

Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys

SCV Camp 2278

November 2017

Volume 1 Issue 7



IN THIS ISSUE

Commander's Report

by Commander Billy Bryant

Compatriots,

It is hard to believe that this year has flown by the way it has. I guess its true that time flies as you are having fun.

As you know, Thanksgiving is this month and I am truly thankful for each and every member and the hard work that you have put in to make our camp one of the best in the Division.

Collecting signatures for Initiative 62 has started. Last weekend our members gathered close to 400 signatures and registered 9

citizens to vote. Some people take for granted how important their vote is. Just remember during reconstruction, our ancestors lost that right.

As we get closer to Christmas please remember that we will have bingo for the nursing home, so please be prepared to bring items that they can use, and toys that they can give to their loved ones.

See Y'all Saturday,

Billy

FOREFATHERS IN GREY

PAGE 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

PAGE 5

FALL MUSTER PICTURES

PAGE 6

Adjutant's Report

by Camp Adjutant Chris Bryant

Adjutant's Report

Fall Muster has come and gone for 2017. The camp held its first annual dunking booth to help raise funds for Beauvoir. We managed to cover our seed money on the rental of the tank and raised \$100 for Beauvoir. Weather affected turnout, and we were only able to run the booth for one day, so I believe we did very well for our first outing.

We have 1 new member to present a certificate to this month, Mr. Lance Pickle. Welcome to the camp! We have one other member making application and we will vote on him at the November meeting.

Coming soon we will be planning an outing to the local nursing home. They were our first outreach into the community and it is such a joy to help the residents of that home. You won't want to miss it! Details will be developing in the coming weeks and we will be letting everyone know how they can assist. The needy children fund still has some funds in it. If you know of a child needing assistance, please let us know.

Initiative 62 is up and running. We had a booth collecting signatures at the Jackson Gun Show. There will be more opportunities in the coming weeks. Anyone that wants to help, please see Billy or me. Please keep a check on the Division Facebook page and www.mississippiscv.org/62 for current information.

Keep up with your recruiting efforts and your tireless support of your respective communities, and as per usual, I am available anytime you need me or have any questions.

Chris Bryant

Adjutant, Rankin Greys Camp 2278

wchrisbryant@gmail.com

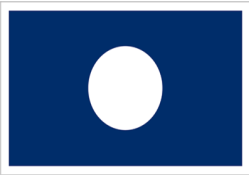
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*This publication is dedicated to the
honor and the memory of the brave
men of*

Company I 6th Mississippi Infantry

Lest We Forget.



Forefathers in Grey



Typically for the Forefathers in Grey, a biography is written about a hero of the Confederacy. This month, I want to reflect on a hero, but instead of his entire life, I want to focus on a few days.

It is April 18, 1861. A carriage rolls down the streets of Washington D.C. Sitting inside the carriage is a federal officer. Dressed in his best uniform, on leave from his duty station in Texas where he is second in command of the US 2nd Cavalry. He had been following the news since the election that prior November. He watched as States withdrew from the Union. He had heard about the firing on Fort Sumter in South Carolina less than a week prior, and he had heard about the president's call for 75,000 volunteers to quell the rebellion in the newly formed Southern Confederacy. No doubt this morning as he passed the first of the 75,000 volunteers to enter into the Federal capitol, his mind was on his home, Virginia that passed the ordinance for secession the date before.

He was on the way to meet with Preston Blair. A friend of the president, no doubt he knew what the meeting was about. He was going to be offered command of all Federal forces. Although a modest man, he knew of his accomplishments. He had graduated second in his class at West Point, he had served in the Army Corps of Engineers, he was a hero of the Mexican War, he served as Commandant of Cadets at West Point, and had lead the expedition to capture John Brown.

Soon the carriage approached Laffite Square across from the White House. He was greeted by his host and they began their meeting. After he was offered the command of the Federal Forces he hesitated, but did not give a defiant answer. Without giving an answer, the gallant colonel left to meet with his friend, mentor, and fellow Virginian, General-in-Chief Winfield Scott. During their conversation he asked Scott for his opinion on what he should do.

His next day was filled with strife and agony. His wife would write in her memoirs that he paced the halls and drawing room of their house Arlington, which over looked the Federal Capitol. As he passed from room to room, he saw artifacts from his hero, George Washington's life. He probably thought of what Washington, the noblest of all Virginians, would do in his situation. Thoughts probably then went to his father, General Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee. What would he do in his situation? He was, after all, born a subject of the English Crown, but when the War for Independence came, he sided with Virginia and her sister colonies and fought for. Also his cousin Richard Henry Lee came to mind. It was Richard who presented the resolution to declare independence from Great Britain. Their work to establish this "union" of states came to mind.

Yet, on the other hand was Virginia; his home his *country*. His family had been the leading family of the colony and the state. He had countless relatives serve in the House of Burgesses, a Governor of Virginia, delegates to the Continental Congress from Virginia, and delegates to the conventions for the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution; all of them Lees from Virginia. His family history was Virginia's history and vice versa. Her people were his people. How could he turn his back on his native soil, and his native people?

After contemplating that all that day, in the early hours of the morning, this officer who had given more than twenty five years of faithful service to the federal Government, resigned his commission from the US Army. He wrote two letters; one to the Secretary of War and the second to his friend Winfield Scott. He wrote

Arlington, Washington City, P.O
20 Apr 1861

Lt. Genl Winfield Scott
Commd U.S. Army

Genl,

Since my interview with you on the 18th Inst: I have felt that I ought not longer to retain any Commission in the Army. I therefore tender my resignation which I request you will recommend for acceptance. It would have been presented at once but for the struggle it has Cost me to separate myself from a Service to which I have devoted all the best years of my life, & all the ability I possessed. During the whole of that time, more than a quarter of a century, I have experienced nothing but kindness from my superiors & the most Cordial friendships from any Comrades. To no one Genl have I been as much indebted as to yourself for kindness & Consideration & it has always been my ardent desire to merit your approbation. I shall carry with me, to the grave the most grateful recollections of your kind Consideration, & your name & fame will always be dear to me. Save in the defense of my native state shall I ever again draw my sword. Be pleased to accept any most earnest wishes for the Continuance of your happiness & prosperity & believe me

Most truly yours,
R E Lee

Draw it he would. Two days Later, Robert Edward Lee was appointed commander of the provisional army for the defense of the Common Wealth of Virginia. He would spend the next few months raising troops from Virginia, and being military advisor to Jefferson Davis. In 1862, he would take command of the Army of Northern Virginia and would be forever enshrined in the hearts of all Southerners. Robert Edward Lee is one of our forefathers in grey.

Upcoming Events

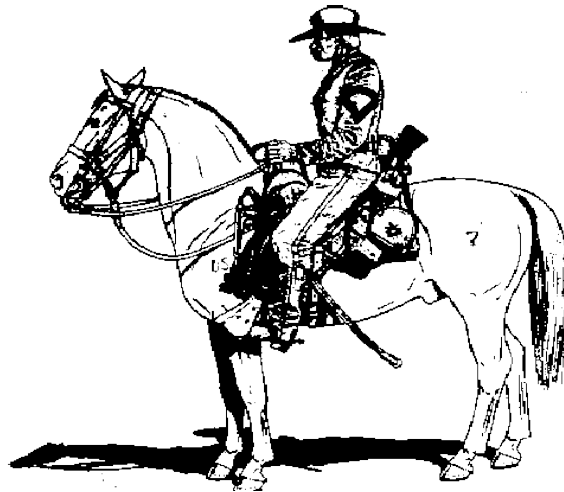
November:

Rankin Greys Camp 2278 Meeting-11th

December:

Nursing Home Christmas Bingo- TBD

Rankin Greys Camp 2278 2nd Annual Christmas in Dixie-9th





Fall Muster 2017

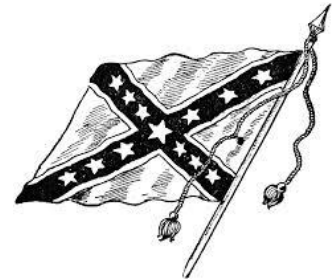


AGENDA

- Opening prayer
- Pledges and Salutes
- Reading of the Charge
- Welcome & Introduction of guests
- **The Dixie Hummingbirds**

Old/Unfinished Business

- New member certificates
- Vote in Ronald Pursley
- Dunking booth report - MADE SEED MONEY PLUS \$100 FOR BEAUVOIR
- New SCV motorcycle tags should be available. Who has purchased?
- Mega Flag Update
- Beauvoir news
- Shiloh Cemetery updates
- Jamie Knight Memorial Membership, need to schedule date
- Remind people to use Kroger Rewards and Amazon Smile
- Tee Spring update
- Nursing Home Christmas Bingo
- Initiative 62 Updates
- 1G State Meeting **update**
- Kathy for any OCR news



New Business

- November events:
 - Patch-Ins – TBD Ben Edwards (Philadelphia)
 - Bike Night – 25th, Location TBD, 06:00PM (recurring monthly on 4th Saturday at same location/time)
- Open discussion

Closing Reminders

- 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: ___ unique visitors, ___ page views
- Requests for speakers, suggestions to Owen McDowell
- See Camp Quarter Master Phillip Griffin for **Patches (\$10)**, Shirts (\$20) and Hats (\$15)
- New sales website:
- See Chris for applications
- Closing prayer
- Requests for speakers, suggestions to Owen McDowell
- See Camp Quarter Master Phillip Griffin for Shirts (\$20) and Hats (\$15)
- See Chris for applications
- Closing prayer

MINUTES

10/14/2017 (location Los Cazadores, 2855 Hwy 49 S. Florence, MS 39073)

7:10 pm start

Pledges – Ryan Griffin

Prayer – Tommy Symon

Reading of the Charge – Conor Bond

Billy:

- Welcome guests (MS Div Commander Jeff Barnes, Chisolm Family, Brian Conger)
- Fall Muster, camp will have dunking booth, all proceeds to Beauvoir, MC members will rotate out to assist with parking
- MC raffle tickets sold, give to Chris
- SCV tags, per Rock, should go online at the county on Oct 16
- Beauvoir update post hurricane from Jeff Barnes
- Possible camp gathering at Fall Muster after hours
- EC meeting 9/16 was 100% participation, Division to start selling flags to camps, Bruce Warren is new Quartermaster
- Nursing Home Christmas Bingo coming up
- Kroger Rewards, Amazon Smile available for use to help raise funds for camp
- TeeSpring tshirt run coming up (Conor)
- New patch ins @ tomb of the unknown soldier: Bobby Shows, Jeff Ainsworth, Robert Pursley (grandmother's grave at Beauvoir)

Chuck Bond – Initiative 62 (1930-2015)

Billy:

- Bike Night 28th at Little Willie's
- Forest, MS Headstone Dedication 28th at 10am
- 1G State Meeting Nov 4th
- Kruisin' for Kaiden Oct 29th
- Kelly Griffin's school has an Angel Tree for clothing drive, see her for details
- Any donations tonight can be made to the Chisolm Family

Closing Prayer – Tommy Symon

Meeting ended – 8:35 pm



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

