

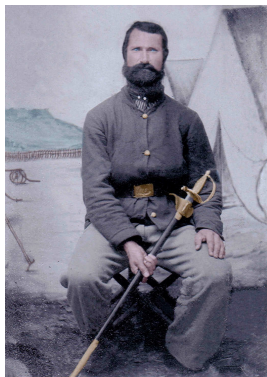
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
For the
COLONEL BEN E. CAUDILL CAMP NO. 1629



AUGUST 18, 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 August 18, 2011

Probably the most significant event for the Camp during the past month was the “Thunder on the Mountain” living history and reenactment at Jenkins this past weekend. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated, but especially to our own Adjutant, Richard Brown. He did a great job of pulling all the necessary elements together and seeing that the entire weekend went smoothly.

And, thanks to Commander Richard Smith, most of the heavy work has been done on the Childers Cemetery at Redfox. Now it's up to the rest of us to finish the job and get the place ready for a long overdue dedication.

Another useful website has come to my attention from our good friend and supporter in Virginia, Ganell Marshall. Up until now, Confederate service records have been difficult to come by. Some are located in the library at Paintsville, and thanks to the persistence of Carlos Brock, those for the 5th, the 13th, and some others are now located in the Perry County Library at Hazard. But, out-of-state service records could only be obtained by requesting them from the National Archives in Washington D. C. The fee for their service is \$25 per search and the waiting period is up to 90 days. The website known as footnote.com provides a service, for a fee of course. On this website, service records for Confederates from any state are available to be viewed and printed, if desired. The first 7 days of the service are free, and after that, the cost is \$60 per year, or so I'm told. Finding just one service record per month would be cheaper than one trip to the library for the same document! Already, during the first two days of my free trial, I've found and printed out complete service records for two Virginia Confederates, saving three months of my time and several dollars. Hoping that you will give this service a try, I remain, your humble servant and

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. The cost to join, is now \$45 (\$35 to National Headquarters and \$10 to Kentucky Headquarters). It is now time for current members to pay their dues of \$40. You have until November 1st to pay, then a five dollar late fee is applied.

The land owner where the Childers boys are buried at Red Fox, Wava Combs, has given the Caudill Camp permission to clean up that cemetery. Commander Smith has been in contact with her and has also cleaned some on the cemetery since our last meeting in

July. The cemetery is not very large, but has three Confederate soldiers and a Revolutionary War soldier buried there.

The Return of General John Hunt Morgan reenactment at Pound Gap, near Jenkins was held on the weekend of August 12th through 14th. The education day on Friday had approximately 125 students from two local elementary schools (Jenkins and Fleming Neon). The students were in groups and visited several stations, including infantry soldiers (Yank and Reb), artillery, history of Pound Gap battles using maps, history of Letcher County's involvement in the war, sutler (Wheel and Sabre), how period school's were done, local soldiers' stories in persona, camp sites and cooking. The Caudill Camp partnered once again with the Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come Drama to bring back the reenactment. The funding from the Letcher County Tourism Committee paid for almost all of the event, only a small amount of Camp money was used for the event (possibly none). Greg Bentley once again cooked for the event. He cooked meals all three days of the event, much to everyone's pleasure. I supplied a large load of firewood, bought the bales of hay from Builder's Supply, and some ice. Jerry Parsons was over-all commander. He portrayed General James Garfield on Saturday, then General John Hunt Morgan on Sunday. Many camp members participated and attended. Gary Begley and Kerry Crutcher from the Leatherwood group helped all weekend, supplying sandwich signs, message boards, direction signs plus helped with the Education Day. Raymond Isaacs once again worked all weekend registering and answering questions from everyone. On Saturday, the women's social went good, thanks to Miss Lily and the ladies from Virginia. The reenactment of Garfield's fight to take the Gap went great, the rain held off until the fighting was over. We had to scramble to help Anthony cover and protect his books. Several reenactors helped that night with the Drama, firing cannons and shooting rifles. On Sunday, Morgan's return to Kentucky went great, but it did rain halfway through the reenactment. Everyone watching said that the weather caused the muzzle flashes to look awesome. There were five cannons present: two from West Virginia, our own Little Jesse and Yankee Buster and a Williams gun from South Carolina.

We have been asked to set up a living history camp at Fleming Neon for their festival on Saturday, September 10th. Also, the Gingerbread Festival in Hindman wants us to come back again to help the DAV open their event on Thursday, September 8. The reenactment of the Battle of Middle Creek will also be held on the weekend of September 10th and 11th. The reenactment of the Battle of Leatherwood will be held on the weekend of October 21st through 23rd. This fall or winter would also be a good time to hold a dedication at the Childers cemetery at Red Fox.

Trivia Questions

1. What color flags were used to mark field hospitals?
2. What disease was especially common in the New Orleans area because of the swampy terrain?
3. What essential part of the soldier's camp often went unused?
4. In what Tennessee city did women band together to open a hospital called the Southern Mother's Society?

5. What name was given to the hospitals established by Congress at railroad junctions?
6. What important post was held by James Brown McGaw?
7. What was the specialty of the hospital in Kingston, Georgia?
8. Where was the Louisiana Hospital for mental patients?
9. About what percentage of battlefield injuries resulted from sabers and bayonets?
10. What name was given to the infections that usually followed any surgery?
11. What disease was often treated by eating the herb "sorrel"?
12. What was the only Southern medical school that remained opened throughout the war?

**Minutes of the Colonel Ben Caudill Camp No. 1629
July 21, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Colonel Ben Caudill Camp No. 1629, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, was held on Thursday, July 21, 2011 at the Military Museum in Whitesburg. In attendance were members Richard Smith, Anthony Hawkins, Mark Bowling, Lawrence Cook, Tim Shelby, Manton Ray Cornett, Randall Haddix, Buster Whitt, Richard Brown, Quenton Childers, Garland Kiser, Carlos Brock, Okie Blair, Raymond Isaacs, Leathan Whitaker, and Kenny Cantrell. Guest: Dan Estep and Cody Shelby

The meeting was called to order by Richard Brown. Quenton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and Garland led the Salute to the Confederate flag. Chaplain Lawrence Cook took prayer request, then offered the opening prayer, after which Adjutant Brown stated that we did have a quorum and that we could conduct official business. Everyone present then took part in the Ancestral Roll Call.

Richard Brown read the minutes from the last meeting. Manton made a motion that the minutes be accepted with minor corrections, Okie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Commander Smith welcomed everyone, including our guest, Dan Estep and Cody Shelby. He said that someone asked him if Barnes Christian had actually been killed by some of Caudill's men because he was a deserter. Everyone in attendance did not believe this to be the case due to several points. He also talked about the John Eldridge stone on Mill Branch. The commander asked if anyone had ever heard of any of Caudill's men being executed for any reason, but no one had ever heard of any. He said that he has temporarily lost the book entitled "Confederate Book of Arguments". The commander asked Lawrence if he knew how Marion Branch got its name. Lawrence said that the branch was first called Moore Branch but when Marion Ratliff married George Francisco's daughter and moved on the hollow, the name was changed. In a related story, Sam Ratliff and some more Confederates captured a Union man, or a deserter, at the end of the war, and when the men began to argue about who would execute him, Sam pulled out his pistol and shot him down.

The Lt. Commander thanked several people for helping set tombstones. He noted that Willis, Randall, Brett, Anthony and Garland had participated at the Wise reenactment. Also, several members of the Camp, Richard Smith, Richard Brown, David Brown,

Glenn Brown, Anthony Hawkins, Mark Bowling, Okie Blair, and Buster Whitt had participated in the Breaks Park Living History and reenactment. He said that the Camp had been well represented to the media recently as a reporter from the Hazard Herald went with them to a cemetery where the Camp had placed two Confederate headstones, taking pictures and placing an article in the paper. Also, the Letcher County Government Channel went to the Sandlick Cemetery to interview Richard Brown about the Confederate soldiers buried there. He brought the Camp up to date on the progress of the Wolfe Cemetery Monument, stating that the blank stone had been ordered by Appalachian Monument. Everyone liked the wording to be placed on the stone. He also gave instructions in the Newsletter on how to research your Confederate ancestors.

Richard Brown gave the Adjutant Report, noting that we have 52 members and that dues for the new year will start being collected at the next meeting (August 18). He also noted that the reenactment at Jenkins, Thunder on the Mountain, would be held on August 12 through 14, with Friday being an Educational Day. All members are urged to attend. The Tourism Commission has set aside money for the event.

Randall Haddix gave the Blacksmith Report, noting that Danny Estep had done a forge welding demonstration at the last meeting. They meet every 3rd Tuesday at Willis Strong's house. A new member is to do a knife making demonstration at the next meeting.

Carlos Brock gave the Stone-setting Report. He noted that the Camp had set 1,254 Confederate tombstones so far, of which 36 had been set this year. There are eight on the ground to be set and have five stones on order. He said that the trip to the Eli Boggs cemetery to set two Boggs soldier's tombstones had been a real interesting trip for him. In the past month, they set two in Magoffin County, two in Johnson County (the men killed at Jennies Creek), where, during the dedication, Randall did a presentation and Lawrence did a prayer. Carlos asked for help to set a tombstone that will have to be pulled up a steep hill in Shelby Branch in Letcher County, several camp members said that they would help.

Under New Business, Randall announced that he and Willis would be taking Little Jesse to Lancaster for a reenactment on the weekend of July 30 and 31. Buster announced that there was to be a dedication of his ancestor, David Whitt, near Raven and Richlands, Virginia on Sunday, July 24, some of the Camp will attend. Anthony announced that the National Headquarters had voted to cosign for the License Plates from the state. He also said that he was attempting to obtain a blank Confederate tombstone from Bailey Funeral Home. The location of the Revolutionary War soldier, James Webb, was discussed. An appreciation plaque was presented to Tim and Cody Shelby for them cutting the grass and maintaining the Pound Gap Monument. An Associate Member Certificate was presented to Danny Estep. An auction was held to raise money for the Camp. The next meeting (Thursday, August 18) will be held at the Childers cemetery at Red Fox where we will arrive early and clean up the cemetery (unless it is raining). Mark made a motion to adjourn, Quenton seconded, motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on August 18 at 6:30 PM, at the Childers Cemetery.

Answers to the Trivia Questions

1. Yellow. The flags often had a large "H" in the center also.
2. Yellow Fever.
3. The latrine. Most soldiers of the 1860s preferred to relieve themselves behind a tree or tent.
4. Memphis.
5. Way Hospitals. These were especially used by soldiers on medical furloughs.
6. Head of the Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, which he administered very well.
7. Men with severe venereal disease.
8. In Richmond, of all places.
9. About one percent.
10. Surgical Fevers.
11. Scurvy
12. The Medical College of Virginia, in Richmond.

From the Journal of Captain Edward Guarrant The Return of Colonel Ben Caudill Monday, August 15, 1864 Near Bulls Gap, East Tennessee

Head Quarters still in the walnut tree shade near Mr. Carter's. Captain George Adkins A.Q.M. 4th Kentucky returned from Abingdon this evening. Brought two month's of pay for his regiment. Also the report that Grant had left Richmond and General Lee also. Lee's army had passed thro' Richmond last Saturday and Sunday week. Sherman also whipped, but unpleasant rumors of reverses at Mobile. Yankees taken one of our forts and another blown up. Fears entertained for Mobile's safety. We have been accustomed to such a series of victories that any reverse almost disheartens us. No news from General Early. **Colonel Ben Caudill** exchanged and at Abingdon.

Financial Report

The Caudill Camp has approximately \$800.00 in our checking account. The final cost of the Thunder on the Mountain event should be finalized soon. The savings account has \$719.03 in it.

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. Old Business.
11. New Business/Open Floor
12. Trivia Questions
13. Adjourn