

Sons of Confederate Veterans Roswell Mills Camp No. 1547 MILL TALK

Howard Bryant, Commander - Rick Leake, 2nd Lieutenant
Ross Glover, Adjutant
5284 Wyntercreek Dr.
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Ph. 770-396-5034



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Commander's Comments

Show and Tell will be the theme of our July meeting and we would like as many of our compatriots as possible to participate. We have not done this for about three years, as I recall. It would be well to start thinking now about any photographs, letters, firearms, currency or any artifacts relating to the Noble Cause.

As you know, we will not meet in August but will resume in September with a speaker yet to be announced.

Howard Bryant
Commander

Nine members and wives attended the ceremony and Roswell Mayor Jere Wood honored our Camp with his presence.



Past Commander Ray Barry presents Shannon Soafer a copy of *The Women Will Howl* by Mary Deborah Petite.

Remembering Roswell Mill Workers

On Saturday, April 25th a small group from our Camp along with several guests gathered at the Roswell Mill Workers Memorial to remember the women and children from the Roswell Mills who were accused of treason by Sherman and taken to points north. Some never returned. We also honored our ancestors that fought and died for the Confederate States.

Miss Shannon Soafer, winner of the Phillip Cochran Scholarship, gave a moving tribute to those who gave their all for the Cause.



The small group of attendees enjoyed the service.



Mayor Jere Wood talks with Shannon Soafer.

Editor's Comment-

As one of the Camp members that attended the Remembrance ceremony at the Mill Workers Memorial, it was embarrassing to see how few men of Camp 1547 came out to support our efforts to show a positive image of Sons of Confederate Veterans. The ceremony lasted no more than 45 minutes, and the weather was beautiful. I hope the missing SCV Camp members were at some other service.

May Program Featured Dr. Stallings

When one thinks of Civil War prison camps, Andersonville immediately comes to mind. Dr. James Stallings spoke to the Roswell Camp about the prisons history seldom mentions. Camp Douglas, Johnson's Island and Elmira were some of the most notorious.

At one time Elmira housed close to 10,000

Confederate soldiers. It had the highest death rate, per capita, of any prison camp north or south, 24 percent.

Col. William Hoffman, a vindictive officer, ordered rations to be reduced to bread and water twice daily. At one time prisoners lived on onions and potatoes. Scurvy ran rampant.

Small pox and diarrhea took many prisoners because of inadequate hospital facilities.

At Elmira an inspection report dated July 15, 1864 says:

They are absolutely without the necessary medical and hospital supplies. Requisitions were made three weeks ago. Until the day of my inspection the sick were laid on the naked bunks from the inability to obtain straw. This was finally procured by the commanding officer after considerable difficulty and arrived during my inspection. When the requisition for medicine and hospital supplies is filled they will be in every respect suitable provided in a sanitary view.



Dr. James Stallings is the author of *Georgia's Confederate Soldiers Who Died As Prisoners of War.*

To add insult to injury, a platform was erected on the side of Elmira prison so local citizens could pay 15 cents for the privilege of observing the prisoners.

“During the past week there have been 112 deaths, reaching one day 29. There seems little doubt numbers have died both in quarters and hospital for want of proper food.” - Captain Bennett F. Munger, Inspector, Elmira Prison Camp.

In Chicago Camp Douglas, as in Elmira, mortality rate was high due to overcrowding, unhealthy living conditions, ineffective medical treatment, inadequate food supply and brutality. One in five prisoners died there.

Official U.S. records show 6,000 died at Camp Douglas, but historical articles and research texts put the number much higher. At one point bodies of Confederate soldiers were sold to the University of Chicago medical school for teaching anatomy. This act skewed prison records.

Chicago’s Oak Wood Cemetery a monument stands dedicated to the prisoners that died at Camp Douglas. A vast majority of Chicagoans have never heard of the prison camp on Lake Michigan. There will never be a movie about Camp Douglas nor any other Union prison. It’s a pity that this part of the War Between the States history has be swept under a rug.

Thanks to James Stallings, perhaps a few Americans will learn of the horrors of Yankee prisons.

You may buy a copy of Dr. Stallings book by contacting him at jstallings7@cox.net or 230 Calloway Drive, Macon, GA 31204.

Pilgram Attends May Meeting

Tim Pilgram, 12th Brigade Commander, visited our Camp to talk about the controversy concerning memorials at Kennesaw and Ringgold. The best way to keep a Confederate Memorial from being torn

down is to put it on private property. Commander Pilgram urged members to attend the 112th Georgia Division Reunion at Fayetteville June 12th - 14th.



12th Brigade Commander Tim Pilgram.

The following photos were taken at the May meeting.





Location Change for June Meeting

Roswell Mills Camp 1547 will NOT meet at the Fickle Pickle in June. We will meet at Dreamland BBQ on Roswell Road on Thursday, June 4th. Program will be a presentation by Ray McBarry who will speak about Resurgence of States Rights.

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Program at 7:00 pm

Reason for this change is the Fickle Pickle has music in the patio every Thursday until October. Unless there is a change at the Fickle Pickle, we will continue meeting at Dreamland until autumn.

Reminder from Commander Bryant:
Camp Registration forms for the Georgia Reunion must be sent in by June 1st. After the June 1st cost of Registration increases to \$35.

“When aggression comes, if come it ever shall, then the end draweth nigh. Then, if in my day, I shall be for resistance, open, bold and defiant. I know of no allegiance superior to that due the hearthstones of the homestead. This I say to all. I lay no claim to any sentiment of nationality not founded upon the patriotism of a true heart, and I know of no such patriotism that does not centre at home. Like the enlarging circle upon the surface of smooth waters, however, this can and will, if unobstructed, extend to the utmost limits of a common country. Such is my nationality--such my nationalism--such my patriotism. Our fathers of the South joined your fathers of the North in resistance to a common aggression from their fatherland; and if they were justified to rising to right a wrong inflicted by a parent country, how much more ought we, should the necessity ever come, to stand justified before an enlightened world, in righting a wrong from even those we call brothers. That necessity, I trust, will never come.”

**Alexander H. Stephens
Speech before Congress,
Feb.12th, 1859**