



# THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

## Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2015, Volume 12, Issue 9

**Speaker:** Dr. Douglas Butler  
**Topic:** "Appomattox: Civil War Monuments and Confederate Commemoration"  
**When:** Monday, September 14, 2015  
**Location:** Brock's Riverside Grill  
**Times:** Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm

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### Abstract on Dr. Douglas Butler, our Scheduled Speaker for Monday, September 14, 2015

By Jim Smithfield

Dr. Douglas Butler will be our scheduled speaker for the September 14th monthly meeting of the RVCWRT. Dr. Butler, is an independent scholar, and a practicing physician living in the northwestern part of North Carolina. For nearly twenty years this award winning photographer has explored remote areas across five continents. He has shared these adventures through prose and images. Over the course of the past five years, Dr. Butler's travels have been much closer to home. He has studied the history of North Carolina's Civil War monuments and he's photographed each of North Carolina's 109 commemorations that have been raised during the century and a half since Appomattox Courthouse.

Dr. Butler's book *North Carolina's Civil War Monuments: An Illustrated History* (McFarland, 2013), is a carefully researched and fully documented book containing photographs of each monument and the result is a traveling photo exhibition, his work has been featured in regional and national publications, and Butler has written two previous books, *Ashe County: Discovering the Lost Province* (1992, out of print) and *A Walk Atop America: Fifty State Summits and a Dream to Reach Them All* (Parkway, 2007).

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### "To the Bitter End: Surrenders of the Confederacy"

By Robert M. Dunkerly

Review of the August Program by Greg Mertz

Many of us are familiar with the basics of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's Confederate *Army of Northern Virginia*, at the village of *Appomattox Court House*. We also know that several other Confederate and Federal officers met to discuss the disarmament of other Southern forces still in the field that the negotiations at Appomattox did not cover. Our speaker, Bert Dunkerly, highlighted the differences that distinguished the various gatherings from one another, noting that Appomattox was the least representative of all of the surrenders.

The *Appomattox Campaign* began with the collapse of the Confederate defenses around Richmond and Petersburg. As Lee's *Army of Northern Virginia* marched west, its goal was to link up with another Confederate army in North Carolina commanded by General Joseph E. Johnston. As Lee's Confederates marched away from their former capitol, Federal troops pursued them relentlessly, and the opposing forces fought every day. When Federal General Ulysses S. Grant and Lee met on the afternoon of April 9, 1865, the

final battle of the campaign had occurred on that very morning. Only when Confederate attempts to break through Federal lines west of the village of Appomattox Court House failed, did General Lee agree to meet with General Grant. Their meeting was hastily arranged to take place in the parlor of the home of *Wilmer McLean*. Several officers who were present wrote about the famous meeting, but they don't agree upon the specifics. The Confederate soldiers were stunned when they learned of the surrender. For the most part, morale in the Confederate army had still been high. Most had confidence that Lee would be able to pull off a victory as he had done so many other times before, despite the odds against them. Printed paroles were issued to 28,231 Confederate soldiers. Each branch of Lee's Confederate army formally went into the village to lay down their arms during a ceremony in the presence of a Federal army contingency and then they went home. The site is preserved by the National Park Service, though today's *McLean House* is a reconstruction of the original. Among the many distinguishing characteristics, *Appomattox* was the only surrender to occur in the immediate aftermath of a battle with a Federal army in contact with the Confederate army, entailing one single meeting and the only formal ceremony for the Confederates surrendering their arms.

The army with which Lee was seeking to unite with was Joseph E. Johnston's *Army of Tennessee*. When some of Lee's men passed through Johnston's army on their way home and displayed their parole papers, the morale of the men of the *Army of Tennessee* dropped dramatically. Johnston's men rioted and got into liquor. Loyal soldiers opened fire upon the mutinying soldiers. Johnston realized that Generals Grant and Sherman would likely soon combine their forces to concentrate against him, and with the discipline of his army disintegrating, he wanted to arrange for a surrender as quickly as possible.

Johnston and Sherman met at the Bennett House near Durham, North Carolina. They reached a very liberal agreement that included permitting the Southern states to continue governing. Sherman had not only stepped beyond the bounds of his authority, but with Lincoln's assassination in the aftermath of *Appomattox*, the Federal government was not about to grant such lenient terms. Sherman explained to Johnston that the terms had been rejected and called for another meeting at the Bennett House where Johnston accepted the same terms that had been offered to Lee. Johnston surrendered not just the *Army of the Tennessee*, but some 90,000 troops in the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida – the largest number of troops surrendered at one time. The reconstructed Bennett House is today contained within a North Carolina State Park.

Another major surrender took place in Alabama covering the heartland of the Confederacy. The primary officers were Confederate General Richard Taylor and Federal General Edward Canby. They decided to meet at the *Magee Farm*, next to the railroad about 12 miles north of Mobile. Canby brought a contingency along with food and champagne for a feast. Taylor arrived on a railroad hand car pumped by two slaves. Of all of the surrender sites the *Magee Farm* is the only original surrender structure still standing on its original site with its original furnishings intact. A second meeting was held under an oak tree in Citronelle, Alabama, for the only final surrender to occur outside. For this meeting, Canby's train broke down on the way to the meeting. So the Confederates sent a train to pick him up. A force of 40,000 men simply stacked their arms, disbanded and went home – no paroles were issued, no Federal troops were involved, and no ceremony was held.

Canby was the only officer associated with two surrenders as he and his second in command General Peter Osterhaus were the Federal officers involved in the surrender of the *Trans-Mississippi*. For the Confederates, General Edmund Kirby-Smith was the department commander, but circumstances would dictate that his subordinate General Simon B. Buckner would play a key role. Kirby-Smith was reluctant to surrender his 50,000 Confederates because his command in Louisiana was not being immediately threatened by a Federal force. But as was the case with Johnston's army, word of what had occurred elsewhere in the Confederacy caused morale to break down and the soldiers began to loot. In Kirby-Smith's absence, Buckner met with other Confederate officers and concluded that they were about to lose any control of their army and had better surrender right away. On May 26, 1865, Buckner and Osterhaus met at the *St. Charles Hotel* in New Orleans and arranged for the surrender. The location is not preserved or marked today.

Kirby-Smith learned that his decision had been made for him and he formally surrendered on June 2, 1865 in Galveston, Texas on board the *USS Jackson*. This was the only surrender to occur on a ship. A simple marker denotes the site today. Kirby-Smith gave a final address reflecting his sentiments on the way in which his command dissolved, stating: "Soldiers, I am left a commander without an army – a general without troops. You have made your choice. It was unwise and unpatriotic, but it is final."

The harshest rebuke to any surrendering Confederate troops belongs to Confederate General Merriweather Jefferson Thompson, who surrendered some 5,000 men in his isolated portion of the *Trans-Mississippi Department* on May 11, 1865 at *Jacksonport, Arkansas*. Thompson berated his men in a speech

to them delivered from a boat in the White River. Thompson said: "Many of the 8,000 men I now see around me – have been skulking for the last three years – warn those of you who have been doing nothing but sneaking cowardly jay-hawkers, cut-throats, and thieves, that a just retribution awaits you and I hope to God that the Federal authorities will hang you . . ." The actual surrender site is currently a State Park.

Another set meeting occurred in the Indian Territory, with the final meeting at what is now Doaksville, Oklahoma. What distinguished this arrangement from all of the others is that it was not actually a "surrender." The Indians had been in conflict with the United States government prior to the Civil War and would continue to have disputes with the United States long after the Civil War.

Confederate Native Americans represented by General Stand Wattie met over the course of several days with Federal Colonel Asa Matthews to re-negotiate a "treaty," officially bringing an end to the resistance from Confederate Indians. Very little is known about the negotiations and it is not even known which building in the town of Doaksville was the actual site of that final meeting. However, the overall Doaksville location is protected today as a state historic site . . .

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## **RVCWRT Membership Renewal SOP**

**By Paul Stier**

As the elected RVCWRT Membership Committee Chairman, I was asked by your Executive Committee to come up with and present a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP). This SOP will regulate how the RVCWRT shall conduct all future Membership Renewal Drives. After much discussion and many votes, the approved SOP is hereby presented for your information. Subsequently, after reading the following, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns and I'll do my best to address and answer them in an expedient manner . . .

### **October:**

- Initial membership notification to renew membership
- One mass e-mail sent to the RVCWRT membership by the first Tuesday of the month. (Separate from the e-mail asking the membership to confirm their Dinner Reservation)
- Include a soft copy of the Membership Application Form or web link to where it is stored on our Website
- Include a soft copy of the year's schedule or web link to where it is stored on the Website Newsletter Notification
- Website and Face Book Page posting
- Verbal announcement made at the October Dinner Meeting that all those who have not renewed their membership by NLT 31 December will be dropped from RVCWRT roles.

### **November:**

- Continued notification to renew membership
- By the first Tuesday of the month, one mass e-mail sent only to select membership whose membership Renewal forms have NOT been received by 31 October. (Separate from the email asking the membership to confirm Dinner Reservations)
- Include a soft copy of the Membership Application Form or link to where it is stored on the Website
- Include a soft copy of the year schedule or link to where it is stored on the Website
- Newsletter Notification
- Website and Face Book Page posting
- Verbal announcement at the November Dinner Meeting that all those who have not renewed their membership by NLT 31 December will be dropped from RVCWRT roles.

### **December:**

- Final notification to renew membership
- By the first Tuesday of the month, send one mass e-mail to select members whose membership renewal forms have not been received by 30 November. (separate from the e-mail asking the membership to confirm their Dinner Reservations)
- Include a soft copy of the Membership Application Form or link to where it is stored on the Website
- Include a soft copy of the year schedule or link to where it is stored on the Website
- Newsletter Notification
- Website and Face Book Page posting
- Verbal announcement at the December Dinner Meeting that tonight is the last night that they will be notified before being dropped from the RVCWRT roles.

- All Website and Face Book Page postings referencing RVCWRT Membership Renewal will be removed by 01 January.

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**Remember: Contact Bob Jones to order your Dinner in advance**

To Confirm Your Reservations; Telephone 540-399-1702 or e-mail [3dognight@Bigplanet.Com](mailto:3dognight@Bigplanet.Com)

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**RVCWRT History Alert Program**

By Jim Smithfield

RVCWRT member Alan Zirkle, provides a totally free service, which notifies subscribers about any/all upcoming local history events in the Fredericksburg general area. This is done via subscribers recorded e-mail address, it concerns upcoming history-related events. RVCWRT members receive Alan's important messages. If you do not now, but would like to receive Alan Zirkle's "History Alerts" please send your e-mail address to Alan noting this fact @ [az@azirkle.com](mailto:az@azirkle.com).

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**"The Three Sanchez Sisters"**

**(Lola, Panchita and Eugenia)**

By Jim Smithfield



Lola Sanchez

(The oldest of the three Sanchez sisters at age 50)

St John's County, Florida, became the new home of the three Cuban born, beautiful Sanchez sisters. Just prior to America's Civil War breaking out, these sisters moved to Florida from Cuba. The entire Sanchez family had moved to the United States along with their ailing father, Mauritia Sanchez, who had previously lived in Florida for a short while. The Sanchez family was comprised of their ailing father, an invalid mother, a son serving in the Confederate Army and, of course, the three locally acclaimed beauties; Lola, Panchita and Eugenia. The three Sanchez sisters were actually working as recruited spies for the Confederacy and the sisters had truly become completely invaluable Confederate assets. The three sisters had effectively upset repeated Federal plots and in doing this, they maintained a constant leaking of information that flowed to the Confederate Army, stationed at nearby Camp Davis, Florida.

The Sanchez family had settled along the banks of the St. John's River, just opposite Palatka, Florida, which is about 63 miles due south of Jacksonville, Florida. Like so many of the women who served unheralded during America's Civil War for both sides, very few kept recorded information about their bravery, their personal sacrifices and their many wild adventures.

Due to the constant breach of information concerning Union plans and the apprehension caused by the unknown *Confederate Spy*, an investigation had been launched. A decision was made by the Union forces under General Chatfield that it was actually Mauritia Sanchez (the sister's ailing father) who was the actual Confederate spy. This was obviously aided, no doubt, by the fact that his son was serving in the Confederate Army. To protect his family, Mauritia had relented, allowing himself to be charged and arrested and to then be imprisoned and locked away in Fort San Marco.

It is interesting to note that information after his arrest continued to flow to the Confederates. Apparently, no one actually suspected the three beautiful Sanchez sisters of being the real culprits. Through all of this, the Federal authorities continued to maintain a guard each night at the Sanchez home. The guard was stationed discreetly nearby to watch over the Sanchez home every evening until dawn and there were many periodic searches made of the Sanchez house in an attempt to catch the then still unknown *Rebel Spy*.

On one certain Saturday evening, like so many other evenings, it occurred that the three sisters were once again entertaining male companions in their home. Their companions, on this particular Saturday evening consisted of three ranking Union officers. That evening's conversation moved along as the wine flowed freely. Nothing seemed extraordinary about the evening, i.e., until the sisters had left the drawing room to prepare dinner for their three guests. It was then that Lola Sanchez, listening from the dining room, overheard a joking but hushed private conversation between the three Union officers. This conversation, concerned Union plans to be carried out early the following morning. These plans were as follows, in the early morning hours, while the Confederate camp (Camp Davis) was still sleeping; the Yankees would begin with a staged gunboat raid on the camp. Then, the second part of their plan would entail a large party of Union soldiers heading south from St. Augustine; raiding, seizing, and then killing any/all Confederates that they came across. Hearing this information, Lola Sanchez knowing that time was of the essence, decided to impart this information to her very special friend, one Captain Dickerson of the Confederate army. Dickerson, who was stationed nearby, at the same Camp Davis mentioned in her overheard conversation. Dickerson would be the one she should tell ASAP.

Sneaking away from the house, Lola had left while the Union officers were being entertained by her two sisters. Lola was supposedly in the kitchen cooking the evening's dinner for them all. She saddled her horse and led it on foot away from the house and away from the sentry's post. Lola, then rode alone into the night, riding nearly three miles through Florida's tropical jungle to a St. John's River crossing, near the Confederate camp. Locating a skiff, Lola poled herself across the St. John's River and entered Camp Davis screaming for the attention of everyone and anyone. The next day the planned Union surprise attack on Camp Davis failed completely. Instead of a victory, Union General Chatfield was killed and all of the involved Union troops were either killed, missing or captured in that day's battle. Besides the complete defeat of the attacking Union troops, a Federal Transport along with a Federal Gunboat were both destroyed.

The long and the short of it is that, being forewarned, Camp Davis was more than ready for the Union army's planned *SURPRISE* the next day and they defeated the attacking Federals. It's interesting that Lola had not been missed at home, and she even made it back in time to serve dinner to their three guests. None the wiser, the three Federal officers left early that night, with full bellies and happy thoughts of their upcoming victory.

Later during that same year, Panchita, who'd become determined to arrange for the release of their ailing father from the Union prison. Panchita traveled alone, slowly making her way to St. Augustine, Florida. Panchita is said to have suffered untold hardships along her way traveling to St. Augustine, this was felt to be necessary in order to arrange for their father's release . . .

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### **Did you know . . .**

**By Jim Smithfield**

. . . that in 1909, by making them both "*Pages*" at their Convention "*The Daughters of the Confederacy*" honored the daughters of Lola and Panchita for their mothers and their Aunts bravery and their actions taken in defense of Camp Davis and the Confederate soldiers stationed there?

. . . that Spanish inventor *Monturiol Estarriol* offered in writing to sell to the Confederacy, his advanced submarine, named *Ictineo*, this was, he felt, to be used by the Southern States to break the Federal blockade around the South? Of course, *Estarriol's* submarine was never purchased by the Confederacy! However, the French author *Jules Verne* based his fictional vessel "*The Nautilus*" on *Estarriol's* actual submarine. The *Ictineo* was the world's then, most advanced vessel of it's day . . .

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### Who we are?

The *Drum and Bugle Newsletter* is published monthly, by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. Each month, The Drum and Bugle newsletter is also placed on our web-site, [www.RVCWRT.org](http://www.RVCWRT.org). Yearly membership dues are still just \$30.00 for individuals, \$40.00 for families, and it's still only \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the ongoing preservation of Civil War sites.

#### The RVCWRT Executive Committee:

President:	Marc Thompson	Newsletter Editor:	Jim Smithfield
Past President:	Conway Richardson	Research Historian:	Joyce Darr
Vice-President:	Bob Jones	Scholarship Chair	Scott Walker
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