



The Army Argus
Quarterly Newsletter for
the
Sterling Price Camp #145
Sons of Confederate
Veterans
January-March 2008



Charge to the Sons

"To you Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will submit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

Lieutenant General Stephen Dill Lee

Salute to the Confederate Flag

"I salute the Confederate flag, with affection, reverence, and undying devotion to the Cause for which it stands."

Meeting Notice

The Camp meets the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of July and August. We meet at Culpepper's in the TGIF complex two blocks west of I-270. Social hour starts at 6:30 and the meeting commences at 7:00. Wives and guests always welcome.

Commander's Column

First of All I would like to thank Past Commander Jim England for his seven (7) years of faithful service to the Camp and to the organization. It has truly been a pleasure working under and with him, and I hope to continue that tradition if he is elected Division Commander at the upcoming MO Division Convention later this month (March 28th/29th). In any event I know that we will enjoy his support as a regular member and as a Past-Commander of the Camp. I would also like to thank Adjutant Jim Hubbard and Lt. Commander Art Robinson for their past service to the Camp, and look forward to continue working with each of them as they continue their duties as Adjutant and Lt. Commander. I would also like to welcome Dale Wiseman aboard as 1st Lt. Commander. Dale has been a faithful member of the Camp for a number of years. As some of you already know, Dale is also the recent Past-Commander of the MO Division of Am-Vets.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention other duties and members who have taken on additional responsibilities in the Camp. We have formed a Programs Committee (Dale Wiseman, Art Robinson, Jim Hubbard, Glenn Edwards, and anyone else that comes up with a good idea for a good program). Compatriot Ed Hamm has generously volunteered to become the Camp Historian and Scrapbook Keeper. Ed started his duties as Scrapbook Keeper last Fall at

the dedication of the Sterling Price Tree Marker in Tower Grove Park, and at the Florissant Veterans Day Parade in November in which the Price Camp participated at the invitation of the Utz Camp. Both turned out to be very good events. In addition, Ed has been working with our new Camp Webmaster, Andy Lewis, who is doing a great job of getting our Camp website into top shape. Another unit that we have formed is the Honor Guard/Color Guard Committee which is headed up by Compatriot Ray Cobb. Several of our members have volunteered to participate in the Honor Guard/Color Guard and Ray is doing a great job of organizing the unit. We will be making use of their services in events such as Confederate Memorial Day, Veteran Day Parades, etc. In addition Ray has also agreed to serve as the Sergeant-at-Arms at our meetings (so don't get rowdy or you could be in trouble with Sgt. Ray!).

Other committees that we have formed are the Headstone & Monument Committee, chaired by Adjutant Jim Hubbard. Jim also heads up the Newsletter Committee and he will be glad to have help from anyone else that is interested or has something to contribute. The Membership & Genealogical Committee is headed up by Lt. Commander Art Robinson. However, we should all consider ourselves as part of the membership committee as we should all be on the lookout for (as the Marines say) "a few good men" who want to uphold the good name and memory of our Confederate ancestors, and to tell and spread the true history of the South and it's struggle for independence. One other Camp Officer position that needs to be filled is that of Chaplain. If anyone would be willing to serve as Camp Chaplain please let me know.

I think that we have gotten the new year off to a good start. In fact even before the start of the new year, just after Christmas, several Camp members participated in a Camp fund raising event at the Tilles Park Christmas Light Display by manning the "toll booth"

for the St. Louis Parks Department and spent several hours one evening collecting fares from vehicles going through the annual Christmas Light Display. The Camp's participation in the event was organized by Adjutant Jim Hubbard which netted the Camp \$500 for its work at the event. Other Camp members who participated in the event were Past-Commander Jim England, Paul Strong, Glenn Edwards, Ed Hamm, Camp Associate & UDC member Sheri Horton, and myself.

Several Camp members attended the Division annual Lee/Jackson Dinner in Springfield, MO on Jan. 19th at which the SCV Chaplain-in-Chief Cecil Fayard was the Guest Speaker. Chaplain Fayard gave a very interesting and rousing speech on the "Connection Between George Washington and Robert E. Lee". His pre-speech tales of his ancestral French/Cajun connection was quite humorous, and his after speech rendition of Dixie was also quite rousing! We also had a very good speaker at our February Camp meeting. Tom Rafner, gave a very interesting and informative talk on the effects of Order No. 11 on the families in western Missouri, in particular Cass County, that were affected by the Order. He had done quite a bit of research on specific families and where they had gone initially and where some of them eventually ended up after the war.

The Camp sponsored "Trivia Night" fundraiser on Saturday, March 1st turned out to be a fun experience for all who attended. The Camp realized approximately \$365 as a result of this effort. These fundraisers will go a long way toward helping pay for some of the markers and memorials that the Camp is installing and dedicating. Again, our "hats off" and appreciation to Adjutant Jim Hubbard and his efforts to organize and "get the ball rolling" in this endeavor. Many thanks also to all of the other Camp members who participated and/or donated items for the silent auction and door prizes, as well as to those that assisted with making the event a success. Hopefully we can make

this an even bigger and better event next year if we can get more of our members to participate and get involved in helping promote the event! Boy, what we could do with \$1000 or so!

Other upcoming events that each of you are encouraged to participate in are the previously mentioned MO Division Convention/Reunion on March 28th & 29th in Blue Springs, MO. It's not late to register if you haven't already, and it's a good opportunity to fellowship with fellow Compatriots from all across the state. A registration form and details on an excellent speaker program can be found on page 6 of the January 2008 edition of the Division newsletter "The Missouri Confederate". And, as previously indicated, this is also an election year for new Missouri Division officers.

Additionally there are some upcoming events that you may want to plan for: The Utz Camp is having it's annual Confederate Memorial Day event on 27 April at Fee Fee Cemetery in Bridgeton. The Price Camp has been invited to attend and participate by Utz Commander Bob Arnold. More details on that event will be forthcoming; and the Price Camp CMD is scheduled this year for Saturday morning May 17th (10:00 AM). This year's event will be held at Calvary Cemetery and we will be dedicating monuments to Col. Joseph Kelly (Kelly's Battery, artillery), and a monument for Mrs. John (Mary Kennerly) Bowen, wife of Gen. John S. Bowen. We are also hoping to obtain an "in memory of" VA marker for Gen. Bowen to be placed beside the marker for Mrs. Bowen. Keep your fingers crossed on this one!

That's about all for now! We hope to see as many of you at as many Camp meetings as you can make. And, in order to make the Camp grow, and for SCV membership to be as meaningful to you as possible, we need each of you to participate and get as involved as much you can in making the

Camp the best it can be. It is up to each of us to carry out the "Charge".

Salute, your obedient servant,
HAL FLEMING
Commander

We Did It!

Kudos to the Missouri Division on the wonderful job raising the money to dedicate a flagpole to Missouri troops at the Confederate Memorial Park in Point Lookout, Maryland. As the Price and Hughes Camp spearheaded this effort with help from the Shelby, Parsons, Anderson, Searcy and Gates Camps as well as a number of individual contributions we managed to turn this effort around in six months to raise the \$2,000.00 required to sponsor the Missouri flagpole. The dedication ceremony is slated for September 6, 2006 and Mrs. Buck would like anyone wishing to attend the dedication to contact her at plpow@verizon.net.

Fundraising Efforts

On Tuesday, December 27 Jim England, Ed Hamm, Glenn Edwards, Paul Strong, Sheri Horton and Jim Hubbard gathered at Tilles Park to collect money from cars at the Winter Wonderland event. It was one of their busiest nights of the season and the rangers had a number of positive comments about the professional manner in which the money was collected and the cars passed through the exit gate. They stated that the line flowed smoother than it had for any other night thus far this season. The efforts of these volunteers netted the Camp \$500.00 for the treasury.

On Saturday, March 1, 2008 Dale and Carol Wiseman, Jim and Carol England, Dan Maltman, Ed and Barb Hamm, Jim and Jeannie Hubbard, Paul Strong, Ken Davidson, Kim Segser and Lauren Brown were present to conduct a Trivia Night at VFW Post 2866. Members Andy Lewis,

Steve Stephenson and Hal Fleming as well as Utz Camp compatriot Bob Arnold and his wife helped by organizing teams to compete in the event. At the end of the evening the second and third place teams (headed by compatriots Stevenson and Fleming respectively) donated their second and third place prizes back to the Camp. At the conclusion of this event the Camp had a net gain of \$355.00 to add to the treasury.

Finally a big thank you to Compatriot and former Commander Jim England for his generous contribution of \$500.00 to the Price Camp treasury.

Confederate Memorial Day

Confederate Memorial Day will take place at 10:00 on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at Calvary Cemetery in north St. Louis. The Price Camp has spearheaded the charge to mark the unmarked graves of the widow of Major General John S. Bowen, Mary Kennerly Bowen, their daughter Anna Beauregard Bowen and Colonel Joseph Kelly. Additionally Joseph Boyce, Confederate veteran and founder of the Missouri Historical Society will be honored as well. Mr. Boyce had been in an unmarked grave not far from the others but his family has marked his grave recently.

We would like to thank Gene Dressel for his efforts in locating these graves as well as Doug Harding and Mike Pierce for their efforts over the years to bring closure to these Confederate citizens. Anyone who wishes to may join us for lunch at Maggie O'Brien's at Union Station. The restaurant sits just south of Union Station and a few blocks from St. John the Apostle and Evangelist church that was erected through the efforts of Father John Bannon and Colonel Kelly. Everyone attending will pick up their own tab but Maggie O'Brien's has asked us to provide a head count so that they can staff appropriately so if you are interested in joining us please contact Jim

Hubbard at (636) 949-0651 or via e-mail at hubbardjim@hotmail.com.

Lee and Grant Exhibit at the Missouri Historical Society



The exhibit on Generals Lee and Grant will be featured at the Missouri Historical Society in Forest Park. The event is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 24th, 2008 and will run through Sunday, September 7, 2008. This event was organized by the Virginia Historical Society and has received wonderful reviews from spectators around the country.

Both generals lived in the St. Louis area at one point in their lives. Robert E. Lee was instrumental in keeping the St. Louis riverfront where it was with an ingenious construction of wing dikes that prevented the Mississippi River from changing course. He rented his apartment from William Clark of Lewis and Clark fame while he resided in our fair city.

Lee went on to greater fame during the Mexican War as well as in the War Between the States. Following the war Lee served as president of Washington University in southwest Virginia until his death in 1870.

The University was later named Washington and Lee University in his honor.

The Confederate Next Door

CSA Scout Dewitt Jobe Died a Horrible Death

By MIKE WEST Managing Editor,
Murfreesboro Post

Most Rutherford County school children have at least been exposed to the story of Sam Davis, “the boy hero of the Confederacy.” Davis was a member of Coleman’s Scouts, a unit that worked behind Union lines collecting and delivering information and disrupting Union operations in Middle Tennessee. Davis was apprehended and executed after refusing to divulge the source of the information he was carrying. His last words still resonate:

“If I had a thousand lives to live, I would give them all, rather than betray a friend or my country.”

Less glamorous is the story of another Coleman Scout, Dewitt Smith Jobe and his two cousins, Dee Smith and Thomas Benton Smith. These cousins were natives of the Mechanicsville community located between the now thriving Sam Ridley Parkway retail area and Almadale. Each joined the Army of Tennessee. Dewitt S. Jobe was a scout. His father, Elihu C. Jobe, was a cabinet maker and farmer in Mechanicsville. He was also known for his coffins. Dee Smith was with the 45th Tennessee. Thomas Benton Smith was a “boy” general with the 20th Tennessee.

Each met a tragic – horrible – end at the hands of Federal troops.

DeWitt Smith Jobe enlisted in 1861 and became part of Company B of the 20th Tennessee Regiment commanded by Col. Joel Battle and his cousin Thomas B. Smith.

He was wounded and captured at the Battle of Fishing Creek and fought at Stones River. Jobe was hand-picked as a scout about the time Maj. Gen. Braxton Bragg began his retreat out of Middle Tennessee and into Georgia.



General Thomas Benton Smith

As a scout, Jobe did escape the doldrums of routine military life, but his new role with the Army of Tennessee was far more dangerous. Many of the members of Coleman’s Scouts were shot, killed or imprisoned. And each of the Scouts knew about Sam Davis’ end on the Union gallows near Pulaski, Tenn.

In August 1864, Jobe and fellow scout Tom Joplin were far behind Union lines and reconnoitering near College Grove, Triune and Nolensville. On Monday, Aug. 29, Jobe was hiding in a cornfield after eating breakfast at the home of a family between Triune and Nolensville. He had an important message hidden on his person. With Yankee patrols in the area, the Confederate was hiding during the day and traveling at night.

Unfortunately, he was spotted by a patrol of 15 men from the 115th Ohio Regiment of the Union Army of the Cumberland. Seeing that he was about to be captured, Jobe tore up the note and began to chew and swallow it.

Angered by the near miss, the Union patrol first threatened Jobe and then began to torture him in an effort to get the scout to divulge the content of the dispatch.

The Ohio troops first hanged Jobe from a bridle rein and then pistol-whipped him, knocking out some of his teeth. "Bound and disarmed, helpless and bleeding, Jobe revealed nothing. They were dealing with a man in gray who held the welfare of the Confederacy above his life," wrote Ed Huddleston in "The Civil War in Middle Tennessee.

"The torture went on. The Yanks were whooping now, yelling so loudly that they could be heard at a distant farmhouse. "They put out Jobe's eyes. Perhaps then it was that Jobe heaped epithets upon them. How much courage did it take to do what they did then? They cut out Jobe's tongue," Huddleston wrote. The Union patrol finished off Jobe by dragging him to death behind his own galloping horse.

The event is not mentioned in Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, but was preserved in Jobe family oral history and letters and books like Bromfield Ridley's "Battles and Sketches of the Army of Tennessee." Former Rutherford County Historian Mabel Pittard has done the most exhaustive work on Coleman's Scouts. A Tennessee Historical Marker between Nolensville and Triune commemorates Jobe's death:

"DeWitt Smith Jobe, a member of Coleman's Scouts, CSA, was captured in a cornfield about 1 1/2 miles west, Aug. 29, 1864, by a patrol from the 115th Ohio Cavalry. Swallowing his dispatches, he was mutilated and tortured to make him reveal the contents. Refusing, he was dragged to death behind a galloping horse. He is buried in the family cemetery six miles northeast."

At the time, news of his torture spread quickly. It pushed his cousin, Dee Smith, to

exact his own bloody revenge. Smith was with the 45th Tennessee, commanded by Col. Anderson Searcy of Murfreesboro, when he heard of his cousin's murder. In the words of the day, Smith left his regiment near Chattanooga and rode back to Middle Tennessee and raised the "black flag." He would give no quarter and swore to kill any Yankee who crossed his path.

Smith was a quiet killer who did his work with a butcher knife.

It was said, he used that knife to slit the throats of 14 Union soldiers while they slept in their tents near Tullahoma. Dee Smith's personal war continued for nearly two months during which he killed as many as 50 Yankees before he was captured.

"At last they surrounded him near Nolensville, Tennessee, and shot him. Afterwards they brought him twenty miles from Nolensville to Murfreesboro," wrote Ridley in his "Battles and Sketches."

"Although in excruciating pain when the doctors probed his wounds, he said that he would die before his enemies should see him flinch. Fortunately, he died before noon of the next day, at which time he was to be hanged." There's no indication that the soldiers from the 115th Ohio were punished for the atrocity. Legend says the sergeant in charge of the Union patrol "became a raving maniac." And for those who believe in such things, there was a bit of karmic justice meted out to the soldiers of the 115th Ohio. A number of them were captured and sent to the horrific Rebel prison at Andersonville, Ga.

Other soldiers from the unit died in the Sultana Disaster on April 27, 1865. The Sultana, a side-wheeler, steam river boat, was loaded with Union soldiers headed from Memphis to Cairo, Ill. Just north of Memphis, the river boat exploded in the worst maritime tragedy in U.S. history. An estimated 1,700 died, including a number of

soldiers from the 115th Ohio.

As for Dee Jobe's other cousin, Thomas Benton Smith, he took part in some of the bloodiest fighting of the Civil War as an officer with the 20th Tennessee Infantry during Shiloh, Stones River, Chickamauga, Atlanta, Franklin and Nashville.

At Shiloh, the regiment sustained 50 percent casualties and Col. Joel Battle was taken prisoner. Smith was elected to replace him. He was shot through the chest and left arm at Stones River where his brother, John, was killed carrying the regimental colors.

He was wounded again at Chickamauga, and at Missionary Ridge he was named brigade commander after Col. Tyler was wounded. During the Atlanta campaign, he was promoted to brigadier general in time for the Battle of Franklin, which he escaped unscathed.

Then came Nashville. On Dec. 16, 1864, the Army of Tennessee formed a new line with Smith's brigade and the remnant of the 20th Tennessee stretching from a peach orchard to a prominence later called Shy's Hill. Following a heavy artillery bombardment, the Union army attacked and swept the field.

Col. William Shy was killed and Smith was captured. As he was being led to the rear by Federal troops, Smith was accosted by Col. William Linn McMillan of the 95th Ohio. McMillan, who had been a Columbus, Ohio, newspaperman before the war, was said to be intoxicated either from spirits or the intensity of the battle. He began to curse Smith, who responded, "I am a disarmed prisoner." That enraged McMillan who drew his saber and struck Smith three times in the head. The sword cut through his hat and battered his skull open so that the Confederate officer's brain was exposed. Federal troops restrained McMillan and rushed Smith to a Union surgeon, who remarked:

"Well, you are near the end of your battles, for I can see the brain oozing through the gap in your skull."

Smith did survive the attack and was transferred to a Federal prisoner of war camp at Fort Warren, Mass.

He was only 27 when paroled at the end of the war. He returned to his job with the railroad and even unsuccessfully ran for U.S. Congress.

Then waves of depression began to sweep over Smith. Physicians attributed the bouts to his head injury. In 1886, he was admitted to the Tennessee State Asylum in Nashville. The facility, later known as Central State Psychiatric Hospital, was located on the site of the current Dell Computer's campus.

Smith did make several attempts to resume life outside the asylum, but it was to be his home for most of the rest of his long life. He did get to participate in reunions and other events sponsored by the 20th Tennessee.

"Confederate Veteran" magazine recorded one of those outings in 1910:

"At a recent reunion of the 20th Tennessee Regiment at Nashville, Tenn., in the beautiful Centennial Park where was held the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897, Gen. Thomas Benton Smith, an early commander of the regiment, who has been in the Tennessee Insane Asylum nearly ever since the war from a saber cut on the head after he surrendered in the battle of Nashville, was in command for a drill and short parade. The regiment was formed as a company, and the drill master, though now somewhat venerable, although he is said to have been the youngest brigadier general in the Confederacy, carried the men through the manual of Hardee's tactics as if half a century were half a year.

"General Smith was self-poised, as full of the animation of the old days as could be

imagined. When they stood at "Right dress! Eyes right!" he said: "Throw them sticks down; you don't need them!" A picture of that scene and a repetition of all he said would be most pleasing. General Smith has times of deep depression, and is sad over his long "imprisonment", but he is always happy at Confederate gatherings, and is still

a magnificent specimen of Confederate manhood."

Smith died May 21, 1923. At age 85 he was one of the last surviving Confederate generals despite the mental wounds that plagued him for nearly 60 years.