

The Gray Line News



High Bridge



High Bridge Camp #1581

March 2024

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp Commander: Whit Morris	1 st LT. Commander: Chris Burks	2 nd LT Commander: Don Reynolds
3 rd LT. Commander: Zach Morris	Treasurer: Shane Newcombe	Adjutant: Dan Johnson
Chaplain: Ned May	Judge Advocate: Kenny Barnard	Quartermaster / Historian: Tom Haake
Sargent at Arms: Trey Capps	Surgeon: Gene Kirkman	Camp Sutler: Greg Finn



“DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE”



COMMANDERS CORNER:

Dear Compatriots,

“Call to action!” If you are like me, you have received numerous emails, phone calls and texts in recent months with words like these. Whether it be to contact your congressman or representative about memorial/monument removals or to call the Governor to ask him to veto bills that would be a travesty for our history and heritage, you have been called on a lot here lately.

After a while, you just get beat down (or at least I do), and think we are fighting an uphill battle with no chance to win. So why bother? I just want everyone to know that believe it or not, you are making a difference! I was speaking with a very politically active friend the other day about a different issue in a different state (this one happened to be around gun rights), and he said people have no idea the influence their calls and letters make.

The opposition tries to overwhelm the politicians with a few loud and well-spoken activist but what they really depend on is for the majority of the people to remain silent (the majority being those who are opposed to their changes). I implore you, don't give up, keep the good work – your voice is being heard and we can make a difference!

Deo Vin dice
Whit Morris

“Who could not conquer with such troops as these.”
Stonewall Jackson

Battles in March 1863

Mar. 5 th	GA	Battle of Fort McAllister	Mar. 20 th	TENN	Battle of Vaught's Hill
Mar. 5 th	TENN	Battle of Thompson's Station	Mar. 25 th	TENN	Battle of Brentwood
Mar. 13-15 th	NC	Battle of Fort Anderson	Mar. 30 th	NC	Battle of Washington begins
Mar 17 th	VA	Battle of Kelly's Ford			

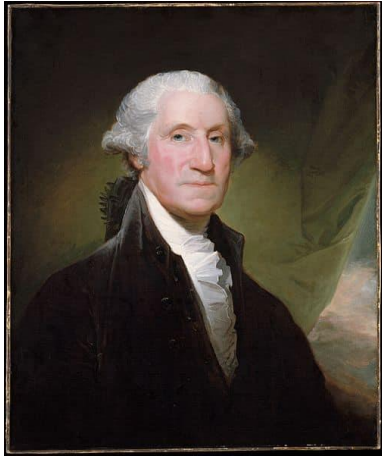
NEW Camp Flag

Trey Capps had a new Camp Flag designed and made based on The Confederate Battle Flag. He worked with a flag maker in Alabama to design and produce the Camp Flag. In the four quadrants are embroidered “High Bridge Camp,” “SCV,” “Camp 1581,” and “Farmville, VA.” Pictured below is Chris Burks and Trey displaying the flag at our camp Meeting. The Flag made its debut in the Lee Jackson Parade in Lexington.



Susan Lee of the Virginia Flaggers gives a presentation at our Camp meeting February 22nd on the status of our flags across the state and the current actions we face. Our camp donated to her organization to help fight these battles. She is an enjoyable speaker!

George Washington's Family Members who served the Confederate States of America during the War Between the States



George Washington was a Southerner born in Virginia (February 22, 1732 – December 14, 1799)

He was a Hero and a Great American Colonist from the South. He was a military general, statesman, and founding father who served as the first president of the United States from 1789 to 1797.

Previously, he led Patriot forces to victory in the Colonies War for Independence. He presided at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which established the U.S. Constitution and a federal government of Sovereign and Independent States in a union known as These United States plurally.

Even at the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783. Ending America's War of Independence, when King George III Signed the Treaty, he listed each Colony as a separate and equal Sovereign and Independent state, as the Declaration of

Independence had done in 1776. Washington has been called the "Father of America" for his manifold leadership in the formative days of the United States of America.

If it were not for his efforts keeping the Continental Army together or going, and the Men of the South of Scottish and Irish Ancestry. The War of Independence might have been lost.

The Revolutionary War and some of the most important Battles were Fought and Won in the South.

George Washington did not have any Blood Direct Descendants to carry on his Legacy or the Heritage that he had, but his brothers and Sisters and Cousins did. Also, when he married the Widow Martha Dandrige Parke Custis, he adopted her children as his own.

Thus, legally having Heirs to carry on his Heritage and Legacy. So, in Fact G. Washington did have Family Members and Descendants who served in the Confederacy and continually are still alive today.

These are some of them and this is their Story and Contribution to The History of America and their Southern Heritage.

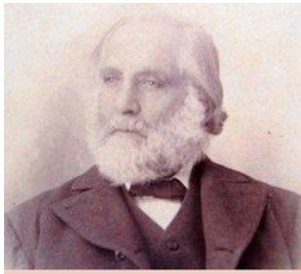
LTC. John Augustine Washington III. Confederate States Army Officer. Great grandnephew of



George Washington and last Washington to own "Mount Vernon." In 1840 he graduated from the University of Virginia. Three years later he married Eleanor Love Seldon. He purchased a farm in Fauquier County, Virginia called "Waveland" where he made his home. His wife died in 1860 from childbirth. When Virginia seceded from the Union John volunteered to defend Virginia in the oncoming conflict. He served as aide-de-camp on the staff of General Robert E. Lee in the campaign of western Virginia. He has commissioned Lieutenant Colonel on this campaign. While reconnoitering in the Cheat Mountains of now West Virginia he was shot by a bushwhacker and killed. In a letter written on September 6th, 1861, to his brother-in-law, Dr. W. Fountain Alexander from the "Camp of Valley Mountain" John expresses

his concerns for his own survival. "...I don't know when I shall leave this region, or indeed whether I ever shall do so, as of course, my chances are the same as those of other men, and I know some of us will never get away..." signed, "Most Affectionately yours, John A. Washington." He died one week later. The great-grandson of George's brother John. When war came, he walked away from the Union. John Augustine was not a military man, but he entered the Confederate Army as a lieutenant colonel and aide-de-camp to (and tent mate of) Robert E. Lee, a distant cousin. The pious, gentlemanly Washington quickly turned partisan, explaining in a letter from July 1861: "In fact, the Yankees are for the most part a set of plundering fellows, who will steal and bully when they can and do as little fighting as possible." Two months later, he was shot and killed by such fellows at the Battle of Cheat Mountain, Va. In a condolence letter to Washington's family, Lee told of the

circumstances: He accompanied my son, Fitzhugh, on a reconnoitering expedition and I fear was carried too far by his zeal for the cause of the South which he had so much at heart. Before they were aware they were fired upon by a concealed party. ... He was the only person struck and fell dead from his horse. Washington was buried in the graveyard of Zion Episcopal Church in Charles Town, in present-day West Virginia, the final resting place of more than seventy of his family members.



ANOTHER Grand Nephew of George Washington: Richard Scott Blackburn Washington (Dick) Bott's Grays – 2nd Regiment of Virginia Infantry.

He attended V.M.I. in 1843 and was a farmer. John Augustine's brother Dick was also in the Confederate Army, but he was discharged for health reasons soon after his brother's death. The following spring, though a civilian, he was taken prisoner by Union cavalry. A cousin, George Washington, interceded with a friendly Confederate congressman, and Dick was eventually exchanged. He did not rejoin the fight, because Lee advised him to take care of his family responsibilities.

His brother, Col. John Augustine, owned Mt. Vernon.

Oct. 15 – Richard B. Washington, one of the oldest residents of Jefferson County, died here today at the home of his son, John A. Washington, after a short illness. He was born at Blakely, near Charlestown, on November 12, 1822. For some years he resided at "Harewood," his country home near Charlestown, but about 15 years ago he moved to Charlestown, where he has been residing. Mr. Washington was a brother of the late Col. John Augustine Washington, at the one-time owner of Mount Vernon. He is survived by five sons, John A., and S. Walter Washington, of Charlestown; Dehurthurn Washington, of Woodbury, N.J., and George S. Washington, of Philadelphia; also, two daughters, Mrs. George H. Flag and Miss Christine Washington, of Charlestown. He will be buried in the Episcopal Churchyard here Monday afternoon.



Several of the Southern-leaning Washingtons lived in and around Charles Town. Lewis William Washington was one. A great-grandson of George's older half-brother Augustine, he lived near Harpers Ferry and was renowned enough for John Brown to seize him as a hostage. After being freed, Lewis became the lead prosecution witness in Brown's trial. His son, James Barroll Washington, naturally joined the Confederate Army. A West Pointer, he served as aide-de-camp to Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. He was captured during the Battle of Seven Pines and posed for a picture with Union Capt. George Armstrong Custer before being released to rejoin the Confederate Army. He survived the war.

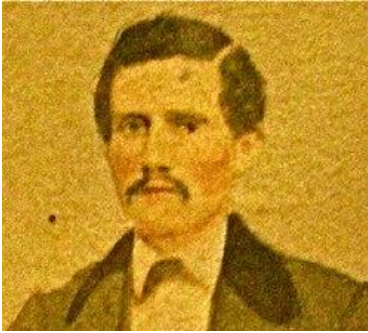


James Washington and General Custer

Lieutenant James Barroll Washington, Confederate Officer. This collateral descendent of President George Washington was a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He attended the United States Military Academy. When the War between the states became imminent, he embraced the Southern Confederacy and received a commission that made him a lieutenant in the Provisional Army of Virginia (PAVA). Subsequently, he was appointed to a lieutenant in the Confederate States Army and assigned to General Joseph Eggleston Johnston to serve as an Aide-de-Camp. It was in this capacity that the unfortunate officer was captured on May 31, 1862, at the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia. During this captivity, a chanced meeting with George Armstrong Custer, an acquaintance

from his West Point days, took place. The two former plebes and then-current adversaries later sat together for a series of images (see left). Washington remained a prisoner-of-war until his exchange on September 21, 1862, at Aiken's Landing, Virginia, after which, he was assigned as an Ordnance Officer in Montgomery, Alabama. At the close of the war, he became an executive with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He died in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

George Lafayette Washington Private George Lafayette Washington, Company C, 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry (Col. John S. Mosby's Partisan Rangers), Confederate States Army. Captured at Winchester, VA, September 19, 1864. Held as a POW at Point Lookout, MD. George L. Washington was the great grandnephew of President George Washington.



Dr. William Fontaine Alexander: Born at Walnut Farm, the son of Charles and Mary Bowles Armistead Alexander. Wed to Anna Maria Washington. Father of Charles A. Alexander. He was a druggist that enlisted with the Second Regiment of Virginia Infantry in June of 1861 at Bolivar Heights. He served as a steward at hospitals in Charlottesville and Lynchburg before being permanently assigned as a druggist at Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond.

Charles Armistead Alexander, a nephew of Dick Washington, was a doctor for the Confederate Army. He was captured and imprisoned at Point Lookout, Md. Suffering from what was considered the "family curse" of tuberculosis, he died at home after his stepmother successfully petitioned the White House for his release. Son of William and Anna W. Alexander.

The University of Virginia, a medical student in 1861.

C.S.A., Prisoner of war at Fort Delaware, died there. Never married.

Lt. Bushrod C Washington Co. G, 2nd Va. Inf. Regt.; Co. B, 12th Va. Cav. Regt. A descendant of



Bushrod C. Washington.

George's brother John grew up on the enormous Claymont estate outside Charles Town. He joined the Confederate Army, was captured, exchanged, and later became an officer in the 12th Virginia Cavalry. He survived the war and moved to the state of Washington, where he died and was buried. Nonetheless, the family erected a memorial in the graveyard at Zion church. Bushrod's brother Sgt. George Washington, who wrote the letter about a prisoner exchange for Dick, was killed in action in 1863. He was also buried at Zion.

The Washingtons' first cousins, a branch of the Alexander family, also lived at Claymont and joined the Confederate Army. Pvt. Thomas Blackburn Alexander died of wounds in a hospital in Staunton, Va. Thomas B. Alexander enlisted on 21 April 1861 at Harper's Ferry, Virginia as a Private. On 21 April he mustered into "B" Co., Virginia 2nd Infantry. He died of disease on 18 September

1862 at Staunton, Virginia. (Estimated day of death in hospital of cerebritis). The second brother, William Fontaine Alexander, served the Confederate Army as a physician.

Claymont, a mansion as big as a modern hotel, was a breeding ground for rebellion. James Washington of Claymont rode with his older brothers Bushrod and George in the 12th Virginia Cavalry and later joined Confederate Col. John Mosby's Rangers, who bedeviled Union Gen. Phil Sheridan and his subordinate, George Custer (now a general). James and his cousin Herbert Lee Alexander, who had grown up with him at Claymont, were captured trying to blow up a railroad bridge. Imprisoned at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, James died of typhoid fever in the waning days of the war. Alexander survived the war, only to die of tuberculosis a year later. Both are buried at Zion.

Washington in-laws also served. The tragedy involved descendants of President Washington's wife, Martha Custis Washington. The Cousins of Mary Anna Randolph Custis Lee the wife of Robert E. Lee. These Two cousins, Colonel William Orton Williams, and Lieutenant Walter Gipson Peters, both Confederates, rode into a

Union Army camp in Tennessee wearing Union uniforms. Some claim it was on a dare. Once their true identities were discovered, they were given a drumhead court-martial and hanged as spies.

The Washingtons' sacrifices for the Confederacy were not just in the blood. The Harewood estate outside Charles Town was built in the 18th century by another of George Washington's brothers, Samuel. James and Dolley Madison were married there in a wedding hosted by Samuel's son, George Steptoe, who was married to Dolley's sister. A son of that marriage, Dr. Samuel Walter Washington, married Louisa Clemson, and she was still living there during the Civil War when Union soldiers visited it. She described conditions in a November 1863 letter: "They have taken all our turkeys & shot four of our sheep before our eyes. ... As to horses, they leave us none ... We have but three horses to work with, the Souths took one wagon & team – & the Federals others."



Pvt. James Cunningham Washington Member of Co B, 12th Virginia Cavalry Regiment, Rosser's Brigade. Army Of Northern Virginia, CSA. Captured along with Herbert Alexander at Claymont Farm near Charles Town. Imprisoned at Fort McHenry near Baltimore, Md. Starved and inhumanely treated by their Yankee captors, died in captivity. After James C. Washington and Herbert Alexander were caught trying to blow up the railroad bridge, a furious Sheridan ordered: "I want you to send to the home of Mrs. Alexander, where the guerilla James Washington and Herbert Alexander were captured, and drive off all the stock except one milk cow, and burn every rail on the Clay Mound [Claymont] farm as punishment for harboring guerillas."

Lincoln remained obsessed with Washington through the war, and he followed these developments closely. Mary Todd Lincoln visited Mount Vernon in late March 1861, shortly after Lincoln's inauguration and shortly before Fort Sumter was fired on. In April 1862, Lincoln himself went there, by boat. But security was a concern. One of those accompanying Lincoln wrote, "I advised the President not to land, and remained in the boat with him." A month later, Lincoln went to Fredericksburg, Va., to see Ferry Farm, Washington's boyhood home. This time he took precautions: The town and farm were occupied by Union troops, and a detachment of cavalry rode along.

Lincoln's final encounter with Washington was personal. John Augustine Washington IV, a son of Dick and nephew of John Augustine III, suffered from Pott's disease, a deformity of the spine caused by tuberculosis that causes a hunchback. Only 17 years old, John Augustine IV was – according to family lore – unable to serve in the Confederate Army but was nevertheless arrested for interfering with Union troops who were seizing cattle. The Union saw things differently. Prison records say the boy was a private in Mosby's cavalry and carried dispatches for him. He was taken to Washington and incarcerated in Old Capitol Prison, the usual place for suspected Confederate spies.

The boy's grandmother, Louisa Washington of Harewood, who had lost her turkeys and horses to Union troops a year before, went to the president for help. Lincoln wrote out the release by hand: "Let the boy, John A. Washington, remain in Washington, and attend school, so long as he does not misbehave. A. Lincoln, Nov. 30, 1864."

The Washington family paid dearly during the war. At least twelve served the Confederacy; eight died in battle, by hanging or of disease. Their estates became battlegrounds; their property was seized, and they were left impoverished. Some, like Dick Washington, had even invested in Confederate bonds. A bright spot for the family came in the 20th century when medical science exorcised the family curse of tuberculosis.

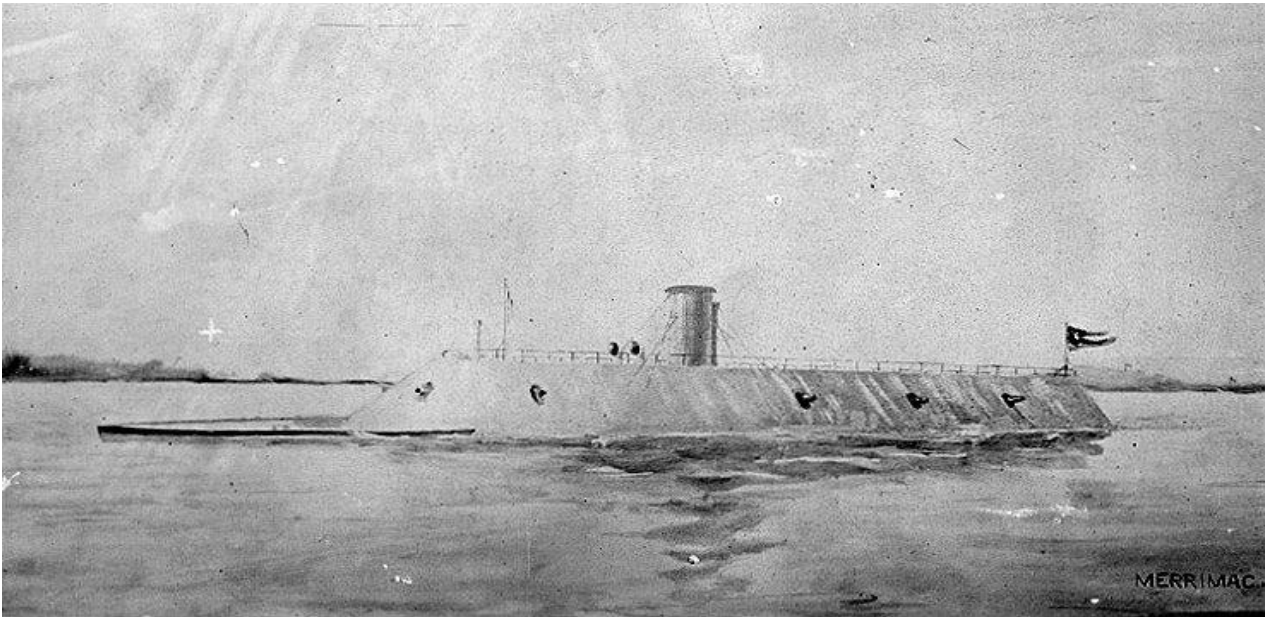
Now, this is where it gets interesting: George Washington didn't have any Blood Direct Descendants, but when he Married the Widow Martha Dandrige Parke Custis he adopted her children. So that means by a Court of Law that because Robert E. Lee Married Mary Anna Randolph Custis the Great Granddaughter of Martha Washington. Robert E. Lee's 3 sons that fought for the Confederacy were Descendants of George Washington! So, if you think about it legally and holding it up in a Court of Law. George Washington Custis Lee. An MG in the Confederate States of America, William Henry Fitzhugh Lee (Rooney) also an MG in the 9th Virginia

Cavalry of the CSA, and Robert E. Lee Jr. (ROB) A Captain in the Stonebridge Artillery were all adoptive GG Grandsons of George Washington.

These are just a few examples of his Family Members that served in the CSA during the War Between the States. Proving once again that these Heroes and Great Americans from the South are Descendants and Family Members of Heroes and Great Americans from the South.

What Happened the Day Before the *Merrimac* and *Monitor* Met?

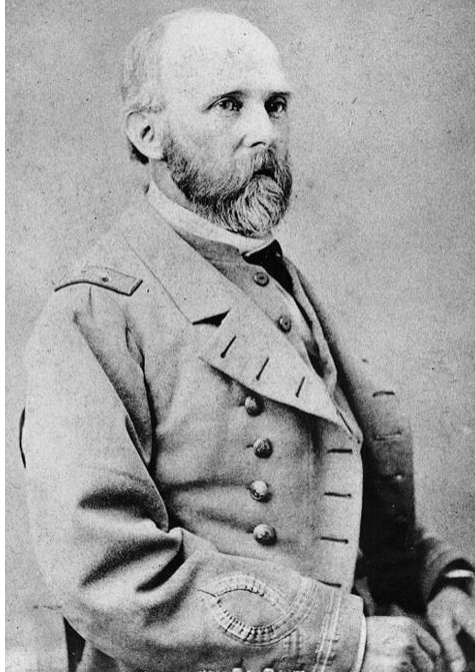
Gene Smith, January 8, 2024,



Forty-one-year-old Welsh Virginian, Catesby ap Roger Jones, sat at the desk in his cramped cabin aboard the CSS *Virginia* (formerly the USS *Merrimac* and usually known by that name) shortly before midnight on March 8, 1862. He hastily drafted a brief account of the day's events to be forwarded to Capt. French Forrest, commander of the Confederate Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia. First Lt. Jones, now serving as flag officer owing to his captain (Franklin Buchanan) having been wounded, nonchalantly claimed that his steam-powered ironclad vessel had left port at 11 a.m. that morning and proceeded down the Elizabeth River to engage Union warships off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

During the afternoon, his ironclad had sunk the frigates *Cumberland* and *Congress*, driven the steam frigates *Minnesota* and *Roanoke* into shoal waters, and exchanged fire with several small armed steamers and shore batteries. He boasted that only shallow waters and nightfall had prevented the deep-draft *Merrimac* from attacking and destroying other Union warships. At 6:30 p.m., the ironclad had fired her last gun, and 90 minutes later had anchored under the Confederate cannon at nearby Sewell's Point. The destruction that lay behind amazed all who had witnessed the day's events. Jones wrote: "Amid the smoke, and flame, and blood of the last few hours, the centuries-long era of the wooden warship had passed forever." Aboard the *Merrimac*, Lt. Robert Minor noted that "the IRON and the HEAVY GUNS did the work." A new era had been born.

Lieutenant Jones concluded his brief account by reporting the *Merrimac* had suffered but two men killed and eight wounded during the engagements. After inspecting the condition of his "half submerged crocodile," he described its damage as light. But more importantly, Jones proudly maintained that "the bearing of officers and men was all that could be wished."



Catesby ap Roger Jones |

Changing Loyalties

Months earlier, after Virginia left the Union, Roger Jones had placed loyalty to Virginia above loyalty to the Union, and on April 17, 1861, he resigned his commission in the U.S. Navy. Not surprisingly, three of his six younger brothers did likewise and took positions in the Confederate Army and Navy. Of his three brothers who remained loyal to the Union, only one fought in the conflict, attaining the rank of brigadier general in the army. On the day following Jones's resignation, Virginia governor John Letcher appointed him a captain in the Virginia Navy. Less than two months later, he participated in an unauthorized attack on the Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk that captured 300,000 pounds of powder and many shells. After the daring attack, Jones was commissioned a lieutenant in the Confederate States Navy on June 10, 1861; he took command of the defenses at Jamestown Island on the James River. For the next five months, Jones oversaw the construction of fortifications and batteries on the island before being instructed to proceed to the Confederate Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia.

On November 11, 1861, Confederate Secretary of the Navy Stephen Russell Mallory appointed Jones executive and ordnance officer aboard the CSS *Merrimac*, then being outfitted as an ironclad warship. The lieutenant had come full circle. He would spend the next four months preparing the former Union ship *Merrimac*—the vessel on which he had previously served in 1856.

On that March 8, 1862, evening, dead tired, Jones signed and dispatched his report, ate dinner, spoke briefly with ex-Virginia governor Henry Wise and a group of civilians who had gathered on shore, and then tried to catch a few valuable moments of sleep. Little did Jones or anyone else realize that the following day, March 9, 1862, naval warfare would be forever revolutionized as the *Merrimac* confronted the Union ironclad *Monitor* in the world's first modern naval engagement.

Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

Do not Grieve for the brave Dead. Sorrow for those they left behind friends, relatives and families. The former are at rest. The latter must suffer.

— **Robert E. Lee, July 27th, 1861**, in a letter to his wife Mary Custis Lee.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

March 23rd Roadside Clean-up 8:00 am Marshall's Crossroads

March 28th 7:00 pm @ Charley's Café: Camp Meeting & our 32nd Anniversary Celebration Speaker Travis Easter Collateral Damage for the Southern People

APRIL IS CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

April 2nd: 2-year Anniversary of Route 460 Roadside Memorial Flag Raising in Farmville

April 7th: Appomattox UDC Memorial Ceremony at Confederate Cemetery Appomattox Virginia

April 9th @ 10AM Prince Edward County Courthouse for hearing on 460 Roadside Flag

April 19th 20th & 21st: Virginia Division SCV Convention Bristol, VA Delta by Marriot, Bristol VA

April 25th 7:00 pm @ Charley's Café: Camp Meeting

May 23rd 7:00 pm @ Charley's Café: Camp Meeting

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