



GEORGIA'S STONE MOUNTAIN PARK

Valor & Sacrifice: The Faces of the Civil War

By Doc Lawrence



The Civil War and its impact upon the military and civilians of the states involved in the conflict came to life at Stone Mountain Park. I joined representatives of Southern states who came to the highly popular park just outside Atlanta to rededicate the 13 terraces representing the States of the Confederacy.

The event, part of the park's Civil War Sesquicentennial program, began with welcoming remarks from Georgia Governor Nathan Deal who, with the dramatic carving of Southern heroes Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis as a backdrop, praised Stone Mountain Park for its continuing appeal to tourists from throughout the world and meaningful, relevant historic preservation.

The representatives shared stories about the human side of the Civil War never before told at Stone Mountain Park impacting young and old alike, and the new educational markers at each terrace highlighted the respective states deep participation in the events of 150 years ago that are being commemorated through 2015.

13 STATES PARTICIPATED

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal welcomes guests to Stone Mountain Park. The memorial to Southern heroes Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson is in the background.

The participants-many dressed in authentic costumes- telling their fascinating stories included a North Carolina sailor who explained the role of the Navy during the Civil War, a female soldier from Missouri who fought alongside the men revealed where she fell within the ranks. Then there was the life of a young lady at the women's college in Columbia, Tennessee with a display of gowns that a woman might wear. Kentucky featured a skilled presentation by a re-enactor portraying Kentucky General Simon Bolivar Buckner who discussed his amazing friendship with General U. S. Grant.

Alabama participants discussed the perspective of the wealthier Southerners and how in many cases they became exempt from the war, while Arkansas representatives told guests about the contributions of their General Patrick Cleburne and how the state's forces fought in the Battle of Atlanta.



Participants included Olivia Chloe from Nashville, Tennessee and Don Locke of Fordsville, Kentucky who portrays General Robert E. Lee.



Kennesaw State University professor Hermaine Glass-Avery and Kissimmee, Florida's Joe Bunt display the "Secession Flag" used during the Civil War.



(A) Kentucky's Civil War saga was revealed to guests by representatives from the Bluegrass state.

(B) Rome, Georgia's Eighth Regiment Band entertains Governor Nathan Deal and guests from 13 Southern states gathered to rededicate the Civil War Terraces at Stone Mountain Park.

(C) Hari Jones, curator at the African-American Civil War Memorial and Museum in Washington, DC made a special presentation about Louisiana and the critical events in the City of New Orleans during the Civil War.

South Carolina through storytelling and song, shared tales of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment Voluntary Infantry Group, detailing the amazing journey from slavery to Union fighting soldiers at the assault on Battery Wagner in Charleston.

Virginia participants confirmed that many thousands of Georgia soldiers fought bravely under Generals Lee and Jackson and it was Georgia General John B. Gordon who led the surrender at Appomattox.

There was one woman from Missouri who in disguise fought in the ranks of the Confederate Army and Mississippi's presentation provided the opportunity to learn about the female doctors who were in combat hospitals and how wounded soldiers were treated for wounds.

Everything about Texas during the war remains interesting and on this day, Texas songs and flags during the Civil War were featured.

The City of New Orleans was an important port city and Hari Jones, curator of the African-American Civil

War Museum and Memorial shared a great story about the only group of soldiers-all black-who fought for both the South and the North during the Civil War. Jones proved to be a spellbinding storyteller.

The heralded Eighth Regiment Band, entertaining guests with impressive Civil War period music, magnificently represented Georgia. The spirited band uses instruments of the era and is headquartered in Rome, Georgia.

It was early on a late summer morning and the grandeur of the event seemed to touch heartstrings. The eloquent Hermina Glass-Avery, a professor at Kennesaw State University also spoke. "These moments bring us together as we remember, enabling us to better understand and to honor the power of redemption," she told the audience.

"These moments bring us together as we remember, enabling us to better understand and to honor the power of redemption."

Hermina Glass-Avery