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## PROCEEDINGS

—OF—

# Convention of Confederate Veterans,

**Held at Charleston, W. Va.,  
May 4th, 1897.**

Charleston, W. Va., May 4, 1897.

Pursuant to a resolution adopted on the 4th day of February last, at a meeting of "The West Virginia Confederate Soldiers Home Association," the Confederate Veterans met in Convention in this city this day.

The session was held in the Senate Chamber in the Capitol Building and was called to order and presided over by Comrade S. S. Green, President of the Soldiers Home Association.

Comrade S. L. Flournoy bade a hearty welcome to the veterans present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. President Green explained that the business to come before the convention for consideration and determination was of a dual nature; one part being the organization of a State Division of "United Confederate Veterans;" the other, how best to provide for the care and maintenance of comrades who need and deserve help.

Comrade Flournoy moved that the Convention take up and consider first the question of organizing a State Divis-

ion of "United Confederate Veterans;" which motion was adopted.

Thereupon, Comrade Robert White reported the following named Camps, now organized in this State:

David S. Creigh Camp, of Lewisburg, Col. B. F. Eakle, Commander; Mike Foster Camp, of Union, Col. C. S. Peyton, Commander; Pocahontas Camp, of Marlinton, Col. A. L. C. Gatewood, Commander; Burgess Camp, of Academy, Col. W. J. McNeil, Commander; Moffett Pogue Camp, of Marlinton, Col. H. A. Yeager, Commander; Mercer Camp, of Bluefield, Col. David E. Johnston, Commander; Garnett Camp, of Huntington, Col. Peyton Seamond, Commander; Stonewall Jackson Camp, of Charleston, Col. E. H. Easley, Commander; R. E. Lee Camp, of Charleston, Col. J. Z. McChesney, Commander; Jenkins Camp, of Parkersburg, Col. Geo. H. Moffett, Commander; Shriver Grays Camp, of Wheeling, Col. Robert White, Commander; Stonewall Jackson Camp, of Beverly, Col. W. H. Wilson, Commander; Hampshire Camp, of Romney, Col. C. S. White, Commander; Hardy Camp, of Moorefield, Col. J. V. Williams, Commander; Pendleton Camp, of Franklin, Col. Solomon Cunningham, Commander.

The Secretary called the roll of Camps and all were reported represented either directly or by proxy, except Jenkins Camp, of Parkersburg.

For Major General of the State Division, Comrade David E. Johnston nominated Comrade Robert White of the Shriver Grays Camp, of the City of Wheeling, and he was elected without a dissenting voice.

The question as to whether or not the Convention should next proceed to organize the various Camps into two Brigades or to the election of two Brigadier Generals was then discussed.

After debate, Comrade C. C. Watts moved that the Convention first proceed to elect two Brigadier Generals; which motion was adopted.

For Brigadier General of the First Brigade, Comrades T. L. Broun and C. C. Watts nominated Comrade David E. Johnston of the Mercer Camp, Bluefield, and he was unanimously elected.

For Brigadier General of the Second Brigade, Comrade J. Z. McChesney nominated Comrade A. C. L. Gatewood of Pocahontas Camp, Marlinton; Comrade S. L. Flournoy nominated Comrade John A. Robinson, of Mineral county; Comrade C. L. Thompson nominated Comrade S. S. Green of Stonewall Jackson Camp, of Charleston. There being no other nominations, the Convention proceeded to elect by ballot. After the ballots were cast and while the vote was being counted, Comrade McChesney stated that the method of electing officers by a general vote of the Confederates present was wrong, and moved that the vote last taken be reconsidered and the vote taken by Camps; which motion was lost. The counting of the ballots having been completed, the chairman (Comrade Flournoy in the Chair) announced that Comrade Green having received a majority of the votes cast was duly elected Brigadier General of the Second Brigade.

On motion it was ordered, that the two Brigadier Generals-elect, proceed at once to arrange the various Camps into two Brigades and report the same to the Convention.

Subsequently, they submitted the following organization of Camps into Brigades:

#### FIRST BRIGADE.

Brigadier General D. E. Johnston.

Hampshire Camp, Romney.

Pendleton Camp, Franklin.

Stonewall Jackson Camp, Beverly.

Pocahontas Camp, Marlinton.

Mercer Camp, Bluefield.

Moffett-Pogue Camp, Marlinton.

Charlestown Camp, Charlestown.

Hardy Camp, Moorefield.

## SECOND BRIGADE.

Brigadier General S. S. Green.

David S. Creigh Camp, Lewisburg.

Mike Foster Camp, Union.

Stonewall Jackson Camp, Charleston.

R. E. Lee Camp, Charleston.

Garnett Camp, Huntington.

Jenkins Camp, Parkersburg.

Shriver Grays Camp, Wheeling.

Burgess Camp, Academy.

Which organization was approved by the Convention.

President Green then resumed the chair, and the Convention took up for consideration the question, how best to extend a helping hand to disabled and needy Confederates.

President Green informed the Convention of the efforts that had been made to provide a State Home, and the result of those efforts; that the outlook for accomplishing the great object and aim of the "Soldiers Home Association" was very discouraging. Letters were read from Major Randolph, President of the "Lee Camp Soldiers Home" in Richmond, Virginia; also, from a number of veterans in different parts of the State; the question was fully discussed by members of the Camps present, and the conclusion reached was that it would be unwise to make further efforts to raise funds to build a Home.

Thereupon, Comrade Johnston submitted the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the plan of Building a State Home or of giving aid and assistance as a State organization be abandoned, and that the whole question of properly providing and caring for our sick, distressed and needy Comrades be committed to the Camps and the chapters of the Daughters of the Confederacy of the county in which such Comrades reside, which resolution was adopted.

Comrade Houston offered the following resolution, which was also adopted:

Resolved, That all moneys on hand raised by the Daughters of the Confederacy, and otherwise, for the proposed Home, be used by them to aid in the support of worthy and needy Confederates at their homes, or otherwise as they deem best.

On motion of Comrade Watts, Generals White, Johnston and Green were appointed a special committee to urge the formation and organization of additional Camps in the State.

Comrade Johnston offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this convention recommend to the various camps throughout the State to appoint regular committees on history whose duties shall be to ascertain the names, as far as possible, of every man who belonged to the Confederate Army from each county in the state; his company, regiment, brigade, with the name of their officers; in what battles they fought; whether wounded and where wounded; the names of those who were killed or died of wounds or diseases and where buried and all things pertaining to the service of each soldier. We need not remind our comrades who still survive that in a few short years there will be none left to tell the story of the consecration of our comrades and of our people, men and women, their gallant deeds and heroic conduct and sacrifices in the defense of a cause that they believed as just as any in which man was ever engaged and in which they lost all save honor.

Comrade White offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the 6th day of June in each year be Confederate Memorial Day, and that each Camp is requested to observe said day with appropriate ceremonies, unless the said date shall fall on Sunday, then on the Saturday preceding; which resolution was adopted.

On motion of Comrade Watts the name of "The West

Virginia Confederate Soldiers Home Association" was changed to "The West Virginia Confederate Soldiers Relief Association."

On motion of Comrade Houston the President and Secretary of the Confederate Soldiers Home Association were elected to the same offices of the Confederate Soldiers Relief Association.

On motion, President Green was authorized to pay out of the funds on hand the expenses incurred in printing and distributing proceedings of the meetings, &c.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered Governor Atkinson for the use of the Senate Chamber; also, to the Janitor for his kindness and attention.

On motion, President Green was requested to respond to the kind communication of Major Randolph, President of the Lee Camp Soldiers Home.

On motion, the city papers were requested to publish proceedings, and exchanges to copy.

On motion of Comrade White, Resolved, that the Soldiers Relief Association meet in the city of Charleston on the 4th day of May, 1898, unless a session be called at an earlier date by the President; which was adopted.

The presence, during the early part of the session, of Adjutant-General Appleton was made known by Comrade Houston, and General Appleton was by a unanimous vote invited to occupy a seat in the convention.

On motion the Convention adjourned.



