



*Turner Ashby Camp 1567  
Winchester, Virginia 22601*



March 18, 2021

Board of Supervisors, Clarke County  
101 Chalmers Ct., Suite B  
Berryville, Virginia 22611

Dear Mr. Chairman

The Turner Ashby Camp wishes the Board to be advised that our members are dedicated to preserving and defending the memory of our ancestors who died during the late War Between the States. The men of Clarke County who appear on the granite war memorial on the courthouse lawn at Berryville are ancestors of many residents of the county. Some of our camp members also directly descend from soldiers on the memorial.

Therefore, the Turner Ashby Camp, as a heritage organization similar to its predecessor the *Association of the Survivors of the Clarke Cavalry*, stands ready and able to take ownership of the land and memorial. We believe this memorial and land was intended to exist on private property by the original founding members. We welcome the opportunity to maintain and care for the memorial at no cost to taxpayers (inclusive of deed or transfer fees). We ask only that the memorial be left to our guardianship in the same manner as it was originally setup by the Virginia General Assembly, when it constituted the *Association* and gave them the right to erect the memorial, possess real estate and be tax exempt.

Our camp is best suited for this task and we feel it proper that the Board formally votes and recognizes this in lieu of the recent discovery that our predecessors are no longer a viable organization, its members having passed many decades ago. As private land which is not owned by the county, the Board is aware it has a need of a suitable steward.

When the Board formed the "Monument Committee" last year it stated, "The Board desires a recommendation that has broad community support..."

We trust the Board will act in accordance with this stated governing tenet and accept the will of the majority of residents and descendants of Clarke County, who with overwhelming majority, turned out March 4, 2021 to express their desire to leave the memorial where it has stood for 120 years.

We welcome a productive relationship with the Board to ensure the memorial is secure for future generations and residents of Clarke County.

Yours Respectfully,

Turner Ashby Camp 1567  
Winchester, Virginia  
Paul Clark, Commanding

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