



April 2009

The Cannon Report

The Powhatan Troop, SCV Camp 1382

Paul M. Houser
Commander
Editor TCR
Webmaster

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Lt. Commander

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Chaplain

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Surgeon

Malcolm Campbell Jr.
Color Sergeant

Vacant
Aide-De-Camp

Stuart Townes
Quartermaster

Kenneth Phibbs
Camp Historian

Gordon Drumheller
Judge Advocate



APRIL IS CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”—Marcus Garvey



The first flag, from left to right, is the Bonnie Blue Flag, the unofficial Southern Flag; (2) First National flag ("the Stars and Bars") with 13 stars (28 November 1861 - 1 May 1863), there were three previous versions of this flag, the 1st with 7 stars, the 2nd with 9 stars and the 3rd with 11 stars and the 4th with 13 stars. (3) Second National flag ("the Stainless Banner", 1 May 1863 - 4 March 1865). (4) Third National flag ("The Blood Stained Banner," since 4 Mar 1865). (5) The Battle Flag of the Confederacy.

Commanders Comment:

The March meeting's guest speaker, Mr. Joe Lively, and his lecture about forgotten Southern heritage was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It is most unfortunate that it is so true that so much has been lost through progress or though political correctness. It is up to us to see that the southern heritage is preserved and passed on to our children and grandchildren.

I am currently in the process of assisting my youngest son in relocating to Winston-Salem NC. He graduates from the Medical College of Virginia in May and begins his residency at the Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in June. I am in the process of moving him out of his apartment in downtown Richmond and moving his belongings into storage in Winston-Salem. This coming week/weekend I will be making trips back and forth; however, I hope/intend to be back for our camp meeting. Also, after my son's graduation on May 15th I am taking him on a much-needed vacation starting on the 16th; therefore, I will be publishing the Cannon Report earlier next month. I am proposing a Camp picnic for the May meeting and hope to work out the details at Sunday's meeting.

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The April meeting will be on the 26th at the *Village Garden Café*; luncheon at 1:00 and meeting at 2:00. The cost of the lunch will be \$10.00.

Because our meeting is on the same weekend as the Virginia Division Convention being held in Williamsburg, Virginia April 24-26, I was unable to locate a speaker that did not have a conflicting obligation, either due to the convention or other engagement; therefore, our meeting will be somewhat shorter. I would like to welcome any compatriot who wishes to address the camp on confederate history or any other appropriate subject, to come forward.

**DEO
VINDICE**



A little history on the Flags of the Confederacy



In addition to the national flags, a wide variety of flags and banners were flown by Southerners during the War. Most famously, the "Bonnie Blue Flag" was used as an unofficial flag during the early months of 1861.



The first official flag of the Confederacy, called the "Stars and Bars," was flown from March 5, 1861, to May 26, 1863. Prussian artist Nicola Marschall in Marion, Alabama, designed the very first national flag of the Confederacy. The Stars and Bars flag was adopted March 4, 1861 in Montgomery, Alabama and raised over the dome of that first Confederate Capitol. Marschall also designed the Confederate uniform. One of the first acts of the Provisional Confederate Congress was to create the Committee on the Flag and Seal, chaired by William Porcher Miles of South Carolina. The committee asked the public to submit thoughts and ideas on the topic and was, as historian John M. Coski puts it, "overwhelmed by requests not to abandon the 'old flag' of the United States." Miles had already designed a flag that would later become the Confederate battle flag, and he favored his flag over the "Stars and Bars" proposal. But given the popular support for a flag similar to the U.S. flag ("the Stars and Stripes"), the Stars and Bars design was approved by the committee. When war broke out, the Stars and Bars caused confusion on the battlefield because of its similarity to the U.S. flag of the U.S. Army.



The second national flag flew from May 1863 to March 4, 1865. There were many different types of designs that were proposed; nearly all making use of the battle flag, which by 1863 had become well known and popular. The nickname "stainless" referred to the pure white field. The flag act of 1864 did not state what the white symbolized and advocates offered various interpretations. The most common interpretation is that the white field symbolized the purity of the Cause. When hanging limp in no wind, the colored corner of the flag could be accidentally hidden, so the flag could easily appear all white.



The third national flag was adopted March 4, 1865, just before the fall of the Confederacy. The red vertical stripe was proposed by Major Arthur L. Rogers who argued "that the pure white field of the second national flag could be mistaken as a flag of truce."



Often referred to as The battle flag of the Confederacy, it was the design that was the basis of more than 180 separate Confederate military battle flags. It was used in battle beginning in December 1861 until the fall of the Confederacy. The flag's stars represented the number of states in the Confederacy. At the First Battle of Manassas, the similarity between the Stars and Bars and the Stars and Stripes caused confusion and military problems. Regiments carried flags to help commanders observe and assess battles. At a distance, the two national flags were hard to tell apart. In addition, Confederate regiments carried many other flags, which added to the possibility of confusion. After the battle, General P.G.T. Beauregard wrote that he was "resolved then to have [our flag] changed if possible, or to adopt for my command a 'Battle flag', which would be entirely different from any State or Federal flag. "We would then on the field of battle know our friends from our Enemies."

The above information was taken, in part, from **Flags of the Confederate States of America**, from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flags_of_the_Confederate_States_of_America

Paul M. Houser
Cannon Report Editor