



January 2010

The Cannon Report

The Powhatan Troop, SCV Camp 1382

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VINDICE



Lee-Jackson Day Parade Lexington Virginia 2010

“Our Southern soldier ancestors honored Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. The wives, children, widows, orphans, kin and neighbors of Lee and Jackson’s soldiers knew Lee and Jackson were sterling men. Among the greatest Virginians who ever lived. Good Virginians honored great

*Virginians with this holiday.”** (James Atticus Bowden) Our Camp was represented by Past Commander George T. Lee III, Lt. Commander Michael Pogue and Compatriot Dennis Campbell. Michael (carrying the Camp flag) and Dennis (dressed in black) are pictured above marching in the parade. Barbara, George, thanks for the great picture.

The Cannon Report/Commander’s Comments

As most of you know, the Powhatan Christmas Parade was cancelled due to 12 inches of snow in Powhatan on the night before the parade. What a great disappointment! This year’s turnout would have been our biggest. I had procured several more Confederate State flags, giving us all of the thirteen state Confederate flags, and we had enough marchers to carry all the flags, including the Camp and Confederate Flags. We will set our sites on next years Labor Day Parade and make it a memorable event. I would briefly comment on the Christmas Party; however, due to a death in my family, I was unable to attend. I have no doubt that those who attended enjoyed it thoroughly. Once again, I wish to thank our Lt Commander, Michael Pogue, and his wife Mary, for hosting the Camp’s Christmas Party.

The January meeting will be on the 24th at the Village Garden Café, meal at 1 and meeting at 2. I had intended to have a guest speaker; however, I was unable to engage one for this month. We will discuss upcoming meetings and maybe a short trip or two to local battlefields.

With January being the month that the South celebrates Robert E. Lee’s and Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s birthdays, I believe a little bit of history of this celebration would be only befitting for this month’s report. In the interest of time and that I could not write it any better, I am going to quote Mr. Brandon Dorsey from the official Lee-Jackson Day web site, leejacksonday.webs.com.

Paul M. Houser, Commander



Lee-Jackson Day 2010

Lee-Jackson Day is a holiday recognized in several States of the American South. The holiday is celebrated in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. In Texas, it is known as "Confederate Heroes Day." In Virginia it is a state holiday which falls on the Friday before the third Monday of January.

The holiday was originally created in 1889 to celebrate the birthday of General Robert E. Lee who was born on January 19, 1807. The holiday was put into effect by Governor Fitzhugh Lee who was a nephew of the general and had been a Confederate general himself. In 1904 the holiday was changed to include a tribute to Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson who was born on January 21, 1824. The change was made under the administration of Governor Andrew Jackson Montague.

***Stonewall Jackson** came to Lexington in 1851 when he accepted a position as professor of Natural Philosophy and Instructor of Artillery at the Virginia Military Institute. Jackson would marry Elinor Junkin on August 4, 1853 in Lexington. Elinor was the daughter of Dr. George Junkin who served as president of Washington College. Tragically, Elinor passed away from complications of childbirth on October 22, 1854 along with a stillborn son. Jackson would depart from Lexington for a period to travel across Europe to rebuild his spirits and broaden his knowledge. Jackson would return to Lexington full of renewed enthusiasm for his Christian faith. During this period Jackson would create his famed Colored Sunday School which was open to free blacks and slaves in which the pupils would be taught about Christianity and how to read the Bible. Jackson was once threatened with criminal prosecution for teaching slaves to read and write, but the threat was not carried out. On July 16, 1857 Jackson would marry Mary Anna Morrison of Charlotte, North Carolina who was also the daughter of a former college president and minister. The Jackson's would enjoy a relatively short period of quiet marriage in Lexington before the outbreak of the War Between the States. Jackson was ordered on April 27, 1861 to take the Corp of Cadets from VMI to Richmond at the start of hostilities which began his march to fame as the great "Stonewall." Jackson was tragically wounded during the battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863 and passed away on May 10th. He was survived by his wife and infant daughter Julia Laura Jackson. Jackson's body was taken to Richmond where he was laid in state at the Capitol before being buried in Lexington in a cemetery which has been renamed in Jackson's honor. A fine bronze statue, created by Edward Valentine, depicting the likeness of Jackson on the field of battle stands over his grave. It is interesting to note that the first donations towards erecting the statue came from members of Jackson's colored Sunday School class, many of whom went on to become prominent leaders in their communities. In 1907, the Mary Custis Lee Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy purchased Jackson's home from his widow and turned it into a memorial hospital to honor Jackson. In 1979 the home was restored to its appearance as a private residence which is open to visitors.*

***Robert E. Lee** was drawn to Lexington following the collapse of the Confederacy. In 1865, Lee accepted an invitation from the Board of Trustees of Washington College to become the school's president. Lee had refused to accept several financially lucrative business offers for fear that the ventures would damage his family name. However, Lee believed that this position would allow him to aid the rebuilding of the South through educating the youth while affording him a modest income in the face of financial ruin. Lee was partially drawn to Lexington because the college was the namesake of George Washington who was a hero of Lee. Lee's father had fought as a general in the Revolution under Washington and his wife was the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington. Lee was also aware that Lexington was the burial spot of his friend and his most successful lieutenant, Thomas J. 'Stonewall' Jackson. Lee proved himself to be as adept at turning a struggling college into a successful university as he was in obtaining victories with his outnumbered Confederate forces. Under Lee's direction the college added a law school and began initiatives which lead to the later additions of the journalism and commerce schools. Lee was a strong advocate for practical education including the sciences. Lee was an active member of the Episcopal Church in Lexington which has since been renamed in his honor. In October 1870, Lee fell ill from what was most likely a stroke. After several tense days, Robert E. Lee passed away surrounded by his family on October 12, 1870. Robert E. Lee was laid to rest in the college chapel which he and his son Custis had designed and built. Following Lee's death, the school was renamed Washington and Lee University in his honor. In 1883 an addition was added to Lee Chapel to include a statuary chamber on the main level to house the famed recumbent statue of Robert E. Lee created by Edward Valentine. The lower level of the addition became the family crypt where Lee and his immediate family have been relocated.*