

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



DECEMBER 15, 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 December 15, 2011

According to our Camp By-Laws, this is the month for elections of Camp Officers. It's hard for me to believe that the Camp elected me to this position nearly four years ago. During my tenure, I've tried to lead when I could, follow when I should, and get out of the way when I didn't know what to do. But recently, due to increased responsibility at home, my presence at Camp functions has been sorely lacking. Now, even attendance at the monthly Camp meetings is becoming difficult to arrange. Of course, I can still communicate with the Camp via e-mails, telephone, and this newsletter. But, in my opinion, the Camp needs leaders, not cheerleaders. Therefore, when we get around to holding our Camp elections, I urge someone to step up and offer himself as a candidate for 1st Lieutenant Commander. Rest assured, whether I remain in this position or not, I will continue to do whatever I can to support the mission of this Camp for as long as I possibly can.

The progress of the Book Committee continues; and, at the current rate of progress, the Roster portion should be completed by the summer of 2012. As of this date, we're formatting the Combs'; that means we're more than 20% finished. Our last meeting was on November 21, and as of right now, we don't have another meeting scheduled. As soon as a dozen or so pages are formatted, they are shared with other committee members for their feedback. Most of that feedback has come from Carlos; he has done a lot of additional library research, allowing us to add a great deal of previously unknown information; mostly regarding the veterans' parents and spouses.

As usual, we have several headstones waiting to be placed, several requests pending, others being reviewed, and at least a couple almost ready to request. Thank you Faron, and thank you Carlos, for your dedication and determination in your research efforts. The degree of success that this Camp enjoys would not exist without you! Looking forward to seeing each of you, in Their Honor, I am privileged to be your

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 forty-seven 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 \$45, as a late fee of five dollars has now been applied.

The old cemetery that Abraham Childers, his son, and grandsons are buried in looks good from the road now. I am very proud of the hard work achieved by the Camp in cleaning it up. I would like to schedule a dedication for the soldiers buried there this fall or winter. When a date is decided on, we should contact the DAR and Knott and Letcher Counties' Historical Society.

On December 9, the Camp was represented by Glenn Brown, Wendell Brown, David Brown, Quenton Childers, Garland Kiser, Okie Blair, Wayne Watts and Richard Brown at the Christmas in our Hometown event in Whitesburg. They set up a period correct Confederate Christmas camp in front of the new Health Department Building. A Christmas tree, tent, cooking equipment, tables, chairs, lanterns and a fire was set up. The cannon was fired to announce the arrival of Santa Claus. The Christmas tree (supplied by Wayne Watts) had plenty of old fashion decorations, including freshly baked gingerbread men made by Freda Brown Campbell. A large pot of soup beans (cooked by Glenda Brown) was placed in a pot over the fire and given out. Also, ham and cheese sandwiches were made over the fire, popcorn popped in an old fashion popper, and biscuits on a stick made. Several kids, and a few adults, roasted marshmallows over the fire. The Camp has been asked to do the same thing at the Christmas in the Park at Kingscreek at 5 pm on Friday, December 16 (at the Kingscreek Park, not far from the firehouse). All camp members are invited to attend. Glenda will once again fix soup beans to put over the fire.

Trivia Questions

1. What was the purpose of the famous "Imboden Raid" in spring of 1863?
2. What noted Confederate locomotive is found in Atlanta's Cyclorama museum?
3. Why were Civil War photographers unable to take action shots?
4. Who was the "photographer of the Confederacy"?
5. When Confederate troops were sketched by a Union artist in June 1861, where was the artist sitting?
6. What was a carte de visite?
7. Who was the only Confederate photographer to take numerous photos of Rebel soldiers in the field?
8. What official first proposed a direct tax on income?
9. According to the Confederate Constitution, what type of tax was to fund the federal treasury?
10. What was the highest income tax bracket for the Confederacy?

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

The monthly meeting of the Colonel Ben Caudill Camp No. 1629, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, was held on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the Letcher County Military Museum in Whitesburg. In attendance were members Richard Smith, Mark Bowling, Richard Brown, Carlos Brock, Okie Blair, Wendell Brown, Kenny Cantrell, Randall Haddix, and Danny Estep.

The meeting was called to order by Richard Brown. Danny then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and Richard Smith led the Salute to the Confederate flag. Commander Smith took prayer request, then offered the opening prayer, after which Richard 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. Kenny gave an update on his mother.

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

Commander Smith welcomed everyone, and said that Elder Solomon Hampton (Caudill's army soldier) married Margaret Maggard, and operated a mill on Carbon Glow. He was kicked by a mule and died from the injuries. His wife, Margaret, also died a tragic death when she tripped and fell, having a smoking pipe in her mouth that killed her. The commander will be attending the Letcher County Fiscal Court meeting to ask the court to name the old hollows and branches back to their original names. He has a petition signed by people in Whitaker Branch to change theirs back. He said that he had participated in a veteran's event at the Veteran's Home in Hazard. He has continued to hear good reports about the Caudill Camp.

The Lt. Commander was not present therefore his comments were read.

Adjutant Brown gave the adjutant report, reminding everyone about the upcoming Christmas events. Randall gave the Blacksmith Report, noting that their meeting is at Willis Strong's house at the head of Combs' Branch near Dwarf. Their meeting had a pot-luck dinner and Danny did a demonstration; meeting are on the third Tuesday of each month. Carlos gave the book committee report, noting that they had two meetings so far at the Perry County Library, on every other Tuesday at 1:30 pm. They are adding information on parents and wives, but Faron suggested no children in the book. Carlos gave the stone report, 1,272 stones set, 54 this year, ten on the ground and 19 ordered (14 for the Sandlick Cemetery); since the last meeting six stones were set. It was noted that there were three known original Confederate stones in Letcher County. Randall gave the reenactment report, noting that Leatherwood went well; they are needing more committee members if any camp member is interested. They will have a meeting on Sunday at 3pm at the Miniard cabin. The Commander noted that he thought the gun-handling safety was improved. Okie has a 16' flag pole for the Nancy Back Cemetery and will put a Confederate flag on it. Talked about a possible Christmas party, it was suggested that everyone come to the Whitesburg Christmas event and eat there.

An auction was held to raise money for the Camp. Richard Brown asked the Trivia Questions. Okie made a motion for the meeting to adjourn, Kenny seconded, motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 PM, at the Military Museum in Whitesburg.

Answers to the Trivia Questions

1. Cutting the lines of the important Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and capturing livestock for the army, General John Imboden led the raid.
2. The Texas, used to chase the Union spies in the “Great Locomotive Chase” after the stolen “General”.
3. Photography at that time required long exposures, so only still shots were feasible.
4. George Smith Cook, noted for his dramatic pictures of Fort Sumter.
5. In a balloon, the first use of aerial reconnaissance in America.
6. The 1860s version of a wallet size photo, about 2x4. Many soldiers posed for them before they went off to war.
7. Jay Edwards.
8. Secretary of the Treasury Christopher Memminger.
9. An export tax on tobacco and cotton.
10. For incomes over \$10,000, the rate was 15 percent.

From the Journal of Captain Edward Guerrant Thursday, December 15, 1864 Saltville, Virginia (prelude to the 2nd Battle of Saltville)

At Saltville, in line of battle, waiting and watching for Burbridge, whom comes after salt. General Cosby sent me with the Brigade to post it in position on the hills about Blackford's Mill west of Saltville. He remained to see General Breckinridge who arrived by railroad this morning, also General Echols. On our road to West Saltville, I met the detachment under Col. Giltner, or the “convalescents”, who did not go to the Valley. Our boys (who are distinguished as “Valley Veterans”)presumed to entertain a great contempt for these Western Virginia Rebels, who never saw the Natural Bridge, or Jackson's Grave or the Shenandoah, or Jubal or his army, or the Hot Springs or a heap of things “too numerous to mention”. Met Arch Smith, just from Kentucky and Lt. Adcock, & Bayless and many of the lately returned soldiers of 4th Kentucky and the new issue, “**Caudille's Rangers**” and all. With Capt. Mat. Johnson, we selected a position to meet the enemy on the right and left of the high bridge.

Things look mighty blue in the old Department. It seems to be given over to the despoiler. Nothing opposes his progress outside of Saltville-- R. R. lead mines, stores all at his mercy.

Financial Report

The Caudill Camp has approximately \$252.03 in our checking account. The savings account has \$811.22 in it. From our checking's, we will owe Rokie at least \$250 or more for the stone for Wolfe Cemetery.

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