Commander’s Corner

To my fellow Compatriots:

I am announcing that the Olustee reenactment was a successful event. This tremendous accomplishment is due to the membership’s dedication to recruitment and belief that our cause is just. We are steadfast in our pledge to educate the public and increase our numbers. Please take the time to read over this issue of the Sharpshooter, and give consideration in joining one of our upcoming camp activities or 2020 SCV National Reunion Planning Committee.

Attached within this newsletter is the Invitation for the S.C.V. Florida Division Reunion. This event is important in determining the direction of the S.C.V. in Florida and we must make Camp 1209's voice heard. The Executive Board strongly encourages all members to attend the reunion in Ocala, Florida. The business meeting last from 8:00am until around 2:00pm allowing you to be home by late afternoon. Call Lt. Commander Chris Bunton (777-5111) for information and logistics. We are always the largest camp to attend so help us keep this tradition alive.

The Kirby-Smith Camp #1209 March meeting will be on March 19th at 7:00pm at the Museum of Southern History. The speaker will be Clay County Archive Specialist Ms. Vishi Garig. Ms. Garig’s presentation will be about the Civil War in Clay County and the Battle of Halsey’s Plantation located near today’s Lake Asbury.

The Old City Cemetery Clean-Up will be held on March 23th at 8:30am. This is always a good and productive time. Look forward to the April Edition of the Newsletter announcing our plans for Confederate Memorial Day in Old City Cemetery in April.

God Bless the South
Commander Calvin Hart
Camp #1209

“We'll fight them, sir, 'til hell freezes over, and then, sir, we will fight them on the ice.”
A Confederate Soldier at Gettysburg
The 2019 Battle of Olustee Reenactment

Kirby-Smith Camp #1209

The 2019 Battle of Olustee Reenactment occurred on February 16 and 17. Kirby-Smith Camp #1209 had four-teen members participate over the two day event. For several members this was their first reenactment as a Confederate infantry man and there was a lot to learn. First order of business was musket safety the next was Manual Arms and Drilling maneuvers. The weather held out and it was well attended event and the spectators got what they had come to see. On Saturday and Sunday we manned the camp’s educational exhibits and recruited S.C.V. members. Many camp members came by the Camp “1209 Campground” to hang out and share in southern fellowship. We all looked forward to next year’s battle and to spending time again around the campfires.

New Members Joining the Kirby-Smith Camp #1209

James Thompson — Ancestor Sgt. Armistead Thompson --8th Va. Infantry
Donovan Thompson — Ancestor Sgt. Armistead Thompson --8th Va. Infantry
Christopher Thompson — Ancestor Sgt. Armistead Thompson --8th Va. Infantry
Collen Thompson — Ancestor Sgt. Armistead Thompson --8th Va. Infantry
Jason T. Troeger — Ancestor Capt William Stowe -- 87th Regt. Militia N.C.
Cemetery Clean Up  March 24, 2019

The Reaper Crew performed its monthly duties at Old City Cemetery on February 23, 2019. Next month we plan to have a major effort in the Confederate section and planning to do great things in that area. Please mark your calendar for the March 23 Clean-Up (start at 8:30am and done by 11:00am). So come on down to old City Cemetery and join the effort. Please bring gloves and any yard equipment you think might be helpful to accomplish our goals.

How common were sword fights during the US Civil War?

Not very often. Swords and other cutting or slicing weapons were considered fundamental to the armies of the Civil War, although the majority of wounds on the battlefields occurred at ranges from 100–400 yards, by guns and cannon. The Civil War marked the dawn of warfare’s age of distance-at second Manassas, Thomas J ‘Stonewall’ Jackson’s troops threw rocks when they ran out of ammo rather than engage in swordfighting.

Rifles and cannon of the Civil War relegated a once deadly weapon to more if a symbol of authority, better suited to impress and direct soldiers than to slice them apart. Required to carry them, many officers and infantry sergeants found swords to be cumbersome and impractical. Stonewall Jackson drew his sword so rarely it rusted in its scabbard.

Sabers and cutlasses did see limited application in the cavalry. Skilled horsemen used them with great effect as an offensive weapon, mostly in scare tactics. The tide turned at First Manassas when Confederate cavalry brandishing swirling sabres against inexperienced Union infantry. The north issued more than 400,000 to their horsemen over the course of the war, and many used the weapons with brutal effect in the 1863 clash of cavalries at Brandy Station.

From old heirlooms to recent standard issue, manufactured by private firms domestically and in Europe, the number and types of swords in the war may never be accurately calculated.

Even bayonets accounted for fewer than one in one thousand wounds, and many soldiers ditched theirs as soon as the opportunity arose.

The Kirby-Smith Artillery is a replica of a War Between the States Prairie Gun. It has fired at every Confederate Memorial Day Celebration since it was acquired by the camp in 2006. The gun has a 3” bore and uses 6 ounces of 2FF black powder every time it has fired. Safety comes first with the Gun Crew and they take the responsibilities of artillerist seri-ously. If you think you would like to be a part of the “Bull Pup” crew, notify Lt. Commander Chris Bunton.
Stonewall Jackson’s 11th-Hour Rally

On August 9, 1862, General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson and Major General Nathaniel Banks met in Culpeper County, Virginia, and began the battle of Cedar Mountain (aka Slaughter’s Mountain and Cedar Run) During the first part of August, Pope marched south with the objective of capturing the railroad junction at Gordonsville, VA. The Federals gained an early advantage. The 22,000 Confederates engaged came dangerously close to defeat at the hands of the aggressive force of Federals. With the Confederate line in danger of collapsing, Jackson was standing near the gate. His life in great danger as he tried desperately to rally his shattered line, with sword and scabbard—they were rusted together—raised in one hand and a Confederate battle flag in the other. What Confederate worth the name could abandon "Old Jack" in his time of peril? The routed troops of Garnett’s, Taliadoro’s and Early’s brigades began to halt, then rally. Across the area a cheer rose up: "Jackson! Jackson!" the troops. A Confederate counterattack led by A.P. Hill repulsed the Federals and Brigadier General James Jay Archer charge broke the last major Federal resistance on what would become known as the Cedar Mountain battlefield. Jackson had somehow snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in a battle that the brilliant, if dour, Presbyterian would always consider his greatest fight. Late the next day, a thunderstorm broke the oppressive heat and gave succor to the scores of wounded who lay about the field. The day after that, with the smell of putrefying flesh heavy in the Virginia air, Jackson ordered his command back across the Rapidan, heading for the old killing fields at Manassas, having blunted at Cedar Mountain yet another hopeful Union advance. Stonewall Jackson never again held the field as an independent commander. This was also where Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, saw her first field duty.
The 49th Annual Florida Division Reunion
Ocala, Florida - June 7-9, 2019

Reunion REGISTRATION FORM

Quantity Total
Registration Fee: Members Only
If Postmarked by May 20th X $35.00 $ __________________
After May 20th X $45.00 $ __________________

Luncheon on your own
Awards Banquet: note chicken or pork __________________ X $38.00 $ ________________

The banquet meal includes – Herb Crusted Chicken or Sliced Pork Loin with salad, mixed
vegetables, roasted potatoes, rolls and butter, dessert, tea and coffee.

Total Remitted: $ __________________

NOTE: We will not be able to take meal reservations received after May 20th.
Special Note: Friday night Social Under the Oaks a $5 donation at the event is
appreciated but not required.

Please do not park on the north side of the Oaks area- New hotel’s lot.

NAME: __________________________________________

Guest: __________________________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________________________

City: __________________ State: _______ Phone: __________

CAMP NAME & NUMBER: __________________________

Please Mail Registration Form & Check to:
SW Region Lt. Commander David King 11206 Partridge Dr. Tampa FL.
33625-4971 Please Make Checks Payable To: SCV Florida Division Inc
125th Annual National Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

2020 Reunion Held in Florida

Ancestor Memorial (Recognition in the 2020 Reunion Program)

$10.00 each

Your name and your ancestor’s name and unit will be printed in the National Memorial section of the 2020 SCV Reunion Program under the Kirby-Smith Camp #1209 Ancestor memorial Section

Your Name: ____________________________________________________________

1. Ancestor’s Name: _______________________ Rank: ____________
   Ancestor’s Unit: __________________________________________________________________

   $10.00 each

2. Ancestor’s Name: _______________________ Rank: ____________
   Ancestor’s Unit: __________________________________________________________________

Ancestors Registration Quantity ______ x $10.00 = $ ________________

Make Check payable to: Kirby-Smith Camp #1209 2020 Reunion

Mail to: Calvin Hart, 4884 Victoria Chase Ct Jacksonville, FL 32257
The Confederate Army and Dental Care

The inclusion of military dental care into the Confederate military’s infrastructure was gradual: a process that began with the incorporation of dental methods and tools into the Confederacy’s Medical Corps and ended with the full conscription of dentists into the Confederate military. By early 1864, the Confederacy would have professional dentists circulating amid the military hospitals and providing care to soldiers out in the field. High ranking Confederates’ such as President Jefferson Davis and Surgeon General Samuel Moore compassion and interest in dentistry allowed for the inclusion of dentistry within the Army. The establishment of dental care, as the Confederacy would soon learn, would allow for the swift return of soldiers with dental related ailments or wounds back to their respective units. Furthermore, the employment of dentists allowed for the conservation of medical units in the Confederacy.

A detriment to the Confederacy following secession was their lack of supplies and funds. Seceding from the Union meant that the Confederacy would be isolated from its main supply line. This was true regarding matters of dentistry, too; the Confederacy had only one dental supplier, Brown and Hape in Atlanta, and only a small percentage of the dentist population in the United States. The Confederacy would have to overcome these issues to provide dental care in their military.
Kirby-Smith’s Early life and the U.S. Army

Edmund Kirby Smith was born in St. Augustine, Florida to Joseph Lee Smith and Frances Kirby Smith. Both his parents were natives of Connecticut, and moved to Florida in 1821 shortly before the elder Smith was named a U.S. District Judge there. In 1836, his parents sent him to a military boarding school in Virginia, which he attended until his enrollment in the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. In the Mexican-American War he served under General Zachary Taylor at the Battle of Palo Alto and the Battle of Resaca de la Palma. He served under General Winfield Scott later, and received brevet promotions to first lieutenant for duty at Cerro Gordo and to captain for duty at Contreras and Churubusco. His older brother, Ephraim Kirby Smith, a captain in the regular army, served with him in the 5th U.S. Infantry in both the campaign with Taylor and Scott, until he died from wounds suffered at the Battle of Molino del Rey in 1847.