

General Robert E. Rodes Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #262 Tuscaloosa, Alabama



*I Salute the Confederate flag, with affection, reverence,
and undying devotion to cause for which it stands*



From The Adjutant

Gen. Robert E. Rodes Camp 262, Sons of Confederate Veterans,
will not meet in August. Our next Camp Meeting will be Thursday
night, **September 8, 2011**, at 7 PM in the Tuscaloosa Public Library.

August is Summer Bivouac / Stand Down

Members who have not yet paid their dues are reminded that
re-instatement fees of \$7.50 are added, and their total dues are now
\$67.50.

Commander :

David Allen

1st Lieutenant Cdr :

John Harris

2nd Lieutenant Cdr &

Adjutant :

Frank Delbridge

Color Sergeant :

Clyde Biggs

Chaplain :

Dr. Wiley Hales

Newsletter:

James Simms

jbsimms@comcast.net

Website: Brad Smith

tidepridebrad@gmail.com

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Upcoming Events

August - Summer Bivouac / Stand Down

8 September - Camp Meeting

13 October - Camp Meeting

23 October - Thisldu - **TBD**

10 November - Camp Meeting

8 December - Camp Meeting

2012

12 January - Camp Meeting

19 January (**TBD**) - Lee -
Jackson Dinner

9 February - Camp Meeting

8 March - Camp Meeting

The Rodes Brigade Report is a monthly publication by the Robert E. Rodes SCV Camp #262 to preserve the history and legacy of the citizen-soldiers who, in fighting for the Confederacy, personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved. Edited by James B. Simms; non-member subscriptions are available for \$15. Please send information, comments, or inquiries to Robert E. Rodes Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #262, PO Box 1417, Tuscaloosa, AL 34501; or to James Simms at jsimms@comcast.net.

General Robert Emmet Rodes (1829-1864)

The Robert E. Rodes Camp #262 is named in memory of Robert Emmet Rodes. General Rodes was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, on March 30, 1829; the son of General David Rodes and Martha Yancey. Attending Virginia Military Institute, he graduated in July 1848, standing 10th in a class of 24 graduates; Assistant Professor (Physical Science, Chemistry, Tactics) at VMI, 1848-1850. He married Virginia Hortense Woodruff (1833-1907), of Tuscaloosa, Alabama in September 1857. They had 2 children: Robert Emmet Rodes, Jr. (1863-1925) and a daughter, Bell Yancey Rodes (1865-1931). He taught at VMI as an assistant professor until 1851. He left when a promotion he wanted to full professor was given instead to Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, a future Confederate general and commander of his. Rodes used his civil engineering skills to become chief engineer for the Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He held this position until the start of the Civil War. Although born a Virginian, he chose to serve his adopted state of Alabama.

He started his Confederate service as a Colonel in command of the 5th Alabama Infantry regiment, in the brigade commanded by Major General Richard S. Ewell, with which he first saw combat at the 1st Bull Run. He was promoted to Brigadier General on October 21, 1861, and commanded a brigade under Major General Daniel H. Hill. In the Peninsula Campaign, Rodes was wounded in the arm at Seven Pines and was assigned to light duty in the defenses of Richmond, Virginia while he recuperated.

He recovered in time for General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the north in September, 1862, fighting at South Mountain and Sharpsburg. At Sharpsburg, he commanded one of two brigades that held out so long against the Union assault on the sunken road, or "Bloody Lane", at the center of the Confederate line, suffering heavy casualties. Rodes was lightly wounded by shell fragments.

At Chancellorsville, Rodes was a division commander in Stonewall Jackson's corps. He was the only division-level commander in Lee's army who had not graduated from West Point. He was temporarily placed in command of the corps on May 2, 1863, when Jackson was mortally wounded and Lieutenant General A.P. Hill was also wounded, but Lee quickly replaced him with the more experienced Major General J.E.B. Stuart. Jackson on his deathbed recommended that Rodes be promoted to Major General and this promotion was back-dated to be effective May 2nd.

When Lee reorganized the Army of Northern Virginia to compensate for the loss of Jackson, Rodes joined the II Corps under Ewell. At Gettysburg, on July 1, Rodes led the assault south from Oak Hill against the right flank of the Union I Corps. Although he successfully routed the division of Major Gen. John C. Robinson and drove it back through the town, the attack was not as well coordinated or pursued as aggressively as his reputation would have implied. His division sat mostly idle for the remaining two days of the battle. After performing poorly at Gettysburg, and recovered his reputation somewhat by performing better at Spotsylvania Court House.

Rodes continued to fight with Ewell's corps through the Overland Campaign of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Ewell was replaced by Major General Jubal A. Early and his corps was sent by Lee to the Shenandoah Valley to draw Union forces away from the Siege of Petersburg, in the Valley Campaign. They conducted a long and successful raid down the Valley, into Maryland, and reached the outskirts of Washington, D.C., before turning back. Major Gen. Philip Sheridan was sent by Grant to drive Early from the Valley.

On September 19, 1864, Sheridan attacked the Confederates at Opequon/3rd Winchester. Several wives of Confederate officers were chased from town during the attack and Rodes managed to save Major Gen. John B. Gordon's wife from capture. Rodes and Gordon prepared to attack Sheridan's forces when Rodes was struck in the back of his head by a Union shell fragment. He died on the field outside Winchester.

Rodes was a modest but inspiring leader. He was mourned by the Confederacy as a promising, brave, and aggressive officer killed before he could achieve greatness. Lee and other high-ranking officers wrote sympathetic statements. He was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia next to his brother, Virginius Hudson Rodes; and his parents. His wife Virginia Hortense is buried in Alabama, her home state. His Major Commands included Rodes' Brigade/D.H. Hill's Division and Rodes Division/II Corps.



Replace your regular Alabama car Tag with an Alabama SCV specialty car Tag!!

Remember: 1. The SCV Specialty Tag is an **OFFICIAL, LEGALLY RECOGNIZED LICENSE PLATE** as established by an act of the Alabama Legislature. The Battle Flag exhibited in this manner can NOT be discriminated against or removed by any government entity, corporation, employer or person without violating the law. IMAGINE! While politicians remove our flag from public view, one at a time, we will be displaying our Flag by the thousands to the public, furthering Confederate Pride and Loyalty.

2. You may personalize this tag with up to 5 letters and/or numbers, **AT NO EXTRA CHARGE**. (ALDIV, ALREB, 33ALA, 5THAL, CSSAL, etc.) Ask the Tag clerk when ordering.

How to buy: 1. When your current regular tag expires, go to the County's Probate Judge's Office or County Tag Office and say, "I want to order the Specialty Car Tag of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in place of my regular car tag."

2. You may **personalize (*)** this tag with up to 5 letters / numbers. Ask the Tag clerk when ordering. **(AT no EXTRA CHARGE.)**

This cost is \$50.00 (in addition to the regular cost of an Alabama car tag), of which \$41.25 goes to the Alabama Division, SCV to promote and protect our Confederate Heritage and History.

You may reserve your choice before you go by going to:

<https://www.alabamainteractive.org/dorpt/UserHome.str>

Be sure to select the SCV tag! The cost of reserving a personalized plate is \$2 and payment must be made online using either VISA or MASTERCARD. Once approved, the reservation will be valid for five business days. You will not be charged if DOR rejects your request.

NEW !!! Alabama SCV Car Tag T-Shirt



Most of you are aware that the Alabama Division has a new t- shirt that promotes the SCV car tag approved for sale in the State of Alabama. Pictured is Morgan Strain wearing the new shirt. The front of the shirt has an Alabama state flag on it with Alabama Division above the flag. Please contact Northeast Brigade Commander Tom Strain at tom@ssnurseries.com or at 729-8501 to order the shirts. Order blank here:

<http://www.aladivscv.com/forms/OrderBlank.pdf>

News of the Rodes Camp

From the SCV Army of Tennessee blog

Forrest Seminar

The annual Forrest Seminar will be on Oct. 8 in Tullahoma, Tennessee. The theme is "The men around Forrest."

Presentations will include:

Colonel J.W. Starnes

Colonel G.G.Dibrell

Enlisted men--an illustrated talk using images from the Tenn. State Museum

David C. Kelley--the Devil's Parson

Details for registration will be posted closer to the date.

Michael Bradley

<http://armyoftennesseescv.blogspot.com/2011/05/forrest-seminar.html>

63rd Anniversary Reunion of the Battle of Shiloh Survivors



A pleasure steamer from Cincinnati at Muscle Shoals Dock in Lauderdale County, Alabama. The boat, named "Tennessee Belle," was being used to host a reunion of Civil War veterans. A sign hanging from the top deck reads, "63rd Anniversary Reunion of the Battle of Shiloh Survivors."

2011 IRS Annual Electronic Notice Filing Requirement

SCV camps with gross receipts less than \$25,000 a year are not required to file an IRS Form 990 tax return; however, beginning August 1, 2011, the day after the previous fiscal year ended, all camps are required to submit an annual electronic notice by December 15, 2011. Your cooperation is requested as it is imperative for each camp complete this simple task in order to maintain its tax exempt status. Shown below are some simple instructions to assist you in completing the IRS E Notice requirement:

1. Obtain your camp's tax ID number and copy it into your computer memory or have it written down and readily available. GHQ can provide this number to you if needed.
2. Go to this site and follow the instructions: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

Important Notice: You must register first, and then be patient and wait for the IRS to immediately send you a return email with a link for you to log back on line to actually complete the E postcard. If you use zip plus four put a dash in between the first five and last four digits.

Historical Markers of the Tuscaloosa Area

The Jemison Home

Built by Robert Jemison, Jr. Completed 1862, the 26 room Italian Villa style mansion is distinguished by its octagonal cupola and delicate carved fretwork. Jemison, a member of Alabama Legislature for 20 years (1840-1863), Secession Convention 1861 (he voted against secession), Confederate States Senate (1863-65), helped establish Alabama Insane Hospital.

Boyhood home Robert Jemison Van de Graff, inventor of generator used in splitting the atom and of William "Bully" Van de Graff, first All-American Athlete from University of Alabama. Hugo Friedman in 1955 acquired this mansion for Tuscaloosa County as a library.

Shirley Bridge

James Shirley, 1835, built the first wooden covered bridge at this site. Bridges here were part of first road connecting Columbus, Miss. and Northport. A Tuscaloosa Co. company of Confederate Army, "The Plow Boys," en route to Columbus, July 1861, crossed bridge here. Union Gen. John T. Croxton, April 1865, after capturing Tuscaloosa, crossed bridge here. Republican Legislator, M. T. Crossland, on way to capitol at Montgomery, Nov. 1868 was assassinated near the bridge. A section of the 1882 steel, single span bridge once used for crossing Black Warrior River at Tuscaloosa was re-erected here in 1922.

Website Report For July 2011

No report for last month available at this time

2011 Reenactments in this Area.

September 2-4, 2011

Decatur

Decatur, AL

September 17-18, 2011

Farmington

Farmington, MS
(NE of Corinth, MS)

October 14-16, 2011

Franklin

Franklin, TN

Special thanks to Compatriot Robert Beams and the [Alabama Division of Reenactors](#).

Confederate Generals Birthdays for August

Lt. General John Clifford Pemberton - 10 Aug. 1814 - Philadelphia, Penn.

Lt. Gen. A.P. Stewart - 30 Aug. 1821 - Rogersville, Tenn.

Maj. General John Horace Forney - 12 Aug. 1829 - Lincolnton, N.C.

Maj. General John Porter McCowan - 19 Aug. 1815 - Servierville, Tenn.

Brig. General William Barksdale - 21 Aug. 1821 - Rutherford Co., Tenn.

Brig. General Theodore Washington Brevard - 26 Aug. 1835 - Tuskegee, Ala.

Brig. General Goode Bryan - 31 Aug. 1811 - Hancock Co., Ga.

Brig. General Thomas Fenwick Drayton - 24 Aug. 1808 - Charleston, S.C.

Brig. General Winfield Scott Featherson - 8 Aug. 1820 - Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Brig. General Daniel March Frost - 9 Aug. 1823 - Schenectady, N.Y.

Brig. General Maxcy Gregg - 1 Aug. 1814 - Columbia, S.C.

Brig. General Roger Weightman Hanson - 27 Aug. 1827 - Winchester, Ky.

Brig. General Nathaniel Harrison Harris - 22 Aug. 1834 - Natchez, Miss.

Brig. General Benjamin Grubb Humphreys - 24 Aug. 1808 - Claiborne Co., Miss.

Brig. General Evander McIvor Law - Aug. 1836 - Darlington, S.C.

Brig. General Danville Ledbetter - 26 Aug. 1811 - Leeds, Maine

Brig. General Geroge Earl Maney - 24 Aug. 1826 - Franklin, Tenn.

Brig. General William Miller - 3 Aug. 1820 - Ithaca, N.Y.

Brig. General Francis Reddin Tillou Nichols - 20 Aug. 1834 - Donaldsonville, La.

Brig. General Carnot Posey - 5 Aug. 1813 - Wilkinson Co., Miss.

Brig. General William Yarnel Slack - 1 Aug. 1816 - Mason Co., Ky.

Brig. General George Hume Steuart - 24 Aug. 1828 - Baltimore, Md.

Brig. General Clement Hoffman "Rock" Stevens - 14 Aug. 1821 - South Carolina

Brig. General Walter Husted Stevens - 24 Aug. 1827 - Penn Yan, N.Y.

Brig. General Willaim Terry - 14 Aug. 1824 - Amhurst Co., Va.

Brig. General James Alexander Walker - 27 Aug. 1832 - Mt. Sidney, Va.

Alabama Civil War Units

Third Alabama Cavalry Regiment

This regiment was organized at Tupelo, in June 1862, by companies that had been in the service some months, and several of which, as "Murphy's battalion," had fought at Shiloh. The regiment accompanied the army into Kentucky and was engaged in daily conflicts with the enemy, particularly at Bramlet's Station and Perryville. It fell back with the army, and was on constant and arduous duty during the remainder of the war, protecting its communications, guarding its rear and flanks, and often raiding upon the enemy's trains and outposts.

It was part of the brigade composed of the First, Third, Fourth, Ninth, Twelfth, and Fifty-first Alabama cavalry, command first by Gen. Allen of Montgomery, subsequently by Gen. Hagan of Mobile. The Third was engaged at Murfreesboro, Shelbyville, Chicamauga, Kingston, Knoxville, Mossy Creek, Strawberry Plains, losing continuously in casualties, and suffering severely during Longstreet's winter campaign.

In the Dalton-Atlanta campaign it performed arduous service, fighting with severe loss at Decatur, and helping to capture Stoneman's column. In front of Sherman, the regiment shrouded Hood's movements, then harassed the former on his march, participating in the fights near Macon, at Winchester, Aiken, Fayetteville, Bentonville, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill. Reduced by its losses to a skeleton, the regiment surrendered in North Carolina.

Field and Staff

Colonels - James Hagan of Mobile; wounded at Franklin and Kingston, Tenn.; promoted. Josiah Robins of Wilcox; wounded near Fayetteville.

Lieut. Colonels - S. Jennings Murphy of Mobile; transferred. T. H. Mauldin of Monroe; resigned. Josiah Robins; promoted. John D. Farish of Wilcox; wounded near Fayetteville.

Majors - F. Y. Gaines of Chocta; retired. Jo. Robins; promoted. J. D. Farish; wounded in Coosa Valley. D. P. Forney of Calhoun.

Adjutants - R. R. Gaines of Chocta; wounded at Farmington; transferred. John L. Reddish of Wilcox; wounded in Coosa Valley; transferred. A. H. Smith.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Chocta.- W. W. Lang; retired. W. P. cheney.

Monroe.- T. H. Mauldin; promoted. T. J. Billingslea.

Wilcox.- Josiah Robins; promoted. J. Wesley Voltz.

Wilcox and Dallas.- Thos. F. Jenkins; resigned. J. D. Farish; promoted. S. W. Pegues.

Mobile.- Paul Ravesies; transferred. J. W. Smith; resigned. J. C. Brown.

Perry and Dallas.- Wm. Cathy; killed at Perryville. R. W. Cole; resigned. Thomas Norris; killed at Chapel Hill.

Calhoun.- D. P. Forney; promoted. Stewart.

Autauga.- J. D. Hill; resigned. Wm. Mims.

Dallas and Wilcox.- James Boykin; transferred. Augustus Tomlinson; died in the service. Thomas Lenoir; killed at Resaca. Henry R. Gordon.

Dallas and Wilcox.- R. W. Smith; transferred. Holloway.

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Alabama Civil War Units (Continued):

Roddy's Fourth Alabama Cavalry Regiment

This regiment was organized at Tuscumbia, October 1862, and was sent to middle Tennessee. It wintered near the army, but in the early spring was sent to the Tennessee Valley. When Dodge advanced up the valley, the Fourth met him below Tuscumbia, and contested the ground to Town Creek, losing severely. It took part in the pursuit of Streight, and, as the heart and nucleus of Roddy's brigade, was on constant and perilous duty.

The regiment fought with loss at Tishomingo, and suffered severely in the battle of Harrisburg. On Forrest's Athens and Pulaski raid, the Fourth bore the brunt of two or three fights, and was badly cut up. It bore the leading part in Gen. Roddy's movements, repelling raids, picketing the front, and making a number of daring attacks, such as that at Barton's and the one at Florence.

When Wilson crossed the mountains, the regiment was in his front, and fought nearly all the way from Montevallo to Selma. The larger portion of the Fourth was captured at Selma, and the remnant laid down its arms at Pond Spring.

Field and Staff

Colonels -- P. D. Roddy of Lawrence; promoted. Wm. A. Johnson of Lauderdale; wounded at Pulaski.

Lieut. Colonels -- Wm. A. Johnson; promoted. F. M. Wines of Morgan.

Majors -- Dick Johnson of Lauderdale, wounded near Florence; killed near Moulton.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came

Franklin -- Jas. Williams; killed at Courtland. C. J. Hyatt.

Lauderdale -- Joseph H. Sloss; transferred. Thos. Williams; wounded near Bainbridge; killed near Huntsville. J. M. Weems.

Lauderdale -- Wm. H. Welsh.

Franklin -- W. R. Julian; till re-organized. John A. Steele.

Lawrence -- J. H. Shackelford; transferred. Ward McDonald.

Franklin -- John Newsom; transferred. John C. Nelson; wounded and captured.

Franklin -- Jere. Daily; till re-organized. Edw. J. Odum.

Walker -- E. Kelly; wounded.

Lawrence -- Philip Thirlkill; transferred. Maguire.

News From the Civil War Trust

Save 44 Acres on the Manassas Battlefield
*Join the Civil War Trust in a new campaign to save a property
once thought lost to development*

Today we have the chance to save a key part of the Deep Cut battlefield at Second Manassas. The 44-acre Dogan Farm property, once thought lost to development, is one of the largest remaining unpreserved expanses of battlefield land at Manassas. Our efforts here will help to close a major, unprotected gap within the boundaries of Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The fighting was so bloody at the "Deep Cut" that some men believed they were in the "vortex of hell." Ten thousand Federal soldiers under the command of Fitz John Porter assaulted Stonewall Jackson's Confederate lines arrayed along an unfinished railroad bed.

With artillery shells and bullets filling the hot air above, the intrepid Union soldiers who made it to the cut found themselves pinned against its slopes, with no way to advance or retreat. With Porter's assault blunted and repulsed, the initiative swung to the Army of Northern Virginia. James Longstreet and his veteran corps, poised on the Federal left flank, unleashed one of the largest and most devastating attacks of the Civil War.

Every dollar donated to this important preservation effort will be matched \$11.25 to \$1 - a fantastic match that will help us to save this critical 44-acres of hallowed ground.

Second Manassas 2011 Preservation Campaign

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Acres: 44 acres | Fundraising Goal: \$100,000 |
| Cost: \$1,125,000 | Match: \$11.25 to \$1 |

For More Information: www.civilwar.org/manassas11

Maps, history articles, videos, satellite images, photos, and more await

*Finally, donors of \$50 or more will receive a copy of the **new** book The Civil War 150!*

Please let me hear back from you as soon as possible, and please accept my deepest personal thanks for your generosity.

Awaiting your urgent reply,

Jim Lighthizer
President
Civil War Trust

Sons of Confederate Veterans host reunion, presentation ball

Deborah Hayes Moore *The Montgomery Advertiser* July 31, 2011



Alexandra Ringhoffer, from left, Sylvia Brewer, Morgan Strain, Paulina Kelsey Reynolds and Katherine McRae made their debuts during the Sons of the Confederate Veterans' Grand Banquet and Ball hosted recently at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Montgomery. / Contributed photos

During their annual summer reunion and conference, the Sons of Confederate Veterans took the opportunity to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of the beginning of "the War Between the States." Their gathering is always host-ed in grand style in a different Southern city each year. With the 2011 milestone observance at hand, things were particularly special when Montgomery was the scene of the 116th celebration, which culminated on a recent Saturday with a grand dinner, ball and presentation of five lovely debutantes at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Members of SCV's Captain Henry C. Semple Camp of Montgomery began planning for the gathering in the Capital City six years ago, with Philip Davis serving as commander. Local business owners and residents were glad to see the gathering hosted here by the time hundreds of visitors arrived to enjoy four days of activities.

All of the Southern states were represented by guests who arrived in Montgomery for the reunion, with others coming from as far away as California to join in the celebration.



Paulina Kelsey Reynolds performs the "Debutante's Waltz" with her escort and godfather, Walter Cecil Godwin.

Legends and candlelight

With sites seen around town and conference business meetings completed, more than 350 guests gathered on a Saturday night for the grand banquet and ball that followed the theme "Legends in Grey by Candlelight."

Historical flags from all states and many Southern army regiments were suspended from the ceiling around the perimeter of the hotel's grand ballroom expanse. Tables were decorated with white cloths layered with scarlet red toppers. At the center of each table, a variety of photographs of Confederate officers and notable Southern ladies who played an integral role in serving the Confederacy flanked bowls draped with Confederate battle flag bandanas. They were topped with clear candle glasses, large red and white votive

candles and red and white glass gems.

John Eidsmoe served as master of ceremonies during a dinner and awards ceremony attended by special guests, including Jane and James Larose of Montgomery, Donna Clark of Elba, Rosemary and Philip Davis of Montgomery, and their son and daughter-in-law, Annemarie and Chris Davis, of Atlanta.

In attendance as distinguished guests were Alabama Division Commander Robert Reames of Birmingham and his wife, Jackie; and past commanders-in-chief from Tennessee, including Denne Sweeney and Christopher Sullivan, and Lt. Commander-in-Chief Charles Kelly Barrow and his wife, Cassie.

Debutante Coterie

Following a delightful dinner and an awards ceremony, Paulina Kelsey Reynolds of Montgomery was one of five young ladies presented during the 2011 Debutante Coterie.

A 2010 graduate of Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School and a sophomore at Auburn University, Kelsey is the daughter of 2011 debutante coordinator Paula Reynolds and the late John Y. Reynolds Jr., a past commander of the SCV Captain Henry Semple Camp. Kelsey was escorted during the evening by her godfather, Walter Cecil Godwin Jr., of Selma.

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SCV Reunion (Continued): Following in the footsteps of older sister Christine Kelly Reynolds, who was presented during the 2006 festivities, Kelsey honored Confederate ancestors Lt. Dozier Thornton, Company C, 15th Alabama Regiment; and Pvt. John George Key, Company D, 15th Alabama Regiment.

Also presented during the evening were fellow debutantes Sylvia Nicole Brewer of Mobile, who was escorted by her father, John Brewer; Alexandra Hall Ringhoffer, also of Mobile, who was escorted by her father, Joseph Edward Ringhoffer; Katherine Allie McRae of Mullins, S.C., who was escorted by her father, Charles Mitchell McRae; and Morgan Anne Strain of Athens, who was escorted by her father, Thomas Strain Jr.

Step up for the Virginia reel

Required to have a Confederate soldier in their lineage, debutantes selected must be between the ages of 16-23, must never have been presented before, never been married or had children.

The 2011 honorees followed strict SCV guidelines for presentation attire and conformed to the tradition of wearing white ball gowns with white elbow length gloves as they walked with their escorts under a six color-guard sword salute as they were introduced.

As they approached Commander-in-Chief R. Michael Givens, each debutante made a sweeping curtsy holding a lovely bouquet of large white Gerbera daisies mixed with white rose buds, light blue delphiniums, white Caspia, pink roses and babies breath, all hand-tied with a satin ribbon bow and a 2011 SCV medal.

Presenters and honorees gathered on the ballroom's floor to enjoy the "Debutantes Waltz" and to officially kick-off a night of dancing to the music of the 52nd Regimental String Band from Memphis, Tenn., with dance master Lee Millar, directing.

Many female guests at the ball wore ball gowns fashioned after those worn in the mid-to-late 1800s that swayed during the special dances of the past enjoyed that night, including the Virginia reel, Patty Cake Polka, the Gallop and many period romantic waltzes.

Debutante tea

Earlier in the day, Paula Reynolds served as the official hostess during the Debutante Coterie Tea, where she presented the honorees with commemorative necklaces that were worn during the evening's presentation. The strand of mother-of-pearls anchored by a stunning sterling silver fleur-de-lis was designed by Sue's Jewelers in New Orleans.

Debutantes had been excited for weeks about their presentation as each received an official greeting and request from the SCV headquarters in Columbia, Tenn., to attend the Grand Confederate Ball.

Assistant debutante coordinator Pat Godwin also presented gifts, which included a copy of the Confederate constitution and a navy blue New Testament bound together by a white ribbon and secured with the official reunion seal, which included the artwork of the Alabama Capitol by Philip Davis.

Following the tea, Kelly Reynolds guided them through curtsy lessons, and waltzes and dances of the period were taught by Bill Anthony of Tallassee.

Deborah Hayes Moore writes about society news for the Montgomery Advertiser. She may be reached by voice-mail at 956-0254.

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20110731/LIFESTYLE/107310312/1004>

Alabama collects tax originally for Confederate veterans

By Jay Reeves *The Associated Press* via *The Tuscaloosa News* July 21, 2011

MOUNTAIN CREEK | Generations ago, the last of the more than 60,000 Confederate veterans who came home to Alabama after the Civil War died, yet residents are still paying a tax that supported the neediest among them.

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Confederate Memorial Park (Continued):



Confederate Memorial Park Director Bill Rambo looks at a display in the Mountain Creek park's museum. A tax originally intended to help Confederate veterans now pays for the park. *The Associated Press*

Despite fire-and-brimstone opposition to taxes among many in a state that still has "Heart of Dixie" on its license plates, officials never stopped collecting a property tax that once funded the Alabama Confederate Soldiers' Home, which closed 72 years ago. The tax now pays for Confederate Memorial Park, which sits on the same 102-acre tract where elderly veterans used to stroll.

The tax once brought in millions for Confederate pensions, but lawmakers sliced up the levy and sent money elsewhere as the men and their wives died. No one has seriously challenged the continued use of the money for a memorial to the "Lost Cause," in part because few realize it exists; one long-serving black legislator who thought the tax had been done away with said he wants to eliminate state funding for the park.

These days, 150 years after the Civil War started, officials say the old tax typically brings in more than \$400,000 annually for the park, where Confederate flags flapped on a recent steamy afternoon. That's not much compared to Alabama's total operating budget of \$1.8

billion, but it's sufficient to give the park plenty of money to operate and even enough for investments, all at a time when other historic sites are struggling just to keep the grass cut for lack of state funding.

"It's a beautifully maintained park. It's one of the best because of the funding source," said Clara Nobles of the Alabama Historical Commission, which oversees Confederate Memorial Park.

Longtime park director Bill Rambo is more succinct. "Everyone is jealous of us," he said.

Tax experts say they know of no other state that still collects a tax so directly connected to the Civil War, although some federal excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol first were enacted during the war to help fund the Union.

"Broadly speaking, almost all taxes have their start in a war of some sort," said Joseph J. Thorndike, director of a tax history project at Tax Analysts, a nonprofit organization that studies taxation.

Alabama's tax structure was enshrined in its 1901 Constitution, passed after Reconstruction at a time when historians say state legislators' main goal was to keep power in the hands of wealthy white landowners by disenfranchising blacks and poor whites.

The Constitution allowed a state property tax of up to 6.5 mills, which now amounts to \$39 annually on a home worth \$100,000. Of that tax, 3 mills went to schools; 2.5 mills went to the operating budget; and 1 mill went to pensions for Confederate veterans and widows.

The state used the pension tax to fund the veterans home once it assumed control of the operation in 1903. The last Confederate veteran living at the home died in 1934, and its hospital was converted into apartments for widows. It closed in 1939, and the five women who lived there were moved to Montgomery.

Legislators whittled away at the Confederate tax through the decades, and millions of dollars that once went to the home and pensions now go to fund veteran services, the state welfare agency and other needs. But the park still gets 1 percent of one mill, and its budget for this year came to \$542,469, which includes money carried over from previous years plus certificates of deposit.

All that money has created a manicured, modern park that's the envy of other Alabama historic sites, which are funded primarily by grants, donations and friends groups. Legislators created the park in 1964 during a period that marked both the 100th anniversary of the Civil War and the height of the civil rights movement in the Deep South.

Nothing is left of the veterans home but a few foundations and two cemeteries with 313 graves, but a museum with Civil War artifacts and modern displays opened at the park in 2007. Rebel flags fly all around the historic site, which Rambo said draws more than 10,000 visitors annually despite being hidden in the country nine miles and three turns off Interstate 65 in the central part of the state.

(Continued Next Page)

Confederate Memorial Park (Continued): While the park flourishes quietly, other historic attractions around the state are fighting for survival.

Workers at Helen Keller's privately run home in northwest Alabama fear losing letters written by the famed activist because of a lack of state funding for preservation of artifacts. On the Gulf Coast at Dauphin Island, preservationists say the state-owned Fort Gaines is in danger of being undermined by waves after nearly 160 years standing guard at the entry to Mobile Bay.

The old Confederate pension tax that funds the park has never been seriously threatened, Rambo said. Backers were upset this year when Gov. Robert Bentley's budget plan eliminated state funding for historic sites because of tight revenues, he said, but the park's earmarked funding survived.

"Once I informed the public what was going on, the support just rose up," said Rambo, the director since 1989. Two heritage groups, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy, led the charge, but ordinary citizens complained too, he said.

Some were people who don't belong to those organizations who really like the park and come out here for picnics and all and were really upset," he said.

State Rep. Alvin Holmes, a black Democrat who's been in the Legislature since 1974, said he thought funding for the park had been slashed. "We should not be spending one nickel for that," said Holmes, of Montgomery. "I'm going to try to get rid of it." Holmes may have a hard time gaining support with Republicans in control of Legislature and the governor's office.

In the meantime, a contractor recently measured the museum for a new paint job, and plans calls for using invested money to construct replicas of some of the 22 buildings that stood on the site when it was home to hundreds of Confederate veterans and their wives.

Editor's Note: Leave it to *The Tuscaloosa News* to print this.

<http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/article/20110721/NEWS/110729962/1007/news?p=1&tc=pg>

<http://www.preserveala.org/confederatepark.aspx>

Historic Fite-Forney house up for sale at Jacksonville State

Tiffany Glick July 22, 2011 WBRC Fox 6

Are you in the market for a new house? Here's a great one for sale: A beautiful antebellum with hardwood floors, a white picket fence, two fireplaces and chimneys, and its location can't be beat—it's anywhere you want it to be.

Located on the Jacksonville State University campus, the Fite-Forney house is up for sale and the university needs it to go fast—literally, go. The home dating back to the 1840's is in an area that the school wants to further develop, so not only do they want to sell the building, but they want the new owner to move it off the property.

Experts on moving homes believe this one could be moved but it wouldn't be easy—it would most likely have to be moved in parts. Still, some believe the home's history and possible future is worth the hassle.

"I think it's a very beautiful house," Jerrod Brown, a resident restoring a home across the street from Fite-Forney said. "I think it has a lot of potential for it to be made into an extremely beautiful house. It's just been neglected over the years." Brown said he has seen the house weather over the years but appreciates the value.

"The neighborhood's changed so much with the stadium coming in over the past few years," he said. "So, you really hate to see it go, but at the same time, I would rather see it go than have it demolished."

If the home were to be torn down, it would mean the destruction of a location where people from confederate war generals and fraternity brothers have resided.

Jacksonville State could not be reached for comment but reports say the school wants to sell the Fite-Forney house within 30 days.

<http://calhouncounty.myfoxal.com/news/news/historic-fite-forney-house-sale-jacksonville-state/91928>

From the SCV Blog

<http://sonsofconfederateveterans.blogspot.com/>

POW Camps Remembered

Thousands of soldiers died of diseases and exposure at U.S. and Confederate prisoner of war camps during the American Civil War. - Carlton Fletcher, metro editor
And while historians all agree that notorious prisoner of war camps at Andersonville in Sumter County, 45 miles north of Albany, at Elmira, N.Y., and at Camp Douglas just outside Chicago were scenes of atrocities that will long mar the American psyche, there remains disagreement over the root causes of these atrocities.

Southern heritage groups like the Sons of Confederate Veterans contend that most of the inhumane treatment afforded Northern prisoners at Andersonville, long viewed as the scene of Southern barbarism by Northern historians, was the product of conditions brought on by the war. These same groups counter that the treatment of Rebel soldiers at camps like "Hellmira" and Douglas — dubbed "80 acres of Hell" — were acts of retaliation and intentional cruelty.

The truth, as is usually the case, most likely lies somewhere in between. But there is recorded evidence to support the Southern view.

"What we really want is for the truth to be told," James King, commander of the Albany-based SCV camp, said. "The conditions at Andersonville were terrible. But so were the conditions at the camps in the North. That's something that's been overlooked by historians.

"Most people realize that it's the victors who write the history books, but the Northern slant of history surrounding POW camps during the Civil War has not been fair and honest. There is a strong belief that Northern historians have intentionally diverted historical information about (Northern prison) camps."

No one can dispute the horrendous conditions that left thousands of soldiers dead at all Civil War prison camps. Historians have long since agreed on some alarming figures: 270,000 U.S. soldiers were captured and held in Confederate POW camps compared to 220,000 SCA prisoners in Northern camps.

Of those prisoners, 26,436 Confederate soldiers died in U.S. prisons, while 22,570 Northerners died in CSA prisons.

Those numbers become especially gruesome when the histories of the war's most notorious POW camps are examined. At Andersonville, which was built to hold 10,000 prisoners, as many as 32,000 men were crammed into the camp at any given time. By the time the war ended, more than 45,000 Northern prisoners had been held at Andersonville, 30 percent of which (12,912) died in captivity from dysentery, scurvy, malaria and exposure. At Camp Douglas, built to accommodate 6,000 prisoners, as many as 12,082 were in the prison at any given time, and more than 26,000 CSA soldiers were held there over the course of the war. The death toll is listed at 4,275 known dead, but many who were at the camp said that number most likely surpassed 6,000.

Likewise at Elmira, unused barracks intended for as many as 5,000 prisoners held up to 12,122 men at any given time, and the death toll at the notorious camp surpassed 25 percent (2,963). Exposure was one of the chief causes of death, but dysentery, smallpox, pneumonia and starvation were also deadly.

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POW Camps (Continued): “What many people who don’t study the history of the war fail to understand is that it was the elements and the conditions — especially insufficient rations — that led to many of the deaths at Andersonville,” King said. “But at the Northern camps like Douglas and Elmira, much of the inhumane treatment came at the hands of people who today would be considered a criminal element.”

On orders from Washington, Camp Douglas Commander Col. Benjamin Sweet ordered that stoves at the alternately flooded and freezing facility be removed and that prisoners receive no vegetables.

That act, again reportedly ordered as retaliation, increased disease in the camp proportionately.

The Confederate Congress, on the other hand, passed a bill in May of 1861 requiring that rations furnished prisoners of war be “the same quality and quantity” as enlisted men in the Confederate army.

“Lincoln has been let off the hook about this by history, but he doesn’t deserve it,” King said. “He micromanaged the war; he had to have known what was going on at the prison camps. He had to have known about the mandated inhumane treatment.”

Confederate leaders were known to have sought an exchange of prisoners, but correspondences show that U.S. leaders would not agree to such a move.

Dr. Isaiah H. White, the chief surgeon of military prisoners east of the Mississippi River who was for a period headquartered at Andersonville, recalled as much in an 1890 newspaper article.

“It is a well-known fact that Confederate authorities used every means in their power to secure the exchange of prisoners, but it was the policy of the U.S. government to prevent it,” White said.

White pointed to a letter written by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant as evidence. “It is hard on our men held in Southern prisons not to exchange them, but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles,” Grant, who later gave the same testimony before a post-war tribunal, wrote.

“Every man released on parole or otherwise becomes an active soldier against us at once, either directly or indirectly. If we commence a system of exchange which liberates all prisoners taken, we will have to fight on until the whole South is eliminated.

“At this particular time, to release all rebel prisoners would ensure (Gen. William T.) Sherman’s defeat and would compromise our safety here.”

In the aftermath of the war, Andersonville commander Capt. Hartmann Heinrich (“Henry”) Wirz was court marshalled by a military court and hanged on charges of conspiracy and murder.

Wirz, a native of Switzerland who was banned from his own country for indebtedness, lived in Russia and Italy before coming to the United States. He joined the Confederacy’s 4th Louisiana Infantry in 1861 and rose to the rank of captain. He was in charge of prisons in Richmond, Va., and Tuscaloosa, Ala., before being named commandant of Andersonville on March 27, 1864.

Wirz’s namesake, Heinrich L. Wirz of Bremgarten, Switzerland, has spent the past 20 years seeking a presidential pardon for his ancestor, thus far to no avail (*Please see page 12 of the June issue of the Rodes Camp Newsletter*).

POW Camps (Continued): “I agree with what he’s doing,” King said. “Especially in light of the intentional criminal acts carried out at Northern prisons. ”The disagreement over the notorious histories of U.S. and Confederate POW camps will no doubt rage on, to no one’s full satisfaction. But such disagreements do little to erase the blight of inhumanity — intentional and unintentional — that is the legacy of such camps.

http://www.albanyherald.com/home/headlines/POW_camps_atrocities_a_part_of_their_legacy_125319393.html

Help Oakwood Cemetery STAND UP FOR OAKWOOD CEMETERY’S CONFEDERATES

PROBLEM: Oakwood Cemetery’s 17,000 Confederates, representing 13 Confederate states, deserve the dignity of an upright marker bearing their name. Currently, a small, nameless block, bearing only a three digit number represents the final resting place of three or more soldiers. The US Veterans Administration has been uncooperative in delivery of the upright markers.

ACTION REQUIRED: Send a letter to all three Congressmen (two Senators and House member):

- Website, <http://www.contactingthecongress.org>, can be utilized – just plug in your address. Remember, letters are more effective than e-mail. Calls are helpful, also.

- Talking points (put these in your own words in your letter to your Congressmen) –

- o In 1958, Congress pardoned Confederate soldiers and extended benefits therewith (US Code Title 38, Sec. 2306). This includes headstones for unmarked graves.

- o These men deserve the dignity of a marker bearing their name – to not do so is the final human rights violation.

- o The Veterans Administration should be required to live up to its responsibility, obey the law and provide these markers.

- o Sen. Jim Webb (VA) is already engaged in this issue – ask your Congressmen to contact him and support his efforts.

- Contact other Confederate heritage advocates (UDC, re-enactors, etc.), as well as SAR, DAR and those in veterans organizations (VFW, American Legion, Wounded Warriors, etc.) and involve them in this process.

THIS IS THE LARGEST AND MOST SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVE OF THIS KIND EVER UNDERTAKEN BY THE SCV. THIS WAS ENDORSED AND ANNOUNCED BY CIC GIVENS DURING OUR REUNION, JULY 16, 2011 in MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

Flag Petition for Lexington, VA

Compatriots,

Go to the following address to sign the petition for flying our flags in Lexington, VA.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/24/petition-in-favor-of-flying-confederate-flags-in-lexington-va/>

Victory in Flag case in Concord, North Carolina

The North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled today that a hotel may be liable for malicious prosecution of a hotel guest, where the hotel had the guest arrested after he refused to remove a Confederate flag from the window of his hotel room. Read the complete opinion at <http://bit.ly/ConcordSCV>

In *Childress v. Concord Hospitality Associates, Inc.*; Basil Childress rented a room at the Wingate Inn in Concord NC for the 2008 National Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The hotel demanded that Childress remove a Confederate flag that Childress hung in the hotel window, and Childress refused.

The hotel then called the Concord police department and had them arrest Childress for trespassing. The Cabarrus County District Attorney later dismissed criminal charges against Childress, prompting Childress to sue the hotel for malicious prosecution.

In March 2010, a Superior Court judge in Cabarrus County dismissed Childress' case, agreeing with the hotel that it could terminate Childress' room rental contract for his failure to abide by the rules of the hotel. However, the Court of Appeals ruled today that the Superior Court erred.

The Court of Appeals noted that the hotel had "no written policy in place regarding the display of a flag in the window of a guest's room" and the "room rental contract contained no language prohibiting" a flag in the window. "If the demand to remove the flag was in violation of the terms and conditions of the room rental contract," the Court continued, "then there was no reasonable grounds" for the hotel to have Childress arrested.

The case now returns to the Superior Court to determine whether the hotel did in fact breach its room rental contract by evicting Childress, and whether having Childress arrested amounted to malicious prosecution.

Manassas Battlefield Donated by SCV WEEKEND REENACTMENT AT MANASSAS NEAR HISTORIC BATTLE SITE DONATED BY CONFEDERATE SONS

Sons of Confederate Veterans
Historic Elm Springs, Columbia, TN
Immediate Release

July 23, 2011

Thousands of re-enactors have descended on Manassas to recreate the first major ground battle of the War Between the States.

The authentic reproduction marks the beginning of observances of the Sesqui-Centennial of America's most devastating war. It will be followed by hundreds of events during the next four and a half years.

Still at issue is the name of the battle which is known by Union standards as the Battle of Bull Run. Confederates have always labeled it as First Manassas. This ties into the contention that still remains between the two sides. Northerners generally call the war the Civil War. Southerners call it the War Between the States.

The reenactment is taking place on land near the hallowed ground where the actual battle took place on July 21, 1861. The actual battle ground was acquired by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and donated to the U. S. Park Service in 1938 as a gift to the American people in honor of the soldiers of both armies that fought in the historic battle which was won by the Confederates.

The donation of 130 acres include the Henry Farm and the site of the Visitors Center. A plaque at the visitors Center describes the donation and land transfer for thousands of visitors annually.

(Continued Next Page)

Manassas (Continued): Included in the transfer agreement is the following: "the strictest observance of the accuracy and fairness of the markers and monuments and there will be no development or markers or inscriptions which detract in any way from the glory due Confederate heroes."

In a special message to all members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens stated "Let us on this 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas observe it as a day of consecration."

Now 115 years old the Sons of Confederate Veterans continue its patriotic mission of education, philanthropy. Its 30,000 members in the United States and several other nations are dedicated to community service in the localities where their camps are located.

Contact Information:

J. A. Davis, Chairman, Public Relations and Media
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Gainesville, GA
770 297-4788

Manassas Preserved Preservationists savor victory at Manassas

Robert McCartney *Washington Post* July 20, 1022

Stand by the Stonewall Jackson statue at Manassas National Battlefield Park and it's easy to summon a mental picture of the scene 150 years ago Thursday when North and South fought the first major battle of the Civil War.

Grassy hills and forest dominate the landscape, as they did in 1861. Apart from the low-standing Visitors Center, modernity does not intrude. No high-rise buildings or cellphone towers mar the horizon.

For this pastoral vista, we thank decades of preservation campaigns that repeatedly fought suburban sprawl around the park. This resistance — which defeated economic powerhouses like the Marriott and Disney corporations and Fairfax developer Til Hazel — attracted national attention and inspired others.

In fact, specialists view the efforts to protect Manassas (also known as Bull Run) as the cradle of the modern battlefield preservation movement in America.

"Our origins essentially go back to that fight to protect that property, which ultimately was protected," said Jim Campi, policy and communications director of the Civil War Trust.

In its latest victory, announced Wednesday, the trust helped arrange for the addition of 54 acres to the federal park. Most of the land was donated by Service Corporation International, a Texas funeral services company that agreed to forgo expanding a cemetery it owns by the battlefield.

The preservation struggle is not complete, and probably never will be. As long as suburbia and congestion grow in Prince William County, the activists will be called to further action.

"There's always going to be tremendous development pressures right outside the boundaries of the park. It's how we address those pressures that will ultimately decide how the park looks 10, 20, 30 years from now," Campi said.

The most obvious current problem is familiar. Even the heralded preservationists at Manassas haven't been able to stave off Northern Virginia traffic.

For a glimpse of the challenge, just stroll a couple hundred yards from the Jackson statue to Henry House, another battlefield landmark.

From there, looking north, one sees cars and trucks waiting at the stoplight at the intersection of Lee Highway (Route 29) and Sudley Road (Route 234), smack in the middle of the park. At rush hour, the backups often extend more than two miles.

The vehicles are annoying, both because they're eyesores and because they make it hard for visitors to get around. It's especially a headache for anybody attempting the 18-mile driving tour to see the terrain of Second Manassas, fought on the same site 13 months after the first encounter.

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Manassas Preserved (Continued): “Hardly anybody finishes the thing, because you have to fight the traffic,” Park Superintendent Ed Clark said.

Clark and some preservationists would like to expand existing roads and build new ones outside the park to route traffic around the battlefield. A full bypass would cost hundreds of millions of dollars, however, and the state already lacks money for roads of higher priority.

Moreover, many people who’ve supported preservation at Manassas are not typically enthusiastic about building new highways. One such skeptic is Page Snyder, daughter of legendary Manassas preservationist Annie Snyder.

Until her death in 2002, “Stonewall Annie” Snyder was for three decades the driving force behind campaigns to defend the battlefield. To honor her mother’s memory, Page is allowing the reenactment of First Manassas on Saturday and Sunday to take place on the family’s 200-acre farm next to the park. (The Park Service won’t allow use of the actual site; it said “never again” after reenactors caused so much damage there at the 100th anniversary.)

Page said she understood the need to reduce traffic inside the park, but she worries that new highways would fuel unwanted development. “I do not trust our process to protect the rural crescent as it should be protected,” Snyder said.

Despite the traffic, the overall preservation story at Manassas is one of success.

“Manassas is rightfully proud that you can stand in certain portions of that battlefield and really feel that you are there,” said Joan Zenzen, a Rockville historian who’s finishing her fourth book on battlefield preservation.

Clark said business interests and politicians are more sympathetic to preservation than they were in the past — or at least more wary of tangling over the issue.

“Companies don’t want to have their names splattered around in negative tones,” Clark said. As for politicians, “Even if they don’t have the goodness of preservation in their hearts, they understand the value of tourism.”

That’s a legacy Annie Snyder’s political heirs will need to defend just as she protected that bucolic view from the Jackson statue.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/preservationists-savor-victories-at-manassas/2011/07/20/gIOAeNCTQI_story.html?](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/preservationists-savor-victories-at-manassas/2011/07/20/gIOAeNCTQI_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-manassas%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-manassas%3Ahomepage%2Fstory)

CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG MAKING A COMEBACK IN GEORGIA

(Atlanta - July 27, 2011) After more than two decades of misinformation about the history of the Confederate Battle Flag, and Southern heritage in general, in Georgia politics and the media, there is a large and growing movement of citizens who are harkening back to their roots and arming themselves with the truth. An audio CD entitled "The Truth About the Confederate Battle Flag" put out by the Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans is raising eyebrows now that it has sold more than 70,000 copies and orders continue to flood into the Georgia SCV headquarters.

The project began several years ago when a local SCV camp in the Atlanta area, the Chattahoochee Guards, made the decision to "go out on a limb" to have 10,000 of the CD's produced. Since that time the number has continued to climb. While orders for the CD have come from all across the country, the vast majority of the CD's have been distributed throughout the state of Georgia. In addition to the 70,000 CD's which have been sold, a free online version of the CD is available for download at the Georgia SCV website where thousands of additional listeners have heard the presentation online.

"The Truth About the Confederate Battle Flag" is a historically accurate and powerful presentation made by Pastor John Weaver of south Georgia who has served in the ministry for more than 40 years and is a past Chaplain-in-Chief for the SCV national organization. Pastor Weaver is a native Georgian who is one of the most requested revival preachers in America.

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GA Battle Flag (Continued): His presentation on the battle flag incorporates historical information about the creation of the flag and also traces the Christian origins of its design, showing why Southerners have no reason to be ashamed of their flag.

As the CD continues to climb upward to the 100,000 copies sold benchmark, public interest is climbing exponentially. Georgia Division Commander Jack Bridwell of the SCV had this to say about the number of requests for the CD: "It has been amazing to see the interest in young and old alike. So many who hear the CD remark that 'I knew there must be another side to the story.'

Now I feel like I have the facts that have been left out.' The Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans are honored to be able to help set the record straight after all of the hate-filled misinformation that has been said about the flag of our veterans." The Georgia Division has just received a new pressing of the CD in order to keep up with the continuing demand.

For more information about the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, or to order copies of the CD *"The Truth About the Confederate Battle Flag,"* visit www.GeorgiaSCV.org or email the Chattahoochee Guards directly at joelkc2442@gmail.com or timfpilgrim@yahoo.com.

Battle Flag Flies over Okinawa

"How the Confederate Stars and Bars Made its Way to Okinawa"



"Only the Normandy ...D-Day invasion surpassed Okinawa in its scope, preparation and forces employed. More than 548,000 Americans participated in the Okinawa invasion. American service members were surprised to find virtually no resistance as they stormed the beaches on Easter 1945. They soon discovered that the Japanese Imperial Army and Navy had literally gone underground having spent a year forcing Okinawan slaves to dig their underground defenses. It required 83 days of combat to defeat the Japanese.

The invasion of Okinawa was by the newly organized American 10th Army. The 10th, commanded by Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, was composed of the XXIV Corps, made up of veteran Army units including the 7th, 27th, 77th, and 96th Infantry divisions, and the III Amphibious Corps, with three battle-hardened Marine divisions, the 1st, 2nd, and 6th.

One of the most significant milestones in the Okinawan campaign was the taking of Shuri Castle, the underground headquarters of the Japanese Imperial Army. After two months of fighting the Japanese, the 6th Marines and the Army's 7th Division were moving south, nearing Shuri Castle. The 6th Marines were commanded by Maj. Gen. Pedro del Valle. Following a hard fight at Dakeshi Town, del Valle's Marines engaged in a bloody battle at Wana Draw.

Wana Draw stretched 800 yards and was covered by Japanese guns from its 400-yard entrance to its narrow exit. The exit provided the key to Shuri Castle. The Japanese were holed up in caves the entire length of the gully, and had to be eradicated in man-to-man combat.

While the Marines battled through the mud and blood up the draw, the Army's 77th Division was approaching Shuri from the east. To the west, the 6th Marines were pushing into the capital city of Naha. Faced with this overwhelming force, Japanese Gen. Ushijima's army retreated to the south. On May 29, 1945, A Company, Red Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, commanded by Capt. Julius Dusenber, approached to within 800 yards of Shuri Castle. The castle lay within the zone of the 77th Infantry Division, known as the Statue of Liberty Boys. However, Gen. Ushijima's rear guard had stalled the 77th's advance.

Impatient, Maj. Gen. del Valle ordered Capt. Dusenber to "take that damned place if you can. I'll make the explanations." Dusenber radioed back, "Will do!"

Dusenber's Marines stormed the stone fortress, quickly dispatching a detachment of Japanese soldiers who had remained behind. Once the castle had been taken, Dusenber took off his helmet and removed a flag he had been carrying for just such a special occasion. He raised the flag at the highest point of the castle and let loose with a rebel yell. The flag waving overhead was not the Stars and Stripes, but the Confederate Stars and Bars. Most of the Marines joined in the yell, but a disapproving New Englander supposedly remarked, "What does he want now? Should we sing 'Dixie'?"

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Battle Flag Over Okinawa (Continued): Maj. Gen. Andrew Bruce, the commanding general of the 77th Division, protested to the 10th Army that the Marines had stolen his prize. But Lt. Gen. Buckner only mildly chided Gen. del Valle, saying, "How can I be sore at him? My father fought under that flag!"

Gen. Buckner's father was the Confederate Gen. Buckner who had surrendered Fort Donelson to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in 1862. The flag flew only two days over Shuri Castle when it was formally raised on May 31, 1945. Dusenbergs's flag was first lowered and presented to Gen. Buckner as a souvenir. Gen. Buckner remarked, "OK! Now, let's get on with the war!" Tragically, just days before Okinawa fell, Gen. Buckner was killed by an enemy shell on June 18, 1945, on Mezido Ridge while observing a Marine attack."

Flags of the Confederacy

Terry L. Jones *The Southern Cross* July 29, 2011



Confederate Gen. G.T. Beauregard was worried. It was the afternoon of July 21, 1861, and fighting had raged since daylight after General Irwin McDowell's Union army attacked Beauregard from across the small Virginia stream known as Bull Run. The battle seesawed throughout the day, but fresh troops rushed in from the Shenandoah Valley had finally given Beauregard the advantage. Now, just as victory seemed certain, he spied a heavy column of troops more than a mile away maneuvering on his flank.

Gen. G.T. Beauregard later explained, "At their head waved a flag which I could not distinguish. Even by a strong glass I was unable to determine whether it was the United States flag or the Confederate flag. At this moment I received a dispatch from Capt. [Porter] Alexander, in charge of the signal station, warning me to look out for the left; that a large column was approaching in that direction, and that it was supposed to be Gen. [Robert] Patterson's command coming to reinforce McDowell. At this moment, I must confess, my heart failed me."

Beauregard knew his exhausted men could not withstand a determined flank attack. "I came, reluctantly, to the conclusion that after all our efforts, we should at last be compelled to yield to the enemy the hard fought and bloody field." Beauregard turned to an officer and instructed him to go to the rear and tell Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to prepare the reserves to support the retreat he was about to order. As the officer began to leave, Beauregard had second thoughts and told him to wait a minute so they could make sure that it actually was Yankees bearing down upon them.

It proved to be a fortuitous decision. "I took the glass and again examined the flag. ... A sudden gust of wind shook out its folds, and I recognized the stars and bars of the Confederate banner."

The mysterious flag turned out to be the Confederacy's First National Flag, which resembled the United States flag in both color and design. It was carried at the head of Col. Harry T. Hays's Seventh Louisiana Volunteers, one of the lead regiments in Col. Jubal Early's brigade that was launching an attack on the Union flank. Hays's second-in-command, Lt. Col. Charles de Choiseul, wrote home after the battle that the regiment happened to carry the national colors that day instead of its blue regimental flag, but he did not explain why. Early's bold attack helped turn the tide, and the First Battle of Bull Run ended in a complete Confederate victory. Few people knew how close Beauregard had come to throwing that victory away simply because he could not identify one of his own side's flags.

As it turned out, Beauregard was not the first person to mistake the Seventh Louisiana for the enemy at Bull Run. In his memoirs, Early wrote that earlier in the day Confederate Gen. David R. Jones saw Hays's regiment approaching his position and he, too, thought it might be the enemy. Early galloped over to confer with Jones and found him scrutinizing the Louisianians through his binoculars and preparing his men to fire on them. Fortunately, Early got there in time to clear up the confusion.

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Flag (Continued): Early also experienced a moment of uncertainty when he prepared to make his flank attack that afternoon. An officer came up to warn him that a Virginia regiment was on the other side of the hill in his front and not to fire on it. Early was sure there were no friendly forces in that position, but he rode ahead to check and saw soldiers dressed in what appeared to be Confederate uniforms. They, too, carried a flag but it lay limp in the dead air, and Early could not tell whether the troops were friend or foe. It was not until Jeb Stuart's horse artillery opened fire on the men and they retreated that Early saw it was a United States flag.

Determined to avoid such cases of mistaken identity on future battlefields, General Beauregard decided the Confederates needed a distinctive national flag. It just so happened that William Porcher Miles, a South Carolina congressman, was serving on Beauregard's staff at the time, and Miles had considerable experience dealing with flag issues.

William Porcher Miles As chairman of the confederate Committee on the Flag and Seal, Miles had overseen the adoption of the First National Flag a few months earlier. During the committee's deliberations, it became apparent that opinions were split between those who wanted a flag that was similar to the United States because of fond feelings for the old Union and those who wanted something completely different to mark a new beginning. Miles was among the latter, and he submitted a flag design containing a blue St. Andrew's Cross on a red background, with white stars on the cross to represent the Confederate states.

Miles's pattern was based on a South Carolina secession flag that displayed a traditional, or upright, St. George's Cross. However, a Southern Jew objected to the cross and requested of Miles that such a specific religious symbol not be made into a national symbol. Miles agreed to change the design to a St. Andrew's Cross: "It avoided the religious objection about the cross (from the Jews & many Protestant sects), because it did not stand out so conspicuously as if the cross had been placed upright thus."

In the end, the committee rejected Miles's entry and chose a design that was similar to the United States flag. The Confederates' First National Flag would have red and white bars, rather than stripes, and in the upper corner seven white stars (representing the Confederate states at the time) on a blue background. The flag, which became known as the "Stars and Bars," somewhat resembled the original United States flag used during the Revolutionary War.

When, after the Battle of Bull Run, Beauregard mentioned to Miles his desire for a distinctive national flag, Miles told him of his rejected design. Then, acting on behalf of Beauregard, Miles suggested to the Committee on the Flag and Seal that a new national flag be adopted in order to avoid confusion on the battlefield. When the committee refused by a vote of four to one, Beauregard decided there should be two flags.

Beauregard (who by then had embraced the St. Andrew's cross) wrote Gen. Joseph E. Johnston that he had recommended to Miles "that we should have two flags — a peace or parade flag, and a war flag to be used only on the field of battle — but congress having adjourned no action will be taken on the matter — How would it do for us to address the War Dept. on the subject for a supply of Regimental or badge flags made of red with two blue bars crossing each other diagonally on which shall be introduced the stars. ... We would then on the field of battle know our friends from our Enemies."

Johnston agreed and suggested the battle flag be square instead of rectangular so as to be better proportioned. Beauregard introduced the new banner to his officers at a dinner party on Nov. 27, 1861. A reporter for the Richmond Daily Dispatch attended the event and wrote a detailed account for his readers. After telling the story of the confusion at First Bull Run, Beauregard brought the new flag out. The reporter was impressed and wrote, "The flag itself is a beautiful banner, which, I am sure, before this campaign is over, will be consecrated forever in the affections of the people of the Confederate States."

The next day, the new flags were officially issued to the Virginia army with great ceremony. Shortly afterward, Beauregard was transferred to the Western Theater and the new battle flag took root there as well.

The Confederate battle flag. Eleven states officially seceded and joined the Confederacy, but the battle flag also included stars for the slave states of Kentucky and Missouri because they formed Confederate governments in exile.

Flag (Continued): The Southern Cross, as it is sometimes known, was never an official flag of the Confederate government, and it never flew over public buildings, despite what Hollywood might have one believe. Instead, it was simply a military banner that was carried by troops in the field. Nonetheless, it became more popular than the Stars and Bars and was incorporated into the Confederacy's Second and Third National Flags. For 150 years, the Southern Cross has been the symbol of the Rebel cause.

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/29/the-southern-cross/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

Sources: John M. Coski, "*The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem*"; Terry L. Jones, "*The American Civil War*"; Richmond Daily Dispatch, Nov. 27, 1861; Jubal A. Early, "*Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War Between the States*"; Charles de Choiseul to Louisa Watson, Nov. 6, 1861, Historic New Orleans Collection, Tulane University.

Terry L. Jones is a professor of history at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He has written a number of books on the Civil War, including "*The American Civil War*" and "*Lee's Tigers: The Louisiana Infantry in the Army of Northern Virginia*." Dr. Jones is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Stonewall Under Attack From Uneducated

Stance of Stonewall Jackson statue stirs a fuss

Paul Fallon *Charleston (WVA) Daily Mail* July 27, 2011

CHARLESTON, W.Va.-- Howard Swint stirred a hornet's nest with opinion pieces published in local newspapers calling for the statue of Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson on the Capitol grounds to be removed.

Swint, an associate broker of commercial real estate by trade, said he had been thinking about why the statue should be removed for many years.

He believes statues of Confederate soldiers should either be removed or have a sign depicting the horrors of slavery placed next to them. He also believes having memorials to Confederates around West Virginia goes against the premises of the state's creation.

"It just doesn't keep with the spirit of West Virginia's birth and its role in the Civil War," said Swint, 53, of Charleston.

Jackson was born in Clarksburg, in what was then Virginia, in 1824. His father died of typhoid fever when Jackson was 2. Jackson's mother then died of complications during childbirth a few years later.

Jackson and his sister were sent to live with their uncle, Cummins Jackson, who owned a grist mill in Jackson's Mill near Weston.

He took a teaching position at Virginia Military Institute and in 1859 was asked to lead a contingent of VMI cadets to Charles Town to provide military support for the hanging of John Brown.

As war broke out, Jackson went on to become one of the Confederacy's best-known generals after Robert E. Lee.

Jackson gained his 'Stonewall' nickname at the First Battle of Bull Run when, as Confederate lines started to crumble, Brig. Gen. Barnard Elliott Bee, Jr., exhorted his own troops to re-form by shouting, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer. Rally behind the Virginians!"

Confederate pickets accidentally shot Jackson at the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863. He survived the initial wound, although he had to have his arm amputated, but then he died of complications of pneumonia eight days later.

Jackson has remained a legendary, though controversial, figure.

West Virginia was born of the Civil War by those who wanted to separate from Virginia and its aristocratic, pro-slavery ways, Swint said. Therefore, to him it makes little sense to have memorials to those who fought for the opposite side.

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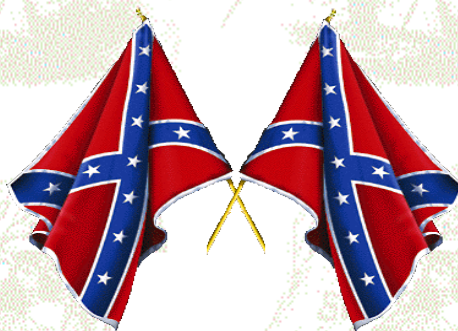
Stonewall Jackson (Continued): Swint's views were molded back in the early 1970s. The Charleston native had a friend — a black teen from South Hills — who was denied service at a restaurant in Myrtle Beach. Swint was 13 years old when this occurred and it stuck with him over the years. "From that point forward I saw things differently," he said. He believes this type of behavior is a legacy of the antebellum South.

Swint cannot pinpoint the exact moment when he began thinking that the Jackson memorial on the Capitol grounds should be removed. Swint spent a lot of time on the Capitol grounds as an advisor to three different governors.

He was a member of the state's Economic Development Office for Govs. Jay Rockefeller, Arch Moore and Gaston Caperton.

<http://www.dailymail.com/News/201107261058>

Audemus jura nostra defendere



We Dare Defend Our Rights

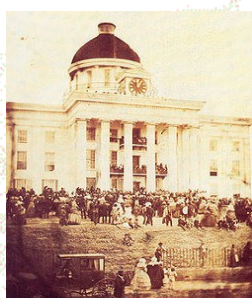
To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish.



Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us the undeniable birthright of our Southern Heritage and the vision, desire, and courage to see it perpetuated.

You can know a man in all his depth or shallowness by his attitude toward the Southern Banner.

A People Without Pride in Their Heritage, Is a Nation Without Purpose." - Walter E. Dockery



LEST WE FORGET
Our quest shall ever be
That we shall again see
The Battle Flag of Lee
Returned to the dome of the
First Capital of the
Confederacy