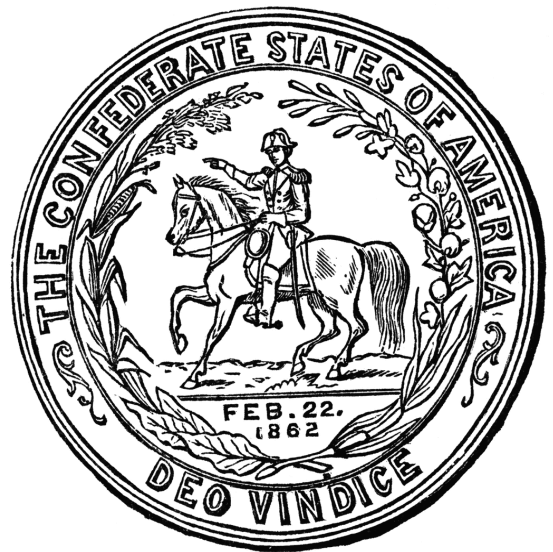


Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys
SCV Camp 2278

January 2023
Volume 4 Issue 1





Commanders' Report

By Commander Billy Bryant

It has not only been an honor, but a privilege to serve Central Platoon for the last 6 years as your Lieutenant. I have seen our squad grow beyond expectations. We have gone from just over 20 to just under 100. I want to thank each one of you that were a part of this. Your dedication and ability to put drama aside and live the charge is unmatched. I look forward to the next 2 years and have full faith Lt. Bruce Warren and his new staff of officers will do a great job. Again, thank you for your support.

Billy Bryant

Billy Bryant

What a year 2022 was for our camp. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and will have a safe, prosperous New Year.

If you follow our camps page and activities you know there are 2 really big events we focus on. One is the Veterans Christmas and the other is Camp RAD.

Camp RAD is for kids that suffer from Muscular Dystrophy. Each year Bridgette Lupe and others host this camp. It has become one of our favorites. We have all other fundraisers behind us and THIS is our next one. It cost an average of \$300 per child to attend camp. Last year our camp raised \$7000.00 to send 23 kids with MD that otherwise would not have the opportunity. We also have a big ride down there the opening day of camp to visit with the kids and let them checkout all the motorcycles. Camp is usually in July but we have already started taking donations. WE WANT EVERY CHILD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO. There will be more info on exact date but until then, if you are able to help us achieve our goal it will be greatly appreciated. For those that donate, we can provide you with a tax exempt donation letter aswell. Thank you.

MORE TO COME SOON...



Meeting Minutes January 2023 Camp Adjutant- Chris Bryant

I make a motion to add the following minutes from the January 14, 2023 meeting to the permanent record of the Rankin Greys Camp 2278:

01/14/2023 (location Los Cazadores, 2855 Hwy 49 S. Florence, MS 39073)

Meeting Start – 19:03

Prayer – Tommy Symon

Pledges – John Evans

Billy Bryant:

- Welcome guests
 - Donna Ainsworth, Brenda Bryant, and JJ Dafferner took 100 bags to the Veterans Home for Christmas
 - RAD fund raising is in full swing, looking to raise last year's amount
 - See Chris for tax donation letters
 - Mech Cav news
 - o Billy, Bruce, Roden are going to officer's call in Elm Springs on Feb 4
 - o COC status has been straightened out regarding the Stainless Banner
 - o Jeff, Glenn, and Jerry will be meeting Switz at the next COC meeting to pay 2023 dues and answer roll call
 - Quartermaster news – there are some shirts, patches, and coins left
 - MC Quartermaster news – JJ selling donation tickets for Colt, has patches also
 - Latest newsletter for Camp and Division are up. Send pics and news to Hippy
 - RAD is at \$800. Shooting to send at least 23 to camp
 - Christmas/New Year's party at Askew's was a great turnout with good food
 - Next month's speaker will be Ricky Pittman from Monroe, LA
 - Lee Jackson banquets all over the Division in January
 - February – Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
 - March 11 is Confederate Flag Day at Beauvoir
 - March 17-19 will be the work weekend at Beauvoir, lots of work needs to be done
 - Introduce Forrest Daws, running for 1st Lt Commander of Division
- Speaker: Forrest S. Daws, tactics to move forward as Division, monuments protection program

Billy Bryant:

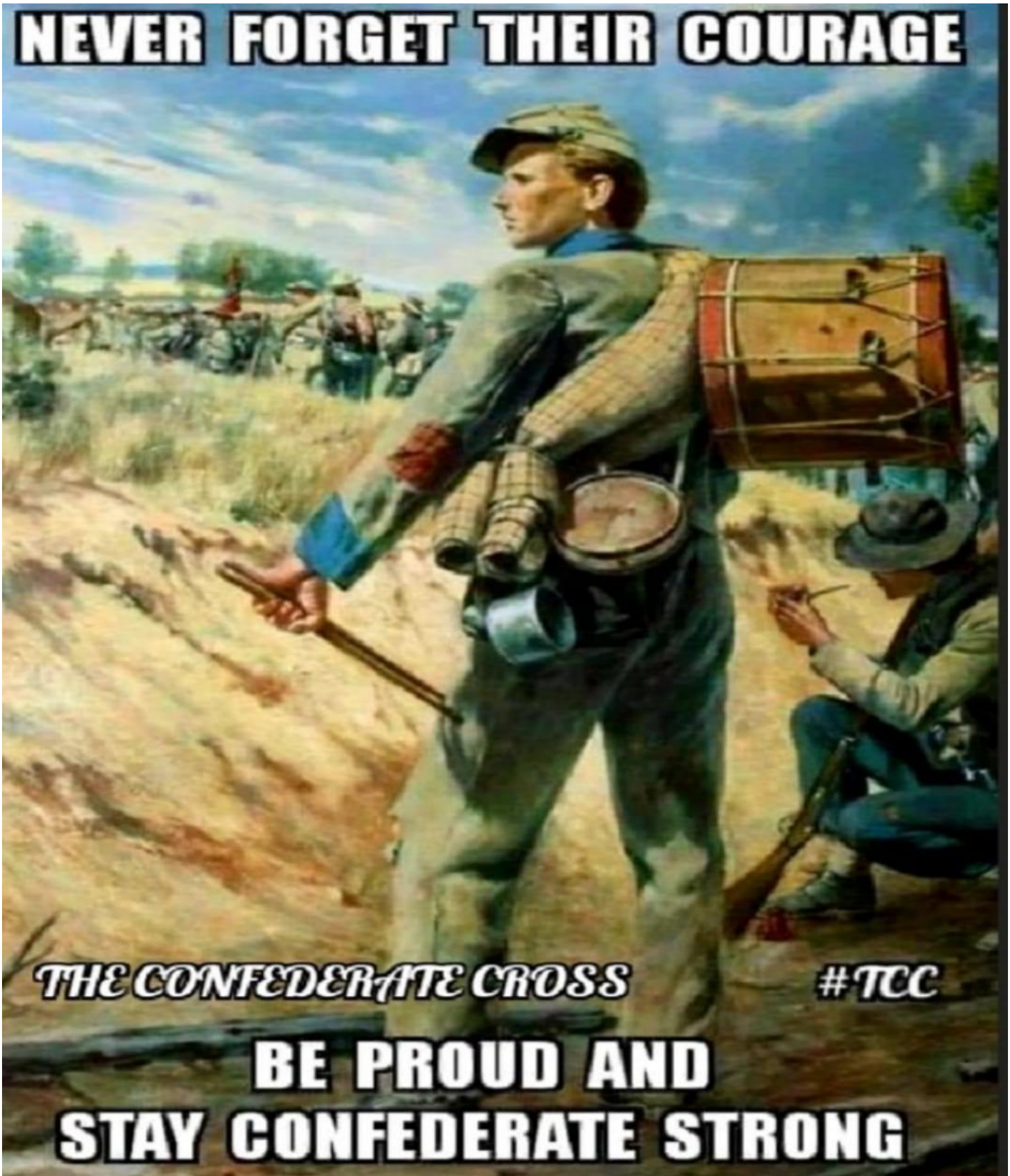
- Amazon Smiles / Kroger Rewards
- Beauvoir Board Meeting on the 21st, John Evans going.
- Prayer – Tommy Symon

Meeting Adjourn – 20:05

Glenn Hays

Great weekend with my Rankin Greys Brothers and Sisters at our New Years Eve party at Askews Landing Campground. In spite of Fridays monsoon rains the Greys showed up ready to party. As always our resident chefs Jerry Dupre, Jerry Roden, Jeff Ainsworth and Bruce Warren fed us like family. Friday night it was a huge black pot of chili, which Jerry Roden has named Jeff Davis chili and is some of the best I've ever eaten. Saturday morning started bright and early with a hearty breakfast of biscuits, sausage gravy, link deer sausage, bacon, eggs, and pancakes. Saturday Dwayne Stringer brought his smoker and cooked a whole hog. To go with the pork they prepared a huge black pot of catfish courtbullion. In addition we had traditional blackeyed peas and cabbage and every type of dessert you could imagine. I heard it said "if you hang out with this bunch you're gonna get fat". Truer words were never spoken, we believe in having a good time and eating well. Due to the weather attendance was a little off with only about 50 attending. They were mostly our "core group" You know the ones, the hardcore, ride or die ones that all you have to do is mention an event and you can count on them being there. Capping off the festivities was a huge bonfire, with everyone sitting around enjoying each others company while having their favorite beverage. All good things must come to an end so after a good nights sleep we cleaned up, packed up, and went our separate ways. Looking for great things for 2023 with our new 1G Captain Billy Bryant, 1st Lt. Bruce Warren and new officers. Whatever comes our way though, we will always be a band of brothers. Happy New Year !!

Glenn Hays (Smooth)
God Bless Dixie



NEVER FORGET THEIR COURAGE

THE CONFEDERATE CROSS

#TCC

**BE PROUD AND
STAY CONFEDERATE STRONG**



SCV_CHAT
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE
ONE WEEK AT A TIME



Join us as we Look Around the Confederation! Remember you can submit your stories to scvyouthoutreach@gmail.com to be featured on the show. MOOSE will be talking on great things happening around the confederation. It will lead into a topic about how we fight as 21st Century Confederates.

A transcribed speech by President Jefferson Davis at the Meeting of the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors from November 3, 1870, for organizing the Lee Monument Association.

Robert E. Lee was my associate and friend in the military academy, and we were friends until the hour of his death. We were associates and friends when he was a soldier and I a congressman; and associates and friends when he led the armies of the Confederacy and I presided in its Cabinet. We passed through many sad scenes together, but I cannot remember that there was ever aught but perfect harmony between us. If ever there was difference of opinion it was dissipated by discussion, and harmony was the result. I repeat, we never disagreed, and I may add that I never in my life saw in him the slightest tendency to self-seeking. It was not his to make a record, it was not his to shift blame to other shoulders; but it was his with an eye fixed upon the welfare of his country, never faltering to follow the line of duty to the end. His was the heart that braved every difficulty; his was the mind that wrought victory out of defeat.

He has been charged with “want of dash”. I wish to say that I never knew Lee to falter to attempt anything ever man could dare. An attempt has also been made to throw a cloud upon his character because he left the army of the United States to join in the struggle for the liberty of his State. Without trenching at all upon politics, I deem it my duty to say one word in reference to this charge. Virginian born, descended from a family illustrious in Virginia’s annals, given by Virginia to the service of the United States, he represented her in the Military Academy at West Point. He was not educated by the Federal Government, but by Virginia; for she paid her full share for the support of that institution, and was entitled to demand in return the services of her sons. Entering the army of the United States, he represented Virginia there also, and nobly. On many a hard-fought field Lee was conspicuous, battling for his native State as much as for the Union. He came from Mexico crowned with honors, covered by brevets, and recognized, young as he was, as one of the ablest of his country’s soldiers. And to prove that he was estimated then as such, let me tell you that when Lee was a captain of engineers stationed in Baltimore the Cuban Junta in New York selected him to be their leader in the struggle for the independence of their native country. They were anxious to secure his services, and offered him every temptation that ambition could desire. He thought the matter over, and, I remember, came to Washington to consult me as to what he should do, and when I began to discuss the complications which might arise from his acceptance of the trust he gently rebuked me, saying that this was not the line upon which he wished my advice, the simple question was “Whether it was right or not”. He had been educated by the United States, and felt wrong to accept place in the army of a foreign power. Such was his extreme delicacy; such was the nice sense of honor of the gallant gentleman whose death we deplore. But when Virginia withdrew—the State to whom he owed his first and last allegiance—the same nice sense of honor led him to draw his sword and throw it in the scale for good or evil. Pardon me for this brief defense of my illustrious friend.

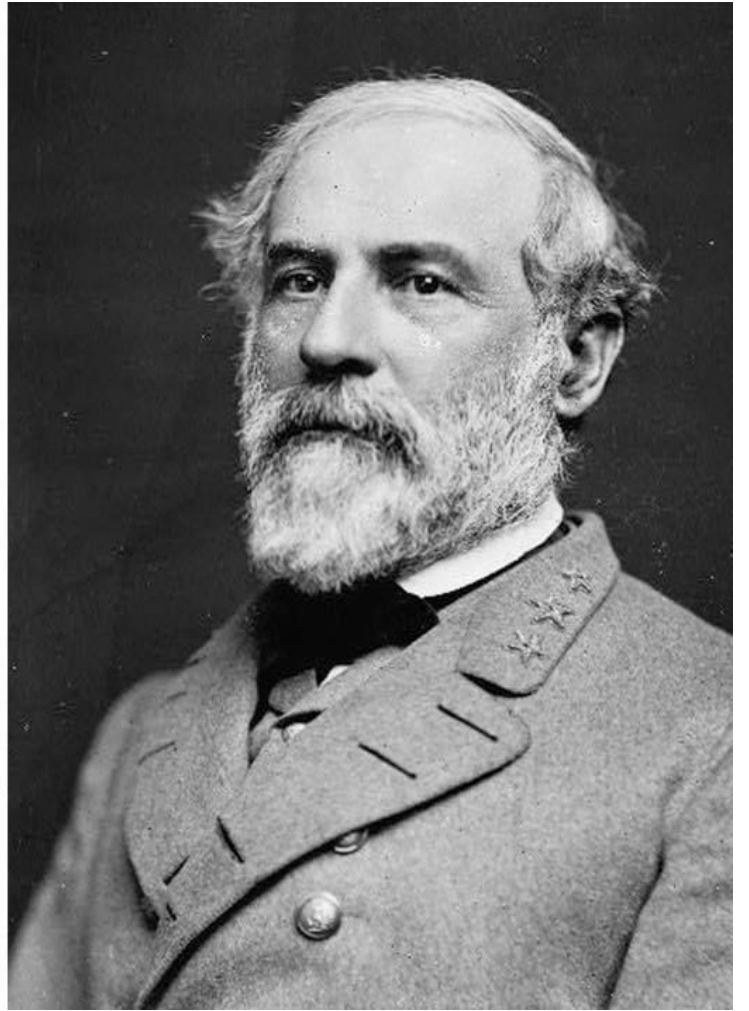
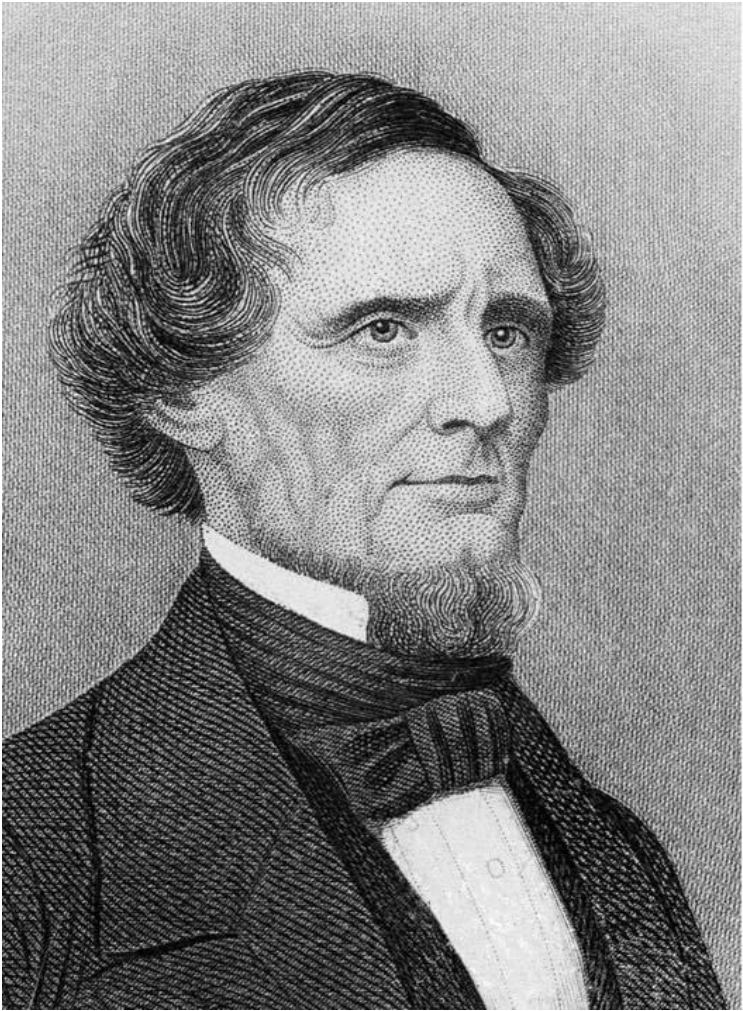
When Virginia joined the Confederacy, Robert Lee, the highest officer in the little army of Virginia, came to Richmond, and not pausing to enquire what would be his rank in the service of the Confederacy, went

to Western Virginia under the belief that he was still an officer of the State. He came back, carrying the heavy weight of defeat and unappreciated by the people whom he served, for they could not know, as I knew, that if his plans and orders had been carried out the result would have been victory rather than retreat. You did not know, for I would not have known it had he not breathed it in my ear only at my earnest request, and begging that nothing be said about it. The clamor which then arose followed him when he went to South Carolina, so that it became necessary on his going to South Carolina to write a letter to the Governor of that State, telling him what manner of man he was. Yet, through all this, with a magnanimity rarely equaled, he stood in silence, without defending himself, or allowing others to defend him, for he was unwilling to offend any one who was wearing a sword and striking blows for the Confederacy.

But, I shall not attempt to review the military career of our fallen Chieftain. Of the man, how shall I speak? He was my friend, and in that word is included all that I could say of any man. His moral qualities rose to the height of his genius. Self-denying—always intent upon the one idea of duty—self-controlled to an extent that many thought him cold. His feelings were really warm, and his heart melted freely at the sight of a wounded soldier or the story of the suffering of the widow and orphan. During the war he was ever conscious of the inequality of the means at his control; but it was never his to complain or to utter a doubt—it was always his to do. When in the last campaign he was beleaguered at Petersburg, and painfully aware of the straits to which we were reduced, he said: “With my army in the mountains of Virginia I could carry on this war for twenty years longer”. His men exhausted and his supplies failing, he was unable to carry out his plans. An untoward event caused him to anticipate the movement and the army of Northern Virginia was overwhelmed. But in the surrender he anticipated conditions that have not been fulfilled—he expected his army to be respected and his paroled soldiers to be allowed the enjoyments of life and property. Whether these conditions have been fulfilled, let others say.

Here he now sleeps in the land he loved so well, and that land is not Virginia only, for they do injustice to Lee who believed he fought only for Virginia. He was ready to go any where, on any service for the good of his country, and his heart was as broad as the fifteen States struggling for the principles that our forefathers fought for in the Revolution of 1776. He is sleeping in the same soil with the thousands who fought under the same flag, but first offered up their lives. Here the living are assembled to honor his memory, and there the skeleton sentinels keep watch over his grave. This citizen! this soldier! this great general! this true patriot! left behind him the crowning glory of a true Christian. His Christianity ennobled him in life, and affords us grounds for the belief that he is happy beyond the grave.

But, while we mourn the loss of the great and the true, drop we also tears of sympathy with her who was his help-meet in life—the noble woman who, while her husband was in the field leading the army of the Confederacy, though an invalid herself, passed the time in knitting socks for the marching soldiers! A woman fit to be the mother of heroes—and heroes are descended from her. Mourning with her, we can only offer the consolation of a Christian. Our loss is not his, but he now enjoys the rewards of a life well spent and a never wavering trust in a risen Savior. This day we unite our words of sorrow with those of the good and great throughout Christendom, for his fame is gone over the water—his deeds will be remembered; and when the monument we build shall have crumbled into dust, his virtues will still live, a high model for the imitation of generations yet unborn.



I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Grey Matter; if anyone would like to submit an article for publication, please send to.

hippyscv@gmail.com

We always have something to put out there to show what this camp does best:

ANSWER THE CALL



Donald Gaines (hippy)
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