



"CONFEDERATE GRAYS"



Newsletter of the Norfolk County Grays

SCV Camp No. 1549

Volume 3

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April 2011

Officers

Mark Johnson
Commander

Kenzy Joyner
Lt. Commander

Justin Matthews
Adjutant

Kenzy Joyner
Color Sergeant

Frank Earnest
Public Relations Officer

Vance Tysor III
Treasurer

Edward James Sawyer
Chaplain

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Contact information:

Mark B. Johnson, *Cmdr*

Norfolk County Grays Meeting April 20, 2011

Gus & George's Spaghetti & Steak Restaurant
4312 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, Va.
(757-340-6587)
Just east of Independence Blvd
Map on Last Page of Newsletter

**Guest Speaker for the April Norfolk County
Grays meeting will be:
Wallace Harding, Past Commander**

Topic: Fort Sumter

Next Norfolk County Grays Camp Meeting May 18, 2011

Speaker: To Be Announced

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In Memoriam – Floyd Akers
April 14, 2011

On Thursday, April 14, 2011, compatriot Floyd Akers left this world to meet his ancestors. Floyd was a long time member of the camp who became inactive due to a long illness. Floyd was a retired Navy Chief and a veteran of both WWII and the Korean War. He discovered his Ancestor while on traveling through West Virginia several years ago and had an intimate knowledge of the war along the border. He will be sadly missed by his family friends and this camp. Fair winds and following seas Chief, rest well your Watch is over.



*Thank you to Mrs. Kenzy Joyner for her speech on
19th Century Medicine and the 3rd Alabama Hospital
at the March Meeting!*



Mrs. Joyner speaks to the Camp in a 19th century nurse's uniform regarding the means and methods of medical care during the time of the War Between the States. She passed around several items, including a hot water bottle/can and a U.S. Army Medical Manual, often used by Confederate medics and nurses.

The Camp inspects the items passed around by Mrs. Joyner



A candle that burned for the duration of the meeting was lit in loving memory of Donald Smith. (Apologies for the blurry picture)

***Summary of the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the
Chartering of the Norfolk County Grays, SCV Camp
#1549
Held on April 8, 2011***

On April 8th, 2011, only four days before the first shot fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, 150 years ago, our Camp marked an historical milestone of its own: the 20th anniversary of the chartering of the fellowship. There was a remarkable turnout, completely filling the banquet room of Gus & George's Steak House, both with our compatriots, spouses, and also numerous notable guests. We welcomed them all, particularly the Daughters of the Confederacy and those present at the Chartering, April 8, 1991.

Mrs. Marguerite Belote Hicks, wife of our First Commander, Bernard Bolton Belote, was the featured speaker. She told a very moving story about a 9 year old girl's experience when the Yankees occupied Norfolk. She then recited an original poem, "I'm Suthern."

There were several tables set up with many photos and memorabilia recalling events in which the Camp participated over the last 2 decades. One guest, Mrs. Hamilton, spoke of her great-grandfather, Mr. Boone, a member of the Black "Skeeterville Militia," the Confederate soldier's bible she had saved from a tragic house fire as her most cherished possession, and her gratitude to the Camp for the re-dedication of her ancestor's grave and help after her loss.

The framed original Charter was displayed, emblazoned with the names of the Charter Members. Each person present spoke of their family hero. Respects were paid to those compatriots who have passed on before us, with a toll of the bell as each of their names were read, and we enjoyed a beautiful and delicious cake decorated for the occasion. We concluded with a benediction and a spirited rendition of Dixie.

-Dr. Mallory Read

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - ALMANAC

April 1861

- April 3, 1861 - A "test vote" in the Virginia convention shows a 2-1 margin against secession
- April 4, 1861 - Virginia's secessionist convention votes 80-45 against secession.
- April 6, 1861 - Abraham Lincoln sends a message to Governor Pickens (SC) informing him that Fort Sumter will be re-provisioned and that if the effort is resisted, the fort will be reinforced
- April 7, 1861 - P. G. T. Beauregard orders all transports to Fort Sumter cut off. This ended the fort's supply of fresh food
- April 10, 1861 - Braxton Bragg assumes command of the Department of Alabama and West Florida
- April 11, 1861 - Confederates demand the surrender of Fort Sumter
- April 12, 1861 - Beginning at 4:30 am on the 12th and continuing until the morning of the 13th, Confederate batteries along the shore of Charleston Harbor fire on Fort Sumter under the command of Major Robert Anderson. Anderson arranges surrender with Texas Senator Louis Wigfall on the morning of the 13th.
- April 14, 1861 - During the formal surrender of Fort Sumter, Private Daniel Hough dies when the cannon he was loading (for the Union's 100-gun salute to the U.S. flag) discharges prematurely. He is the first man to die in the Civil War. A second man is mortally wounded.
- April 15, 1861 - President Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers for three months service to deal with the "insurrection."
- April 15, 1861 - Braxton Bragg places Lt. John Worden under arrest in Pensacola, Florida, making him the first prisoner-of-war in the American Civil War
- April 15, 1861 - Rejecting Lincoln's call for troops, Tennessee Governor Isham Harris orders a second session of the state legislature to consider the question of a secessionist convention.
- April 16, 1861 - The Confederate Congress passes a Conscription Act.
- April 17, 1861 - Virginia Secession Convention approves the wording of a referendum of secession and calls for a popular vote to approve it.
- April 17, 1861 - *Star of the West* is taken by militia aboard the Confederate Army steamer General Rusk off the coast of Texas.
- April 18, 1861 - Robert E. Lee is offered command of the United States Army
- April 18, 1861 - Troops begin to arrive in Washington, D. C.
- April 18, 1861 - Federal forces withdraw from Harpers Ferry
- April 19, 1861 - Southern sympathizers in Baltimore cut telegraph lines and bridges to Washington, D. C. While passing through the city, the 6th Massachusetts Regiment is attacked. They opened fire on a crowd. When the dust settled, three soldiers and one civilian were dead, the first casualties during fighting in the Civil War.
- April 19, 1861 - Lincoln calls for a blockade of Southern ports, a major element of Winfield Scott's Anaconda Plan
- April 19, 1861 - Virginia forces take control of Harpers Ferry
- April 19, 1861 - Federal marshals seize records of telegraphs sent from major northern cities, leading to the arrest of southern sympathizers.
- April 20, 1861 - Robert E. Lee resigns his commission in the United States Army
- April 20, 1861 - Federal troops scuttle ships at Gosport Naval Yard and evacuate Norfolk, Virginia

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - ALMANAC

April 1861 (continued)

- April 22, 1861 - The Clarksburg (present-day West Virginia) Convention calls for a anti-secessionist convention to be held in May, 1861
- April 22, 1861 - Maryland Governor Thomas Holliday Hicks calls a session of the Maryland legislature to consider secession
- April 23, 1861 - George McClellan appointed Major General of the Ohio militia
- April 23, 1861 - Federal troops withdraw from Fort Smith, Arkansas
- April 23, 1861 - Nominated by Governor Letcher of Virginia and approved by the Assembly on the previous day, Robert E. Lee assumes command of Virginia's militia
- April 23, 1861 - Virginia secessionist convention ratifies a temporary union with the Confederacy and accepts the Southern Constitution, subject to approval of the ordinance of secession (approved May 31, 1865)
- April 25, 1861 - In a daring nighttime operation, Illinois troops steam from Alton to St. Louis and remove 10,000 muskets with the help of federal troops in the armory
- April 25, 1861 - General Edwin Vose Sumner relieves Albert Sidney Johnston as Commander, Department of the Pacific
- April 27, 1861 - Lincoln extends the blockade to include Virginia and North Carolina
- April 27, 1861 - Virginia offers Richmond to be the Confederate capital.
- April 29, 1861 - The Maryland legislature votes 53-13 against convening a secessionist convention, dashing the hopes of a sizable pro-South group, but did not vote to end the session



VIRGINIA SECESSION TIMELINE



Taken from Wikipedia. Follow this link to the full article: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_in_the_American_Civil_War

Call for Secession Convention

On November 15, 1860 Virginia Governor John Letcher called for a special session of the Virginia General Assembly to consider, among other issues, the creation of a secession convention. The legislature convened on January 7 and approved the convention on January 14. On January 19 the General Assembly called for a national Peace Conference, led by Virginia's former President of the United States, John Tyler, to be held in Washington on February 4, the same date that elections were scheduled for delegates to the secession convention.

The election of convention delegates drew 145,700 voters who elected, by county, 152 representatives. Thirty of these delegates were secessionists, thirty were unionists, and ninety-two were moderates who were not clearly identified with either of the first two groups. Nevertheless, advocates of immediate secession were clearly outnumbered. Simultaneous to this election, six Southern states seceded to form the Confederate States of America on February 4.

Secession Convention

The convention met on February 13 at the Richmond Mechanics Institute located at Ninth and Main Street in Richmond. One of the convention's first actions was to create a 21 member Federal Relations Committee charged with reaching a compromise to the sectional differences as they affected Virginia. The committee was made up of 4 secessionists, 10 moderates and 7 unionists. At first there was no urgency to the convention's deliberations as all sides felt that time only aided their cause. In addition, there were hopes that the Peace Conference of 1861 on January 19, led by Virginia's former President of the United States, John Tyler, might resolve the crisis by, in historian Edward L. Ayers's words, "guaranteeing the safety of slavery forever and the right to expand slavery in the territories below the Missouri Compromise line." With the failure of the Peace Conference at the end of February, moderates in the convention

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - ALMANAC



VIRGINIA SECESSION TIMELINE (CONTINUED)

Taken from Wikipedia. Follow this link to the full article: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_in_the_American_Civil_War

began to waver in their support for unionism. Unionist support by many was further eroded for many Virginians by Lincoln's March 4 First Inaugural address which they felt was "argumentative, if not defiant. Throughout the state there was evidence that support for secession was growing.

The Federal Relations Committee made its report to the convention on March 9. The fourteen proposals defended both slavery and states' rights while calling for a meeting of the eight slave states still in the Union to present a united front for compromise. From March 15 through April 14 the convention debated these proposals one by one. During the debate on the resolutions, the sixth resolution calling for a peaceful solution and maintenance of the Union came up for discussion on April 4. Lewis Edwin Harvie of Amelia County offered a substitute resolution calling for immediate secession. This was voted down by 88 to 45 and the next day the convention continued its debate. Approval of the last proposal came on April 12. The goal of the unionist faction after this approval was to adjourn the convention until October, allowing time for both the convention of the slave states and Virginia's congressional elections in May which, they hoped, would produce a stronger mandate for compromise.

At the same time, unionists were concerned about the continued presence of federal forces at Fort Sumter despite assurances communicated informally to them by Secretary of State William Seward that it would be abandoned. Lincoln and Seward were also concerned that the Virginia convention was still in session as of the first of April while secession sentiment was growing. At Lincoln's invitation, unionist John B. Baldwin of Augusta County, met with Lincoln on April 4. Baldwin explained that the unionists needed the evacuation of Fort Sumter, a national convention to debate the sectional differences, and a commitment by Lincoln to support constitutional protections for southern rights. Over Lincoln's skepticism, Baldwin argued that Virginia would be out of the Union within forty-eight hours if either side fired a shot at the fort. By some accounts, Lincoln offered to evacuate Fort Sumter if the Virginia convention would adjourn.

On April 6, amid rumors that the North was preparing for war, the convention voted by a narrow 63-57 to send a three man delegation to Washington to determine from Lincoln what his intentions were. However due to bad weather the delegation did not arrive in Washington until April 12. They learned of the attack on Fort Sumter from Lincoln, and the President advised them of his intent to hold the fort and respond to force with force. Reading from a prepared text to prevent any misinterpretations of his intent, Lincoln told them that he had made it clear in his inaugural address that the forts and arsenals in the South were government property and "if ... an unprovoked assault has been made upon Fort Sumter, I shall hold myself at liberty to re-possess, if I can, like places which have been seized before the Government was devolved upon me."

The pro-Union sentiment in Virginia was further weakened after the April 12 Confederate attack upon Fort Sumter. Richmond reacted with large public demonstrations in support of the Confederacy on April 13 when it first received the news of the attack.. The convention reconvened on April 13 to reconsider Virginia's position, given the outbreak of hostilities. With Virginia still in a delicate balance, with no firm determination yet to secede, sentiment turned more strongly toward secession on April 15, following President Abraham Lincoln's call to all states that had not declared a secession, including Virginia, for troops to assist in halting the insurrection and recovering the captured forts.

War Department, Washington, April 15, 1861. To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia: Sir: Under the act of Congress for calling forth "militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, repel invasions, etc.," approved February 28, 1795, I have the honor to request your Excellency to cause to be immediately detached from the militia of your State the quota designated in the table below, to serve as infantry or rifleman for the period of three months, unless sooner discharged. Your Excellency will please communicate to me the time, at or about, which your quota will be expected at its rendezvous, as it will be met as soon as practicable by an officer to muster it into the service and pay of the United States.

– Simon Cameron, Secretary of War.

The quota for Virginia attached called for three regiments of 2,340 men to rendezvous at Staunton, Wheeling and Gordonsville. Governor Letcher and the recently reconvened Virginia Secession Convention considered this request from Lincoln "for troops to invade and coerce" lacking in constitutional authority, and out of scope of the Act of 1795. Governor Letcher's "reply to that call wrought an immediate change in the current of public opinion in Virginia," whereupon he issued the following reply:

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - ALMANAC



VIRGINIA SECESSION TIMELINE (CONTINUED)

Taken from Wikipedia. Follow this link to the full article: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_in_the_American_Civil_War

Executive Department, Richmond, Va., April 15, 1861. Hon. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War: Sir: I have received your telegram of the 15th, the genuineness of which I doubted. Since that time I have received your communications mailed the same day, in which I am requested to detach from the militia of the State of Virginia "the quota assigned in a table," which you append, "to serve as infantry or rifleman for the period of three months, unless sooner discharged." In reply to this communication, I have only to say that the militia of Virginia will not be furnished to the powers at Washington for any such use or purpose as they have in view. Your object is to subjugate the Southern States, and a requisition made upon me for such an object - an object, in my judgment, not within the purview of the Constitution or the act of 1795 - will not be complied with. You have chosen to inaugurate civil war, and, having done so, we will meet it in a spirit as determined as the administration has exhibited toward the South.

– Respectfully, John Letcher

Thereafter, the secession convention voted on April 17, provisionally, to secede, on the condition of ratification by a statewide referendum. Ayers, who felt that "even Fort Sumter might have passed, however, had Lincoln not called for the arming of volunteers," wrote of the convention's final decision:

The decision came from what seemed to many white Virginians the unavoidable logic of the situation: Virginia was a slave state; the Republicans had announced their intention of limiting slavery; slavery was protected by the sovereignty of the state; an attack on that sovereignty by military force was an assault on the freedom of property and political representation that sovereignty embodied. When the federal government protected the freedom and future of slavery by recognizing the sovereignty of the states, Virginia's Unionists could tolerate the insult the Republicans represented; when the federal government rejected that sovereignty, the threat could no longer be denied even by those who loved the Union.

The Governor of Virginia immediately began mobilizing the Virginia State Militia to strategic points around the state. Former Governor Henry Wise had arranged with militia officers on April 16, before the final vote, to seize the United States arsenal at Harpers Ferry and the Gosport Navy Yard in Norfolk. On April 17 in the debate over secession Wise announced to the convention that these events were already in motion. On April 18 the arsenal was captured and most of the machinery was moved to Richmond. At Gosport, the Union Navy, believing that several thousand militia were headed their way, evacuated and abandoned Norfolk, Virginia and the navy yard, burning and torching as many of the ships and facilities as possible.

Colonel Robert E. Lee resigned his U.S. Army commission, turning down an offer of command for the U.S. Army.

Secession ratification

By popular vote, Virginians ratified the articles of secession on May 23, 1861, with a vote of 132,201 to 37,451 in favor of, and ratifying the secession proposal. The results were initially held in secret for a couple of days, giving Virginia military forces time to officially respond in the defenses of Virginia, by making final preparation for the defense of Virginia.

After notification of the election results by telegram, Colonel Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson moved to shut down the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the Great Train Raid of 1861. The following day, the Union army moved into northern Virginia and captured Alexandria without a fight.

Pending the outcome of the ratification election, on May 6 provisional plans were made to move the Confederate capital from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond. Once the ratification was made official, the move of the capital to Virginia was enacted on May 29.





UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7, 2011

The Tom Smith #1702, in conjunction with the Suffolk United Daughters of the Confederacy, The Suffolk Historical Society, and Riddick's Folly Museum will host a day of Living History. To celebrate the Sesquicentennial we will host a Living History of the mustering of troops from Southeastern Virginia with recruitment, mustering and a march to the train station as our troops did 150 years ago. Join us for period attire, drills, music, sutlers and more. For further information, to help as a re-enactor, or to be included in the program, contact Riddick's Folly at riddicksfolly@verizon.net or 757-934-0822 or the Tom Smith Camp, Commander Mike Pullen at 757-538-8717 or jmpullen1234@aol.com.

May 18, 2011

Norfolk County Grays, SCV Camp #1549 Meeting

May 21, 2011

The Annual Lynchburg, Va. Civil War Gun/Relic Show from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Shilling Center, Liberty University, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502. Admission fee is \$5.00 per person, \$3.00 all students w/ID, 12 and under free. Co-hosted by The National Civil War Chaplains Museum and Garland-Rodes SCV Camp # 409. Visit www.garland-rodes.com for more information.

May 28, 29 2011

Pungo Strawberry Festival, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM – The Norfolk County Grays Camp #1549 will have our recruitment booth up at this festival – Volunteers Welcome!

May 30, 2011

Memorial Day Service at 9:00 AM at the Jackson Greys Monument in Chesapeake, Virginia. After the service we will meet at Elmwood and Cedar Grove Cemeteries in Norfolk to place flags on Confederate Graves.

June 4, 2011

Please join the Jefferson Davis Memorial Committee on Saturday, June 4th, 2011, at 9:00 am, at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Va. Our keynote speaker will be Bert Hayes-Davis, great-great grandson of Jefferson Davis. We will have lots of pageantry, colorful flags, and a family friendly event that all can enjoy, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the War Between The States, and our first and only Confederate President's birthday. We will be dedicating a new flag pole at Davis Circle, donated by the Armistead-Hill-Goode SCV Camp # 749. Folding chairs, porta-johns, and limited refreshments will be provided for your convenience. Ceremonial flags which fly on the Presidents flagpole and come with a certificate will be available. There will be rifle squads, honor guards, a bagpipe band, a wreath presentation, and a great cannon salute on the banks of the James River. For further information, contact Everett Ellis at rebel.yonder2@verizon.net, or, to place a wreath or to participate in the event, contact Jim Cochrane at JimmyC825@aol.com. Hope to see you there. For info on other events planned for the 150th anniversary, see the [Virginia Division website at www.scvva.org](http://www.scvva.org).

June 17-19, 2011

First Battle of Martinsville, VA hosted by the Stuart-Hairston Camp #515 Camp. Located on more than 60 acres of open fields at Martinsville's Smith River Sport Complex. Battles Saturday and Sunday with artillery night fire. Join us as history comes alive! General Jerry R. Parsons, Commander, Confederate Forces. General Keith Cornelius, Commander, Federal Forces. Contact Daniel Young, The Blacksmith at 276-629-7355 or 276-358-1557. For info and pre-registration form, e-mail scv515@gmail.com. [Click here to print a flyer for this event.](#)



May 7th-2011
“Storm Over Suffolk”

The Sesquicentennial Celebration in Suffolk Begins

Volunteer and be part of History in the making!

Please come and be a part of this Event.

The event begins at 9 am at Riddick's Folly House Museum on Main Street in Suffolk with actors in the house and guided tours, soldiers drilling, cavalry getting their horses ready to depart and civilians signing up to serve.

In the afternoon, the soldiers will march down Main Street to the train station with a re-enactor giving the actual speech that was given to the soldiers in May of 1861 in that very spot.

To be Eligible for any of the gratuities offered to Volunteers

You must be signed up as a Volunteer in Period Dress



**Location of Gus & George's Spaghetti & Steak Restaurant
Meetings begin at 7:00 PM**



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, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember that it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.

*Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee
Commander General
United Confederate Veterans
1906*