

Commander's Report

The prophetic words of Major General Patrick Cleburne:

"Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late. It means the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision. . ."

**-Maj. Gen Patrick R. Cleburne, CSA,
(Killed, Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864)**

What a wise man General Cleburne was! These prophetic words are one of the reasons the SCV exists today. I have personally seen the effects in dealing with the public education of my children, listening to tour guides while on a trip to Washington D.C., in trying to deal with our local Chamber of Commerce, and in history classes at Faulkner University.

In fighting the negative influences of revisionist history and education we must realize that today we are fighting battles for the hearts and minds of people that have been brainwashed for generations. We must remember what "Southern Heritage" means and what we must do to honor our ancestors and still win the battles.

Try to imagine how the people we are trying to influence perceive us. Which bumper sticker is going to achieve more in opening a mind or a door – "Dixie – Love It Or Leave It" or one that says "Heritage, Not Hate"? I have to admit that I kinda like the Dixie one, but I don't think it does much to further our cause. It probably only serves to alienate the minds we are trying to win over and enhances our image of being uneducated, bigoted, Bible totin, gun clinging, rednecks. George Wallace once said something about us being rednecks if that meant working hard all day out in the sun. (By the way, I do tote a Bible and a gun).

I have a friend that has taught me a tremendous amount about not only Confederate history but also about Southern Heritage. He is someone who has influenced me over the past few years by actually living the life of a true Southern Gentleman. He dresses well although I have rarely seen him in a suit and tie. I have also never seen him wearing a Yosemite Sam T-shirt stating "Hell No, I Ain't Fergettin". He speaks softly but is one of those people that you WANT to listen to. I have never heard him raise his voice and I can't remember having ever heard him interrupt anyone, even when he knew they were dead wrong in what they were saying.

There are always those times when we feel like being in someone's face when we feel as passionate about something as we all do about the South. Attacking someone and getting in their face rarely works in our favor. If you calmly listen to someone's point of view, even if it is wrong and warped, should at least earn you the right to state your opinion without interruption. Someone once said that we have two ears and only one mouth for a reason!

One thing in our favor in regard to having calm rational discussions with "miseducated" people is that we have the facts in our favor. Ticking them off only serves to further close their minds. Be a Southern Gentleman. It will get you (and our cause) a lot further.

Deo Vindice,

Steve Johnson
Commander



**Knife to be given away at General
Wheeler's Birthday Celebration.
September 13, 2008, 7:00 at the New Merkle House.**