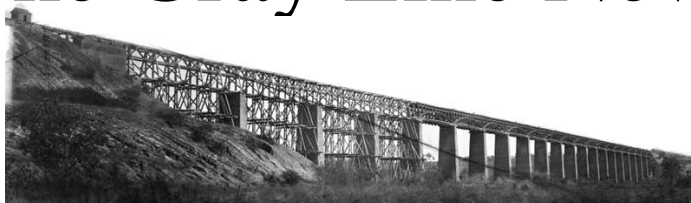


The Gray Line News



High Bridge



High Bridge Camp # 1581

Sons of Confederate Veterans

"DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE"

September 10, 2021

Dear Compatriots,

I hope you and your families are doing well. The 2020-2021 Virginia SCV Convention was a great success. I would like to thank all of you for your work, earning us the outstanding camp awards for 2020 and 2021. I would also like to thank the John M. Jordan Camp for hosting the event and the Charlotte County Grays for providing the Color Guard. They looked really sharp.

Mr. Bill Crews was voted in to remain as Brigade Commander. Mr. Crews does a great job and is very dedicated to the cause. I would like to thank him for everything he does.

As you all know, the Robert E. Lee Memorial was removed from Monument Avenue. It is such a shame because he was more of a patriot, had more love for his state, and held more values than all the misguided idiots that removed him combined. I hope all involved live to regret their actions.

It is good that organizations like ours, the UDC, and others are around to keep our proud history from being completely wiped out.

Our next meeting is September 23rd. I look forward to seeing you all there. Until then, you and your families take care and stay safe.

Respectfully Yours,
Don Reynolds, Commander

"Act with a determination not to be turned aside by thoughts of the past and fears of the future."

Robert E. Lee

Last Roll Call

High Bridge Camp member Robert "Bob" Harris and his wife Kathy Harris crossed over the river last week. Bob on Sept. 2 and Kathy on Sept. 5. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers

The Death of a Confederate Hero

The following is an account of the heroic death of a young boy named Thomas J. Dingler. The Battle flag of the 44th Georgia Regiment was captured at Spotsylvania Courthouse, Va., May 10th 1864. It was taken from the color bearer, Thomas J. Dingler, a young Spalding County farmer boy, possibly twenty-one years of age. He belonged to Company E, 44th Georgia. Late on that May day of 1864, ten selected Yankee regiments were hurled against Doyle's Georgia Brigade. They ran over the Confederate line, and for a few minutes held part of the Confederate position. Gorgon reinforced Doyle and the Yankees were driven back.

Thomas J. Dingler, carrying the flag, was assailed by those of the Yankee line who first came over the Confederate ditch. He fought back a number of them who had surrounded him, all trying to secure his flag, but they plunged their bayonets through him until he fell. But he fought to the very last and clung to his flag. When his body was found after the fight, witnesses state that he had fourteen bayonet wounds, and he had tightly clutched in each hand fragments of the flag. With these precious fragments of Southern rights, this hero was buried in his old gray uniform on Spotsylvania's bloody field.

From an early copy of Confederate Veteran, contributed by Mrs Lena Felker Lewis, Agnes Lee Chapter UDC, Decatur, GA

General Jubal Early and veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia and the other

Richmond has fallen...

As many of you may have heard, our beloved Robert E. Lee monument in Richmond, Virginia has been cut into pieces and removed from its 130+ year historic location. For generations, Virginians grew up around this magnificent piece of history--admiring its artistry and cultural value. Unfortunately, the corrupt government of Richmond has decided to disregard the Rule of Law and remove the monument to one of Virginia's greatest (and probably last) war heroes.

This monumentally sad occasion is a living testament to the very real threat clearly seen towards the life-blood of our culture; our history, traditions, and ancestry. Furthermore, if anything, it has enraged and emboldened many of us to take a stand for truth and our kin.

We will not not forget General Lee. We will not become silent nor ignorant of our heritage because this visual reminder is gone. They will not win the victory they think they've got in hand. They believe our faith is so weak, that we will break and scatter without our monuments.

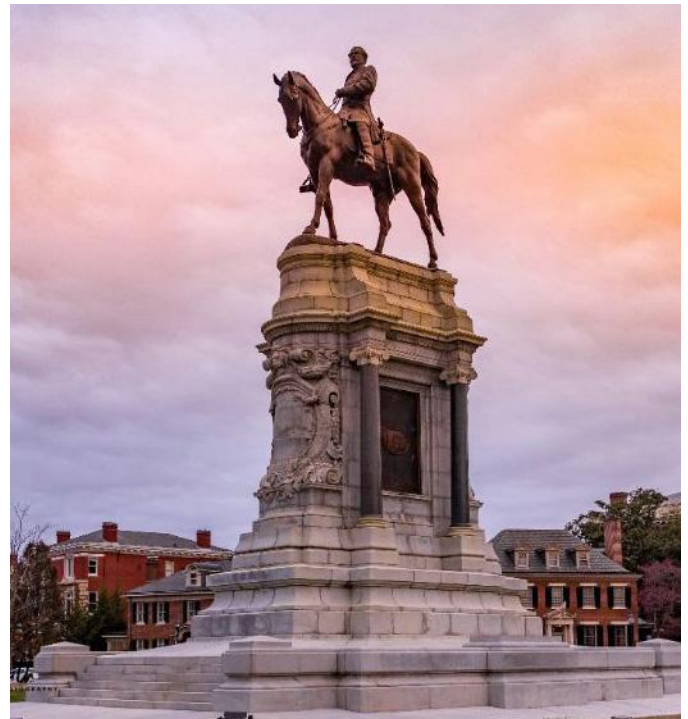
“All they have done is awakened a sleeping giant.”

***Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.
Proverbs 22:28***

The History of Richmond's Lee Monument

When it all began

Within a matter of days following the death of Robert E. Lee in October 1870, two associations were founded to collect funds for a monument to be erected in Richmond to their beloved leader. One group was led by former Confederate



by ladies of the Hollywood (Cemetery) Memorial Associations who formed a new group called the Ladies Lee Monument Association. Both groups continued separate fund-raising efforts for some years before being consolidated in May 1886 through the efforts of Governor Fitzhugh Lee. There never seemed much doubt that the statue would be placed in Richmond though the veterans in their initial call for funds said they would raise the money first and worry about the location later. Following several competitions and a search that eventually extended to Europe, a Frenchman, Jean Antonin Mercie, was ultimately selected as the sculptor. By the late 1880's, one final decision remained--where to put the statue? The Choices were narrowed to three--Libby Hill in the east, Gamble's hill in the central part of town or a tract west of the city offered by Otway Allen. The monument association accepted Allen's offer in consideration of the surroundings proposed. They found the broad intersecting avenue and open space around a large monument circle very appealing. The

selection of the Allen site, while controversial at the time, was farsighted as it lay directly in the path of Richmond's future residential growth and was soon included within expanded city limits.

The Statue is erected

The cornerstone of the Lee monument pedestal was placed on October 27, 1887, a day of torrential rain mixed with great festivity and celebration. At long last, there was a tangible evidence of the years of effort.

By early 1890, Mercie had completed the bronze figure of General Lee astride a horse of heroic proportions (though not the General's favorite wartime horse, Traveller). The statue was cast in several pieces: the rider and the head, body and legs of the horse separately. The engineer chosen by the monument board to direct the placement of the work visited Paris in March to give final approval to the casting. He reported that Mercie "has given to Lee the majestic bearing natural to our great commander." Earlier the assembled statue had been exhibited to the public in Paris and viewed by thousands with approval.

The disassembled sculpture was placed in four large wooden boxes for shipment to Richmond, where it arrived by rail on May 4. Richmond citizens were not to be outdone by Richmonders of an earlier day who had rescued the Crawford equestrian statue of George Washington from muddy streets and pulled it to the Capitol Square. Each box was placed on a wagon decorated in Confederate colors and to each wagon several lengthy ropes were attached. According to newspaper accounts, 10,000 people took part in pulling the four wagons to the monument site. Afterwards the ropes were cut and distributed in small lengths as souvenirs of the memorable journey.

Assembly of the statue and its placement atop the pedestal proceeded promptly. For the time the bronze parts arrived until the unveiling of the completed monument, the site was guarded by Confederate veterans.

A Monumental Occasion

The unveiling on May 29, 1890, was one of the grandest spectacles in Richmond history. The event was greatly anticipated throughout the South and seems to have been attended by nearly every Confederate veteran who could find the way to Richmond. Many Generals were present who's name had long since become part of history. The pageantry began with a four-mile parade followed by the usual orations and sham battle.

Over the years an entire community grew up around the Lee monument and it has continued to be a focal point of activities and the occasional interesting news story and legend. Douglas Freeman, Lee's biographer and editor of the Richmond News Leader, is said to have saluted the statue on his way in to work each morning. Then there was the woman who called the paper in the 1930s insisting that Lee's horse was foaming at the mouth. An investigation revealed that a swarm of honey bees had built a hive in the horse's mouth and the summer heat was indeed causing the honey to froth.

Outstanding Camp Award



High Bridge Camp #1581 is pleased to announce that it received the OUTSTANDING CAMP AWARD for 2020 & 2021 by the Virginia Division Sons of Confederate Veterans. Pictured (l-r) are

Donald F. "Donnie" Reynolds, Commander of High Bridge Camp #1581 and John Neville, Virginia Division SCV Commander.

Quotable Quotes

"His (Robert E. Lee's) deeds will be remembered; and when the monument we build shall have crumbled into dust, his virtues will still live, a high model for the imitation of generations yet unborn."

**President Jefferson Davis, C.S.A.,
Richmond Dispatch, November 4, 1870**

"All that the South has ever desired was that the Union, as established by our forefathers, should be preserved, and that the government as originally organized should be administered in purity and truth".

Gen. Robert E. Lee

"The education of a man is never completed until he dies."

Gen. Robert E. Lee

"Duty then is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less."

Gen. Robert E. Lee

"Never do a wrong thing to make a friend or to keep one."

Gen. Robert E. Lee

"If all were to be done over again, I should act in precisely the same manner; I could have taken no other course without dishonor."

Gen. Robert E. Lee

"Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy, that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; learn from Northern school books THEIR version of the war, and taught to regard our gallant dead as traitors and our maimed veterans as fit subjects of derision."

Gen. Patrick Cleburne, CSA

Next Meeting

September 23, 2021

Future Meetings

October 28, 2021

November 18, 2021

January 27, 2022

Upcoming Events

Amelia Day

October 23rd 2021.

Holiday Dinner

November 18th 2021

Election of Officers

January 27, 2022

High Bridge Camp #1581

A. M. Evans, Newsletter Editor