



September 2011

The Cannon Report

The Powhatan Troop, SCV Camp 1382



John Moody
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Bishop Dennis Campbell.
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Commander's Comments

Our meeting this month will be the field trip originally planned for April or May but which had to be postponed because of schedule conflicts. The time will be from 2:00 P.M. until shortly before 3 P.M. The location of the Broad Rock Plantation house tour is 2011 South Kinsley Avenue in Richmond. It is currently the residence of Mr. Vernon Creekmore, a dealer in 17th and 18th century antiques. Mr. Creekmore and Mrs. Pat Moody have been working the past four years to discover the true history and historical significance of the plantation house. The house dates to approximately 1780 and was built on part of a 17,653 acre land grant from the king of England.

It was the home of Commander Moody's great-grandfather, James A. Lipscomb, from 1848 to 1884 when the Lipscomb family sold the property. During the War Between the States, Broad Rock Mansion was about 4 miles from the town of Manchester and outside of the outer defenses of Richmond, which ran near present day McGuire Hospital. The nearest battery was at Maury Cemetery. Perhaps because the house was relatively isolated, it survived unscathed through the War of 1812 and through the War Between the States. The Yankees burned many similar homes for firewood during the occupation.

Although there have been modifications to the home over the centuries, an amazing amount of the original house fabric is intact. We will be permitted to tour inside and outside and both my wife and I will give short presentations about the house. As far as we can determine, this may be the only surviving plantation house inside the present city limits of the City of Richmond.

For directions, take route 161, Belt Boulevard south toward Southside Plaza. Continue through the stop light at the Hull Street (Rt. 360) intersection and continue straight to where the road ends at Broad Rock Rd. adjacent to the McGuire Veterans Hospital. Turn right on Broad Rock Rd. and keep going past the end of the Hospital grounds until you cross the railroad tracks. Take the first left after the RR tracks onto S. Kinsley Ave. You will find the plantation house on the left side just a few houses after you turn onto S. Kinsley. There is room for perhaps six to 10 cars in Mr. Creekmore's yard. Otherwise, you will have to park on the street.

Be advised that this is a tough neighborhood; so please car pool and stay together until you are on the mansion grounds. The Commander will provide beer, wine, soft drinks and some snacks to slack your thirst. For this reason, please RSVP to Commander Moody at 804-598-8589 so that he and Mr. Creekmore will have some idea of the number of guests that we will have. We will also initiate a new member into the Powhatan Troop.

**DEO
VINDICE**



The Cannon Report

Well, another Summer has come and gone, Fall is upon us, and it is time to get back to our regular schedule of Camp activities. Next month is our annual Muster Day Program at the Powhatan Courthouse. Our first business meeting will be in November. As usual, details on the next two months of activities will be in the forthcoming *Cannon Reports*. I have included a few Virginia events from September 1861.

September 9th, 1861

The Richmond Daily Dispatch declares that the time for debate has passed: ***“Words are now of no avail: blood is more potent than rhetoric, more profound than logic.”***

The Richmond paper also reports on a story from Cheat Mountain in the western part of the state:

A gentleman from Cheat Mountain tells the following:

"A squad of Indiana volunteers, out scouting, came across an old woman in a log cabin, in the mountains. After the usual salutations, one of them asked her—"Well, old lady, are you secede?" "No," was her answer." "Are you Union?" "No." "What are you then?" "A Baptist, and all' wys have been."

150 Years Ago in the War of Northern Aggression:

There were no battles that were on the scale of those at Bull Run, Virginia and Wilson's Creek, Missouri in July and August, but there were some significant smaller events in the War in September 1861.

In mountainous western Virginia, 2000 Confederates under General John B. Floyd occupied the high ground above Carnifex Ferry on the Kanawha River. On the morning of September 10th, Union General William Rosecrans' command of about 6000 Federals advanced on Floyd's position. The fighting lasted all day, but the invaders were unable to dislodge the Confederate troops; however, Floyd's smaller force could not hold on indefinitely, and withdrew during the night.

Carnifex Ferry was another setback for the Confederates in western Virginia. The Coal Companies in the region were pro-Union, and there was a serious movement underway that would soon lead to the separation of the area from Virginia and the formation of the illegal state of West Virginia (secession was never approved by the Virginia State Legislature which is required by the Constitution; Article 4, section 3). In an attempt to reverse these setbacks, Jefferson Davis sent his top military advisor to the region. It was the first time in the war that General Robert E. Lee took to the field.

Lee believed that a strike against the garrison at Cheat Mountain would break the Union defensive line that extended from the Kanawha River to the Potomac River. An attack was launched on September 12th, but Lee's campaign was hampered by fog, rain, and poor visibility. The Federals in the mountain garrison, were in well prepared defenses. Lee withdrew his forces from the area on September 15th.

Hope to see you at the tour of Broad Rock Plantation house, please do not forget to RSVP to Commander Moody if you plan to attend.

Paul M. Houser
Cannon Report Editor