

NEWS FROM THE CAMP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

For the
COLONEL BEN E. CAUDILL CAMP NO. 1629



APRIL 21, 2011

An empty chair now and forever shall sit at our table in remembrance of those who have gone before:

Mark Barger, Cecil Brown, Harold Cantrell, Jack Cantrell, Randy Cantrell, Greg Caudill, Vernon Cooper, Roy Crawford, Atlas Hall, James Hamilton, Johnny Osborne, John Wesley Roark, Jake Smith, Ben Buster Taylor, Henry Webb, William "Tom" Whitaker, Michael Wright



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From the Quarters of the 1st Lt. Commander

April 21, 2011

A few breaks in the prevailing rainfall have allowed Camp members to continue to carry out the mission during the past few weeks. It took a tremendous effort, but the headstone for Private Martin Bailey, after 15 years of waiting, has finally been placed. It could not have happened without the contributions of many, including some who were unable to be present at the final placement. For a full account of the odyssey, check out the Journal page on our website. We also honored five more who died in the Whitesburg area by placing "In Memory Of" headstones in the Sandlick Cemetery, and had a surprisingly successful trip to Elliot County, where we placed headstones for a 2nd Btn KY Mtd Rifles Private, and three 5th Kentucky officers!

Mark Carroll continues to make additions and improvements to www.bencaudill.com. He has posted several new photos in the 2011 Album, stayed up-to-date on our stone-setting trips, and is currently updating the Newsletter page.

Unfortunately, the reenactment season has gotten off to a soggy start, or so it appears. One can only hope that better days lie ahead and that those who choose to participate will have ample opportunity.

This month marked the 150th anniversary of the "beginning" of the "Civil War". Whether the four-year slaughter that ensued began at Fort Sumter, or at many other places, much earlier, is debatable. As we are all well aware, the victors in any war gain the advantage of writing the history, and the authors make the other side out to be the aggressors. Nevertheless, there will be many opportunities, for participation and observation, as the programs and events around the country and across our screens take place during this special year. May you be inspired anew to reflect on the causes, the course, and the outcomes of that terrible struggle that cost our ancestors more than they could afford. I submit these thoughts as your humble

First Lieutenant Commander
Manton Ray Cornett

Adjutant Report

Richard G. Brown

The Colonel Ben E. Caudill Camp No. 1629 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has fifty-two paid members at the present time as the purge of members who have not rejoined has happened. The cost to join, or to rejoin, is now \$45 (\$35 to National Headquarters and \$10 to Kentucky Headquarters). The last date to pay our dues has come and gone. Anyone that has not paid by now will have to pay an additional \$5.00 to rejoin. Anyone that joins between now and August can pay a prorated price which will cover them for the following year.

The Camp has been asked to help the Historical Society with the new Monument Park to be placed along the Whitesburg By-Pass at the truck pull-off. They want to establish a small park there with informative signs telling of the Battle of Whitesburg. The main attraction will be a full size statue of Lt. Martin Van Buren Bates in his Confederate army uniform. Chairman Dr. Narramore of the Tourism Department said that plans from the architect should be finished soon. The thirty foot extension of the Military Museum is scheduled to start in April or May.

Camp member Tim Shelby picked up the garbage and emptied the garbage can at the Brothers Once More Monument at Pound Gap. The tombstones that have been added in the Sandlick Cemetery looks great. More are to be added, possibly during this meeting. Please continue to remember camp member, Danny Day in your prayers, as he is fighting cancer. Also, remember Camp members, Garland and Larry Kiser, as they have lost their mother; Ms. Lucille Kiser, to illness.

The trip to Lee County to set a Confederate tombstone for Pvt. Martin Bailey went very good. Several camp members set the tombstone on a Saturday, taking all day to do so, but well worth the effort. The grave was located back in the Daniel Boone National Forest. Two ATVs were used to transport the tombstone and equipment to the site, while the rest of the members hiked in.

Camp member, Greg Bentley, was invited to set up a traditional Confederate camp site and fire pit to show elementary students at the grade school between Pound and Wise. He fried some of his famous potatoes for the students.

I had prepared rounds and the cannon for the reenactment of the Battle of Puncheon and Half-Mountain near Salyersville during the weekend of April 9th and 10th but at the last minute, I got very sick with a virus going around.

Trivia Questions

1. During the war, what was regarded as cure-all, in the absence of better medicine?
2. What were “waysides”?
3. What compassionate woman established a well know hospital, which so impressed President Davis that he gave her a commission as a captain?
4. The disease known as “night blindness” or “gravel” was a complication caused by what other disease?
5. What disease was mistakenly believed to have a venereal origin?
6. Health wise, what did fighting under the “black flag” mean?
7. Health wise, what part of a complete and balanced diet was most notably lacking, leading to disease?
8. What was the preferred and fairly effective method of ridding a uniform of body lice?
9. What contagious disease was believed to have been brought to the Confederacy by the Yankees?
10. What was the most common skin ailment of the Confederate soldier?

Minutes of the Colonel Ben Caudill Camp No. 1629 March 17, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Colonel Ben Caudill Camp No. 1629, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, was held on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at the Letcher County Military Museum in Whitesburg. In attendance were members Tim Shelby, Richard Smith, Willis Strong, Randall Haddix, Leathan Whitaker, Wayne Watts, Quenton Childers, Lawrence Cook, Okie Blair, Mark Bowling, Manton Ray Cornett, and guests Buster Whitt and Tim Kelley.

The meeting was called to order by Sergeant at Arms, Wayne Watts. He led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and Manton led the Salute to the Confederate flag. Chaplin Lawrence Cook offered the opening prayer, after which Wayne stated that we did have a quorum and that we could conduct official business. Everyone present then took part in the Ancestral Roll Call.

Manton read the minutes from the February meeting and suggested two minor corrections. Lawrence

made a motion that the minutes be accepted, with corrections noted. Okie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Commander Smith welcomed everyone, especially guests Tim Kelley and Buster Whitt. He then recommended that any previous move to have the 13th KY Cavalry roster published, in a book form, be placed on hold due to family health reasons affecting key Camp personnel. He would like to see published a collection of his own writings, including poetry, about events which occurred during the War. His hope is to sell the finished product and donate the profits, up to \$250, to the Camp's Scholarship Fund. He spoke briefly about the stone-setting and dedication completed in Elkhorn City, for Eli Adkins and William Ramey, and thanked all who were involved, especially the young men from West Care, for their assistance. His final topic of concern was centered on gun safety, firmly stating that we all need to be alert at any activity where firearms are involved and to speak up whenever and wherever any unsafe handling of a weapon is observed.

Lieutenant Commander Cornett's comments focused on the updated website and some recent disappointments. Mark Carroll has made several significant improvements in the content of the website, including new photos in the album, an updated Membership list, and a highly revised Reenactments page. It is hoped that we can begin revising the Newsletter page very soon, as no Camp newsletters have been posted since 2008. On a recent stone-setting trip to VA, it was discovered, after one stone was in the ground, that it had major errors and would have to be replaced. We have that replacement headstone now, but are not eager to go that far for one headstone, when we have so many others on hand that are begging for attention. Also, it was found that the Confederate flag in the Wolfe Cemetery had come down, due to the failure of the rope. Quenton said he would soon be in that area and would try to replace the flag and rope while there. Finally, a more recent trip to Johnson County met with complete failure when we could not locate the only person who knew the location of the two graves.

Lieutenant Commander Strong reported that he had been given a diary, written by a Confederate soldier who was assigned to General Marshall's army, and that he would be willing to share the document.

The Adjutant's Report was read by Wayne; he gave additional details regarding the Bates monument construction. He further noted that the monument planners were requesting that the Camp help locate and provide period uniforms, equipment, and photos with captions. Registration forms for the Battles of Puncheon and Half Mountain to be held on April 9-10 were distributed to several interested members.

Manton gave the headstone activity report, which is normally given by Carlos. The total number of headstones placed by the Camp is now 1,225. We have placed 7 in 2011, have 24 available to place, with 9 more on order. We also have several new applications in progress. Eleven additional headstones are destined for the Sandlick Cemetery; he suggested that if enough of them arrive in time, that we have our April meeting in the Sandlick Cemetery, and place the headstones while we're there. Manton and Carlos have plans to place two headstones on Friday, March 18 in Wolfe County, and 2 more in Morgan County, if the conditions are favorable. Willis stated that he and Randall would also make the trip to assist.

Randall gave the Blacksmith report; they had 9 members at their meeting on March 15, and their next meeting will be on April 19 at the usual location.

In new business, Wayne mentioned that the new book about Ms. Cantrell, the Camp's Matron of Honor, will be available next week for \$15. Camp members are encouraged to purchase copies and to promote further sales, since a portion of the proceeds will go to a worthy cause. Several men pledged to buy the book as soon as possible. Leathan expressed concern about the push by some correspondents, in the Confederate Veteran magazine, to have the Confederate battle flag removed from the SCV logo and replaced with one of the Confederate National flags. Commander Smith read aloud two examples of his writing that he had mentioned in his earlier comments; the first was an account of the retaliation by Confederates after the Battle of Leatherwood, and the second focused on

the use of the Williams Gun at the Battle of Blue Springs. Both recitations were met with overall approval, and he was encouraged to pursue the project, by all means.

Trivia questions were read by Wayne Watts, and several items generated some lively discussion..

Commander Smith auctioned off several donated items with the proceeds going to the Camp Scholarship Fund. Tim Kelley's bid of \$31 took home a set of 4 knives, a key ring, and a tin container with Confederate logos, donated by Quenton Childers. Quenton donated another Confederate knife, money clip and tin container that went to Tim Shelby for \$13. Mark Bowling donated a Chuck Connor DVD and a 2 VHS Gettysburg set. The former went to Quenton for \$5, and the latter to Manton for \$3. Finally, Okie donated two bags of candy. Mark Bowling got both; the first for \$2.50, but he had to bid \$5 to take the Snickers home. He also gave a 50-cent tip to make the money come out even! That's a total of \$60, earmarked for the Camp's Scholarship Fund. Thanks to everyone who donated and everyone who took part in the bidding.

Wayne Watts made a motion that the meeting adjourn; Okie Blair seconded, and the motion passed.

Chaplin Lawrence Cook dismissed the group with a prayer.

The next meeting will be held on April 21 at 6:30 PM, either in the Sandlick Cemetery or at the Military Museum, depending on weather conditions.

Answers to the Trivia Questions

1. Alcoholic beverages, which at least, did relieve some pain. Doctors were often teased about their own medicinal use of alcohol.
2. Voluntary agencies set up to help care for ailing soldiers. They were also known as "soldier's homes".
3. The renowned Sally Tompkins, the only woman given a Confederate commission.
4. Probably scurvy, caused by dietary deficiency.
5. Small pox. Doctors did not believe this, but many soldiers did.
6. Killing body lice.
7. Probably fruit and vegetables, since the soldier's diet was often bad meat and cornbread, plus coffee. The soldiers rarely got fresh fruit, good greens or juice.
8. Singeing it over a campfire, which some soldiers referred to as "popping corn", alluding to the large size of some of the lice.
9. Smallpox. In all seriousness, some Rebels did believe this, and it was true that many cases of the disease had been reported in the Union Army before it became known to the Confederates.
10. The "camp itch" or simply the "itch". It was hardy life threatening but in the days before skin ointment, the camp itch could almost drive a man into a frenzy.

From the Journal of Captain Edward Guerrant Thursday, April 21, 1864 Near Saltville, Washington County, Virginia

I wonder if anybody cares where I am this most beautiful Spring day? If anyone is saying "I wonder where Ed is today?" it will be a pleasure to anybody to read in future days that I sit in my cotton house today where the charming blue waters of the Holston dance in the sunlight, writing what may amuse or instruct "when this cruel war is over." Our headquarters are pitched today on the very bank of the beautiful blue Holston, one mile above Saltville.

The 4th Kentucky passed up the river to the Broad Ford, and the two 10th Kentuckys have gone to Tazewell wit Col. Pryor. About dark, a telegram was received from General W.E. Jones giving notice

of an advance by the Enemy from Eastern Kentucky through Pound Gap, directing scouts to be sent to the Pound Gap and Louisa Fork roads. Orders sent tonight to Major Chenoweth to send scouts (from the 10th KY Mounted Rifles) towards Pound Gap and move his battalion down Louisa Fork.

Financial Report

The Caudill Camp has approximately \$817.88 in our checking account. The savings account has \$4,880.03 in but \$4,161 of this belongs to the Kentucky Heritage License Plate, leaving \$719.03 belonging to the Caudill Camp.

AGENDA

1. Sergeant at Arms/Commander, Call the meeting to order.
2. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Salute to the Confederate Flag.
4. Welcome all members and any guest.
5. Ancestral Roll Call.
6. State if a Quorum is present.
7. Reading and Approval of the previous minutes.
8. Officer's Comments.
9. Committee Reports, if any.
10. New Business/Open Floor
11. Trivia Questions
12. Adjourn