



April 2011

# *The Cannon Report*

*The Powhatan Troop, SCV Camp 1382*



## *Commander's Comments*

At our February meeting I brought up the subject of sagging attendance at our meetings and asked for some ideas. One idea that I proposed, which was ultimately adopted, was to look into sharing meetings with other local SCV camps. Our regular April meeting has thus been postponed to coincide with the regular meeting of the J.E.B Stuart Camp 1343 which will be on May 5, 2011. The location is the Grapevine II Restaurant at 11055 Three Chopt Road near the Short Pump area. I will lead a carpool from the usual place in the parking lot of the old grocery store at Flat Rock. We will depart no later than 5:30 PM from Flat Rock. Because of pipeline construction, your only access to the lot may be from Dorset Road instead of from Rt. 60.

The restaurant is a Greek/Italian style with entrees starting around \$8.00. The J.E.B. Stuart Camp has had the same issues with restaurants that we have had in Powhatan and can no longer find a place to meet in Midlothian. We do have a new restaurant in Powhatan but it is not yet known whether it will be suitable for us to use in the future. Most restaurants want 20-25 dinners served in order to book a room for use or impose a fee for the use of a room. The JEB Stuart Camp meets at 6:00 PM for dinner with the speaker starting at 7:00 PM and any business is brought up after the lecture. The members of the Powhatan Troop will be welcome guests at this meeting but it is the J.E.B Stuart Camp's meeting. It is my hope that both camps will find something useful from inter-camp collaborations.

The speaker at this meeting is Mr. Jack Marlar, the SCV's traveling representative for the Army of Northern Virginia. The topic of the lecture is the Confederate Patent Office. Mr. Marlar will also address the latest news about the Sam Davis Youth Camp in Bedford, Virginia. The speaker programs at the JEB Stuart Camp have been exceptional so I hope that our camp can learn something about how they do it.

Looking ahead, there are a number of events that your camp will participate in and members are encouraged to attend, if they can. The Confederate Memorial Day program at Huguenot Springs Cemetery will be on May 30, 2011 and our camp will participate in the wreath laying ceremonies. On June 4, the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Jefferson Davis Memorial Service, a Sesquicentennial event, will take place at Hollywood Cemetery at 9 AM. Our camp will again participate in the wreath laying ceremonies. Finally, we will share a cookout with the JEB Stuart Camp at Lt. Cmdr. James Cochrane's private 30-acre lake on the afternoon of June 4, 2011.

Lastly, for our regularly scheduled meeting on May 22, 2011, we will meet solely for business to discuss ways to improve our Muster Day program in October 2011. This is our sesquicentennial event and I would like to do whatever we can to have an outstanding program this year. Our discussions with the JEB Stuart Camp indicate that they will participate in our Muster Day this year. Anyone with knowledge of persons with musical and vocal talent is encouraged to attend this meeting. Details on all these events will be in the May Canon Report.

Adjutant Mike Pogue has resigned his position and Chaplain Dennis Campbell has agreed to step in for the remainder of the Adjutant's term. Henceforth, we will direct all Adjutant's mail to the home of Treasurer A.J. Seamons. The Post Office box was lost (due to non-payment) about six months ago, so the direction of some officer's mail to Treasurer Seamons is for the mutual convenience of the officers involved. Do not address any mail to PO Box 441 from this time forward, send it directly to one of the camp officers.

**John Moody**  
Commander

**Paul Houser**  
Lt. Commander

**Bishop Dennis Campbell**  
Adjutant

**Andrew Seamons Jr.**  
Treasurer

**Bishop Dennis Campbell.**  
Chaplain

**Dr. Ronald W. Toney**  
Surgeon

**Malcolm Campbell Jr.**  
Color Sergeant

**Vacant**  
Aide-De-Camp

**Stuart Townes**  
Quartermaster

**Kenneth Phibbs**  
Camp Historian

**Gordon Drumheller**  
Judge Advocate

**Paul M. Houser**  
Editor TCR  
Webmaster

**DEO  
VINDICE**



## 150 years

### **The Battle of Fort Sumter on April 12 & 13, 1861, the beginning of the War of Northern Aggression.**

On April 12th, Maj. Robert Anderson and 127 men held Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, with Capt. Abner Doubleday being second in command. The men had been neither supplied nor reinforced since occupying the fort the night of December 26, 1860. Their presence caused a crisis between the U.S. government and the seceded state of South Carolina, offended at Union troops sitting on sovereign territory. Confederate forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, had thrown up batteries on the harbor's shores north and south of Fort Sumter and trained guns on it from Forts Moultrie and Johnson. Fort Sumter mustered only 66 cannon, several unmounted. At 3:20 A.M., the crisis came to a head.

The Confederate cabinet telegraphed Beauregard on April 10 to fire on Fort Sumter if absolutely necessary to prevent reinforcement. Capt. Stephen D. Lee and Col. James Chestnut, secessionists, rowed out to Fort Sumter and made a last demand for surrender. Anderson refused, but said he would be starved out in a few days anyway.

Beauregard then asked Anderson precisely when he would be forced to evacuate the fort. Anderson carefully considered his reply and said that he would leave by noon, April 15, unless before that time he should receive either instructions from Washington, D.C. or additional supplies. That wasn't fast enough for the Confederates. At 3:20 A.M. on the 12th, they informed Anderson that their batteries would open fire in one hour. Anderson had also declined previous surrender demands because ships loaded with troops and supplies were reported en route.

After an hour and ten minutes, Capt. George S. James, commanding Fort Johnson's east mortar battery, ordered the firing of a signal shell. At 4:40 A.M., Edmund Ruffin of Virginia, firebrand and hero of the secessionist movement, touched off a gun in the ironclad battery at Cummings Point. 43 Confederate guns in a ring around Fort Sumter began the bombardment that initiated the bloodiest war in American History. Anderson mustered his force on the parade ground, warned the men to not take any unnecessary risks, and sent them to their guns. He offered honor of the Union's first shot to Doubleday, who fired it around 7:00 A.M.

By daybreak, batteries from around Charleston Harbor were assailing Sumter. If Anderson was short of food, he was also short of powder and fuses. Anderson mustered his force on the parade ground, warned the men to not take any unnecessary risks, and sent them to their guns. He offered honor of the Union's first shot to Doubleday, who fired it around 7:00 A.M. It missed, sailing high over the Iron Battery on Cummings Point. A lopsided, 34-hour duel began. After firing a few rounds from different guns, the Federals restricted themselves to serving 6 cannon, since they were short of powder-bag cartridges. Of the 47 guns that had been readied, most never got into the fight. 43 loyal civilian workmen making up part of the garrison sewed more bags from linen, burlap scraps, and socks. The supply ships Anderson expected to arrive in the afternoon of the 12th but were kept outside the harbor by confederate artillery.

Unsurprisingly, the Union bombardment never did much damage. Observing the rules of warfare, Anderson and his men weren't firing on the city of Charleston, and were fast finding that solid shot didn't much damage to earthen batteries. The cannonade continued throughout the night. The next morning a hot shot (cannon balls heated in a furnace to start fires) from Fort Moultrie set fire to the officers' quarters. In early afternoon, the flagstaff was shot away. Soldiers braved the shells and fires in the courtyard and retrieved the flag, which they hung out a casemate. About 2:00 P.M., Anderson agreed to a truce, convinced that help was not coming. That evening he surrendered his garrison. Miraculously, no one on either side had been killed during the engagement, and the Federal soldiers, sheltered in Sumter's brick caverns, suffered only five injuries. Sadly, during the 100-gun salute to the US flag – Anderson's one condition – a pile of cartridges blew up from a spark, killing a soldier.

On Sunday, the 14th, Anderson and his garrison marched out of the fort and boarded ships for transport to New York. They had defended Fort Sumter for 34 hours, until "the quarters were entirely burned, the main gates destroyed by fire, the gorge walls seriously injured, the magazines surrounded by flames.\*

\*Source <http://www.mycivilwar.com/battles/610412.htm>

*Paul M. Houser  
Cannon Report Editor*