



May 2010

The Cannon Report

The Powhatan Troop, SCV Camp 1382

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**DEO
VINDICE**

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit vindication of the Cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations." Stephen Dill Lee, Lt. Gen., CSA; Presiding Officer, 16th Annual Reunion, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 25-27 Apr 1906

The Cannon Report/Commander's Comments

The May meeting will be a trip to the Oakwood Cemetery on the 23rd (please note this meeting is not on the last Sunday, but the fourth Sunday). I am going to delay the meeting time by 30 minutes to give everyone time to meet at Flat Rock after Church. We will meet at the parking lot at the old May's Supermarket in Flat Rock by **1:30**. The parking lot is just east of Dorset Rd. (VA 622) on the south side of Anderson Hwy. There is a New Horizon Bank and Flat Rock Tire and Auto in the same parking lot. If you do not wish to drive, there should be space available to ride with other camp members. Past Virginia Div Cmdr. John N. Sawyer and his wife Ann will be our tour guide.

The June meeting will be our Camp's annual Picnic on the 27th at the Fighting Creek Park off of Mann Road - Powhatan, Virginia, at the park's pavilion. The meal will be around 2:00. We will be electing the new Camp Officers at the picnic.

HISTORY OF OAKWOOD CONFEDERATE CEMETERY In August 1854, the city bought two tracts totaling 66 acres in eastern Henrico County. Additional land was later acquired and today Oakwood totals 176.5 acres. On 12 August 1861, following the First Battle of Manassas and the large influx of seriously wounded soldiers into the city's hospitals, the council adopted the following resolution: "that the Committee on Oakwood Cemetery be instructed to appropriate a lot for the interment of such soldiers as may die in the City or the County of Henrico." A year later the council resolved that "the Committee on Oakwood Cemetery be instructed to offer to the Secretary of War so much of the property under their charge as may be necessary for burying the soldiers dying in the service of the Confederate States." The lot reserved for military burials lay in what is today the Confederate section. Burials in the Confederate section of Oakwood increased quickly as the numbers of battle casualties mounted. By war's end the Confederate section of Oakwood Cemetery covered approximately 7.5 acres and contained approximately 17,000 burials. Some had been individual burials, while others were buried in groups in trenches. Most graves were marked by wooden boards, but a few had marble or granite slabs. The cemetery staff compiled a burial register containing the last name and first name and middle initial of the deceased; his rank, company, regiment, and state; the grave number, row, and division; and "remarks," including (rarely) dates of death or interment and when marked by marble or granite slabs.



Photograph by Patricia Moody

The photograph above is of our visit to Sailor's Creek Battlefield Park on the 25th of April 2010. The picture was taken in front of the rail fence at the Hillsman House. Joining us in the picture, third from the left with the tan shirt and cap, is the park manager, Chris Calkins. Chris has written several books on the War: *The Appomattox Campaign*, *Thirty-Six Hours Before Appomattox*, *From Petersburg to Appomattox - A tour guide to the routes of Lee's withdrawal and Grant's pursuit April 2-9 1865*; and *Lee's Retreat: A History and Field Guide*. On the far right of the photo with the tan cap on is Mr. Bobby Wilcox, President of the Friends of Sailor's Creek State Park. Prior to our battlefield tour we attended a meeting at the new Visitor Center that was built in 2009; however, the exhibit space is in the process of planning and acquisitions. There is also a research library. We also heard about the progress being made on the High Bridge Trail.

*Paul M Houser, Commander
Cannon Report Editor*