



# CAMPTALK

The monthly Newsletter of the Capt. J.J. Dickison Camp 1387, 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Florida Division, Army of Tennessee, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Melbourne Florida

Vol. 36 No. 10 Oct 2016

Chartered 28 March 1981

Editor Justin Murrell

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## August 2016 MEETING

MEMAW's BBQ 600 East Eau Gallie Blvd. Indian Harbour Beach, Florida

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Order from menu 7:00 – 8:00 Program 8:00 – 8:45 Business Meeting. Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month except November and December.

Male descendants of men who served the Confederacy, their wives and others interested in the War For Southern Independence are invited to attend.

### CAMP OFFICERS

Chaplain Tim Cobb	321-259-8391
Treasurer Tom Watkins	321-254-0241
<a href="mailto:Tew4515@yahoo.com">Tew4515@yahoo.com</a>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Rick Still	321-984-9967
<a href="mailto:Rickscv1387@att.net">Rickscv1387@att.net</a>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Larry Thornton	321-208-1765
Adjutant Rob Murray	321-269-7747
<a href="mailto:rmurray2@cfl.rr.com">rmurray2@cfl.rr.com</a>	
Commander Marc Thornton	321-698-4550
<a href="mailto:lmthorn@juno.com">lmthorn@juno.com</a>	

### CAMP STAFF

Color Sgt Rob Murray	321-269-7747
Q'termaster Marc Thornton	321-698-4550
Judge Advocate Don Lock	321-752-9276
Webmaster Tom Watkins	321-254-0241
Editor Justin Murrell	321-292-1840
<a href="mailto:justinmurrell@cfl.rr.com">justinmurrell@cfl.rr.com</a>	
Heritage Don Young	321-452-3207
Recording Sec. Miss June	321-984-9967
UDC/OCR Liaison Miss June	321-984-9967
<a href="mailto:Stillvill2@bellsouth.net">Stillvill2@bellsouth.net</a>	

### Message from the Editor:

For those of you who do not know my mother has been battling cancer all year. ON Thursday she went into the hospital for back and neck pain. The cancer has spread

into her brain. There is nothing that can be done it is just a matter of time. Any prayers would be appreciated

Thank you,

Justin Murrell Editor

## COMMANDERS CORNER

FaceBook Mike Reynolds

321-574-545



## COMMANDERS CORNER

Greetings,

I want to thank Tom Watkins for presiding over the September meeting allowing me to travel to Tavares for Rifles, Rails & History. Additional thanks to 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Larry Rowe for taking the time to travel and deliver the September program.

The Nominating Committee for 2017 - 2018 term completed their search and submitted their recommended slate of officers to the Commander and E-board. The list has changed a little since it was first presented due to individuals changing their minds. Thank you to the committee members for completing this difficult task. The list of nominees and election details are in this issue of Camptalk, nominations from the floor will be accepted at the November election.

It is with great sympathy I must inform members and friends of camp 1387 that Miss June has "crossed over the river". June was the wife of compatriot Richard Still and was the recording secretary, genealogy specialist, float decorator extraordinary and all around Camp Matron for camp 1387. To say her loss is unexpected and devastating is an understatement. We will make it without her, but there will be additional challenges for the camp. She made sure this camp ran smoothly, she loved to help in any way possible and she did it with a smile and enthusiasm that is seldom seen. Please keep Rick Still and their son and daughter in your prayers while missing Miss June.

We have several events coming up in the near future. Range & Safety Expo, Veterans Day Parade, Massing of the Colors, Raid on Ft. Pierce, and our Christmas Social. Please refer to the event section in Camp Talk for specific details so you can plan accordingly in order to participate.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting.

God Bless the South!

Cmdr. Marc Thornton

\*\*\*\*\*

**EVENT**

10-27 Camp meeting

11-5 Expo at the gun range

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROGRAM**

**The Great Seal of the Confederacy**

Compatriot Don Young will continue the program on the Florida succession movement. We all look forward to learning more about this interesting time.

\*\*\*\*\*



Past Commander Kevin Atchison, young Tom Watkins, Nick Nichols, Rick Debord and JR Williford should all be remembered for health issues. Immediate Past Division Commander Jim Davis needs our prayers for health issues as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

.....

All about the 2016 three-day Fourth Annual Rifles, Rails and History event in Tavares FL., by Cmdr. Marc Thornton

I was fortunate enough to have been able to take off, travel, and participate in the 2016 Rifles, Rails and History event held annually in Tavares Florida. My trip began Thursday 9-22-16 evening after a normal day at work. I got home and packed the last few remaining items to take with me in my van. I left M.I. at about 6:30 pm and was on my way to Tavares, FL. I missed one exit on the way there which added an additional 10 miles to the trip. I made it to my hotel at about 8:45 and checked in. I unloaded my bags and quickly got back into the van and met Don Young at the park where the event is held. We unloaded the items needed for our living history presentation on the flags of the Confederacy. The location we were assigned was perfect. We were right next to a pavilion and several trees that would provide shade from the sun. We set up a table under the pavilion where we made it our base camp. We set ground steaks in a configuration which would be favorable to our flag program. That was all for Thursday night with the exception of going back to the hotel to rest.

We were up and at it early Friday. I was at the event location at 8 am. The first order of the day was to check in at the event registration tent. All camps send in a registration form weeks prior to the event. Registration "packets" are brown paper bags that have the camp name and number printed on the outside of the bag for quick identification. Contents were event schedule, event map, participation ribbon, and coupons for local establishments. Event tee shirts, mugs, and glasses were also available for purchase at the registration tent.

I got the day started setting up flags for living history. Then we set up the table with pamphlets, period artifacts, and other items to draw interest to our station. We were also lucky enough to have shared the pavilion with General William Wing Loring camp 1316 St. Augustine, FL where they set up a display featuring black confederate soldiers. We had a fairly large area to entice the interest of spectators in the area.

This was Friday; education day, when the event's subtitle "Living History Encampment" comes into play, with demonstrations of weaving and spinning and displays of period clothing, a medical doctor's practice, Civil War flags and artifacts from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. . The event got underway at about 9am and started away from our living history flag location so we did not get our first visitors until about 9:45 am. They get groups of children together and make rounds to each camps station. This way each group can travel around and keep from overcrowding at any one station. A canon is fired to signal when to move to the next station. In addition to the canon fire each group is led by a volunteer in period attire to each station to help keep order and to continue to educate while moving from one station to the next. I saw one soldier leading a group and giving marching instructions. This gets the visitors involved and better promotes the education process. What better way to learn then to actually do something.

Don Young and I sprang into action when the visitors were shown to our station. We delivered our living history program on the flags of the Confederacy. Going from one flag to the next we worked together. I would hold the flag open and unfurled to allow guest's to see all the detail of each flag while Don would wow them with tales about each flag. We would each take turns on displaying a flag and giving the spoken history lesson. As the day progressed and we got more comfortable with the presentation I found it became much easier.

After our presentation we would invite the guest's to come into the pavilion for some free giveaways. Then we would distribute SCV literature and try to keep their interest with some period items we displayed on the table. I had a sword, two forks, and a rifle. Justin Murrell set up his original flag pieces and Jefferson Davis signature. All these items helped to keep the interest and dialogue open between us and the guest's before they would move along to the next station.

Other stations and displays; The Kirby-Smith camp 1209 Jacksonville, FL has a rather large display featuring a half-scale replica of the Confederate submarine the H.L. Hunley, which sunk the USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor in 1864, was on display. The Kirby-Smith Camp also has a hot-air balloon that is tethered on site to remind people of the role similar balloons played in surveillance during the Civil War. Their camp also had tents, furniture, and tools from the time of the WBS. Of course the members were also in full uniform and period attire. They would position themselves where they could interact with the event guest's, often next to the Hunley or the hot air balloon. When people would stop and look they ask if anyone has questions and this would promote dialogue which in turn would bring on the living history lesson. This was done when the groups of children were gone and just the general public was around. I was in full uniform and was asked if I had questions about the Hunley. No one was left out and the living history is always an interesting and pleasing way to learn about the intended subject matter.

Other camps had period authentic setups like you would find on the edge of the battle field. Tents, camp fires, ammunitions, and the like were set up in satellite locations around the event grounds. Again dialogue between the guests and participants was key. "Come in and join us", "feel this blanket", and "did you know" are some things you may hear while strolling around the camps. One person would show how the average soldier would stow all their personal belongings in their blanket, tie it at each end, and throw it over their shoulder for ease of travel. Others were cleaning guns, cooking over the camp fire, or practicing military maneuvers.

Period items are for sale by suttlers who were set up there. Suttlers pitch a large canvas hut, set up tables, hangers, and display what they have to sell. You can find most anything that would exist in the time period of the WBS; from the hat on top of your head to the shoes and socks on your feet and everything in between. Guns, leathers, irons, toys, utensils, dishes, cook ware, and much more can be had at the suttlers shop. There are some service related vendors as well. There was a gun smith and surgeon at this event. The Florida division of the Mechanized Cavalry was also represented. General Jubal A. Early Camp 556 from Tampa FL had their period authentic tent set up offering giveaways and information on the MC. I participated in the swearing in of a new member for the MC. This was the very same location that I was sworn in exactly one year ago at Rifles, Rails and History. The swearing in of MC member is always a surprise for the individual being sworn in. They are without any prior knowledge of when or where this may happen. This is typical in motorcycle clubs everywhere and always makes for some interesting camaraderie to say the least.

The mechanized cavalry is responsible for the Confederate Veterans Moving Wall. They funded and developed the panels used to make up the wall. The wall has names of our Florida ancestors who gave all for the cause. If you ever get the chance to see the wall check to see if you have an ancestor listed. They are in alphabetical order for ease of locating. Several thousand men (soldiers, sailors, marines, physicians, and chaplains) in

the State of Florida's armed forces died from wounds, diseases, illnesses, or accidents during or soon after the "Civil War." They were of diverse races, creeds, and nationalities. These individuals were pursuing the dual, and what they believed to be honorable, causes of defending and maintaining the sovereignties of the State of Florida and the Confederate States of America. Although the Traveling Florida Confederate Memorial Wall contains only the names of those who served honorably and died during the period 1861-1865, the initiative endeavors to pay homage to all of the aforementioned personnel. Therefore, the primary goal of this nonpolitical undertaking is to provide an educational and sacred tribute to these men.

The event is held in the downtown historic district of Tavares at Wooten Park on Lake Dora. The train station and tracks are located adjacent to Wooten Park where the event is held. The Orange Blossom Cannonball is an actual steam engine that is still in use on a regular basis. They use several passenger cars, a flatbed car, and the cabooses. "Steam Back to the North and South," refers to the steam train rides on the Cannonball, which appeared in many films and two Civil War miniseries on TV. The Confederate cavalry raided the train on Saturday and Sunday. While not in use for the event, tickets can be purchased at the train station for local area tours. This building is not only the train station, but also houses the chamber of commerce for Tavares.

There is a main tent where specific programs are held at varied time slots throughout the day. One was Gen R.E. Lee as interpreted by Al Stone and General Ulysses Grant, by Bret Gordon. FL Division commander Don Young gave one on Florida history. This tent was setup with microphones and audio system along with substantial seating available for spectators. General announcements were also made from this location.

Skirmish reenactment was located on the West side of the event location adjacent to Seaplane Adventures. The battle was fought on the Tavares Docks both days. "It's unusual to be done in downtown. It makes it popular among re-enactors." Usually reenactments are performed in large secluded fields.

This event is one of my favorites and I'm looking forward to it again next year. I highly recommend attending Rifles, Rails, and History in Tavares FL.

Cmdr. Marc Thornton

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Capt. J.J. Dickison Camp 1387 Melbourne, FL

The Nominating committee list for officers:

Commander Marc Thornton

1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Commander Larry Thornton

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Marvin Ferebee

Adjutant Mike Reynolds

Treasurer Tom Watkins

Chaplin Tim Cobb

Chaplin; duties include meeting and event Invocation and Benediction as well as health wishes, prayers, cards and flower sending as needed.

Treasurer; collects or receives camp monies and writes checks as needed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander; conducts recruiting activities (phone contacts, etc), greets visitors and maintains the sign in sheet. Coaches new members with application process and presents to e-board.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander; plans and arranges programs and meeting places, fills in for Commander.

Adjutant; conducts camp correspondence including membership renewal, maintains camp rooster.

Commander; Camp leader, conducts all meetings, appoints members to positions not elected, appoints and closes committees at his discretion, represents camp in all venues.

Elected offices are open to any Active Member in good standing willing to take on the duties. Office term is 2 years.

All elected officers are equal voting members of the Executive Committee which conducts routine camp business at a meeting called by the Commander as needed, typically each month. Appointed positions are not voting members of the e-board.

Election is at the November Camp Meeting with nominations accepted from the floor and new officers sworn in at the December Christmas Social.

\*\*\*\*\*