



# Lee's Keystone Rebels

## Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."*

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906

## Lee's Camp Commanders

Camp # 1506:  
John C. Care  
(215) 659-5817

Camp # 1926:  
Jeffery G. Bell  
(610) 649-8264

Camp # 1960:  
Christopher M. Tompkins  
(412) 466-2417

Camp # 1961:  
James K. Palmisano  
(717) 642-8518

Camp # 2028:  
Joseph L. Nash  
(717) 738-3670

Camp # 2059:  
Cameron B. Pickens  
(814) 944-5885

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## Annual Convention Held at Gettysburg, PA

On May 13, 2006, the 2006 Lee's Keystone Division (PA) Convention was held at the Hoss's Steak and Seafood Restaurant on Rt. 30 East in Gettysburg, PA. Members and guests partook of a great meal prior to the meeting.

At approximately 1:00 PM, Commander Mike Duminiak called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Cdr. Duminiak led the Invocation due to the Division Chaplain being out of commission due to illness. The Camp colors were then presented. Colors from the Pvt. John Wesley Culp Memorial Camp #1961, Gettysburg, PA, were posted

behind the head table and the Colors of the Josiah Gorgas Camp # 2059, State College, PA were presented by Cdr. Duminiak. The group was then led in the Salute to the Confederate flag by Cdr. Duminiak followed by a rendition of "Dixie".

Cdr. Duminiak combined his opening remarks and his Division report together. During the opening remark portion, Cdr. Duminiak reminded those present of his idea of presenting a special recognition award to the outstanding Camp for the past year. The criteria he

considered was active participation by the Camp members. He presented the award to Cdr. James Palmisano of the Culp Camp (1961), which was the three foot by five foot Confederate St. Andrews Cross flag which was signed by attendees to

the special ceremony held at the Peace Light Monument on the Gettysburg

Battle Field in September of 2004 in response to the "Sims" "art" display at the Gettysburg College during that month.

Also presented was (See Convention on Page 2)



## Inside this issue:

2006 Annual Convention	1
Officer Election Results	1
Report of Brigade Cdr elections	2
2006 Confederate Memorial	3
Up-Coming Events	3
About Lee's Keystone Div.	4
Commanders Corner	4

## New Division Officer Election Results

Nominations and elections were held this year for the Division Officer positions.

For the position of Adjutant, Benjamin C. Lewis Sr. of the Pvt. J. W. Culp Camp # 1961 was nominated and due to the lack of any other nominations was

elected by acclamation.

For the position of Treasurer, Stephen M. Frye, of the BG L. A. Armistead Camp # 1960 was nominated and also elected by acclamation.

For the position of Lieutenant Commander,

Danny Ellenburg of the J. E. B. Stuart Camp # 1506 was nominated and also elected by acclamation.

For the position of Commander there were two nominations from the floor. John C. Care, J. E. B. Stuart

(See Elections on Page 3)



## Convention (continued from page one)

### Salute to the Confederate Flag

*I salute the Confederate Flag with affection, reverence and undying devotion to the Cause for which it stands.*



*“in the past year, the Division has grown 12.6%”*

an award for the Camp that had the highest recruitment of new members for the past year. This award, (a Confederate Flag knife) was awarded to Cdr. John Care, J. E. B. Stuart Camp 1506, of Philadelphia, PA.

Cdr. Duminiak then gave his Division annual report. He reported that with a growth of 226.8% since our provisional creation as a Division in 2001.

Cdr. Duminiak challenged the Camps to aim for “zero-losses (except by relocation or death). He further stated, “our growth would be much larger if we did not lose members to disinterest. As we grow, the number of active members is not growing in kind.”

Cdr. Duminiak also addressed the heritage problems cropping up in the PA school systems (Shippensburg and Schuylkill Valley) over Confederate symbols. Both of these battles are on-going.

He also talked of members of the Division speaking out opposing the proposed Casino to be built in Gettysburg, just a mile or so from where our convention was being held.

Cdr. Duminiak passed out packets for the Camps containing copies of the Division booklet.

Reports were then given by the Division Treasurer and by the Commanders for the Camps.

After the reports, Cdr. Duminiak opened the floor for nominations for Division Officers. (See results of nominations and elections in related article on page one.)

After the elections then new officers were sworn in and after a short break, the convention continued under the guidance of the new commander.

Mike Duminiak displayed a T-shirt he had worked with “Dixie Outfitters” to have designed under their “Legends of the Confederacy” series. The subjects are four of the Pennsylvanians who served the Confederacy. He stated that the graphics were also available to be placed on other lines of items from “Dixie Outfitters” He requested that members visit the web site and see if this would be something they would be interested in. The items may be viewed at [www.dixieoutfitters.com](http://www.dixieoutfitters.com). Go to the “Legends” link to see the items.

Mike also talked about the booklets he passed out. At the 2005 Division Convention, \$300.00 was approved for the publishing of a Division booklet (along with a \$200.00 donation from a member of the Stuart Camp) This fund had not been used at this time, but Mike had made several copies for the Division to be reviewed and used if desired. Mike recommended some changes and asked that the commanders review the booklet and allow the Execu-

tive Council review the recommendations and make additional copies. Cdr. Palmisano requested that the Camp Commanders get back with Mike within 30 days.

Mike also discussed the National Convention coming-up and started a discussion about the need of Brigades in the Division.

The Brigade Commanders were elected. (See the results below.)

After the recognition of the Brigade Officers, new Division Commander James Palmisano gave his closing remarks and the Benediction was given by Adjutant Ben Lewis Sr. The Convention was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

### Election Results for Brigade Commanders

Eastern Brigade:

John C. Care

J. E. B. Stuart Camp # 1506

Western Brigade:

Christopher M. Tompkins

BG Armistead Camp # 1960

Camp # 1506 and James K. Palmisano, Pvt. J. W. Culp Camp # 1961 were both nominated. Each Camp presented their Division Convention Delegate Registration Forms to Adjutant Jonathan Nutt and received ballots based on the number of delegates present.

Each delegate voted for his choice and returned the ballots to Adjutant Nutt. The ballots were tallied and it was a close

race. James K. Palmisano was elected and all Officers were sworn in by Past-Cdr. Duminiak and assumed duties at that time.

## 3rd Annual Pennsylvania Confederate Memorial Day

The Third Annual Pennsylvania Confederate Memorial Day was held on Saturday morning, May 13, 2006 at the Virginia Monument on the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. The event was hosted by the Pvt. J. W. Culp Memorial Camp # 1961 and with the help of members of the Josiah Gorgas Camp 2059 (Cdr. Cameron Pickens, John Wessner Sr, John



Pvt. John Wesley Culp Memorial Camp # 1961, Gettysburg, Commander James Palmisano addresses spectators at the Virginia Monument on the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. Behind him is the combined Color/Honor Guard. (Photo by Sharon Palmisano.)

Wessner Jr and Josh Wessner), the Maryland Division Color Guard, led by Color Sergeant Ray Rooks, and members of the 2nd SC Volunteer Infantry re-enactment group under the direction of Camp # 1961 member Bear Jacoby, it was a huge success.

The combined Color/Honor Guard marched approximately 100 yards across the battlefield and then posted in front of the VA Monument.

Cdr. Palmisano welcomed the spectators and then introduced the guest speakers. Speeches were given by Lee's Keystone Div. Cdr. Mike Duminiak; MD Div. Cdr. Gerald Bayer; Voices of the Confederacy member Joe Dewalt and Ms. Barbara Lee Rowe, President of the Bonnie Blue Chapter #34, Or-

der of Confederate Rose, Gettysburg.

After the speeches, wreaths were placed in front of the VA Monument.

The ceremony ended with photo opportunities for the spectators and the marching off of the troops.

## Up-Coming Events

July 22, 2006 — The BG Johnson Kelly Duncan Camp # 2028 will have their annual picnic in Lebanon, PA

September 23, 2006 — Noon until ? - Waynesboro Fish & Game Reserve Assn., Waynesboro, PA. Everyone is invited. Come out for a great day. Food and drinks will be available. Contact Cdr Palmisano for registration/details.

Commanders/Adjutants, please submit your Camps up-coming events for the newsletter to be published in August 2006.



The combined Color/Honor Guard marches towards the Virginia Monument. (Photo by Suzanne Lewis)



## About Lee's Keystone Division (PA)



Lee's Keystone Division (PA),  
Army of Northern Virginia, Sons  
of Confederate Veterans

Adjutant:

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A Division is the state level organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. All of the Camps within Pennsylvania are part of the Lee's Keystone Division (PA). The Division is part of the Army of Northern Virginia Department which is one of three regional departments in the SCV.

The purpose of the Division is three fold. Its first duty is to assist and support the member Camps in their efforts to honor and preserve the history of our Confederate ancestors. Second, the Division represents the needs of the Camps and the state as a whole in the Department Council. Finally, the Division coordinates projects and activities that require the efforts of multiple Camps or fall outside the jurisdiction of any Camp.

The Division is active in researching the role Pennsylvanians played in the Confederacy and its struggle for independence. The Division also helps educate Pennsylvanians about the Pennsylvania Confederate Heritage and general history of the period.

## Commanders Corner

Compatriots;

I would first like to thank the members of the Pennsylvania Division for their support and good wishes to me as the new Division Commander. I will try to make our Division more communicative and involved in the life of our SCV here in our own state. There are great distances between our Camps and great differences in what we can accomplish. Given the resources of larger Camps more can be done to promote our Confederate Heritage in a positive light in our communities. The smaller Camps would have a more difficult time doing as much, because of their manpower resources. However, the smaller Camps can create the tight knit bond of dedicated members that is unique to their size, and the close friendships that occur when men of similar views and opinions meet. That being said, I hope to meet with every Camp in the Division over the next two years. I hope to foster closer cooperation between Camps, and mutual support for Camp activities.

On May 17th. I was selected to speak at the

Pennsylvania Gaming Commission hearings in Gettysburg. The issue was whether to put a casino in close proximity to the battlefield at Gettysburg. I polled the Division prior to this, and to a Camp, all responded that they did not want this casino. Armed with the support of the entire Division on this matter I submitted a request to be heard at the hearings. The request was approved, and I prepared for the hearing. The hearing was held on Gettysburg College campus with newspaper reporters and cameramen and a packed house with people for and against the casino. The Order of Confederate Rose was also present and speaking today, represented by their President Barbara Lee Rowe. We were dressed in uniform and period attire and Adjutant Ben Lewis also was present. Mrs. Rowe was first and spoke eloquently. I was next and spoke. Afterwards, we were commended by many people and the gaming board for the emotional delivery and content of the speech. I can only hope that it made enough impact to influence their decision to move the casino elsewhere. Our voices were heard! Our ancestors can rest easier

knowing that their descendants in unified voice spoke on their behalf that their sacrifices in this historic area was not to be diminished by a neon glittering casino. We do not know yet what the final outcome will be. The permit must be awarded to a community by December of this year. It can be earlier. Approximately 75% of the speakers present were against the casino. What surprised me was the absence of the Sons of Union Veterans at these hearings. That is another story for another time.

At present, we are wrapping up the comments for the division booklet and please submit any comments to Mike Duminiak who will be editing the booklet for its final content. We are also involved in clarifying our state constitution, by rewriting sections for clarity. (Very dry and nasty work) I am currently receiving the camp reports for the year and will report on the division in the next newsletter.

Respectfully,

James K. Palmisano



Sons of Confederate  
Veterans  
[www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)

We're on the web at:  
[http://  
scv.duminiak.com/  
Keystone\\_Division/](http://scv.duminiak.com/Keystone_Division/)