

# Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys

SCV Camp 2278

September 2017

Volume 1 Issue 5



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## Commander's Report

by Commander Billy Bryant

Compatriots,

Over the past few months we have seen our heritage come under attack worse than ever before. All across our nation and even Mississippi, the historically ignorant are spreading lies about our ancestors, the cause, and ourselves. Across Mississippi men are waking up and saying enough is enough. They are looking for a group to join to defend their heritage. That group is the SCV.

Last month I issued a challenge to the Camp. The person who recruits the most members over the next year

will receive a \$50.00 bill from me.

This month we have Commander-in-Chief Tom Strain and his lovely wife Tara. I am sure that this meeting will be well attended by members of the Division, so please try to come early.

Live the Charge,

Billy Bryant  
Commander

THE CHARGE

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# Adjutant's Report

by Camp Adjutant Chris Bryant

Welcome to September! Still rolling on the momentum that earned us the Nathan Bedford Forrest Award for Camp with Greatest Gain in Membership, we have a transfer from David Hunt and a new member that received his certificate last month. Please welcome Lance Pickle. This month's meeting we will begin following the bylaws a little more closely, and we will be voting on all new members going forward. Our first is Robert Richardson, coming to us with recommendation from Jeff Ainsworth.

On the Mechanized Cavalry front, 2 of our members have applications in to join, Jeff Ainsworth for mounted and Bobby Shows for dismounted. Welcome to the ranks!

September 30 is the final deadline for dues. Most have paid, but if you haven't, please see me.

Keep in mind we will be starting some fund raisers for the needy. Our most pressing issue right now is assisting with Hurricane relief. Texas is still recovering, and Florida will be in great need in the coming days. Please contact Stan Rhoda, Billy Bryant, or myself if you'd like to help.

The new initiative to save the state flag has been given a number. Initiative 62. Keep an eye open in the coming months for opportunities to gather signatures.

Two key events to note this month are the EC meeting on September 16 at the War Memorial Building and the Governor's Ride on September 23. If you have any issues to bring before the Executive Council, please touch base with Conor Bond. If you ride, and you can, please try to make the Governor's Ride. We need to give the Governor and the Wounded Warriors our full support, and it's a great time to boot.

As per usual, I am available anytime you need me or have any questions.

Your humble servant,

Chris Bryant  
Adjutant, Rankin Greys Camp 2278  
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*This publication is dedicated to the  
honor and the memory of the brave  
men of*

*Company I 6<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry*

*Lest We Forget.*

# The Charge and You

by George Conor Bond (Editorial)

*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit 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 which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."*

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.

Each organization has a mission statement that exemplifies their purpose for existence. For the SCV, ours is the *Charge*. The *Charge* is a section of a speech that Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee delivered in 1906. SCV members are proud of the charge. But what does the charge really mean?

First, we are to vindicate or defend the cause for which the Confederate Soldier fought. The cause is the same one that their ancestors fought for in the Revolution: freedom. For many Southerners, the decades leading up to the War for Southern Independence were filled with turmoil. They saw the political balance of the Union, which the states voluntarily joined, suddenly becoming unbalanced in favor of the North. As a result, our ancestors hearkened to the words that Thomas Jefferson wrote in the first line of the Declaration of Independence: "When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them..."

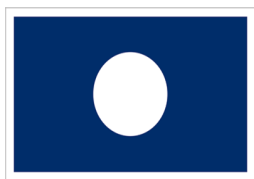
Second, we are to defend the Confederate Soldier's good name. Throughout the recent attacks on our heritage, we have seen our ancestors good name drug through the mud. They have been called racist and traitors; two terms that are not at all true. It is our duty to stand up and dispel those lies. We are to explain to the world what type of men our ancestors really were.

Next, we are to be the guardians of the Confederate Veterans History. When General Lee gave us this *Charge* he knew that a day would dawn where the Confederate Soldier would be once again under attack. Well that day is here gentlemen.

Finally we are to emulate his virtues and perpetuate those principals and ideals which he loved and made him glorious. This means that we should be chivalrous, honest, and respectful southern gentlemen. We should also practice the principals of devotion to duty, selfless sacrifice, community service, and love for God, Family, and Country.

This is what the Charge means to me Compatriots, what does it mean to you, and are you living it daily?





# Forefathers in Grey



Stephen Dill Lee was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on September 22, 1833. His parents were Dr. Thomas Lee and Caroline Allison Lee. The family was considered a prominent Charleston family.

Stephen Dill Lee entered West Point at the age of 17 and graduated in 1854 in a class which included such famed soldiers as J.E.B. Stuart. Following graduation, Lee entered the US Army as a lieutenant in the 4th US Artillery. He served for seven years at distant outposts in Texas, the Dakotas, Florida and Kansas. Lee was serving as his regiment's quartermaster in 1857 during the Seminole Wars. Like many fellow Southern officers, Stephen Dill Lee resigned from the Army in February of 1861 after his home state of South Carolina seceded. He then joined the Confederate Army and his first major assignment was serving as an aide-de-camp of General Beauregard at Ft. Sumter.

On April 11, 1861, Lee and fellow aide Colonel James Chestnut, husband of famed diarist Mary Chestnut, rowed out to Ft. Sumter and delivered a surrender ultimatum to Union Major Robert Anderson demanding the evacuation of the fort. Anderson's refusal led to the shelling of the fort and the commencement of hostilities between the North and South. There is more than one account that Stephen Dill Lee may have fired the first shot at Ft. Sumter.

As the war really got under way, Lee's assignments and promotions came quickly. Lee commanded a Light Artillery Battery in Hampton's Legion under General Joseph Johnston, later becoming the Artillery chief for General Lafayette McLaws in the Army of Northern Virginia. He saw action in the Peninsula Campaign and at Second Manassas. At Second Manassas, his gallant service led Jefferson Davis to remark — "I have reason to believe at that great conflict on the field of Manassas that Colonel Lee served to turn the tide of battle and consummate the victory".

Lee participated in the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, notably during the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31 and June 1, the Battle of Savage's Station on June 29, during the Seven Days Battles from June 25 to July 1, and the Battle of Malvern Hill also on July 1. He briefly served in the 4th Virginia Cavalry in July. On July 9, 1862, Lee was promoted to colonel and assumed command of the Artillery Battalion of Longstreet's Corps.

Colonel Stephen Dill Lee performed praiseworthy service at the Battle of Sharpsburg on the bloodiest day in American history, playing a prominent role in the defense of the Dunker Church, Cornfield, and the West Woods. After the morning fight, his unit was moved across the battlefield and unlimbered near the town of Sharpsburg, helping to repel the Union attack across Burnside Bridge.

Following the Battle of Sharpsburg, President Davis inquired of Robert E. Lee to select his most accomplished and efficient artillery officer for duty in Mississippi. Lee chose Stephen Dill Lee.

Assigned to General Pemberton's western army defending Vicksburg, Colonel Lee received a promotion to brigadier general on November 6, 1862. He was ordered to take command of General Pemberton's artillery at Vicksburg. At the Battle of Champions Hill, Lee was wounded in the shoulder. Lee is considered by many historians as 'he was the hero of the battle of Champion Hills.' Lee was taken prisoner when Vicksburg fell on July 3, 1863. While on parole, he was promoted to the rank of major general on August 3, 1863. General Lee was exchanged and paroled on October 3, 1863.

He was promoted to major general and given command of the Cavalry in Alabama, Mississippi, Western Tennessee and Eastern Louisiana. Troops in Lee's department under Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest scored a victory at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads on June 10, and seriously threatened Union supply lines supporting Sherman in Georgia. Lee personally reinforced Forrest but the combined Confederate force was defeated at the Battle of Tupelo, ensuring the safety of Sherman's supply lines.

On June 23, 1864, when John Bell Hood became commander of the Army of Tennessee, General Lee was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, thus becoming the youngest lieutenant general in the Confederacy. In the fighting around Atlanta, Stephen Dill Lee was assigned command of General Hood's old Corps in the Army of Tennessee. General Lee saw some of the hardest fighting of any Confederate. When Atlanta fell, he took part in the Battles of Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville. Wounded once again at Spring Hill, he remained on duty and was in charge of the army rear guard protecting the shattered Army of Tennessee in retreat. He recovered from the wound quickly enough and joined the army then under General Joseph Johnston for the Carolina campaign which ended the war.

Stephen Dill Lee was married to Regina Harrison of Columbus, Mississippi, and settled in his wife's home state when the war ended. He became a planter and beginning in 1878, served in the Mississippi State Senate, and became president of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College and remained as president until 1899. Today, this college is Mississippi State University. He took an increasing interest in Confederate veteran affairs and became active in developing Vicksburg National Military Park. He also took a leading role in the formation and running of the central Confederate veterans' organization, the United Confederate Veterans.

Stephen Dill Lee during the post war years was active in efforts to re-establish the prosperity of the South. Following his resignation as college president, he devoted his time and interest to historical work, also serving as president of the Mississippi Historical Society. He served as president of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, zealously preserving the records of past events and of writing the true history of the South.

Stephen Dill Lee was an early organizer and leader in the United Confederate Veterans. He served as national commander of the United Confederate Veterans from 1904-1908 and was commander-in-chief of the UCV at the time of his death on May 29, 1908, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He is buried in the Friendship Cemetery of Columbus, Mississippi.

Stephen Dill Lee's influence in both the United Confederate Veterans and in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is very much in evidence today. General Lee was one of the first to realize the old veterans were rapidly passing away. He recognized a new generation would have to pick up the torch to tell the true history of the War Between the States. In 1896, in Richmond at the annual Reunion of the UCV, the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization was formed. Both the United Confederate Veterans and the



Sons of Confederate Veterans continued to meet together annually but it was in 1906 at the United Confederate Veteran Reunion in New Orleans that General Lee addressed the Sons of Confederate Veterans on the need to preserve Confederate history and the good name of the Confederate soldier. It was from that address that *The Charge* of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is derived. General Lee could not have put it any clearer than he did —

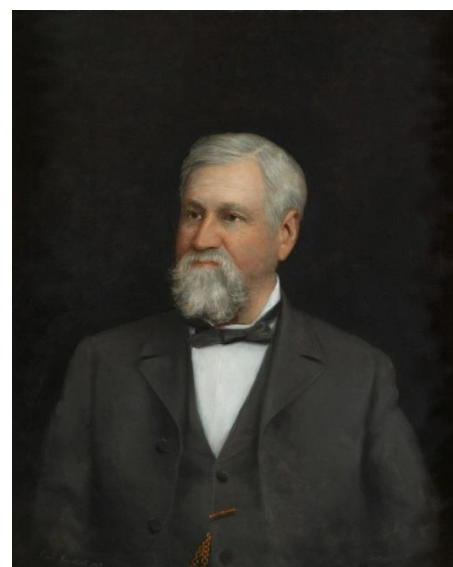
*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the cause for which we fought: to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, and the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish."*



General Lee 1861



Statue of General Lee VNMP



Portrait of General Lee Post War

## **BEAUVOIR AND THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS**

BILOXI, MS, August 17, 2017- Beauvoir has expressed an intent to take any Confederate statue(s) that any city or jurisdiction has decided to take down. We believe the Beauvoir campus is the most appropriate, contextual location for these monuments. We ask the cooperation of any and all fair-minded people to help with Beauvoir's acquisition of these statues. Our vision is to include the monuments as part of our historical narrative at Beauvoir. By expressing our desire for these monuments, we are in no way defending or condoning slavery, which was and is an evil institution that has no color or creed and has existed since the dawn of time. Our core mission is to educate and commemorate the ideals of our rich heritage as Americans and particularly as Southern Americans. We have a rich history which encompasses much more than the events of the Civil War, but the War accentuated the character and integrity of the South.

Submitted by Owen McDowell  
Chairman Board of Directors, Beauvoir

### **Confederate Headstone Dedication**

There will be a headstone dedication for Silas Warren on October 28 at Antioch- Steele Cemetery at 10am. Cemetery is located on Hwy 21 about 10 miles north of Forest. The Cemetery is located behind Antioch Primitive Baptist Church. Meal will be served in the Church's dining area immediately following the Cemetery program. This will be hosted by Hosted by the East Mississippi Greys #1666. Silas Warren is the ancestor of Commander Bruce Warren and Compatriot Bobby Joe Denton.



# Upcoming Events

## September:

Mississippi Division Executive Council Meeting-16<sup>th</sup>

Governor's Ride- 23<sup>rd</sup>

USM Flagging- 24<sup>th</sup>

## October:

Rankin Greys Camp 2278 Meeting- 14<sup>th</sup>

Fall Muster- 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>

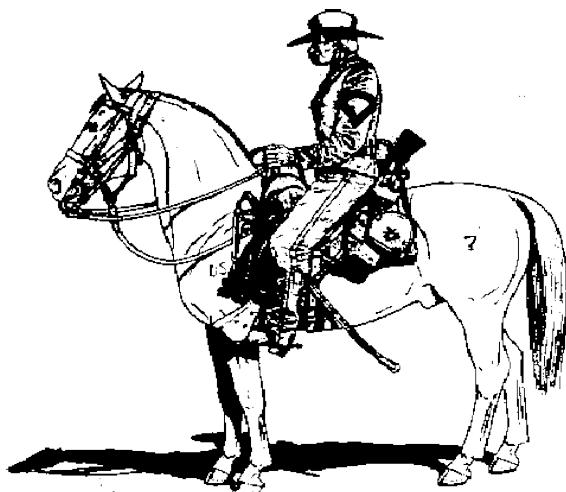
Headstone Dedication for Silas Warren- 28<sup>th</sup>

## November:

Rankin Greys Camp 2278 Meeting-11<sup>th</sup>

## December:

Rankin Greys Camp 2278 2nd Annual Christmas in Dixie-9<sup>th</sup>



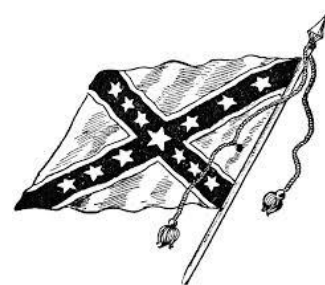


### AGENDA 9/9/2017

- Opening prayer
- Pledges and Salutes
- Reading of the Charge
- Welcome
- Introduction of guests
- **Speaker: Tom Strain, Al Arnold**

#### Old/Unfinished Business

- New member certificates (Eckford)
- Camp will start voting on new member applications, new members NEED to be vetted per National, VOTE ON NEW MEMBER from Ainsworth
- Dunking booth during Fall Muster (Oct 20-22)
- Mech Cav Raffle Tickets
- Mega Flag Update (Owen, Conor)
- Beauvoir news (Owen)
- Richland Hwy 49 Fest update (Conor)
- Shiloh Cemetery updates (Billy)
- Jamie Knight Memorial Membership update (Chris)
- Kroger Rewards – have submitted, no response from Kroger yet
- Kathy for any OCR news, Wounded Warrior Ride update



#### New Business

- September events
  - TBD Ben Edwards MC patch in at Philadelphia
  - TBD Robert Pursley MC patch in, location TBD
  - EC Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> at the WMB
  - Governor's Ride – 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Bike Night – 30<sup>th</sup>, Little Willie's BBQ in Pearl at 06:00PM (recurring monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at same location/time)(change to 30<sup>th</sup> this month due to Gov Ride)
- **DISASTER RECOVERY DONATIONS TO SMILEY**
- DUES ARE DUE, \$50 by 09/30 NO LATER
- If your mailing address has changed since becoming a member, please notify the adjutant so that it can be changed with the Division and with National
- Website stats: 79 unique visitors, 110 page views
- Requests for speakers, suggestions to Owen McDowell
- See Camp Quarter Master Phillip Griffin for Shirts (\$20) and Hats (\$15)
- See Chris for applications
- Open discussion
- Closing prayer

### MINUTES

08/12/2017 (location Los Cazadores, 2855 Hwy 49 S. Florence, MS 39073)

7:00 pm start

Prayer – Michael Boteler

Pledges – Ian McKay

Billy - Welcome guests (AOT Commander Larry McCluney & wife and others)

Reading of The Charge – Conor Bond

Larry McCluney: (1903-1950)

- Present Nathan Bedford Forrest Award for Camp with Greatest Gain in Membership to Commander Billy Bryant
- Spoke on Virginia riots and ramifications
- Presentation on book “The Yazoo Pass Expedition”

Billy:

- New member certificate to Jeff Ainsworth

Carl Ford:

- Passed sign in sheet for contact info to handoff to Chris McDaniel
- State of current politics regarding the South

Conor Bond made motion for camp to go into Executive Session, second by Chris Bryant (2007-2023)

Billy:

- Bike night 4<sup>th</sup> Sat @ 6:00pm at Little Willie’s in Pearl
- Fall Muster – dunking booth
- Aug 18 is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- Dues are Due extended to 9/30
- Most new members recruited from August 12, 2017 to April 15, 2018, Billy will give \$50
- Address change info to Adjutant
- See Chris for applications
- See Camp Quartermaster Phillip Griffin about shirts/hats/patches
- Terry McMillan, ride captain for PGR, son passed, donations to adjutant to forward to family
- Vote on camp bylaws, Conor Bond motion to adopt, Marty McAlilly second, pass unanimous

Closing Prayer – Michael Boteler

Meeting ended – 8:37 pm



## SCV and Venture Scouts

In 2015, SCV Camp 1452 chartered Venture Scout Crew 262, becoming the first Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp to ever do so. We did so with a larger vision in mind even then. When Marc Thompson first presented the idea to the camp, it was pointed out that other organizations similar to the SCV chartered a great many scout troops. Considering our need to bring in younger members, this was significant. As of 2013, here are the facts regarding how many scout troops and youth members were maintained by specific groups:

American Legion: 2,633 units; 84,497 kids

Lions Club: 2,477 units; 64,684 kids

VFW: 1,078 units; 30,686 kids

Elks Club: 794 units; 21,892 kids

Even though these organizations are larger than the SCV, the opportunity becomes very clear. How many SCV camps exist? If half of them chartered a scout troop with 10 kids and 5 parent volunteers in it, how many would that be?

For us in Camp 1452 it was about more than just numbers too. We wanted to incorporate our new Venture Scout group into answering the charge. Our troop is a living history and reenacting troop. That's what we do. The troop exists to provide an avenue for young adults 14-20 to re-live the history of the south during the period of the War for Southern Independence. Everything about the troop focus on answering the Charge, starting with the troop number, which represents February 1862, the month and year of the official formation of the Confederate States of America.

Reenacting as the 9th Mississippi Infantry, Company A, our Venture Scout Troop has attended Civil War Reenactments, participates in Memorial Services, conducts school and church programs, marched in parades, marched in funerals, and acted as color guard for numerous events, including each month at our regular SCV meetings.

After our Division reunion this summer, Commander Barnes made the decision to order the establishment of a committee to work on expanding this idea across the Division. Marc Thompson, who first successfully brought the idea to Camp 1452, was selected to chair the committee, which he happily accepted. The adult leaders of Venture Crew 262 have learned many lessons that they look forward to passing on to other camps that want to follow in their footsteps. Perhaps the two biggest things their experience will help camps with is recruiting and fund raising. Venture Crew 262 raised more than \$7,000 in a single year to use buying rifles, tents and other items needed for the scouts. And just recently, they had their most successful recruiting push ever.

In period attire, several of the adult leaders visited three classes of Junior Marine ROTC high school students. At their interest meeting held a few days later, they had 18 kids request applications to join and several new adults as well.

What a great way to teach the true history of the South to future generations! Venture Crew 262 will be hosting their second annual reenactment at the end of September. Information about the event can be found at the camp's website at [www.scvcamp1452.com](http://www.scvcamp1452.com). Any camps that want to get details regarding starting a troop of their own should email Marc Thompson at [marc.thompson@scvwealthmanagement.com](mailto:marc.thompson@scvwealthmanagement.com).

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Compatriots,

I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of *Grey Matter*. If you have suggestion for an article, or would like to write one please let me know. Next month's issue will have several interesting articles that I am sure you will enjoy.

Forward the Colors,

George Conor Bond  
Editor  
Dixiedude011@gmail.com

