



*Mary Custis Lee—17th Virginia Regiment Chapter #7
United Daughters of the Confederacy
Alexandria, Virginia*



January 20, 2016

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names
c/o Craig Fifer, Director
Office of Communications and Public Information
301 King Street
Suite 3230
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Fifer:

Our chapter wishes to make some comments and suggestions regarding the matters the ad hoc group is to consider. We are happy at any time to address the committee personally.

The Mary Custis Lee-17th Virginia Regiment Chapter #7 United Daughters of the Confederacy® has had a long standing, albeit informal, agreement with the City of Alexandria regarding flags at the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets on Robert E. Lee's birthday (Jan. 19) and on Confederate Memorial Day (May 24). In September 2015, the city council voted to suspend that agreement. There was no communication with our chapter either before or after the council's vote. We found out the next day through the news media. A letter to the council on this matter, sent in September, has not been answered as of the date of this letter. The Transportation Department has contact information for me, plus one of our chapter members. Our chapter's three 1st National Confederate flags were sent to our chapter house on Prince Street as requested in that letter. They were sent via Fed Ex.

Our proposal regarding the flags is this:

Robert E. Lee's birthday— Fly the Virginia flags at the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets either on January 19, or if that date conflicts with the Martin Luther King Jr., holiday, fly them on the state Lee-Jackson holiday which is the preceding Friday. Our chapter will provide the flags.

Confederate Memorial Day— In Alexandria, this is May 24. It is a different day in the rest of Virginia. May 24 is the date the city militia companies evacuated as the Union forces seized the city. Our request for that day is to fly both the 1st National Confederate and United States flags. This would be in keeping with the flag policy of the United Daughters of the Confederacy® requiring that if the 1st National Confederate flag is flown, the United States flag must also be flown.

Please be advised, the rectangular 1st National Confederate flag (the Stars and Bars) and the square Confederate Battle flag (the St. Andrew's Cross) are not the same thing.

It is our understanding that the ad hoc group will also consider the *Appomattox Statue* at the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets. This unarmed soldier with downcast eyes, is not, and was never intended to be, a monument to the Confederacy. From inception, he was, and is, a memorial to one hundred citizens of Alexandria who lost their lives defending their state. The spot where he stands is symbolic as this is the place where the local militia companies gathered on the morning of May 24, 1861 to march out of town. The statue is protected by state law— Acts of Assembly, Ch. 119, January 31, 1890, and Virginia Code Ann. Sec. 15.2-1812 Memorials For War Veterans. Unless and until those statutes are repealed, *Appomattox* cannot be moved.

We would like to have the iron fence that is seen surrounding him in early photographs replaced. We have contacted Flaherty Ironworks regarding this. Once we have a firm price and funds, we will contact the Board of Architectural Review for approval and the permit office. We would also like to install some sort of up lighting for better visibility at night.

Our chapter has seventy-seven members. There are ten members on our executive board. We are happy at your convenience to meet with some or all of you. We are also happy to have you tour our chapter's house on Prince Street for a better understanding of Alexandria's unique place in Civil War history.

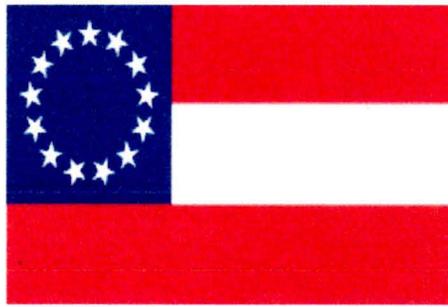
Sincerely,



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Address for Mary Custis Lee-17th Virginia Regiment Chapter
United Daughters of the Confederacy®

806 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314



1st National Confederate Flag

Sometimes referred to as the Daughters' Flag
The emblem of the United Daughters of the Confederacy®



Confederate Battle Flag