



November 2013

The Cannon Report

The Powhatan Troop, SCV Camp 1382

Kenneth Phibbs
Commander

John Moody
Lt. Commander

Stuart Townes
Adjutant

Andrew Seamons Jr.
Treasurer

Bishop Dennis Campbell.
Chaplain

Dr. Ronald W. Toney
Surgeon

Malcolm Campbell Jr.
Color Sergeant

Vacant
Aide-De-Camp

Vacant
Quartermaster

Kenneth Phibbs
Camp Historian

Gordon Drumheller
Judge Advocate

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Cannon Report Editor
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**DEO
VINDICE**

Commander's Comments

First, Happy Thanksgiving to everybody.

Our **November 17, meeting will start at 2:00** at Edgemont, the birth place of John Singleton Mosby. Dave and Susan Kuroski have accepted our request to visit their home located at 2211 Ballsville Rd (west 8.6 miles on 60 from Maidens Rd. 522), then approximately half mile South of 60 on right side. Dave will be our guest speaker, as well. Please take note of the day and time. Starting with our January meeting we will return to the fourth Sunday of the month at Creekside Restaurant. We will plan on marching in the Christmas Parade this year. I need a firm commitment to ensure our participation for this activity; the parade fee is non-refundable. The Christmas party will be at my house again this year following the parade.

Kenneth Phibbs, Commander

Cannon Report

In last month's Cannon Report I told you a little about Edgemont's history . I hope you can make it to the meeting this month to see this wonderfully preserved home, thanks to Compatriot Warren West's efforts and the current owners, Dave and Susan Kuroski. This home stills echoes with true Southern tradition.



I have included a brief history of Col. Mosby. His war exploits have filled volumes. His historic heroism can best be avowed by his commanding Officer, Major General J.E.B. Stuart who wrote "Captain JOHN S. MOSBY has for a long time attracted the attention of his Generals by his boldness, skill and success, so signally displayed in his numerous forays upon the invaders of his native State. None know his daring enterprise and dashing heroism better than those foul invaders, though strangers themselves to such noble traits. His late brilliant exploit - the capture of Brig. Gen. STOUGHTON, U.S.A., two Captains, thirty other prisoners, together with their arms, equipments and fifty-eight horses - justifies this recognition in General Orders. This feat, unparalleled in the war, was performed in the midst of the enemy's troops, at Fairfax C.H., without loss or injury. The gallant band of Capt. Mosby share the glory, as they did the danger of this enterprise, and are worthy of such a leader."



The Gray Ghost



John Singleton Mosby, was born December 06, 1833 at Edgemont, the home of his grandparents, James McLaurine and Catherine Steger McLaurine, in Powhatan County, Virginia, and died May 30, 1916, at the age of 82, in Washington DC. He married Pauline Clarke on December 30, 1857 in Bristol, Tennessee.

On December 6, 1833, Virginia McLaurine Mosby, wife of Alfred Daniel Mosby, gave birth to a son and named him John Singleton, after his paternal grandfather. Mosby lived in Nelson County, Va. until the age of six when his father moved to adjoining Albemarle County, four miles from Charlottesville. He enrolled at the University of Virginia on October 3, 1850; however, in 1852, he shot a fellow student after a dispute and was expelled from the University. He took up several months of study in a local law office and soon passed the bar, setting up

his own practice in nearby Howardsville in Albemarle County. When Virginia followed other Southern states and seceded, Mosby decided to enlist in the Confederate army. At the outbreak of the war, Mosby followed a local company of infantry, but quickly transferred to the cavalry corps of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart. He was present at the battles of Manassas, the Peninsula, Second Manassas, and Antietam. It was during February of 1862 that he became a scout for General J. E. B. Stuart who immediately recognized his ability to gather intelligence. After Mosby discovered and made Stuart aware of Union General George B. McClellan's vulnerability to being encircled, Stuart conducted his famous "Ride Around McClellan" maneuver. Before too long, however, Mosby became anxious to form his own command that would not be bound by traditional army conventions. In January 1863, Stuart approved Mosby's plan and gave him a few men to begin his operation. Mosby and his partisan rangers were later incorporated into the regular Confederate army. Their primary objective consisted of destroying railroad supply lines between Washington and Northern Virginia, as well as intercepting dispatches and horses and capturing Union soldiers. Operating with small numbers, swiftly attacking larger forces, carrying off as many horses and men as possible, and retreating into the woods offered an even more dangerous -- and therefore appealing -- notion of fighting that instilled greater honor upon the men willing to undertake such courageous missions. Known for his speed and elusiveness, he was given the nickname "Gray Ghost."

A Baltimore Sun article in 1898 upon the occasion of a reunion of Mosby's men described the scene: "Thrilling tales of charges made on dark nights; of comrades left dead on the field; of signal victories and reverses, went around. The men who told them, though all touched heavily by the hand of time, still retained the fighting eye of the soldier that even time failed to dim" (10/25/1898). Years later, one Mosby obituary noted that the partisan ranger and his men "had no regard for death. If they saw a body of Union troops they would charge pell-mell into them regardless of numbers." This kind of reckless courage and ultimate dedication provided Mosby the admiration of Southern society.

There is so much more that can be read about this great man. If you were not very familiar with John Singleton Mosby, I hope I have spurred your interest. The spirit of Mosby lives on at Brentmoor in Warrenton VA at the John Singleton Mosby Museum through the efforts of the Mosby Museum Foundation.

*Paul M. Houser
Cannon Report Editor*