

Litchfield Independent Litchfield Independent

SEPTEMBER 2009



Southern Cross of Honor on the grave of John Roberson Cooper at Hillcrest Cemetery. Thanks to Terry Carter and Gene Elliott. The grave is just off Hwy 544 at the intersection of the Coastal Carolina Rd. It is visible from the stop light. Mr. Cooper is the only Confederate Veteran buried at Hillcrest.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a non-profit, heritage organization whose mission is to preserve the history and legacy of Confederate veterans. It is not associated with any anti-government or hate groups. Membership is open to any male descendents of Confederate veterans who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.

CAMP LEADERSHIP

Camp Commander: Ken Thrasher
 kt007@sprynet.com 843-293-4082
 1st Lieutenant Terry Carter 397-2479
 2nd Lieutenant: Eric Babb
 Adjutant: Ronnie Holmes 650-1139
 Color Sergeant: James O'Kelley 488-3841
 Chaplain: Joseph "Buster" Benton 365-2234

Judge Advocate: Ricky Todd
 Aide-de-Camp & Genealogist: Ed Thompson
 347-3075 wetsst@sccoast.net
 Member Retention: E.K. Altman 347-3642

Newsletter Editor: Ken Thrasher
 Webmaster—Ken Thrasher
 Quartermaster—Ken Thrasher



PALMETTO GUARD MEMBERS

Johnny Creel
 Ted Gragg
 Ed Thompson
 Ken Thrasher

We are on the web!
 Go to
www.scv132.org

Commander's Corner

Greetings Members of Litchfield 132 & Compatriots,

As summer of 2009 winds down, I hope all are in good health. This year is speeding past us and we have accomplished many things. Our Camp continues to grow and we are having good turn outs at our monthly meetings. The ladies of the OCR seem to enjoy sitting in with us to hear our speakers each month. We have had some fine meals prepared by members and good desserts supplied by the ladies. Let us not get complacent and stop growing and wither away. We are charged to remember our ancestors and see that they are NEVER forgotten. We are under attack daily and it will be getting worse as the sesquicentennial nears next year. We must stay the course and let the people of Horry County know who we are and what we do to preserve our history and heritage.

On August 28, my wife Betty accompanied me to the charter meeting of the Col. E.T. Stackhouse Camp in Latta. It was the first charter meeting that I have attended. The Stackhouse Camp chartered with 55 members. Commander Randy Burbage, Lt Commander Con Gordon, Adjutant Howard Chalmers and Chief of Staff David Rentz were in attendance. It was a good meeting and 102 persons were in attendance. I presented Commander James "Heavy" Price with a SC State flag with their Camp name on it.

As the fall season approaches, we have lots to do. We have spaces reserved at the Aynor Hoe Down on Sept. 19 and the Loris Bog Off on Oct. 17. The Brigade Cemetery Challenge Cleanup will be in Manning on Sept 26. I will have further info on that at the Sept. meeting. Our Oct. meeting will be on Oct 10 at the Myrtle Beach Outboard Motor Club on Folly Rd in Socastee. It is open to our members and their families as well as guests. We will be cooking BBQ that day.

Let us continue on with the Charge. In the last month, I have had several people contact me about joining our Camp. Hopefully, they will follow through with joining us. Don't be shy about asking a friend or family member about joining. People are out there that want to preserve their heritage and many still don't know about the SCV. I challenge each member to try and recruit at least 1 or 2 new members in the coming year. If we don't recruit, in a few years there may not be a Camp or a SCV for the Confederate soldiers' descendants to join. Just think about it. It could happen. We are the ones that must keep the torch and history of the past alive, and pass it on to the future generations, there is no one else but us to do this.

Keeping the colors unfurled,

Ken Thrasher

Commander Litchfield 132

August Meeting

Litchfield Camp 132 held it's July meeting on August 18 at Watson's Funeral Home in Conway, Bob Gray prepared a fine meal of neck bone and rice with vegetables. After everyone had dinner, the meeting started at 7 pm.

Commander Thrasher opened the meeting by greeting members and guests to the meeting and reading the Charge of Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee. Chaplain Buster Benton gave the invocation and Color Sgt. Jim O'Kelley led all in the pledges and salutes.

Commander Ken Thrasher presented the Camp with a new SC State Flag with the Name of the Camp on the flag. Commander Thrasher also presented the 7th Brigade flag to Brigade Commander Don Hayes.

Brigade Commander Don Hayes gave a report on the National Convention and then presented awards to Members of Litchfield Camp. Meritorious Service Awards were presented to Lt. Commander Terry Carter, Color Sgt. Jim O'Kelley, and past Lt. Commander Eric Babb. The Dixie Club recruiting award went to Ed Thompson and Commander Ken Thrasher received the Distinguished Service Award. Mr. O'Kelley reported the Hwy cleanup went well. Mr. O'Kelly, Terry carter, Rusty Richardson, Henry Altman & Matthew Page picked up 19 bags of trash during the cleanup.

Ted Gragg, Nolan Caudle & Bob Butler were our guest speakers. They presented a very good and detailed talk with power point presentation on the recovery efforts taking place at the Mars Bluff Confederate Naval Yard on the Great pee Dee River between Marion & Florence. They are recovering artifacts from the Naval yard along with Cannons and other articles from the scuttled gun boat CSS Pee Dee.

The meeting concluded with the singing of our National Anthem "Dixie".

We had 31 members present along with 3 guests and the ladies from the Ida Matthews Litchfield Chapter of the OCR., for a total of 46 present for the meeting.



Roll call of Meeting
 Bobby Scarborough
 Ed Thompson
 Ken Thrasher
 Henry Altman
 Tony Anderson
 Joseph Benton
 Terry Carter
 Gene Elliott
 Dennis Fulmer
 Ted Gragg
 Jamie Graham
 Bob Gray
 Philip Gray
 Francis Hardee
 Tommy Herring
 Ronnie Holmes
 James Holmes
 George Howard
 Wilbur Huggins
 Olin Martin
 Wendell McCracken
 Edwin McIver
 Jim O'Kelley
 Dotson Owen
 Fred Oakes
 Eddie Pippin
 Wilton Prince
 Russell Richardson
 Perry Richardson
 Johnny Sessions
 Glenn Tyler

Guests
 Don Hayes
 Nolan Caudle
 Bob Butler

Request from the editor

Compatriots,

If anyone has any pictures, ideas for short articles, or would like to submit an article on your ancestor for the newsletter. Please help me out with the newsletter. Just email ideas or articles to me at kt007@sprynet.com or by mail to Ken Thrasher 726 Racewater Dr, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29588. I try to get the newsletter out by the first weekend of each month.

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

Adjutant Litchfield 132nd

Compatriots

Greetings brothers. I hope this news letter finds you and all your loved ones well. First I want to thank all the members that were able to make it to the last meeting that was the best turnout we have had for Litchfield 132nd. Congrats to the members that received awards they were well deserved. What a great slide show and presentation from Compatriot Tedd Gragg and his colleges. Thanks again to Brother Gray for a great meal. It is so rewarding to know that our Camp is doing so much to further the Cause. Our Camp has grown so much in the past few years thanks to the hard work of so many members and our Commander Thrasher. We have to do even more. Every day we read things in the paper trying to tie us with other things that is not our Cause. We have the people and heart to make this Camp even bigger and make more of an impact on what people think of us. The truth must be known. That is our responsibility as true Sons of Confederate Veterans. Our Ancestors never backed down from a fight and we must not do the same. Cooler weather will be here soon hopefully and that will make it a better time to do some projects ahead. Im not sure how many of you know but Pondfield Cemetery was vandalized a few weeks ago my Ancestors Grave marker as well as several of brother Rickey Todd's ancestors are buried there. The Damage was not as bad as it could have been only one head stone was broken and one cross of Honor. I have been in Contact with Dennis Todd who owns the small plot of land. We are going to plan a Ceremony to put back two crosses of Honor One on My ancestors Maker as well as Hilliard Todd's Marker at my expense we will talk more at the next meeting about this. Untill next time we meet stay well and keep forwarding the word and Cause. As of now we have 1,845.65 in the Bank.

Ronnie Holmes
Adjutant Litchfield 132nd

BRIGADE CEMETERY CLEANUP

The Brigade Cemetery cleanup will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26. The Col. H L Benbow Camp in Manning will be the host Camp. Directions: The Ragin Cemetery is on Liberty Hill Rd outside Summerton. From Manning take I-95 south to exit 108, turn left and go about 1000 yds, turn right on Willie Richburg Rd. Follow this road until it ends at Liberty Hill Rd, turn left and the cemetery is on the right just past the pines, out in a field. Please advise Commander Hayes if you plan on going, so they can have a count as to how much food to prepare. Lunch will be BBQ Chicken with fixings. Be sure to bring weed eaters, shovels, rakes, saws, pruners and gloves. Work will start between 8 & 9 am. Let's try to have a good turnout from Litchfield 132 for this Brigade event. Commander Hayes phone number is 843-618-0815.

UPCOMING MUSTER CALLS

Sept. 15 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Meeting

Sept 19 Aynor Hoe down 9 am-5:30 pm Recruiting & fundraising tent

Sept 26 Brigade Cemetery Cleanup Manning SC details see above

Oct 10 Meeting Family picnic MB Outboard Motor Club Folly Rd, Socastee

Oct 17 Loris Bog off recruiting & fundraising tent 9 am-5 pm

Oct or Nov Camp cleanup of Stalvey Cemetery

Nov 17 6 pm dinner 7 pm Meeting

Dec.? Meeting and Family Christmas dinner date A& place to be determined

Jan 16, 2010 6 pm 7th Brigade Lee-Jackson Banquet, Springmaid Beach resort \$30 per person

Pvt. Clark Ables Co. F Orr's Rifles, 1st SC Infantry
Oct 13, 1825-Nov 12, 1862

Clark Ables was born and lived about 3 miles from Oakway, SC, formerly Pickens County, now Oconee County. Clark had a small farm he tended with his wife Mary Mason Ables. In March of 1862, some 16 months after SC left the Union, Clark enlisted into Orr's Rifles of the Confederate Army. When Clark left home, he left his beloved wife Mary, who was with child and 6 children. 3 girls and 2 boys, ranging in age from 3 years to 14 years of age. It is said that the morning he left home, that his children walked back and forth in his footprints in the dirt yard between the house and road all day. Little did Clark know that he would never again see his family nor his home in the foothills of SC. He departed Walhalla, by train, for Anderson and then on to Charleston. He was on Sullivan's Island on April 2, 1862, just a couple of days after leaving home. Clark and Orr's Rifles departed Charleston shortly after April 19, 1862 and from a letter written home, he was in Richmond, Va on April 26, 1862. Orr's Rifles took part in the 7 Days battles around Petersburg Va.

On August 10, 1862, Clark wrote that he was in the Hospital at Charlottesville, Va. With jaundice and had been there since August 7. He was moved to the hospital in Lynchburg, Va on Sept 4, 1862 and On Sept. 16 to the hospital in Danville Va. Clark never left the hospital in Danville, until Nov. 12, 1862, where he passed because of his illness. He was buried in a mass grave near the hospital. Thankfully for a good records keeper, a record was kept of all that were placed in the mass grave. The Cemetery is looked after now by the city of Danville, Va .

I have copies of 22 pages of letters that Clark wrote to his wife, Mary, between April 2 and Aug 10, 1862. They were passed down by his children to their children. In one letter he mentions receiving a plait of hair from his wife and in another he received a plait from his daughter Eliza. Even though, Clark died some 300 miles from home and family, his New Testament, which he carried to war from home survived. It was returned to his wife, with the plaits of hair in it after his death. His great great granddaughter Ruth Osborne had possession of the New Testament and plaits of hair along with several of Clark's original letters in the late 1980's.

This was my Great great grandfather and the soldier that I joined the SCV under. Many of Clark's descendants still reside in and near Oakway. A memorial stone was placed by his descendants at Bethel Baptist Church, where he attended church with his family. His wife Mary is also buried there. In 2007, my Cousin Wayne Nichols and myself placed a Southern Cross of Honor at Clark's memorial stone. This was our way of honoring him. I place a flag upon his grave one to two times a year, when I return to Oakway.

Ken Thrasher

Litchfield Camp #132
Members of the Guardian Program

Edward Altman

Eddie Pippin

Robert Scarborough

Johnny Sessions

Ed Thompson

Ken Thrasher

Ricky Todd

Guardians Pro Tem

Terry Carter

Rusty Richardson



The next will be Meeting Sept. 15, 2009 , 6 pm Dinner & MEETING WILL START AT 7 PM. at Watson's Funeral Home 2300 Hwy 378, Conway, SC. Our Speaker will be Ronnie Roach. Compatriot Roach will be presenting a program on General Wade Hampton. This should be a good educational presentation. Be sure to be there and bring a friend.

Membership fees are due. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. All renewals must be received by National & the State no later than Oct. 31 or a late fee will be charged. So, If you have not renewed yet, be sure to send the renewal in to Ronnie Holmes as soon as possible. Any dues received after Oct. 25 may not get to National and State in time to avoid the late fees.



The Litchfield Independent

Litchfield Camp 132 - Sons of Confederate Veterans

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