

Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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Commander Achim "Archy" Bänsch

Intelligence Service Europe, Year 13, Issue 2, September, 2020

Commander's Letter

Dear Members and friends of the SCV Europe Camp.

In these hard times full of violence and hatred against our democracy, our belief in our ancestors, we must stand together. It is our job to bring the true story of the War of Northern Aggression closer to other people.

We cannot allow hate-driven Antifa and other leftist agitators to destroy everything we and our ancestors have built. There is a stab in the heart when I see these out-of-control, pillaging, rioting, violent criminals in pictures and videos.

Achim "Archy" Bänsch
Commander

(This is the personal view of the Commander and does not necessarily reflect the view of the SCV.)

The Editor's Message

Compatriots and Friends of the South,

In this issue:

I always ask our members to provide the personal stories of their Confederate Ancestors. This time Fred Adolphus gives us a tale.

In 1930 Winston Churchill mused about 'What if Lee had not won the Battle of Gettysburg.'" Interesting reading. We provide a link.

We are happy to present our 2020 report on our annual Commemoration Ceremony at Gizyn, Poland, for Colonel Heros von Borcke. We have pictures of the Ceremony - and some really good pictures of the 'Battle of Fort Stedman' re-enactment.

Come join us now as we think about the 19th Century and the 'people of history' - our ancestors and their world.

The Editor

Editorial

(This is the personal view of the Editor and does not necessarily reflect the view of the SCV.)

We all know what is going on in the United States. The literally burning social issues of these days, with all the frustration and pressure coming out of seemingly senseless violence against and unfair treatment of African-Americans, added to mass unemployment and Covid-19 measures means pent-up emotions that explode in violence against anything and anyone who seems to be against you.

But our 19th Century Confederate ancestors are not responsible for racial relations in 21st Century America. We know that our soldiers didn't fight so that someone else could keep their slaves. They fought because the United States invaded their Republic, burning and killing, with intent to overthrow our ancestors' democratically-elected government. As men of the 19th Century, what else could they have done? Lay down? Would you???

We, their descendents, therefore honor them for their patriotism and their sense of honor and of self-worth and we do not accept the rewriting of history to blacken their motives or whitewash the motives of their enemies.

That is why we stand firm. That is why we continue membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Because we know our ancestors were right. Our sympathy and understanding of the burning issues today doesn't mean we abandon our family members and their cause. Their society then isn't our society now. America has changed immensely since 1865. Our problems today are our problems, not theirs. Pulling down the statue of a simple Confederate soldier in front of the very

Murfreesboro courthouse where my ancestor enlisted to protect his country sure won't make me sympathetic to vandals.

Remember: if our Confederates are forgotten or turned into the evil ones, all their pain and suffering and hunger and death was for nothing.

But so long as we keep their memory alive, they live.

We don't forget – and, as much as some hate it, we won't let others forget, either!

The Editor




ADJUTANT'S CALL

by Chris McLarren


Europe Camp Adjutant.

In late August I sent out 're-enlistment' papers asking our members and friends - to stand by the flag in 2020-2021. In the case of our Members - to renew their membership. The response was very good.

The Commander and I again had the pleasure of welcoming new members - 'reinforcements' - to the Camp:

Tim Hentenaar is a descendent of  Private Benjamin Franklin Dykes, 9th Kentucky Cavalry. Dykes' regiment fought in the Atlanta Campaign, helped defend Savannah and the Carolinas. Part of the unit escorted President Davis on his flight south, until released by the President. Dykes really fought to the bitter end - he only surrendered in late May of 1865, some ten days after President Davis was captured by the Yankees.

<http://www.kykinfolk.com/adair/confederate.htm>

Ronald Patrick McCuin and his son, Jackson Thomas McCuin, joined us, his son as a Cadet. Their ancestor was  Private Samuel Henry Hale, Company F, 52nd Virginia Infantry. His regiment served from just after First Manassas to almost the end. A Shenandoah Valley regiment, it participated in almost all of the campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia: Jackson's Valley Campaign, the Seven Days, 2nd Manassas, Sharpsburg,

Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor, Early's Valley Campaign, up to the outskirts of Washington and back again. Hale surrendered on 20 March 1865.

And we have a new **Friend of the SCV**: Stefan Fuchs. Stefan knows of no blood relations with the Confederacy, but his heart is with the Cause. And he is welcome.

Finally, staying a Member is good. But you could also recruit for the Camp, just as our Commander, Archy Bänsch, has so successfully done. A lot of people in Germany actually have Confederate ancestors, if they look deeply enough. Encourage people to check their family histories if they could possibly have Confederate ancestors. If so, Commander Bänsch may be able to help.

And if they don't have a Confederate ancestor, no problem! They can, like Stefan Fuchs, become a 'Friend of the SCV' connected to a Camp. They are not full members, but that is not really important - they are part of the family. For further information - contact me!

Chris McLarren

Camp Adjutant

OUR PEOPLE --

Stories of the Confederate Ancestors of our Camp Members

Our **Senior Member** (SCV member for 45 years!) Fred Adolphus tells of his Great-Great-Great-Grandfather)



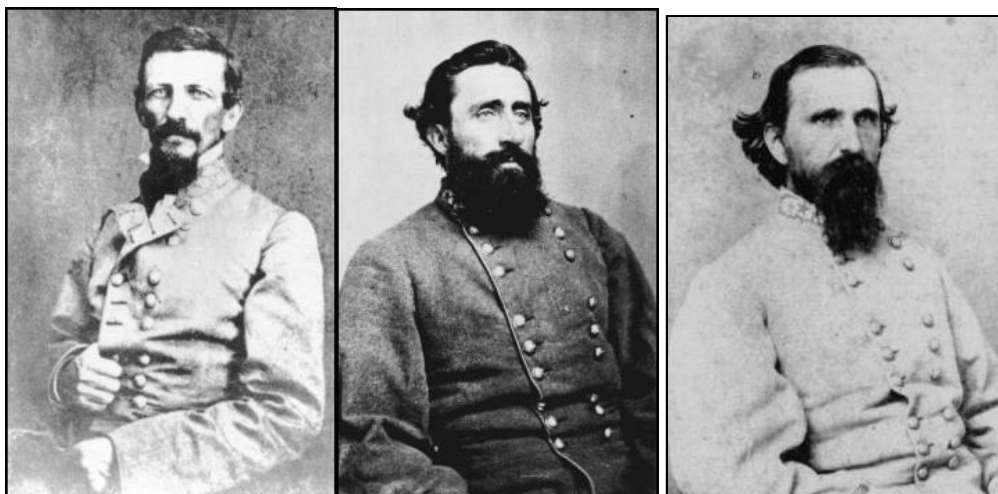
Private James Adams Hooper, C.S. Army



by Frederick R. Adolphus

James A. Hooper, also known as Jim Hooper, was born in Georgia on March 4, 1829 and resided in Whitfield County, Georgia at the start of the war. By trade, at various times in his life, he was a tinker (or tinsmith), farmer and bricklayer. He did not join the army until 1864, and probably spent part of the early years of the war working in the vicinity of Natchez, Mississippi.

Hooper enlisted in the Confederate army at Dalton, Georgia on January 27, 1864, "for three years or the war." His enlistment coincides with the time that the Federal army occupied his home county. He joined a general's escort company of Mississippi cavalry in the Army of Tennessee: Buck's Escort Company, that acted as escort for Major Generals Stewart, Bates and Brown during the time Hooper served with it.



Lt.Gen Alexander Stewart Maj.Gen Willam B. Bates Maj.Gen John C. Brown

Buck's company was made up of soldiers mainly from Natchez, Mississippi, and perhaps Hooper became acquainted with the command while he was working in Natchez. That might explain why he joined a Mississippi command rather than a native Georgia company.

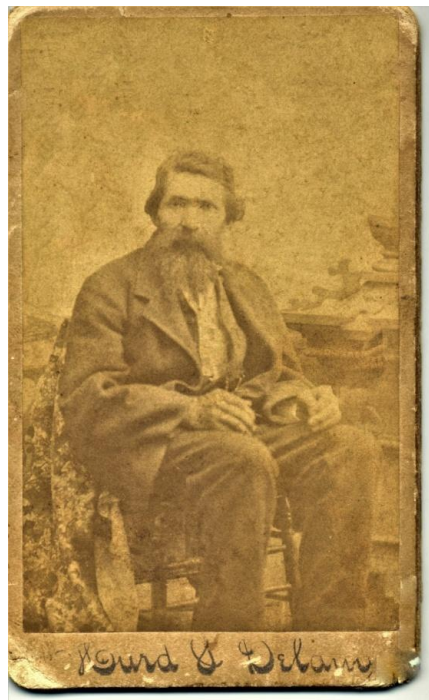


Riders of the South

His muster rolls indicate that he was present for duty from his enlistment through December 1864. On the January-February 1864 roll he was authorized \$14.00 per day for horse hire. The April roll shows him being paid to date. The November-December roll shows him detailed as a teamster. His final muster roll includes him on a list of paroled men on April 26, 1865, part of General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee. The roll, dated April 28, 1865, near High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina, reports him as "absent sick."

Hooper's pension application states that he was wounded by a fragment of shell in the left ankle at the Battle of Resaca, May 1864. A comrade, James F. Hill, stated that Jim Hooper was on wounded furlough in Columbus, Georgia in the latter part of 1864 or the early part of 1865. He further related that Hooper was in a disabled camp near Hamburg, South Carolina in the spring of 1865, and that he was paroled at that camp. After their parole, both Hill and Hooper passed through Hamburg, South Carolina on their way home. Hooper had to walk home on his wounded ankle from Hamburg to Dalton, and was in such bad condition that he gave out along the way. His comrade, James F. Hill, went on without him.

Once home, Hooper married Sarah Jane Bailey Spruce on October 8, 1867 in Whitfield County, Georgia. Sarah was the widow of a Confederate soldier named "Spruce." They had a family with several children.



James Adams Hooper

Hooper died on September 26, 1907 in Whitfield County, Georgia.

Claribel Cash, his granddaughter, passed on some family oral tradition about her grandfather to (*Ed-our Camp Member*) Frederick R. Adolphus, her great grandson in about 1975. She conveyed a story that she had received first-hand from Jim.

Accordingly, on one particular occasion, it was Jim's turn to cook, so he prepared a meal for his comrades. An officer approached Jim and requested that Jim to cook something special for him (the officer). Jim became indignant and rebuked the officer, telling him that he was no better than the men and that he could eat what they ate or do without. In the end, Jim didn't cook anything special for the officer.

(Editor- Sounds like a typical Confederate soldier to me – Competent officers were respected. But don't get 'superior' with the men. They don't stand for it.)

(Ed- Thank you, Fred, for sharing your ancestor's story. If our Readers have similar stories about your people – let us have them. Übersetzen können wir auch.)

*And who is our **Fred Adolphus**? – Well, let him tell us:*

I joined the SCV in October 1975, but I attended meetings with my father before that. When I turned 16 I was eligible to join. My first camp was the General Albert Sidney Johnston Camp # 67, Houston, Texas. So I have been an SCV member for 45 years and a life member since around 2005 or so. Since I have traveled all over during my adult life, I have changed camps numerous times. When in Germany, I joined the Isaac Newton Giffen Camp in North Carolina to help them start up. I had wanted to join the Europe camp at that time, but the camp was not accepting new members, so I joined the Tarheels. When I got to Georgia in 2000, I joined the Atlanta Camp, John B. Gordon # 46. I was Commander of that camp for two years. I went to Louisiana in 2008 for eight years and commanded the DeRidder camp, and later, we consolidated with the Lake Charles camp. In 2016, I moved to Fort Hood, Texas, where I joined the Temple, Texas camp. In 2018, I moved back to Germany, and I am finally a member of the Europe camp. I enjoy my Southern compatriots and comrades, regardless of state affiliation or nationality. **We are all Southerners at heart.**

Deo Vindice,

Fred

Just Supposing.....

If Lee had not won the Battle of Gettysburg.....

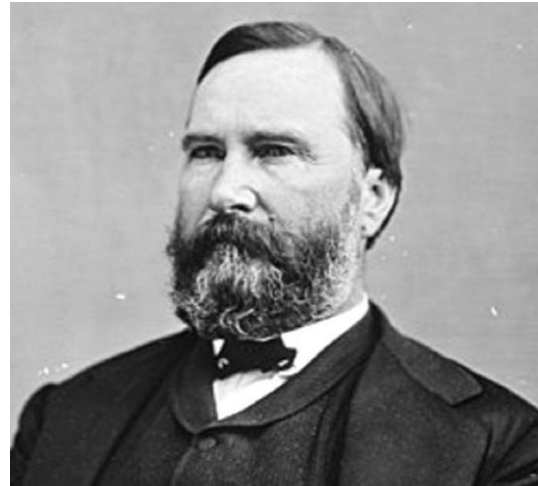
Winston Churchill, who once described Robert E. Lee as ‘the noblest American who had ever lived and one of the greatest commanders known to the annals of war’ in 1930 allowed his imagination to roam and pondered what would have happened ‘if Lee had not won at Gettysburg’.

Of course, we all know that General Lee crushed the Yankees in 1863 and occupied Washington and we have lived as a free people in the Confederate States for over a century and a half. But, just supposing that, instead, George Meade had won at Gettysburg, what would the world now look like?

I invite you to take this fanciful trip with Churchill and read his article at <https://winstonchurchill.org/publications/finest-hour-extras/qif-lee-had-not-won-the-battle-of-gettysburgq/>

Churchill was very much interested in the effects it would have had on Britain and British politics, so if Disraeli and Gladstone are new to you, you may want to skip some. But let me warn you - the South's history would have been much more unpleasant than the one we have enjoyed under, among others, our Presidents Lee, Hampton, Longstreet, Wilson, Truman, Carter and Clinton, etc.

James Longstreet
President of the
Confederate States of America
1885-1891



Woodrow Wilson,
President of the
Confederate States of America
1903-1909

The Dispatch from Gizyn 2020



By Chris McLarren, Editor, with input from and photographs by Piotr “Smednir” Narloch, Sergeant, 14th La. Infantry, Fred Adolphus, SCV Camp 1612

Regular readers of ISE know that for years, Europe Camp has organized a Commemorative Ceremony for Colonel Heros von Borcke*, CSA at his grave site about a hundred miles east of Berlin, Germany. (** pronounced ‘Bor-ka’*)

The Colonel was a Prussian cavalry officer who went to fight for the South. He became Chief of Staff to General J.E.B. Stuart. He was known to both Blue and Gray in Virginia as “the big Prussian with the big sword’ After the war he returned to his home in Prussia, now the village of Gizyn, Poland. When he died, he was buried in the family mausoleum here in Gizyn.

The Framework – A Civil War Weekend

Our Camp’s ceremony is part of the largest Civil War Re-enactment Weekend in Western Poland. (You heard right! there is active Re-enactment of ‘our’ war in much of Europe!)

Each summer in July, Civil War Re-enactors from all over Central Europe gather to Colonel von Borcke’s home village to spend four days in ‘our’ 19th Century.

Organized by members of the 14th Louisiana and 58th N.Y. Regiments, this year the attending units were:

United States Troops

58th New York Infantry*

26th Wisconsin Vol Inf**

9th Illinois Cavalry (Co. I)**

Confederate States Troops

14th Louisiana Infantry*

1st Texas Infantry**

Louisiana Tigers (Co. D)**

8th North Carolina State Troops***

* Poland

** Czech Republic

*** Germany

Over four days these Central Europeans 'live' the War, as authentically as they can. Tents and camp fire cooking – skirmishes in the woods and battle on the open field.



Camp Life

Not really different from such re-enactment weekends in Alabama or Pennsylvania. Indeed, some of these men have attended re-enactments at Gettysburg, Appomattox and elsewhere. At Giżyn that weekend, except for the languages, you would swear you were in 19th-Century America.

Each year, there is a focus on a specific battle or campaign. This year the Petersburg Campaign was the theme – and the main event was the Battle for Fort Stedman.



Yankee Steel!

Southern Bullets!



Heads down!!

North Carolina! Forward!



Louisiana moves up!

(Remember please, these are Poles and Czechs and Germans! And just as committed and just as knowledgeable as their fellow re-enactors in Mississippi or Iowa!)

Interestingly, we had some other spectators:



21st-Century US Army Soldiers!

Stationed down in Southern Poland, they were totally surprised to hear about our weekend and came to see!

As people interested in preserving Confederate history, we – the Camp and the re-enactors, are grateful to the good people of Giżyn. For years now, they have been accommodating and supportive of our remarkable annual event. They provide the logistical background to the event – medical services, police as needed, etc. Citizens of the village even helped to dig the trenches on the ‘battlefield’!

They know the presence of a famous Civil War participant makes their town unique in all of Poland. (Look up *Giżyn, Mysliborz County*, in Wikipedia – the local notable is – Heros von Borcke.)

And our – Europe Camp, re-enactors, town citizens– engagement has brought a very positive development – the regional government has organized – and financed preservation measures for the decaying von Borcke mausoleum.



Within the last two years, a protective roof has been placed over the structure and the interior has been partially cleaned up. Further preservation measures are being planned.

Our commitment to 'our' Colonel von Borcke is recognized – and honoured – here in Poland!

The SCV Ceremony

As Adjutant of the Europe Camp, I was, frankly, thrilled that two other Members of the Camp were present at the Ceremony. A unique moment!



Fred and Jason (with our Camp flag)

Fred Adolphus had come from western Germany and Jason Bell had travelled from the eastern part of the Czech Republic to stand with me at the tomb of a 'our' Confederate Colonel. Superb!



Adolphus, Bell

McLarren

During the ceremony this year local activist Jan Obłak of Gizyn was honoured with a presentation sword from the re-enactors in acknowledgement of his personal support and the area's continuing hospitality.



Mr. Obłak with his presentation sword

Thanks to our loyal Re-enactors, a Guard of Honor stood for hours before the Mausoleum.

The troops then marched from the camp to the Mausoleum, where a hundred visitors were waiting, among them these ladies:



(Remember -This is Poland!)



Honorary volleys were fired by Blue and Gray,



Speeches were given by me as SCV representative, Mr. Obłak, the Town and District Mayors and a representative of the local Member of the Polish National Parliament. Wreaths and flowers were laid. And a volley salute was fired off in honor of the people of Gizyn.



The troops then marched off in fine style and to the applause of the spectators.

And then photos.



(from left: Jan Obłąk, local activist; Karolina Ryder, Director of the Office of the Member of Parliament for the Szczecin Region; SCV Camp Members Chris McLarren, Fred Adolphus and Jason Bell)


As ‘Confederates abroad’, it is an unexpected honor and privilege that, just like our brothers in the States, we, too, can care for the grave site of a Confederate veteran. We are the SCV. We care for our Veterans - *wherever they may lie.*

Biographical note:

Johann August Heinrich von Borcke was born on July 23, 1835, into an old, noble Prussian family. Following tradition, he became a Prussian cavalry officer. He left Prussian service in 1861 to offer his services to the Confederate States. He ran the U.S. Navy's blockade, arrived in Richmond and, as a trained cavalry officer, he became an adjutant, and eventually, Chief of Staff to General J.E.B. Stuart. General Stuart and von Borcke were close friends. Von Borcke proved himself in battle, as an adjutant and as a liaison to General Robert E Lee. On June 19, 1863, he was severely wounded in a cavalry clash near Middleburg, Virginia, during the Gettysburg campaign. After a long convalescence, he returned to duty but was not well enough for field service. Von Borcke was promoted to Colonel and received the thanks of the Confederate Congress. In the spring of 1865 he was sent on a diplomatic mission to London and was there when the Confederacy collapsed. He returned to Prussia and settled on his estate in Pomerania, now a part of Poland. He flew a Confederate flag on his manor house until he died. In 1877, von Borcke published a memoir of his service in the War. He returned to America in 1884 and visited the southern states where he was fêted as a hero. He died on May 10, 1895 and was buried in the family mausoleum in what is now Giżyn.*

* (Ed- Famed Lee biographer Douglas Southall Freeman said "Von Borcke's book is one that no student of Confederate history will forget." He is so right!)

<https://www.amazon.com/Memoirs-Confederate-Independence-Heros-Borcke-ebook/dp/B0722NCG49>



Address in Commemoration of Heros von Borcke in Giżyn, Poland on 25 July 2020.

By Chris McLarren,

Adjutant ,SCV Camp 1612 (Europe)

Good people of Giżyn, of Poland, the armies of the North and South,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for coming today

My name is Christopher McLarren. This is Jason Bell and Fred Adolphus. We are Americans and have ancestors who fought for the South. Fred and I have come from Germany. Jason has come from

Czechia to join you here. People have come to Gizyn today - from many parts of Poland, from Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia.

We have come to honor a man from here, - from this village - who went to help a brave people fight for their freedom: Heros von Borcke.

After the War for American Independence from Great Britain in 1776, the northern and southern states agreed to work together on important issues. Over the decades that followed, the northern states grew more rapidly, and under a democratic system, gained more political power. But then they began to use their power to make laws that were mostly good for the North. The South paid most of the tax money, but the North used most of the tax money. High import tariffs meant Southerners had to buy expensive Northern goods instead of cheaper British goods. And more and more people in the North began to hate black slavery, which was the economic basis of Southern economy and social order. Finally the Southerners, seeing no way to protect themselves from what, to them, were unjust laws, left the United States and founded a new country: the Confederate States of America in 1861. But the North refused to let the South go, they refused them the right of self determination - and waged war against the South.

Heros von Borcke was a young Prussian cavalry officer, whose family had lands here in this region. Von Borcke went to fight for the South along side our ancestors. Through his military training, hard work and winning personality, Heros became an important part of the cavalry fighting the Yankees in Virginia. He was wounded twice and was then sent by the Confederate president on a diplomatic mission to England. He was there when the war ended. He moved to the family house here in Gizyn and flew a Confederate Flag from the house until he died.

In the United States and in many countries including here in Poland, men honor the soldiers of the American Civil War by reenacting important battles of that time. These men, standing before you in hot, wollen uniforms, spend time and energy and money to help us to understand what happened in America. And they honor the men who risked their lives in that terrible war –They honor brave men. They

honor the Americans, North and South, but also the thousands of Poles and Germans and Irish and others who also fought. If you or anyone you know may be interested in joining these men in their fascinating hobby, please talk to them. There is always room for anyone who is interested.

CAN I ASK FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DEFENDED THEIR COUNTRIES AGAINST TYRANNY, BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Thank you.

I am especially pleased to thank the government of Powiat Myśliborski and the West Pomeranian Voivodship for their superb support of the project to restore and maintain this mausoleum- for the story of von Borcke is a unique part of the history of this region. We hope that many people will come and visit the region and especially Gizyn, and learn about Gizyn's most famous native son – See the article on Gizyn on Wikipeda!

To make an event such this weekend succeed, it takes many hands – but we especially want to thank Grzegorz Bogdan (Lt. Clayton) and Piotr Narloch (Sgt Smednir). Without them, none of us would be here on this beautiful Saturday. Thanks to our re-enactors from many lands. You help us to remember that freedom is not free, but must be fought for every day.

And finally our thanks goes to the good people of Gizyn. Your support in memory of a man who lived here,

who walked in these fields,

who drank this water,

who looked up at this sky and

who loved this land.

Your support makes it all possible.

For that,

we salute you.

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our ceremony. If you have any questions, please come and ask. If you would like pictures, we will be pleased to be in your pictures.

And we invite you to come to the Battle which will happen on the main field in a very short time. The troops will then be there for your photos. Thank you for coming and we wish you a good Saturday



yes, but also:

"Happiness is when you feel good about yourself and your ancestors without feeling the need for anyone else's approval!"



Intelligence Service Europe

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