

*Your Obdient Servant,
Brad Blackmon, Commander*

Honoring the Gray

Editor

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A very special thanks to **Greene Funeral Home** of Rock Hill for providing the tent we used at our Confederate Memorial Day Celebration on May 22nd at Laurelwood Cemetery. It was put to good use due to the temperatures that day.

Camp Meeting

Tuesday, June 14th 2011

Regularly scheduled meeting at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant @ 7:00 PM.

Come early join the fellowship and eat.

The Speaker for June is Ailene Shields. Her subject is how our ancestors lived during the War.

The Legacy of a Common Civil War soldier – Private Thomas Marion Shields.

I love to share the story of my ancestors during this time period with the letters.

More information on Page 2

The Legacy of a Common Civil War soldier – Private Thomas Marion Shields **By Cathy Cobbs, Columbia Star**

In letters to his wife Mandy, Pvt. Thomas Marion Shields rarely talked about his life as a soldier in the Civil War.

“He never really mentioned the sights, the sounds, and the horrors that must have gone on during that terrible time,” said his great granddaughter, Columbia’s Aliene Shields, who has penned a book based on the letters that Shields wrote to Mandy from 1861 to 1865. “He gave her advice about how to stay alive—when to plant, harvest, fertilize— his concern was that she never feel uneasy.”

It was this rare glimpse into the everyday life of an ordinary soldier that made Aliene Shields, along with co-author Mac Wyckoff, want to document the life and quiet example set by her great grandfather, who was wounded in combat three times, imprisoned, and suffered greatly during the War Between the States. “I am doing this to keep his memory alive,” Shields said. “It shows the importance that the common soldier played in the Civil War.”

Shields is more than just an author. She often recounts tales of that time and her great-grandfather in living history presentations to garden clubs, museums, churches, and historical societies. Her involvement in keeping those memories alive through her great grandfather’s letters was a natural lead-in to writing a book that not only details and dissects the 34 letters that have been preserved but also puts everything into historical context. “Rather than simply presenting the letters alone, everything is explained, both in footnotes that clear up confusing language and dates, and with chapters that provide historical context,” said co-author Wyckoff.

The book outlines the soldier’s trials as he travels through seven states during the war, is wounded three times, goes AWOL in order to attend to Mandy during the birth of their daughter, is imprisoned, and continues to return to service after each event.

On every letter, Shields includes the location and the date, and faithfully signs them, “I remain your husband till death.”

“He probably had about a fifth grade education, so a lot of the words were written as you hear them,” Aliene Shields said. In a rare glimpse into the suffering of a typical soldier, Shields tells his wife of walking barefoot on a 150-mile march to Gettysburg for the historic, bloody battle that was the turning point of the war.

“I try not to whine when I think of that,” she said.

On March 2, 1865, Shields was captured by the Union Army and held for three days. He was allowed to return home after that, “thus ending the war for Thomas Marion Shields.”

He returned to his life of farming with Mandy, had five children, and died in his mid-70s. An ordinary life, perhaps, but one that Shields and Wyckoff believe should be documented.

“His main concern is about family, the farm, and their well-being, much more so than focusing on himself, even in his life of war: battles, wounds, illness, and death of brothers and friends,” Wyckoff said.

Help save your SCV Camp money!!

Do you have internet and email?
Are you still receiving *Honoring the Gray*
by US Mail?

Take a try at getting *Honoring the Gray*
by email.

Send me your email address and
I'll send you the newsletter by email.
If you are not happy with receiving by email, you
can always switch back to “snail mail”.

Send to: jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com

Web Site Update:

If you haven't checked out the web site lately, please do soon. Our web master, Chris Brown, has done a lot of work and made several additions.

The web site now contains all the past newsletters from January 2009 to present and a list with all the articles has been added. The list gives the titles of each of the articles and what month and year the article appeared in.

A page has been added for our Chaplain and another page "Join Us" has been added with information on joining the Micah Jenkins Camp.

www.bgmicahjenkins.org

1st Lt Commander's Comments

Ancestors at Elmira Prison

Up until recently, I believed that Andersonville Prison was the most inhumane prison existing during the War Between the States. After all, Captain Henry Wirz, who was in charge of Andersonville, was charged, tried and executed for 'murdering' Yankee prisoners. But history has a way of digging out facts and sorting out truth from fiction.

No doubt Andersonville Prison was deathly. The problem was, however, that the South had simply run out of supplies for both the Prison and for its own troops. In Andersonville, prisoners were fed what was available.

The story is quite different in Elmira Civil War Prison, however. Confederate soldiers were assembled in Point Lookout, Maryland, by the Yankee Army, but Point Lookout was way overcrowded. Toward the end of the war, a site was selected on the Chemung River in Elmira, New York, to handle this overflow.

Elmira was built hastily with insufficient shelter to protect prisoners from subzero winter temperatures. Human waste flowed back into the camp during rains because the ditch used did not have proper drainage. Prisoners suffered scurvy because the food supplies intended for the camp were sold to local residents. Colonel Tracy, Commissary-General in Washington, even bragged that he was deliberately withholding food supplies for revenge against the soldiers in "our service held by the rebels".

In researching the 2,963 burials at Elmira, I found eight of my ancestors who died and are buried there. If you would like to research your ancestors, the list is found on the internet at <http://www.joycetice.com/military/prison.htm>.



Confederate monument at Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira



Prayer Closet

- Please continue to pray for those effected by the economy; especially those unemployed. The economy does not seem to be getting any better.
- Please continue to keep Laddie's mother (Clara Parrish) on your prayer list.
- Please keep 6 month old, Ansley Grace. Ansley continues to have serious heart problems. She has been discharged from the hospital as there is nothing more they can do for her.
- Please add Lindsay Waldrop to your prayers. Lindsay is having back problems.
- Also, please add Colie Fox and family. His wife recently passed away.
- Please keep Frankie Wade (Dean Wade's wife) to your prayers. Frankie recently had back surgery
- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. The SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

From the Chaplain

Please send your Prayer Requests to our Camp Chaplain, Lindsay Waldrop. Lindsay can be contacted by phone (803-329-5921) or by email (lindsayw@comporium.net).

Honoring the Gray

Needs your input each month.

Do you have an article you would like to see in the the newsletter?

If so, please send to Jerry Brown at jenkinssc@yaho.com or call Jerry at 803-327-2834. Articles may be funny or serious as long as it reflects the ideals and purpose of the SCV. Please limit the size of articles for mailing purposes.

Kings Mountain Military School Uniform

All students of the War are familiar with Micah Jenkins, the Confederate Brigadier General who fell mortally wounded in the volley that toppled General Longstreet in the Wilderness of Virginia. He had come from his home in Yorkville, South Carolina in April of 1861 to take his part in the defense of the South. He left Asbury Coward in charge of the military school the two of them had founded in 1855. The school, located in Yorkville, South Carolina was known as the Kings Mountain Military School, taking its name from the Revolutionary War battle fought on its nearby slopes. The school was thriving by 1861, but duty called. Teachers and students both felt the call of the War and it was not long until most were in Virginia fighting for their lives.

Little survives from the Kings Mountain Military School; an attempt was made after the War to resume normal operations, but normal no longer existed in the South and after years of struggle Coward was forced to close what was then known as the Academy.

Only two uniform coats are known to exist from the pre-war years of the school's cadet corp. One, identical to this, is in the South Carolina State Museum collection. This particular coat has been photographed and published in *North South Trader's Magazine*, Vol. 31 Number 3. The article, well researched and written by Major William Brown, covers the entire history of the Kings Mountain School and is certainly now, and will most likely remain, the seminal history of the school. I cannot improve upon the Major's description, so I quote from his article:

"While its anyone's guess as to who made it, one can assume it was a Charleston based tailor who

more than likely manufactured uniforms for the Citadel and the Arsenal, among others. That would certainly be the logical source for a uniform order. Buttons made by Scovill were probably shipped via water route straight to the Charleston area, a shipment that would have likely included South Carolina buttons to the state cadets. Careful study indicates it was pieced together using a sewing machine, a relatively new device for that time, whereas the inner lining was put in by means of hand stitching. Wool padding was added to the chest area, a technique still used by military tailors here and abroad to give the wearer a more muscular, imposing impression.

The inner lining is of cotton in a white and navy pinstripe design. Of interest are the heavy perspiration stains shown in the expected areas around the upper back and underarms giving the jacket true character. A heavier grade of decorative cotton was used for the inner pockets. It is of fine grade wool, dyed a very dark blue, a color frequently used by South Carolina pre-war militia units as well as cadet programs. The buttons number a whopping 45 coat sized buttons in total—29 on the front, six on the sleeves (three on each arm) two on the collar (on each side and in line with the outside rows of buttons), two on the back seam of the waistline, and six on the jacket's tail."

The coat is all original and in excellent condition inside and out, but shows extensive field wear in the tails. It is truly a remarkable piece of history. It comes with a copy of the magazine in which it appears and a full dye and fiber analysis from Old South Military Antiques LLC.



Kings Mountain Military Academy

The Episcopal Church Home for Children now occupies the historic buildings of the Old Kings Mountain Military Academy. The Garrison (below) was built in 1857. KMMA was the oldest privately owned military school in the South. Micah Jenkins and Col. Asbury Coward founded the school and named it for the famous Kings Mountain battle fought near Yorkville, October 7, 1780.



Time Line June 1861

June 3rd - Battle of Philippi - first land engagement of the War between Federal and Confederate forces. Stephen A. Douglas dies from typhoid fever, Chicago, IL

June 4th - Delegates to the Second Wheeling Convention are selected.

June 8th - By a vote of 108,339 to 47,233, Tennessee decides to secede from the Union. Virginia turns its state militia over to the Confederate States of America

June 10th - Battle of Big Bethel VA: Minor Confederate victory. Union forces had retained control of Fort Monroe, at the tip of the Virginia Peninsula (between the York and James Rivers). First land battle in Virginia.

June 11th - First session of the Second Wheeling Convention

June 12th - In a further effort to promote the Confederacy in his state, Governor Claiborne Jackson of Missouri put out a call for 50,000 volunteers.

June 14th - Joe Johnston begins to withdraw from Harpers Ferry by blowing up the 800-foot B&O trestle over the Potomac River

June 17th - Nathaniel Lyons captures Boonville, Missouri. Professor Thaddeus Love demonstrates the use of the hot-air balloon to be used to for observation of enemy movements.

June 21st - North Carolina Secession Convention votes to unfurl a new flag, a blue field with red and white bars with an insignia and two dates: May 20th, 1775 (Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence) and May 20th, 1861 (Secession from the Union).

June 23rd - Thomas Jackson destroys 42 engines and nearly 400 cars of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Martinsburg, Virginia

June 24th - At Mathias Point, Virginia, Confederate batteries are attacked by Federal gunboats. Three days later Confederates repel spirited Federal attempts to land troops there.

June 30th - The CSS Sumter successfully slips past the Federal blockade, despite efforts by the USS Brooklyn to prevent it.

Three Border States

There were three of the so-called "Border States," and each of these felt the brunt of war even though they did not join their Southern sisters in secession. Maryland, indeed, was the first state to be invaded by Northern troops, though she had chosen to be neutral. Judge Handy, born in Maryland but then living in Mississippi, had been sent to present the views of the South to Governor Hicks in December 1860. The governor said that Maryland stood with the South and need not call a convention; he felt that the border states would all join the south eventually but perhaps by neutrality they might preserve peace. In April 1861, Hicks issued a proclamation that no troops would be sent to fight in any other state and no troops sent at all except to defend the national capital which stood on ground ceded by Maryland.

The next day, Federal troops arrived and were attacked by citizens with stones. They were dispersed by city police and the Baltimore militia was called out to preserve order. Lincoln called the mayor of Baltimore and other influential citizens to Washington for an interview with Lincoln, his cabinet and General Scott. Both Lincoln and Scott assured the mayor that troops were only being brought through Baltimore for the protection of Washington and not to fight the Southern states.

The Maryland legislature sent commissioners to both Montgomery and Washington, asking for a cessation of hostilities until Congress met in July. Jefferson Davis replied that he too wanted peace. In May, General Butler marched troops into Baltimore and occupied the city. He issued a proclamation about "well disposed" citizens and others, the "well disposed" being those who agreed with him. He took charge of the city's arms and maintained strict control, even arresting women who dared to wear the Confederate colors of red and white. Maryland remained under Federal control for the remainder of the war.

In Missouri, the state militia, camped for exercises in a camp near St. Louis, were attacked by Federal troops and an overwhelming force made resistance impossible. The Federal troops fired on the militia and killed ten of them. Peace was temporarily restored by agreement between General Harvey and Sterling Price, General of the state guard, but General Harvey was removed from command and the Union felt that the arsenal of St. Louis was necessary and seized it. Missouri refused to war upon her sister Southern states and so was occupied and disarmed. The battle of Wilson's Creek in August

was a Confederate victory, under the leadership of General Ben McCulloch and General Sterling Price.

No state, North or South, was so sharply and bitterly divided as Kentucky. Both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were born in Kentucky, not quite a hundred miles apart. There were sixty-five native Kentuckians who served as Union generals and thirty-eight who were Confederate generals. It is a fact that more men were drafted into Federal army service from Kentucky (90,000) than from Ohio, while more volunteered from the state for Confederate duty (40,000) than from Virginia. It is a Louisville tradition that if one stood on Main Street, one saw a constant stream of men going north to join the Union army on one side of the street, while on the other side a similar stream flowed south to join the Confederacy.

The Louisville Courier-Journal, in November 1960, issued a magazine section, "The War in Kentucky," which is an excellent review of the role of the state throughout the conflict. There are brief biographies of both Lincoln and Davis as well as of the other prominent figures of the day. In the biography of Davis, there is an affecting account of his visit to the dedication of the Memorial Church at Fairview, where he was born, in his eightieth year. Though he had declined to make a formal speech, the enthusiastic crowd insisted on his saying a few words, and he spoke with great simplicity of his religious faith. It is at Fairview that today a great white shaft honors the memory of the only president of the Confederacy.

It is interesting to note that Transylvania College, founded in 1780, is proud of four gallant alumni who served the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, John C. Breckenridge, Albert Sidney Johnston and John Hunt Morgan. John C. Breckenridge, who had been Vice-President of the United States, attended the special session of Congress in July 1861 and urged peace and spoke for the neutrality of his native state. This neutrality was utterly disregarded by the Federal troops.

One of the favorite games of the historian is the game of "It might have been." Had Kentucky joined the South, giving the Confederacy control of the Ohio River and of the important railroads in the state, the war might have ended differently. It is possible that the three border states might well have turned the tide; but we cannot rewrite history.

Mrs. Lafayette Baner
Article from UDC magazine October, 1961

Barnard Elliott Bee Jr. (February 8, 1824 – July 22, 1861)

Barnard Elliott Bee Jr. was a career United States Army officer and a Confederate States Army general during the American Civil War. He was mortally wounded at the First Battle of Bull Run, one of the first general officers to be killed in the war. During that battle, he was responsible for the inspiring the famous nickname for Brig. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson.

Bee was born in Charleston, South Carolina, the son of Barnard Elliott Bee, Sr., and Ann Wragg Fayssoux, both of whom came from prominent Charleston families. In 1833, the Bee family moved to Pendleton, South Carolina, where Bee attended the Pendleton Academy. In 1836, Bee’s parents moved to Texas, but Bee remained in Pendleton living with his mother’s three sisters to pursue his education. Bee graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1845, thirty-third in his class and assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry. He accumulated many demerits while at West Point, including several for chewing tobacco while on duty. Bee’s first posting was to serve in the military occupation of Texas. He was twice brevetted for gallantry in the Mexican-American War, first at Cerro Gordo, where he was wounded, and then at Chapultepec.

After the Mexican-American War, Bee was posted to garrison duty at Pascagoula, Mississippi, where he served as adjutant. From 1849 to 1855, he was on frontier duty in New Mexico. Most of his time was spent at Fort Fillmore near Las Cruces, New Mexico. In 1855, Bee was promoted to captain of Company D of the Tenth Infantry and posted to Fort Snelling, Minnesota. While at Fort Snelling, he met and married Sophia Elizabeth Hill, the sister of a fellow officer. In 1857 Bee’s company took part in the Utah War, where he was placed in command of the Utah Volunteer Battalion and brevetted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1860, Bee was posted to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and briefly served as the fort’s commanding officer.

Upon the start of the War, Bee, like many Army officers from the South, was torn between loyalty to his home state or to the nation. He struggled with the decision, but opted to stay with the South. On March 3, 1861, Bee resigned from the United States Army and returned to Charleston where he was elected lieutenant colonel of the 1st South Carolina Regulars.

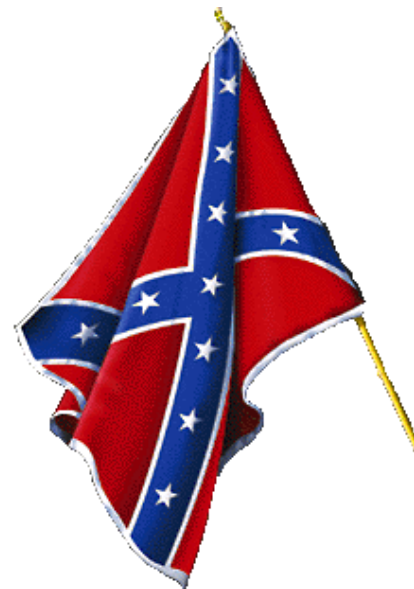
On June 17, 1861, Bee was appointed brigadier general of a brigade mobilized at Manassas Junction. He was given command of the third brigade of the Army of the Shenandoah, under Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. During the subsequent battle, later known

as the First Battle of Manassas, Bee is said to have used the term “stone wall” in reference to Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson and his men, giving rise to the name “Stonewall Jackson” and his Stonewall Brigade. (There has been debate over whether this was meant in admiration or as an insult over Jackson’s men not advancing.)

Tragedy struck Bee shortly after he yelled those famous words, as he was mortally wounded as the Confederates began to gain the upper hand in the battle. The irony of the situation was that General Barnard Bee would be known more for his attribution to Stonewall Jackson’s name-sake than to his true battle heroics. This cannot be overstated and he was a hero in light of overwhelmingly superior Union forces charging the Confederate lines at Bull Run.

He is buried in Pendleton, South Carolina, which was also his home state. Although a true Virginian by nature, the affable General Barney Bee would later be immortalized with General Stonewall Jackson and the Confederate cause in the Civil War. After muttering those words and dying the way he did on the battlefield of the First Battle of Bull Run, he will always go down in Civil War history as the man that gave “Stonewall” his namesake. The only fact that remains in question is that of whether or not the namesake given was positive or negative? The only sure thing that can be said about the entire ‘Stonewall’ affair was that the name was kept proudly by General Stonewall Jackson, and for all intensive purposes, was positive in his eyes, the only set that mattered.

Bee was the younger brother of Hamilton P. Bee, who was also a Confederate Army general.





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Barnard Elliott Bee Jr. February 8, 1824 – July 22, 1861