

13th Virginia Regiment  
General # 441  
Division # 66

The 13th Virginia Regiment Chapter #441 of Orange, Virginia was organized January 19, 1901 at Rebel Hall and chartered February 20, 1901. Rebel Hall is an elegant Greek Revival dwelling, ca. 1849. The Bull family lived there during the War. They had 6 daughters, well known as local belles. The house became a gathering place for Confederate officers. A special favorite of the family was Major John Pelham. The local tradition tells that the Bull sisters sewed a Confederate flag which they presented to Pelham and which he had with him when he fell at the battle of Kelly's Ford. Today the home is owned by the Slayton family and Ann Slayton is a member of our Chapter. We have had many meetings in Rebel Hall and this is where we had our 100th Anniversary meeting, in preparation for our celebration. In the early days of our Chapter the ladies had many fund raisers such as sun bonnet sales and May pole dances to help with the endowment of a room at the Confederate Home for Women in Richmond. They often sent boxes of provisions to the Home. They bestowed many Crosses of Honor on the veterans of The 13th Virginia Regiment. When these veterans passed away the ladies went to the funerals and draped the coffins with their Chapter's First National flag. Our Chapter is still in possession of this flag. The members gave Confederate flags to local schools and books on the South to the high school library.

Our Chapter has been very active through the years. We sponsored a C of C Chapter called The Orange Rangers #515 in June 1957. It was named for a local company that entered Confederate service as Co. I, 6th Virginia Cavalry. There was also a junior chapter due to large membership. These chapters were especially active during the 1960's. Some of the members became officers of General and Virginia Division C of C, including President General Ellis Taylor who had also been Chaplain General and President of Virginia Division. Sammy Higginbotham was President of Virginia Division and Chaplain General. Our UDC, along with the C of C, cleaned Gov. Kemper's grave and other Confederate graves. They cleaned the Confederate monument located at Greenfield, marking the Grand Review of the 2nd and 3rd Corps by Gen. Robert E. Lee. They kept trimmed the ivy around the Orange Courthouse Confederate monument and decorated the graves with flags for Memorial Day. The C of C participated in town parades, visited many battlefields, and won many awards for their southern essays. Mary Higginbotham was their Director for years until she gave it up in the 1970's. The Orange Rangers disbanded after a while for lack of a leader. Mary Higginbotham had also been 3rd Vice President Virginia Division for a term. The exciting event in 1978 was that our Chapter saw to it that the 15 unmarked Confederate graves at Graham Cemetery in Orange were given headstones.

In more recent years we celebrated our Chapter's 100th Anniversary, held February 24, 2001 at the Orange Holiday Inn Express. A very large contingent of Virginia Division UDC officers and members attended. Lynette Higginbotham, President, presided. William A. Young Jr. wrote and performed a one act play based on a true account of the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg by George W. Finley, 56th Va. Infantry Regiment C.S.A., later Rev. Finley of Tinkling Springs, Virginia. Displayed were the Chapter's charter, first minute book, pictures of Chapter ancestors in the 13th Virginia Regiment, an original Confederate uniform of the regiment and other Chapter memorabilia.

in 2005 we reinstated the Orange Rangers C of C Chapter. Membership was small but they were active. May 31, 2006 we bestowed member, Brenda Graves' brother, Mahlon McNiel, a Cross of

Military Service Vietnam Conflict by Patricia Bryson, Virginia Division President. 2005 and 2006 brought our Chapter great excitement as we were having our Confederate Monument at Orange County Courthouse cleaned and refurbished. At its completion we had a Rededication Ceremony October 15, 2006. Main Street was closed and the program was held directly in front of the Courthouse. In 2010 we dedicated a grave marker at Graham cemetery honoring Samuel (Banjo) Sweeney, J.E.B. Stuart's favorite banjo player. Our Sesquicentennial project in 2011 was a Chapter pin, made with the image of our birthplace, Rebel Hall. In 2012 some of our C of C members aged out and we did not have enough to continue, thus disbanded. In the last seven years we have hosted 4th District Conference at Rhoadesville Baptist Church and had a memorial service for the Confederate dead buried there, helped the Loudon Chapter clean the iron crosses of the Confederate soldiers buried at this same church and one at Salem United Methodist Church, had a Rededication of the newly refurbished iron crosses, had Christmas teas, took donations to McGuire VA Hospital, had deceased member, Virginia Kube's grave marking ceremony, made goodie bags and cards for the veterans at Dogwood Village Nursing Home, decorated the Confederate graves for special holidays, flew the First National flag at the Courthouse, continued to keep the ivy at the Courthouse monument clipped, and had an Iron Cross Dedication at Hollywood Cemetery in memory and in honor of Lt. Col. Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry, 5th Alabama Cavalry, Commander of the Regiment in Central Alabama, member of the Provisional and First Confederate Congresses, and Great-Great Uncle of our Past Chapter President, Brenda Graves.

In 2019 our Chapter took a group picture in front of Rebel Hall, where our chapter was organized in 1901. We displayed the Confederate Flag that our chapter placed on the coffins of the Orange County Confederate veterans during their funerals. This picture and an accompanying article were included in the 125th Anniversary issue of the UDC Magazine.

To celebrate our 120th, 121th and 122nd chapter anniversaries we have been reading selections from our earliest minutes. Carlene Wilson, one of our members and past member of the Orange Rangers C of C donated to our chapter a real labor of love. She digitized all of our chapter minutes from 1901 to 2022 some 2300 pages. She also researched and completed 18 supplementals on her family.

We donated to the Past Protects the Future, Operation SOS, two books to the UDC Library, placed an ad and a news article in the March issue of the UDC Magazine honoring our Charter members. Our chapter ordered many pins and many supplementals were approved.

This year of 2023 we formed a committee to investigate and locate Orange County items donated to the Museum of the Confederacy many years ago. We located General Robert E. Lee's camp chair used while wintering in Orange County, together with the camp flag and drum of the 13th Virginia Infantry. They are now in the American Civil War Museum in Richmond. In July we met the curator there who showed us these items and answered many questions.

Lynette Higginbotham, President  
13th Virginia Regiment  
2023