

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



**OCTOBER 20, 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**



**Col. Ben Caudill Camp**  
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## **From the Quarters of the 1st Lt. Commander October 20, 2011**

We've seen progress in a number of ways during this past month. The decisions reached in our Executive Committee meeting on September 15 included the decision to proceed with the writing and publication of a book on the men and history of the 13<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry. Since then, the discussion of this topic has been lively, particularly among members of the Research Committee. We look forward to forming whatever group is needed to do the actual work and getting started. This will be a perfect way to continue to honor our Confederate ancestors as we take our winter "break" from our headstone-setting activities

Speaking of headstones, there has been a flurry of activity during the past week. Nine stones have been placed in six different counties, ranging from Letcher County to Greenup County, and six different Camp Members were involved in the travels. Not surprisingly, Carlos Brock was there for all nine!

Britt Smith is to be congratulated on a successful living history presentation for the Robinson Elementary students at Ary. Students learned about camp life, weapons and flags from "back in the day". And, they were certainly all wide-awake after Willis and Randall fired "Little Jesse" for them. Their teachers seemed well satisfied and they all expressed appreciation for our efforts.

"Little Jesse" and a diminished cannon crew made noise and smoke in reenactments at Barbourville and Camp Wildcat. Thanks to Willis, Randall and Britt for flying the Caudill flag at those events. The only reenactment of the season is Leatherwood, and this camp usually turns out in record numbers for that event.

Looking forward to honoring our Confederate ancestors, any way we can, I am honored 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 fifty-three 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 1<sup>st</sup> to pay, then a five dollar late fee is 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.

Several members of the Camp opened the Haymond Reunion at Ramey Fork, near Fleming Neon on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. We fired Yankee Buster to open, and twice more at the request of the committee. The weather was cold and wet. Camp members present were: Glenn Brown, Richard Brown, Quenton Childers, Garland Kiser and Kenny Cantrell.

The reenactment of the Battle of Leatherwood will be held on the weekend of October 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. Friday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, will be an Education Day with several schools expected to send students. The battle will be fought at 2 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. All Camp members are urged to participate in, or support this event. Not only is it local, the Leatherwood committee helped us with our Jenkins event. On November 10 (Thursday), the Military Museum has asked the Camp to help them with a military tribute of Veteran's Day. Usually this is on November 11, but the high school has asked the veterans to attend their observance at the school (feeding them and attending a rally). I have been asked to be the keynote speaker at the high school event, mostly to discuss the War Between the States in Kentucky and allowed to honor both Union and Confederate veterans. In December, the Camp has been asked to participate in Christmas in the Park at Whitesburg and Kingscreek.

### **Trivia Questions**

1. When Tennesseans complained to Union General Sherman (boo!) about his closing of the railroads to civilians, what alternate plan did he propose to them?
2. When the Rebel soldiers were paroled at the end of the war, what was the chief obstacle in getting back home?
3. What did the Southern railroads "not" use when the war ended?
4. How were 22 Union men able to board the Confederate train the "General" before they seized it?
5. What was the standard width of railway tracks in the South?
6. How far did Jefferson Davis travel to reach Montgomery, Alabama from Jackson Mississippi, normally a 250 mile trip?
7. What was the average speed of a train in the South?
8. What city had the Confederacy's only facilities for making railroad rails?
9. What railroad was crucial to the Confederate's control of Virginia?
10. What brought the Union's daring Locomotive Chase to a halt?

### **Minutes of the Colonel Ben Caudill Camp No. 1629 September 15, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Colonel Ben Caudill Camp No. 1629, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, was held on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at the Letcher County Military Museum in Whitesburg. In attendance were members Richard Smith, Mark Bowling, Manton Ray Cornett, Randall Haddix, Richard Brown, Quenton Childers,

Carlos Brock, Okie Blair, Willis Strong, Garland Kiser, Kenny Cantrell, Britt Smith, Buster Whitt and Danny Estep.

The meeting was called to order by Richard Brown. Manton then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and Britt 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.

Richard Brown read the minutes from the last meeting. Mark 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 Howard Swarts, an old friend to the Camp, has an original message from Colonel John S. Williams to General Marshall, and is willing to donate it to the museum. He thanked the cannon crews for representing the Caudill Camp at so many events. He strongly discouraged anyone from giving a copy of the Caudill Army Roster to anyone outside the Camp. He also talked about the proposed book about Caudill's Army, noting that the Executive Committee had voted to go forward with the book. The Committee also voted for the Camp to obtain a Poor-Man's Copyright of the Roster (mailing a copy back to ourselves, and not opening). They also discouraged anyone from writing a letter to the government complaining about the tombstones, as we are on good relations with the people that okay the stones (Veteran's Affairs). Randall noted that he heard that the Poor-Man's Copyright is no longer valid, we will need to check on this. The Commander thinks, that in the best interest of the Camp, that anyone has a problem with the Camp, to please first approach Camp officers instead of going outside the Camp.

The Lt. Commander said that he noticed that the Childers' Cemetery can now be seen from the main highway, looks good. He said that the cannon crews did a great job at both the Gingerbread Festival and Middle Creek. He noted that we should have plenty of stones to set when the snow starts flying. He said that the website to search soldier rosters was [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) (in honor of the third fold of the flag) Camp will pay Manton back for the website cost. Buster will give Manton four soldiers that need tombstones.

The Second Commander Willis thanked several people for helping set tombstones. He said that they enjoyed the Middle Creek reenactment, and while there, someone came up to him and thanked the Camp for placing a tombstone for his ancestor.

Adjutant Brown gave the adjutant report, reminding everyone that dues of \$40 is now due. Danny and Richard Smith said that they would go back to the Childers Cemetery and finish cleaning it up. Randall gave the Blacksmith Report, stating that the next meeting would be Tuesday at Willis' house. They will be setting up at Barbourville for the reenactment there. He noted that he believes we should be willing to galvanize at the reenactments to help support our ancestors by making the two sides equal. At this Commander Smith noted that veterans from both sides met at their reunions. Manton and Carlos both agreed with Randall. Willis also noted that someone using a backhoe to dig a septic tank about three miles from the Middle Creek battlefield uncovered three cannon balls.

Carlos Brock gave the Stone-setting Report. He noted that the Camp had set 1,258 Confederate tombstones so far, of which 40 had been set this year. There are eight on the ground to be set and have eight stones on order.

**Under New Business**, Britt announced that he was doing a living history at the Home place Clinic on October 7 and invited everyone to help him. Richard Brown is to supply the flags to Manton for a flag class there. Manton also commended Britt for his work on trying to educate other students about our ancestors and the war. Richard noted that the Mountain Heritage committee wanted the Camp to fire Yankee Buster to start the parade on September 24 at 11 am (be there before 10 am). Quenton wants everyone to try to call one another when there is a death in the Camp's circle of family. Kenny noted that the Haymond Reunion at Ramey's Fork wants the Camp to attend and fire the cannon for them, be there by 11 am. Manton noted that the Camp's by-laws should be updated to show that eight, instead of twelve members present, form a quorum. An auction was held to raise money for the Camp. Richard Brown asked the Trivia Questions. Manton made a motion for the meeting to adjourn, Kenny seconded, motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20 at 6:30 PM, at the Military Museum in Whitesburg.

### **Answers to the Trivia Questions**

1. Moving people and supplies by wagon train.
2. The horrid condition, thanks to the Federals, of the railroads.
3. Timetables, which would have been absolutely useless thanks to the condition of the railways.
4. They boarded as ordinary passengers and captured the engine while the crew was eating breakfast.
5. There wasn't one, which was one of the key problems in the Confederacy transport system, however, the Union had one standard gauge.
6. It took him 750 miles. Thanks to poor rail connections in the South.
7. About twelve miles per hour.
8. Richmond.
9. The Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) which had 188 miles of track in Virginia.
10. The hijacked Confederate train, the General, had run out of fuel. The hijackers took to the woods.

**From the Journal of Captain Edward Guerrant  
Thursday, October 20, 1864  
Near Newburn, Pulaski County, Virginia  
(on march to the Shenandoah Valley to support General Early)**

Humphrey Marshall, Jr. Tom Bayless, George M. Peter Everette compose Mess No. 1 at Headquarters. A rare mess for cooks. Got a spider in their boiled beef this morning. George refused to eat. Said it would turn his stomach. Humphrey said his stomach was good on both sides if it did turn, therefore he went for the beef. Moved at 7:30 this

morning. The Cosby Brigade in front, 12 miles to Christiansburg. March today through poor country. Passed through Christiansburg about 11am an old full grown town, tho' not larger than Sharpsburg. Has a very large female college, where 50 girls stood in the porch and waved white handkerchiefs, while the Kentucky boys (having none to wave back) shouted lustily. Major Tenney at the head of the column much pleased. Christiansburg on level summit of Alleghany Mountains ascent so gradual the men didn't know it. Five miles beyond Christiansburg, left the macadamized road, blockaded, and took to the left down a very rough country to the Eastern foot of the great Alleghanies. In its descent only did we know to what height we had risen. We fell upon the head of a small tributary of the classic Roanoke, which we followed down to that river and encamped.

### **Financial Report**

The Caudill Camp has approximately \$1,392.03 in our checking account, but \$1,000 of this is for our dues. On a strange and unexpected note, Jackie Branham of the 29<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry only recently cashed the check that we wrote them over a year ago, last August, for having the largest reenacting group at the 2010 Thunder on the Mountain reenactment. The savings account has \$811.22 in it. From our checkings, we will owe Rokie at least \$250 or more for the stone for Wolfe Cemetery. (note: Rokie has been in the hospital recently)

### **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