THE MERIDIAN STATEMENT OF THE MERIDIAN

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SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2000

Confederate hero honored...



LOOKING AT HISTORY – Carl Ford shows his rifle to James Read, the great-great-grand nephew of Lt. Charles Read, as his fellow members of the Jones County Rosenhills, Larry Calhoun and Howard Patrick, look on during memorial services at Rose Hill Cemetery on Saturday morning.

Monument placed at Rose Hill Cemetery

The Meridian Star

One of the Confederacy's greatest naval heroes got the recognition he deserved Saturday when a monument was dedicated in his memory.

The W.D. Cameron camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Friends of Rose Hill Cemetery hosted the ceremony as well as lunch and a program at Union Station to honor Confederate Lt. Charles Read.

The ceremony was held to dedicate a monument which was placed on the Confederate mound in the cemetery in April 1999 by the members of the W.D. Cameron camp in honor of Read.

W.D. Cameron camp in honor of Read.

"Today is probably the climax of
two years of work," said Dr. Bill East
of the Friends of Rose Hill Cemetery.

"Some two years ago the W.D.
Cameron camp, Sons of Confederate
Veterans, decided that an appropriate
monument should be dedicated to Lt.
Charles Read. The design work and

"When Mr. Hewitt Clark, our Meridian author, decided to come to Meridian to release his new book, which is a biography of Lt. Read, we thought it would be a wonderful time for the monument dedication."

> — Dr. Bill East, Friends of Rose Hill Cemetery

raising of money for that monument resulted in the placing of that monument in April of 1999 to honor him. The camp was waiting for an appropriate time to dedicate that monument."

"When Mr. Hewitt Clark, our

Meridian to release his new book, which is a biography of Lt. Read, we thought it would be a wonderful time for the monument dedication," East

Although he was a poor student, graduating at the bottom of his class from the Naval Academy, Lt. Charles "Savez" Read went on to become known as one of the most courageous men in the Confederate Navy. His daredevil tactics and naval prowess even earned him the nickname "John Paul Jones of the Confederacy".

In fact, during one 23-day period. Read and his crew of 17 volunteers captured 22 Union vessels using only one cannon.

When the war ended, Read married only to have his wife die at an early age. He remarried though, this time to Miss Nebraska Carter, of Meridian. Read and his new wife moved to New

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Hero

Continued from page 1A

Orleans, but often visited friends in Meridian. And it was during one of these visits to Meridian that Read died.

Before he died though, Read learned of Rose Hill Cemetery and asked that his body be laid to rest with his Confederate comrades buried there.

According to East, there are many reasons we should honor the memory of men

like Read such as his character and courage.

"The characteristics we honored in Lt. Read are not because he was a Confederate, it was because he was an American and a Mississippian," East said. "And those character traits of resource-fulness, inventiveness, loyalty to his country and extreme degrees of courage are characteristics that are worthy of honoring in our ancestors."

East said he was pleased with the how the ceremony went Saturday morning and the large crowd that attended. The crowd included many Meridianites but there were also a lot of Read's ancestor, coming from as far away as Pennsylvania and California. And several descendants of Read's shipmate, John Billups, even came for the ceremony.

Since many of the people involved in the ceremony had never met before, a reception was held Friday night at Weidmann's to give everyone a chance to meet. And according to East, the out-of-towners who attended had nothing but praise for Meridian.

"Last night a reception and dinner was provided for all of the descendants who numbered more than 35 for Lt. Read and several for John Billups, his shipmate," East said. "We had 64 at that dinner and I have never seen more people impressed with southern hospitality and with the people of Meridian who would take time to honor one of their ancestors."

Evan Smith is a staff writer for The Meridian Star, E-mail him at esmith@meridianstar.com.

COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

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Plodge and Salutes

Welcome

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HAMBORS

HONORING STAR BETTS

Piper Jean Greett

Jones County Rosin-Healt

Mayor John Robert Styllb

Jimmy-Varificat, Color Bec

Nomi Calholini, Compaggior

D. DEL East Publicant

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Segn of Charles Time L CSN

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Great-grandwopiter of Wildern Doggle Comercin

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CHARLES WILLIAM "SAVEZ" READ MINISTRA DE LIEUTENANT, CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY was itself grass durance



Charles William Read 13 May 1840-25 January 1890

Unwilling of Marker for Liamen PRESENTED BY W. D. CAMERON CAMP 1221, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, FRIENDS OF ROSE HILL CEMETERY ALP BILLIS BANACS Piper Jeen Orgon and HEWITT CLARKE

ROSE HILL CEMETERY tion of Charles VI with Read MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI SATURDAY - JULY 15, 2000 amed signed madely 107

PROGRAM

9:00 a.m.

Pipe Medley

Piper Jean Orcutt

HONORING 9:30 a.m

CONFEDERATE

Assembly

CHARLES WILLIAM "SAV

Invocation

Rev. Tom Wood, Chaplain W. D. Cameron Camp 1221, SCV

Presentation of the Colors

Jones County Rosin Heels Confederate Marine Detachment

Pledge and Salutes

Jimmy Walker, Color Bearer W. D. Cameron Camp 1221, SCV

Welcome

Mayor John Robert Smith

Remarks

Billy Ray Hankins, Commander Mississippi Division, SCV

Remarks

Ward Calhoun, Commander Mississippi Society, Military Order Stars & Bars and Adjutant, W. D. Cameron Camp 1221, SCV

Remarks

Dr. Bill East, President Friends of Rose Hill

Remarks

Hewitt Clarke, Author of

HE SAW THE ELEPHANT, Confederate Naval Saga of Charles Read, CSN

Unveiling of Marker for Lieutenant Charles William Read

CEREHONY

Charles Read.

Great-great-grandson of Charles William Read

BONNIE BLUE FLAG RETEMASO JUNE 8809 TO STATISTE

Piper Jean Orcutt

PLACING OF WREATHES

bardes William Read

For Charles William and Nebraska Carter Read

Lizabeth Schultz. Great-great-great-grandaughter of Charles William Read

For William Donald Cameron 22, at YJUL - YAGSUTAS Sharlie Miller Alloway, Great-grandaughter of William Donald Cameron Rifle Salute

Honor Guard

Taps

Bugler Shawn Alexander Bugler Craig Jackson

DIXIE

Amy Jackson

Announcements

Ward Calhoun

Retiring of the Colors

Honor Guard

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CONTINUING LT. CHARLES READ COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY UNION STATION

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Lunch

Courtesy of W. D. Cameron Camp 1221, SCV

Music Dedicated to Lt. Charles Read

Hoppy Spinks and his Band

Presentation of the Book, HE SAW THE ELEPHANT

Hewitt Clarke

Family History and Anecdotes

Charles William Read Descendants

Tim Read being from Vivainia, was asked to speak on Charles Read's exploits along the sames River-CONTINUING

LT. CHARLES READ COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

ROSE HILL CEMETERY 4:30 p.m.

History of Rose Hill Cemetery and the Confederate Burlal Mound and Biographical Sketches of Some of the Noble Citizens Burled at Rose Hill presented by Dr. Bill and Mary East