

# The General's Dispatch



The monthly newsletter for the St. Petersburg, Florida  
**Stonewall Jackson Camp 1381,**  
9<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Florida Division, Army of Tennessee,  
**Sons of Confederate Veterans**

Meets the 4th Saturday of the month from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
at Stacey's Buffet, 1451 Missouri Avenue, Largo, Florida



*Stonewall Jackson*

September 2009

## OFFICERS' CONTACT INFORMATION

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Don Palen – Sergeant-At-Arms	(727) 224-9122	

## CAMP MEETING

Our next meeting of the Stonewall Jackson Camp will be **THURSDAY, September 24 at 7:00 P.M. at Perkins Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd., Largo.** We will be showing the 1<sup>st</sup> part of *Birth of a Nation*, which is a classic. If you haven't seen this movie, I really should. Please plan on joining us for this meeting and enjoying the fellowship of your fellow compatriots. Bring a guest! Also, plan on having dinner. We had a good turnout for our June meeting on Thursday night, so we want to try it again. You won't want to miss this meeting!

## AUGUST 22, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Our meeting was held at 9:30 at Stacey's. Commander Randy called the meeting to order and Compatriot Don Palen led the salute to the Confederate flag. Members in attendance were Compatriots Don Palen, Frank Thornton, Ted Dahlem, Bill Emerson and Randy Bailey. Guests were Chuck Sable and John Yavor. Minutes from the July meeting were approved and a treasurer's report was given. There were no reports or old business. New member Jim Bard was approved for Camp membership. Transfer of membership for Chuck Sable was approved. The Camp approved making a pledge to the Flags Across Florida – Tampa project. Discussion was held regarding certain members expressing political views at meetings which are against the bylaws of the Camp. Ideas for annual dues payments were discussed and Randy mentioned that we need to collect the annual dues. Discussion was held regarding making arrangements in certain circumstances for annual dues. An episode of *Mosby's Rangers* was shown to the delight of the Camp members. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 with a benediction by Chaplin Bill Emerson. Members then participated in a fellowship lunch.

## NEW MEMBER

We want to welcome new member, Charles M. (Chuck) Sable, who is transferring his membership for the Lt. Robert J. Tipton Camp #2083, Hampton, Tennessee. Chuck is a former Commander of the Lt. Robert J. Tipton Camp. **WELCOME COMPATRIOT CHUCK!** We look forward to you being in the Camp.

## NEW MEMBER DRIVE

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact them and invite them to a meeting. We need to enlist brothers with Southern heritage. If the camps in surrounding areas can recruit members, surely we can too. Invite, follow-up, and then follow-up again. We have a great bunch of guys and it is to all of our benefit to get new members to help us protect our heritage and the heritage of the South.

## SEPTEMBER DATES IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

September 1, 1862: Battle of Chantilly, Virginia  
September 1, 1864: Battle of Jonesborough, Georgia  
September 10, 1836: Major General Joseph Wheeler born  
September 11, 1861: Battle of Cheat Mountain, (West) Virginia  
September 13, 1861: 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Lexington, Missouri  
September 14, 1862: Battle of South Mountain, Maryland  
September 15, 1862: Stonewall captures Harper's Ferry, (West) Virginia  
September 17, 1862: Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam), Maryland  
September 19, 1862: Battle of Iuka, Mississippi  
September 19, 1862: Battle of Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia  
September 19, 1863: Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia  
September 19, 1864: 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Winchester, Virginia  
September 21, 1864: Battle of Fisher's Hill, Virginia  
September 24, 1864: Sheridan lays waste to the Shenandoah Valley  
September 27, 1864: Battle of Marianna, Florida

## MARYLAND CAMPAIGN SEPTEMBER 1862

After his victory at Manassas 2nd, Robert E. Lee turned north, crossing the Potomac River during September 4-6 to invade Maryland. He then divided his army of 65,000 men by sending Stonewall Jackson westward to attack Harpers Ferry. The capture of this Potomac crossing would open up a protected Confederate supply line down the Shenandoah Valley. The remainder of the Southern army moved from Frederick to Hagerstown, Maryland.

In Washington, D.C., General John Pope's battered Army of Virginia was absorbed into the major Federal striking force, the Army of the Potomac. General George McClellan, restored to top command, began moving slowly northwest toward Frederick with some 84,000 troops. On September 13 McClellan reached Frederick. Here he learned that General Lee's army, to his front, was widely scattered. Still, McClellan moved with extreme caution. At daylight on September 14 he sent General Ambrose Burnside, commander of his right wing, with two corps to Turner's Gap in South Mountain. The Federals arrived at noon to find the pass held by General Daniel Hill's division, later supported by General James Longstreet's division. The ensuing battle of South Mountain lasted into the night. Finally the Confederates were beaten back, outflanked on the right (north) by General Joseph Hooker's I Corps and on the left by General Jesse Reno's IX Corps. Although the action was a Federal victory, the Confederate defense had given General Lee an extra day to reassemble his army. Among the 1,813 Federal casualties was the mortally wounded Reno. Hill and Longstreet lost 2,685 men.

As Burnside was forcing his way through Turner's Gap, McClellan's left wing under General William Franklin (VI Corps) attacked westward through Crampton's Gap, four miles to the south. West of this height, the Confederate general Lafayette McLaws, who also commanded General Richard Anderson's division, was supporting Jackson's determined offensive against Harpers Ferry. McLaws turned to confront Franklin. Driven out of the pass, the Confederates fell back southward down Pleasant Valley. Here McLaws bluffed the Federal commander into

hesitating. While Franklin delayed, Harpers Ferry fell early the following morning (September 15). Federal indecision had given the Confederates another tactical advantage.

After losing both mountain passes, General Lee planned to withdraw to the south side of the Potomac. But when he learned that Jackson had taken Harpers Ferry and was marching northward to join him at Sharpsburg, General Lee took up a defensive position behind Antietam Creek, awaiting McClellan's attack. It was a risky decision. The Confederate army numbered only 20,000 at this time, while the oncoming Federal Army of the Potomac consisted of 75,000 troops. However, McClellan moved up slowly and spent all of September 16 organizing his attack for the following day. Meanwhile Jackson arrived from his victory at Harpers Ferry with 11,000 men, and another 10,000 were on the way.

The Federal attack began at dawn on September 17 on the north end of the line and spread across the front to the center and finally to the extreme southern flank by late afternoon. The piecemeal assault nullified McClellan's marked numerical superiority. On the northern flank, Hooker's I Corps drove the Confederate left past Dunkard Church and West Woods, until it was finally checked by the hard-fighting Texans of General John Bell Hood. Hooker was wounded and General Joseph Mansfield, commander of the supporting XIII Corps, killed.

In the center General Edwin Sumner committed his II Corps precipitously only to have General John Sedgwick's division thrown back with 2,200 casualties. However, the divisions of Generals William French and Israel Richardson fought their way forward, driving D.H. Hill's Confederates out of a sunken road now called Bloody Lane. By noon General Lee's center in front of Sharpsburg and his left flank to the north stood in grave danger. Only Federal lethargy prevented a total rout.

At the southern end of the front Burnside launched his attack against the Confederate right flank about noon. During the next four hours the Federals swarmed across Antietam Creek, driving back Longstreet's men to the southern edge of Sharpsburg. At this decisive moment the tide of battle abruptly changed. General A.P. Hill's division arrived from Harpers Ferry to strike Burnside's IX Corps in the flank and send it reeling back to Antietam Creek. This check to the Federal advance saved the Confederate army and ended the battle.

Sharpsburg is often called the "bloodiest single day of the war." General Lee lost 13,724 men, McClellan 12,140. General Lee remained in position during the day of September 18, and then began withdrawing across the Potomac that night. Federal pursuit was negligible – McClellan wanted no part of that "wounded tiger."

Submitted by Randy Bailey

**CAMP MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTMEBER 24  
7:00 P.M.  
PERKINS RESTAURANT  
8841 PARK BLVD., LARGO**

**DEO VINDICE**







# CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY

The marching armies of the past  
Along our Southern plains,  
Are sleeping now in quiet rest  
Beneath the Southern rains.

The bugle call is now in vain  
To rouse them from their bed;  
To arms they'll never march again--  
They are sleeping with the dead.

No more will Shiloh's plains be stained  
With blood our heroes shed,  
Nor Chancellorsville resound again  
To our noble warriors' tread.

For them no more shall reveille  
Sound at the break of dawn,  
But may their sleep peaceful be  
Till God's great judgment morn.

We bow our heads in solemn prayer  
For those who wore the gray,  
And clasp again their unseen hands  
On our Memorial Day.

Author Unknown

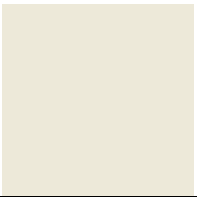
*"We could have pursued no other course without dishonor. And sad as the results have been, if it had all to be done over again, we should be compelled to act in precisely the same manner."* - **General Robert E. Lee**

# *Confederate Memorial Day e-Greetings for April 26 - Confederate Memorial Day in Florida*

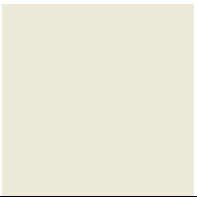
(click on image to send Confederate Memorial Day eCard)

Origins of  
Memorial Day,  
[Click Here](#)

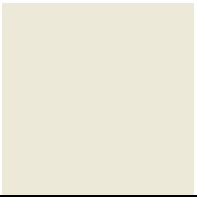
Send an e-Letter that details the Origins of Memorial Day, starting in Columbus, Georgia during the War of Northern Aggression. The Source of the material is the Confederate Veteran magazine. Very educational e-Letter.



**Lest They Be Forgotten. April 26 is Confederate Memorial Day, set aside in their Honour and Memory, in Florida.**



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**For Information on Confederate Memorial Services at Stone Mountain, click [here](#).**



**Lest They Be Forgotten ... Confederate POW's at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.**