

June 2011



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



*I Salute The Confederate Flag With Affection, Reverence,
and Undying Devotion to the Cause for Which It Stands.*

From The Adjutant

Commander :

David Allen

1st Lieutenant Cdr :

John Harris

2nd Lieutenant Cdr &

Adjutant :

Frank Delbridge

Color Sergeant :

Clyde Biggs

Chaplain :

Dr. Wiley Hales

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Gen. RE Rodes Camp 262, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will meet Thursday night, June 9, 2011, at 7 PM in the Tuscaloosa Public Library.

Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Richard Rhone, Commander of the General Gorgas Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. He will be speaking about Confederate Veterans Homes.

We will be seeing if any our Camp members suffered severe tornado damage during the April 27th tornado, and might be able to use some help while recovering from it.

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.

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Upcoming Events



9 June - Camp Meeting

14 July - Camp Meeting

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

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 jbsimms@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's Brigade/D.H. Hill's Division and Rodes Division/II Corps.

Support Your Confederate Heritage



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 (<http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/scv.htm>). 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

SCV 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>

Historical Markers of Tuscaloosa County & Surrounding Area

Gorgas House

Built 1829 as University dining hall–Remodeled as a residence in 1840–Occupied by Gorgas family 1879-1953. Gorgas House–Preserved as memorial to: General Josiah Gorgas (1818-1883) Chief of Ordnance Confederacy 1861-1865. President of University 1878-1879. Mrs. Amelia Gayle Gorgas (1826-1913)–University Librarian 1879-1906.

General William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920) Surgeon General of U.S. Army–Sanitary Engineer whose work assured Panama Canal construction through elimination of Yellow Fever. (Located in Tuscaloosa at Gorgas House)

Gorgas-Manly Historic District

Twelve acres of the campus on the University of Alabama including eight buildings designated in the National Register of Historic Places as the Gorgas-Manly District.

The Gorgas-Manly Historic District includes: The Gorgas House (1829), first structure built on the original campus; The Round House (1860), used by cadets on guard duty, another of the four buildings to survive the fires set by Federal troops in 1865; Woods Hall (1868), first building constructed after the Civil War and serving for the next sixteen years as the University; Manly (1886), Clark (1886), Garland (1888) Halls, built as the state began to recover from the Reconstruction Era; Toumey and Barnard Halls (1888), which completed the nineteenth-century University of Alabama campus.

Rodes Camp Website Report for May 2011

66 visits for 146 page views. Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Kentucky, California, Tennessee, North Carolina, Louisiana, Colorado, New York, Florida, West Virginia, Arkansas, Virginia, Delaware, Alaska, Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi, and Illinois. The all-time count is 2,514 page views from 900 visitors.

News of the Rodes Camp

I passed some of the tabloids out at one of our meetings about a year ago.

David

“My new book, *The Un-Civil War: Shattering the Historical Myths*, published by Universal Media/Tribune Papers, should be available for shipment by May 27. This is a 360 page, standard size soft cover, revising and expanding the material in the original tabloid version by about 70%. A discount is available to facebook friends. Enquire at mikescruggs1066@gmail.com.”

2011 Reenactments in this Area.

June - TBA	Shiloh Living History	Shiloh, MS
June 10-12, 2011	Battle of Brice's Crossroads	Baldwyn, MS
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 June

General Samuel Cooper - 12 June 1798 - Hackensack, N.J.
 General John Bell Hood - 1 June 1831 - Owingsville, Ky.
 Maj. General Daniel Smith Donelson - 23 June 1801 - Sumner Co., Tenn.
 Maj. General James Lawson Kemper - 11 June 1823 - Madison Co., Va.
 Brig. General John Decatur Barry - 21 June 1839 - Wilmington, N.C.
 Brig. General Cullen Andrews Battle - 1 June 1829 - Powelton, Ga.
 Brig. General Alexander William Campbell - 4 June 1828 - Nashville, Tenn.
 Brig. General John Rogers Cooke - 9 June 1833 - Jefferson Barracks, Md.
 Brig. General Junius Daniel - 27 June 1828 - Halifax, N.C.
 Brig. General John Buchanan Floyd - 1 June 1806 - Montgomery Co., Va.
 Brig. General Brikett Davenport Fry - 24 June 1822 - Kanawha Co., Va.
 Brig. General Richard Montgomery Gano - 17 June 1830 - Bourbon Co., Ky.
 Brig. General William Montgomery Gardner - 8 June 1824 - Augusta, Ga.
 Brig. General Victor Jean Baptiste Girardey - 26 June 1837 - Lauw, France
 Brig. General Martin Edwin Green - 3 June 1815 - Fauquier Co., Va.
 Brig. General Benjamin Hardin Helm - 2 June 1831 - Bardstown, Ky.
 Brig. General Benjamin Jefferson Hill - 13 June 1825 - McMinnville, Tenn.
 Brig. General Henry Rootes Jackson - 24 June 1820 - Athens, Ga.
 Brig. General Young Marshall Moody - 23 June 1822 - Chesterfield Co., Va.
Brig. General John Hunt Morgan - 1 June 1825 - Huntsville, Ala.
 Brig. General John Tyler Morgan - 20 June 1824 - Athens, Tenn.
 Brig. General Gideon Johnson Pillow - 8 June 1806 - Williamson Co., Tenn.
 Brig. General Gabriel James Rains - 4 June 1803 - Craven Co., N.C.
 Brig. General Beverly Holcombe Robertson - 5 June 1827 - Amelia Co., Va.
 Brig. General Paul Jones Semmes - 4 June 1815 - Wilkes Co., Ga.
 Brig. General James Edwin Slaughter - in June 1827 - Cedar Mountain, Va.
 Brig. General Otho French Strahl - 3 June 1831 - McConnelsville, Ohio
 Brig. General Thomas Fentress Toon - 10 June 1840 - Columbus Co., N.C.
 Brig. General William Tatum Woffard - 28 June 1824 - Habersham Co., Ga.
 Brig. General Marcus Joswph Wright - 5 June 1831 - Purdy, Tenn.

Sixty-Second Alabama Infantry Regiment

Lockhart's Battalion, the nucleus of this regiment, was organized at Selma, in January 1864, and was on duty in the State till July, when it moved up to Cheha, and lost severely in the fight there with Rousseau. A few days after, it was organized as the Sixty-second Alabama regiment, at Mobile. Stationed at Fort Gaines, the regiment was in the bombardment of that place, losing several killed and wounded, and the remainder captured. The prisoners were taken to New Orleans and Ship Island, and subjected to brutal treatment at the hands of the enemy.

Exchanged in Mobile Bay, Jan. 4, 1865. Placed in garrison at Spanish Fort, as part of Thomas' brigade (with the Sixty-third Alabama), the regiment withstood the siege there for six days, with some loss, and was then relieved by Holtzclaw's brigade. It served through the siege and bombardment of Blakeley, losing a number killed and wounded, and was captured in the assault on the works.

Taken to Ship Island, the men were exchanged in time to be surrendered with the department. The regiment was composed wholly of young men, and was complimented in special orders by Gen. Lidell for its conduct at Spanish Fort.

Field and Staff

Colonels -- Daniel Huger of Mobile.

Lieut. Colonels -- James L. Davidson of Bibb; till re-organized. Brount Yniestre; captured at Blakeley.

Majors -- B. Yniestre of Mobile; promoted. J. W. Pitts of Shelby; captured at Blakeley.

Adjutants -- T. G. Bush of Pickens; captured at Blakeley.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Greene -- Wm. H. King.

Perry and Dallas -- George D. Shortridge, Jr; captured at Blakeley.

St. Clair and Randolph -- Joseph Thornton; captured at Blakeley.

Talladega -- William Donahoe.

Dallas and Perry -- Jos. J. Alston; captured at Blakeley.

Calhoun and Talladega -- Junius L. Walthall.

Shelby and Talladega -- J. W. Pitts; promoted. Wailes Wallace; captured at Blakeley.

Perry -- James A. McCaw; wounded at Cheha.

Calhoun, St. Clair, Randolph -- Henry Foy.

Bibb -- Wm. C. Ward; wounded at Spanish Fort; captured at Blakeley.

Sixty-Third Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was organized at Blakeley, in July 1864, and nearly all of the men except two companies ("A" and "B") were conscripts from various parts of the State, the officers being mostly veterans. The regiment remained in the defenses of Mobile till ordered to Spanish Fort, three days before the place was invested, March 1865.

It was, with the Sixty-second, a part of Gen. Thomas' brigade, and lost several killed and wounded during the first six days' operations at Spanish Fort.

Relieved, and sent to Blakeley, the Sixty-third arrived there in time to share in all the privations and perils of that siege. After some loss, it was captured with the fortress, April 9, 1865, about 300 in number, and exchanged just prior to the surrender of the department.

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AL Civil War Units (Continued):

Field and Staff

Colonels -- Oland S. Rice; till re-organized. Junius A. Law of Macon; captured at Blakeley.

Lieut. Colonels -- Junius A. Law; promoted. John H. Echols of Macon; captured at Blakeley.

Majors -- John H. Echols; promoted. I. W. Suttle of Coosa; captured at Spanish Fort.

Adjutants -- David Johnston of Macon, (acting); captured at Blakeley.

The following were captains in the regiment:

James Armstrong, W. C. Zimmerman, Charles W. Martin, Alto V. Lee, Spottswood Garland, all captured at Blakeley; and I. W. Suttle, promoted, succeeded by ... Johnson, killed at Spanish Fort.

Sixty-Fourth Alabama Infantry Regiment

[There may have been such a regiment as the Sixty-fourth Alabama among the organizations at Mobiles but it could have served but a few months, and in no engagement.]

Sixty-Fifth Alabama Infantry Regiment

The nucleus of this regiment was the Fourth Alabama battalion of reserves, seven companies, which organized in July 1864 at Mobile, with Wm. M. Stone of Sumter as lieutenant colonel, and E. M. Underhill of Mobile as Major. The battalion was in garrison at Mobile, and in November was organized as the Sixty-fifth regiment. In December the regiment was sent to east Mississippi to repel a raid, and remained there several weeks.

Ordered from Mobile to North Carolina, the regiment was stopped at Montgomery, and ordered to report to Gen. Buford. It retired before Wilson's column to Gerard, and participated in the battle there, losing several killed and wounded, and the remainder mostly captured.

Field and Staff

Colonels -- E. M. Underhill of Mobile.

Lieut. Colonels -- E. Toomer of Mobile.

Majors -- S. B. Waring of Mobile.

Adjutants -- C. F. Westfeldt of Mobile; resigned. C. H. Minge of Mobile.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came

Mobile -- A. J. Leslie; captured at Girard.

Mobile -- Bass; captured at Mobile.

Mobile -- Magoffin.

Monroe -- Snowdon.

.....-- Atkinson; captured at Girard.

Conecuh -- ... Walker; captured at Girard.

Mobile -- E. Toomer; promoted. Lewis; captured at Girard.

Macon -- Smith.

Coosa -- Demson.

Dale -- Thornton; captured at Girard.

News From the Civil War Trust

May 2011

Dear Civil War Preservationist,

I am hoping that many of you had the opportunity to join us at our recently completed 2011 Annual Conference in Manassas, Virginia. What a great conference it was -- maybe our best ever. The many battlefield tours with leading historians and great lectures were only eclipsed in my mind by the opportunity to be with many of you, our great supporters.

And, for those of you who couldn't make this year's conference, we have a number of great videos and photos from the event that you can check out via the links below.

I do hope that many more of you will join us in Richmond, Virginia for next year's conference.

- Jim Lighthizer, *Civil War Trust President*

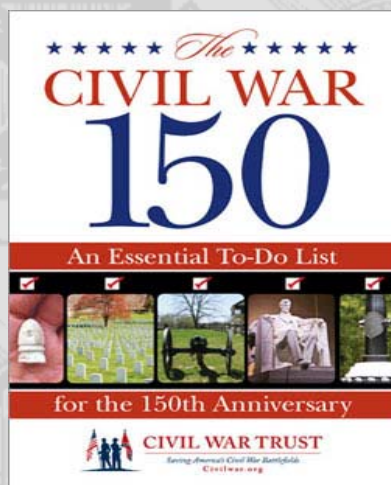
The Civil War 150: An Essential To-Do List AN INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR GARRY ADELMAN

The Civil War Trust had the chance to sit down with one of its own

GA: Early in 2010 I had spoken with my colleague, Jim Campi, about Garry Adelman, Director of History and Education -- to talk about his new book, *The Civil War 150: An Essential To-Do List*. The Civil War 150 is a guide book that seeks to encourage people to expand their knowledge of the Civil War by visiting new Civil War sites and to do various Civil War related activities.

Civil War Trust: There are already plenty of Civil War site guides out there, why another?

Garry Adelman: Because this one is different than any other guide. I realized that every other guide encourages people to go to places or simply learn about things instead of encouraging them to actually do things. This approach allowed for the inclusion of numerous activities—like holding Minie Ball, seeing *Gone With the Wind*, or experiencing a battlefield illumination—that are absent from other Civil War guides. This, combined with the “checklist” format of the book, which I know Civil War enthusiasts will enjoy, makes this book unique.



The Civil War 150: An Essential To-Do List for the 150th Anniversary (Illustrated Living History Series) By The Civil War Trust

List: \$14.95 Price: \$ 10.17 & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25.

Availability: Usually ships in 1 to 4 weeks. Ships from and sold by Amazon.com

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CWPT News (Continued):

Civil War Trust: How did this project get started?

GA: Early in 2010 I had spoken with my colleague, Jim Campi, about assembling some sort of a sesquicentennial “bucket list” for Civil War enthusiasts. Soon after, my commuter train was stuck for hours and when my computer batter ran out, I started jotting down possible entries for the book. I wrote down more than 300 to-do-list entries that evening and I realized that hundreds more were still missing. The master list now contains more than 1200 entries, but we wanted to keep the list in the book to only 150.

Civil War Trust: Sounds impossible, how did you assemble the list?

GA: Painfully and slowly! First, I winnowed the list down to the most obvious essentials—standing atop Snodgrass Hill at [Chickamauga](#), crossing Burnside’s Bridge at [Antietam](#), learning how to fire a Civil War gun, that sort of thing—and then looked at geography and topical variety and added some back in. Remarkably, this effort brought me to about 170. I then ran the list by my contributing editors and others and made editorial cuts. In the end we have 150 things of which 25 are not geographically specific. The remaining 125 are in more than 20 states and are supplemented by a dozen sidebars about various Civil War topics.

Civil War Trust: Why should people do all this stuff?

GA: That’s actually the name of one of the book’s sidebars, so let me quote it: “There’s nothing more powerful than the authenticity of the real thing. We stand awestruck at these places, as we try to learn what happened there, and we are moved in some way --whether saddened, angered, confused, uplifted, passionate, or enriched. You can drive west of Petersburg and see where Grant accepted Lee’s surrender. You can stand atop Lookout Mountain and ponder the impossibility of seizing the height. You can visit the room where President Lincoln breathed his last, and you can literally touch the same trees, rocks, and door handles while gazing up at the same sun, moon, and stars as the brave souls involved in the conflict so long ago. Call it a history lesson, call it time travel, call it whatever you’d like. In the end, doing, as opposed to simply learning, is deeply meaningful.”

Civil War Trust: What are some of the sites that people will not expect to be on the list that made the cut?

GA: At the end of the book, I categorized each listing and many are listed as “hidden gems” like Kentucky’s Camp Nelson, Virginia’s North Anna or White Oak Museum, Georgia’s Southern Museum, and even the Drum Barracks in California. I also suspect that people will be surprised and happy to see things like helping to get a kid interested in the Civil War or, of course, preserving a battlefield on the list.

Civil War Trust: How many have you done on the list?

GA: I have completed 131 of the 150.

Civil War Trust: And what has that done for you?

GA: Even though I assembled the list, I very much enjoyed checking off the items I had done. It was a cool experience and it makes me want to finish my own list! It’s tough however, as hardly any of my remaining sites, such as Fort Donelson, Andersonville, Wilson’s Creek, Mobile Bay, and Picaho Peak are remotely near each other! The only thing in the “basics” (non-geographic) section, I have not done is, embarrassingly, attended a battlefield illumination, which by all accounts is a moving and awesome experience.

CWPT News (Continued): Civil War Trust: Do you have a favorite site on the list?

GA: Absolutely, but there is no way I will share that in an interview! I expect to receive plenty of flack as it is for cutting essential things off of a list of essential things.



Gary Aldelman at the 20th Maine Monument.

Civil War Trust: What about all these other sites?

GA: After we edited the list down to 150 things, the Civil War Trust web team has been working to post at least 1,000 more listings on line with the aim of assembling one listing for each of the roughly 1,400 days of the Civil War. The first few hundred of these are being launched this month.

Civil War Trust: Do people get a prize if they complete all 150?

GA: Ummm, yeah, they get the satisfaction of being a bigger Civil War nerd than I am!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Garry Adelman is the author, co-author or editor of more than thirty books and articles concerning the Civil War. He is the vice president of the Center for Civil War Photography and has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg for 16 years. He works full time as director of History and Education at the Civil War Trust.

Veterans group helps clean up historical cemeteries after tornadoes

May 20, 2011 By Lionel Green *[The Sand Mountain Reporter](#)*



David V. Lee Currey shows where Pvt. S.E. Finney is buried alongside a Southern Cross of Honor at the Civil War Cemetery in Albertville. Currey is commander of Capt. John Rayburn Camp No. 452, the Marshall County camp of the Sons of Confederate Veter-

cleanup as part of their duty.

Marshall County members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans assisted Albertville and Guntersville in cleanup efforts in two historic cemeteries following the April 27 tornado outbreak in north Alabama.

David V. Lee Currey is commander of Capt. John Rayburn Camp No. 452, the SCV camp for Marshall County.

Currey estimated at least 43 Confederate soldiers are buried in Guntersville City Cemetery and eight or more are buried in the Civil War Cemetery in Albertville, some unmarked.

“We did stand up three or four tombstones that were knocked down and one of them that was broken,” Currey said. “We repaired it the best we could. There’s some more work to be done.

“The cities done a lot of the chainsaw work,” he added. “We done mostly the small work, picking up limbs and standing those tombstones up, especially at Guntersville.”

Currey said Camp No. 452’s namesake, John Rayburn, is buried in Guntersville City Cemetery, and members of the camp consider assisting with

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Cemetery Cleanup (Continued):

“This is just what we do,” Currey said. “That’s part of our heritage. In 1896, the Sons of Confederate Veterans was created to mainly help old veterans of the Confederate war. Since then it’s escalated into monument and grave preservation. We make sure that’s taken care of.”

http://www.sandmountainreporter.com/news/local/article_be824bc2-8300-11e0-8c4c-001cc4c03286.html

Real Son In Alabama

‘Real son’ of Confederate veteran keeps busy in Tarrant

May 22, 2011 By Greg Garrison -- *The Birmingham News*

“My daddy was 80 when I come in this world,” said Denney at his home in Tarrant, where he keeps 10 beehives in the backyard to harvest honey. “I was 13 years old when he died. He never did talk about the Civil War. He never said nothing about it.”

But his father, Thomas Jefferson Denney, is heavily documented as having fought in the Civil War, as part of Company H in the 31st Alabama Infantry regiment. He was captured by Union forces on June 15, 1864 near Marietta, Ga., and held prisoner at Rock Island Barracks, Illinois, where he signed an oath of allegiance to the United States upon his release on June 18, 1865.

That makes Tyus Denney one of the last living “real sons” of Confederate veterans, according to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, an organization made up mostly of descendants several generations further removed from their Confederate ancestors. Denney’s sister, Vivian Smith, 88, of Cullman, is one of the last living “real daughters” of Confederate veterans.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans keeps track of the number of “real sons,” and “real daughters,” believed to be eight or fewer in Alabama, said Jim Shackelford, adjutant for the Forrest Camp #1435 branch of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

People today marvel and wonder why women of childbearing age were marrying elderly men in the Depression era, Shackelford said. “It was hard times,” he said. “A lot of these women needed support and these Confederate veterans got a pension, maybe \$13 to \$20 a month. That was a lot of money in the Depression.”

Alabama and other former Confederate states paid out Confederate pensions as late as the 1950s, Shackelford said. Tom Strain of Athens, attending a state meeting of Sons of Confederate Veterans on Saturday in Birmingham, said a national database kept by the group lists 48 men who are “real sons” of Confederate veterans. Ten years ago, there were more than 500, he said.

Thomas Jefferson Denney was born in 1844, according to the 1900 U.S. Census, so he was about 18 when he enlisted with the Confederate Army in 1862. He was in his eighties when he married his last wife, Dora, a widow. “She was in her forties when I was born,” Denney said. Thomas and Dora had three children together before the Civil War veteran died at age 91 in 1934.

Tyus Denney was born May 8, 1921. He pointed out a picture of himself, around age 10, and his sister, about 8, with his parents. His father wore dark-rimmed glasses, a dark suit jacket and had a bushy white mustache and long wispy beard. Tyus now resembles him with a bushy white mustache, but he shaves his beard.

Denney has three daughters, including Rolline Sisson, 67, of Tarrant. She never thought it was odd that her grandfather fought in the Civil War. “I’ve just lived with it all my life and didn’t think that much of it,” Sisson said. “A lot of people are amazed. It is amazing.”

Denney still drives from time to time and goes out to eat with his daughters at the Cedar House in Tarrant, or the Burger King or McDonald’s.

Taking care of his honey bees keeps him active daily, and he eats honey every morning on oatmeal or on crumbled generic corn flakes he buys from a discount store. He points to a tiny red mark where a bee stung him recently. “I mashed one and he got me,” he said. “It hurts, but it don’t swell.” Denney wears a face net around the bees, but no protection on his arms, torso and legs.

In 1986, the Sons of Confederate Veterans made Denney a lifetime member, not required to pay dues. He sometimes goes to Civil War reenactments. “I just watch,” he said. “I don’t know nothing about the war.”

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Real Son (Continued): He said he is a veteran of World War II, trained as a machine gunner at the end of the war, but he never saw combat. Denney worked for 39 years at the Dolcito Quarry in Tarrant as a heavy equipment operator. After retiring he spent a lot of time fishing on Emerald Valley Lake.

He pointed to four mounted largemouth bass on a wall in his home, all over eight pounds. "I went out when it was cold, using creek minnows out of Five Mile Creek and Turkey Creek," he said. "I've quit fishing. I've got too old. They don't want me out in a boat."

http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2011/05/real_son_of_confederate_vetera.html#incart_hbx

Clearing Wirz name, Yankee Criminals Go Unpunished

From Switzerland to Rowan to clear Wirz name from Civil War

May 20, 2011 By Mark Wineka *The Salisbury (NC) Post*



Heinrich L. Wirz, great-great-nephew of Capt. Henry Wirz, Commandant of the Andersonville, Ga. Confederate Prison. Visited Salisbury to see the area where the Salisbury Confederate Prison. Photo by jon C. Lakey, Salisbury Post.

For the past 20 years, Heinrich L. Wirz of Bremgarten, Switzerland, has made it a personal quest to learn as much as he can of an ancestor who became an infamous figure in the American Civil War.

In roughly a dozen trips to the United States, including his three-week visit this month, Wirz has collected a wealth of information that increasingly persuades him that Capt. Henry Wirz, commandant of the Andersonville (Ga.) Confederate Prison at war's end, was unjustly executed.

"I do not blame anybody for all of this," the 75-year-old Wirz said Wednesday during a visit to Salisbury. "My mission (is) to find the truth and give justice to my great-grand uncle ... to take away the stain of the name on our own family. "I'm especially touched with this."

The Andersonville Confederate Prison was even more notorious than Salisbury's in that 12,913 of 45,000 Union prisoners died there of starvation, dysentery and disease.

Estimates of the number of prisoners (and others) who died in Salisbury have varied wildly through the years. The best guess historians give today is between 4,000 and 5,000 dead, which led to the U.S. government's establishment in 1870 of the Salisbury National Cemetery.

Part of the cemetery takes in the trenches of prisoners who were buried in mass graves.

After the Civil War, Captain Wirz was court-martialed on charges of conspiracy and murder, tried in Washington, sentenced to death by a military commission and hanged on Nov. 10, 1865. He is often described as the only Confederate official to be tried, convicted and executed for war crimes resulting from the Civil War.

The present-day Heinrich Wirz has found "so many descriptions" about his ancestor's trial suggesting it was a kangaroo court, he says. Captain Wirz proved to be a scapegoat of sorts, especially with the lingering Northern outrage over the assassination of President Lincoln, Heinrich Wirz adds.

He also cites evidence that the night before he was hanged, Captain Wirz was offered a pardon if he would implicate Confederate President Jefferson Davis and testify that he ordered Wirz to mistreat prisoners.

Wirz refused and was hanged in sight of the U.S. Capitol building. He is buried in Washington's Mount Olivet Cemetery, a place Heinrich Wirz has visited many times, often for memorial services conducted by organizations such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Wirz is a retired colonel in the Swiss Army, a writer in defense and military affairs and a self-described "independent parliamentary journalist." He started out compiling information on Capt. Henry Wirz for a family history and a brochure on federal military history.

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Wirz (Continued): But now that his notebook of documents exceeds 170 pages, Wirz realizes he probably should be considering a book, with an English translation. Beyond that, he would like to see Capt. Henry Wirz someday receive a presidential pardon, or have a military commission posthumously reverse his ancestor's conviction.

Wirz came to Salisbury Wednesday with a lawyerly young assistant, Florian A. Strahm, who will be taking his bar exam in Switzerland later this year. They have been in the States since May 7, expecting to return home May 29.

Salisbury held interest to them because of its Confederate Prison history and the fact that its commandant, Maj. John Henry Gee, was similarly court-martialed after the war on charges of murder and not supplying sufficient rations, clothing, fuel, shelter and water at the Salisbury prison.

Gee was tried in Raleigh, not Washington, and was found guilty only of "weakness in retaining a position when unable to carry out dictates of humanity." The Gee trial was held in February 1866, and he was released by July of the same year.

Ed and Sue Curtis served as Salisbury tour guides for Wirz and Strahm Wednesday. It was only several months ago, Wirz said, that he became aware of the Gee trial and discovered a book written about Gee by one of his ancestors.

Wirz couldn't help but notice how the stories of Andersonville and Salisbury parallel each other in many respects. "That's what is striking," he said. "The scene behind the scene and the similarities."

The original Hartmann Heinrich Wirz, who became known in the United States as Capt. Henry Wirz, was sentenced in his native Switzerland to four years in prison for debts. He served only one year but was banned from Zurich for 10 years.

An exile, he left the country for Russia, then Italy, then the United States, where he arrived in 1849. He eventually wound up a member of the Confederacy's 4th Louisiana Infantry in 1861.

He rose in rank to sergeant, then captain. He served as an officer at the Richmond Confederate Prison and later as commandant for the prison in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Before becoming commandant for the Andersonville Prison, he also served as a special emissary in Paris and Berlin for Confederate President Davis.

He became commandant at Andersonville March 27, 1864. "It's a sad story," Wirz says of his long-ago ancestor.

History has well documented the horrific conditions Union soldiers coped with at both the Andersonville and Salisbury prisons.

Wirz and Strahm left Salisbury Wednesday afternoon for Charleston and Hilton Head, S.C., where they hoped to speak with an attorney who wrote a 1986 article in which he described the Wirz trial as a national disgrace.

Other cities on the men's itinerary include Savannah, Americus and Andersonville, Ga., where the prison site includes a National Cemetery and National Prisoner of War Museum. Wirz also has made trips to Natchez, Miss., where local residents helped him to find the grave of Henry Wirz's daughter, Cora Lee Wirz, in 2006. He also has tracked down ancestors or information about Wirz in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

R. Fred Ruhlman of Pine Mountain, Ga., may be the biggest scholar in the United States when it comes to Wirz. He wrote the 2006 University of Tennessee Press book titled, "Captain Henry Wirz and Andersonville Prison: A Reappraisal."

Wirz claims that Ruhlman, based on his research, applied for a presidential pardon for his ancestor in 2006. Wirz, for one, is still waiting.

<http://www.salisburypost.com/News/052011-wineka-sidebar-civil-war-henry-wirz-w-pix-qcd>

SCV Fights For Plates in Texas and Kentucky.

Confederate group fights for state specialty plates

Greg Latshaw, *USA TODAY* Friday 13, 2011

As the nation observes the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, a Confederate heritage group is fighting for the right to place the Confederate flag on license plates in three new states — Florida, Kentucky and Texas.

Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), based in Columbia, Tenn., already offers the Confederate-inspired tags in nine southern states: Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina,

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SCV Plates (Continued): Tennessee and Virginia, says Ben Sewell, the group's executive director.

"The plates promote a positive image of the Confederate States of America. The Confederate soldier, he takes a beating nowadays. We're trying to divest ourselves of the negative associations," says Jay Barringer, the commander of the SCV Maryland Division.

Critics, including the NAACP, contend that the Confederate emblem is a hurtful symbol and doesn't belong on state-issued license plates.

SCV members have gone to court, winning each time a state has tried to deny, recall or censor imagery on their Confederate plates, Sewell says. Revenues from plate sales have been used to restore historic artifacts, members from state SCV divisions say.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said he will not denounce a proposal for a state-issued license plate to honor Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, an early leader of the Ku Klux Klan.

Federal courts have differed on how far the First Amendment goes in protecting an individual's vanity plates and a group's specialty plates, says David Hudson Jr., an attorney and First Amendment scholar with the First Amendment Center in Nashville.

Hudson says courts have heard cases on everything from vanity plates that abbreviate swear words or spell out "Aryan-1" to several cases in which anti-abortion and abortion rights groups have clashed over "Choose Life" specialty license plates.

A crucial question with specialty plates is whether the plate is a form of private speech or government speech. The distinction determines if traditional First Amendment principles apply, he says.

"To me, this issue is not going away. It's a perennial First Amendment issue," Hudson says, adding that he could see the Supreme Court eventually weighing in on the subject.

On March 30, a federal judge ruled that Florida's specialty license plates program — under which the state Legislature approves the plates — is unconstitutional because it gives "unfettered discretion to engage in viewpoint discrimination." The state SCV sued the state after the Legislature didn't approve their Confederate Heritage plate, says John Adams, of the SCV Florida Division.

David Westberry, spokesman for the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, says the ruling didn't order the state to issue the plates and that it's up to the Legislature to decide whether it will rework the statute.

Adams says the SCV will use the ruling to insist that a lawmaker sponsor a bill backing their plate and, if that fails, may take the issue back to court.

Elsewhere:

- The Texas SCV had its Confederate plate design denied by the Department of Motor Vehicles Board on April 14, says Ray James, commander of the division. James says his group, for the time being, plans to bring their design back up to the DMV board because the last vote occurred without the ninth board member present.

"We exist to honor veterans. But we're not seen as honoring veterans. We're seen as waving the battle flag in front of the African-American population out of orneriness, race and hate," James says.

- The Kentucky SCV is considering a suit against the state by this summer because of what it sees as a double standard in the state's specialty plate program, says spokesman Don Shelton. He says his group wants to put up money for the plate in advance and get people to agree to buy it later — as he says the sponsor behind a Lincoln Bicentennial license plate did in 2007 — but has been told that method isn't valid anymore.

- The Mississippi SCV, which wants to release a five-part series of specialty license plates through 2015 to honor the Civil War sesquicentennial, has upset the NAACP with their choice for 2014. The state division suggests a plate for Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest — controversial because Forrest was the Ku Klux Klan's first Grand Wizard and was involved in the 1864 massacre of black Union troops at Fort Pillow, Tenn. A Facebook group against the proposal, called "Mississippians Against The Commemoration Of Grand Wizard Nathan Forrest," has more than 2,400 likes.

Lincoln Defies Supreme Court and Constitution

May 31, 2011

Brag Bowling: President Lincoln suspended the Writ of Habeas Corpus along the military lines between Philadelphia and Annapolis in April; was it used primarily as a political tool to harass and intimidate residents?

General Sherman was famously quoted that , “War is Hell”. Suppression of internal dissent can prove hellish also. Maryland would prove to be the laboratory for many of President Abraham Lincoln’s more draconian policies. Lincoln early on recognized Maryland’s strategic and political importance and that Maryland could upset everything if she seceded. Washington D.C. would quickly fall upon secession and the loss of the nation’s capitol could jeopardize the entire war. A huge defeat as the war was beginning. Maryland needed to be pacified at any cost.

Lincoln knew he had little public support in Maryland. The 1860 election in Maryland provided zero electoral votes. Lincoln had to surreptitiously travel through Maryland to even reach Washington for his Inauguration. While there were pockets of pro-Union sentiment, Maryland was a Southern state and Baltimore was the epicenter of Confederate passion there.

Actual violence occurred on April 19 when hordes of Confederate sympathizers clashed with Massachusetts troops at the Pratt Street Station. Lincoln acted quickly by instituting a system of arbitrary arrests and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. Nearly any form of political dissent would be treated as treasonous. A system of military tribunals without normal constitutional protections was instituted. Warrantless arrests and indefinite prison terms were now the norm. This was done despite the fact that the Constitution is quite specific in that Article 1, Section 9 provides that only Congress can suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

Lincoln’s unconstitutional actions resulted in the famed federal case of Ex Parte Merryman whereby Chief Justice Roger B. Taney rebuked Lincoln and called his actions illegal. Arrogantly, Lincoln ignored the decision and even had an arrest warrant issued for the Chief Justice. These actions served to quiet the judiciary who feared for their own liberty and that Lincoln would cause a total collapse of our constitutional system.

By suspending habeas corpus, Lincoln opened the floodgates of despotism, allowing soldiers and policemen to roam the streets and arrest anyone they didn’t like. This later included members of the Maryland General Assembly. On September 12 - 13, 51 arrests occurred when the Assembly was preparing to debate potential secession and the legislators were sent to Ft. McHenry. Lincoln had successfully destroyed the democratic process in Maryland. Among those joining the lawmakers at Ft. McHenry was the mayor of Baltimore, the police chief and marshall of Baltimore, and, on the anniversary of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner, Frank Key Howard, grandson of Francis Scott Key.

As the war continued, Lincoln added to a growing despotic bag of tricks. Nationally, press freedom was abridged by closing nearly 300 newspapers and imprisoning dissident editors. It is estimated that nearly 20,000 people were imprisoned without habeas corpus protection. Elections were often rigged (including Maryland). Abuse of Southerners became commonplace. Destruction of private property and wholesale burnings of cities brought war to a whole new ghastly meaning, all with the goal of creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation among the civilian population.

Lincoln also punished his political opposition. His chief opponent in the North, Clement Vallandigham was arbitrarily arrested and deported to the south. Van Landingham’s offense was strictly as an anti-war critic and leader of the Democratic Party opposition. During Vietnam, one wonders how many sleepless nights President Lyndon Johnson lay pondering how he could control and punish his numerous anti-war critics in public, the media and in Congress. Harsh critics such as Sen. Robert Kennedy, journalist Walter Cronkite and Sen. J. William Fulbright did no more than Vallandigham. The difference was that Johnson refused to take the harsh measures Lincoln thrived on.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/house-divided/post/brag-bowling-president-lincoln-suspended-the-writ-of-habeas-corpus-along-the-military-lines-between-philadelphia-and-annapolis-in-april-was-it-used-primarily-as-a-political-tool-to-harass-and-intimidate-residents/2010/12/20/AGlcAgFH_blog.html

Lincoln's Choices Led to war

Brag Bowling: Did secession come because of the work of a minority of hot heads or was it a near universal movement in the South?

By Brad Bowling May 23, 2011

The word "secession" was originally coined in July, 1787, during the Constitutional Convention. From that time on, a large and influential body of opinion in every part of the country considered secession an inalienable right of any state. Nearly all politicians supported the concept.

On January 12, 1848, a young Congressman spoke the following words during a debate defending the Mexican War:

"Any people, anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government and form another one that suits them better....This is a most valuable, a moral sacred right- a right which we hope and believe will liberate the world."

The speaker that day was none other than Abraham Lincoln.

On December 20, 1860, South Carolina formally withdrew from the Union and was closely followed by Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas. Certainly an argument could be made that the fire eaters in those states did much to stir up secession sentiment. The "cotton states" seceded primarily for economic reasons and a fear that their economies would be disrupted by the ascension of Lincoln and the Republican Party to national governance. It should be noted that these states represented a tiny minority of the Southern population, had virtually no manufacturing, and were probably militarily incapable of defending their newly created sovereignty.

The firing on Ft. Sumter allowed Lincoln to inaugurate war when he called upon all the remaining states in the Union to furnish 75,000 troops to invade the lower South. At that time, only 7 of the 15 slave states had seceded. Those remaining slave states had opted against secession, preferring to remain in the Union and work out the problems which had divided North and South for over 50 years. States such as Kentucky, Missouri and Maryland, while not formally seceding, exhibited significant Southern sentiment and furnished numerous soldiers to the Southern cause. Lincoln's call to arms changed everything by galvanizing martial opinion in both the North and South.

On April 17, Virginia's secession convention reversed itself and voted for secession. Virginia, the traditional leader of Southern states, provided the example for North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee to secede. Public referendums held in several states showed widespread support for secession. Their departure was not something stirred up by a small group of zealots. These states seceded with the knowledge that war was now inevitable. They would defend the South from a Northern invasion. Gone was the whimsical Gone With the Wind style attitude often seen in the cotton states. By joining the Confederacy, they would provide the military and industrial muscle that the original seceding states lacked, thus guaranteeing a longer and harder war. The Confederacy was now a very large nation with a potent military force.

Lincoln had made his choice to fight. There had been no casualties at Ft. Sumter. Things might still have been worked out peacefully. One must wonder if Lincoln had met with the peace negotiators and tried to negotiate the contentious issues dividing the country such as slavery and tariffs rather than by using coercion and military force, that the ensuing fratricidal war might have been avoided. It must be noted that Lincoln was still willing to legally permit slavery to exist even several years into the war. The war rightfully should be laid at Lincoln's feet. Lincoln's premeditated bad choice set in motion a series of events which would lead to the death of 600,000 American citizens and the total devastation of the South for over 100 years. As Lincoln himself said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether".

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/house-divided/post/brag-bowling-did-secession-come-because-of-the-work-of-a-minority-of-hot-heads-or-was-it-a-near-universal-movement-in-the-south/2010/12/20/AF133w9G_blog.html

And the Children Shall Lead Them

Eighth graders hold mock trial: Jefferson Davis found not guilty

Michelle Gladden *The Asbury Park (NJ) Press* May. 24, 2011

BELMAR NJ— Resounding applause came when St. Rose Elementary eighth graders found Jefferson Davis not guilty of treason in the school's annual mock trial event Monday at the Belmar municipal courthouse on Main Street.

Three member prosecution and defense attorneys argued whether or not the Confederate States of America president's actions violated constitutional law.

"You will have to rely on your personal expertise, good judgment and common sense in all these matters," social studies teacher Sean McDonald, who portrayed the judge, told the 16-member jury headed by Kevin Poppert, 14, of Belmar.

In her opening statements, head prosecutor Tylar Wengiel, 13, of Neptune, said when a man leads a rebellion or takes up arms against his own country he is guilty of treason. But lead defense attorney Sarah Rogers, 14, also of Neptune, argued that the mere act of heading the seceded union proved Davis did not act against the law. Exhibits to support their arguments included the constitutional definition of treason and letters between Davis and Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Damaging testimony came from prosecution witnesses Alexander H. Stephens, vice president of the Confederacy; U.S. Secretary of War Edward M. Stanton; and Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee -- portrayed respectively by 14-year-olds David Kundats of Wall, Ryan Scharfenberg and Brendan Corrigan, both of Neptune. In his testimony, Stephens described Davis as a "weak, timid aspirant that wanted military domination." He and Lee testified that it was not their wish to secede from the United States.

The defense, however, found strength in testimony brought forth by its witness Dr. John Joseph Cravens, portrayed by Anna Weeden, 13, of Interlaken, who said imprisonment conditions violated Davis' civil liberties. Another strength came when defense attorney Matt Hunt, 14, of Wall, argued that the north's willingness to trade prisoners was acknowledgment that the confederate union was a separate nation and therefore Davis' actions could not be construed as treason.

But prosecuting attorney Sanam Parikh, 13, of Wall, contended that the trading of prisoners did not imply recognition of a separate nation but simply a want by family members to have their husbands and fathers back.

Other defense witnesses included Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, portrayed by Jack Cavanaugh, 14, of Belmar, and Davis himself, portrayed by Carlo Fiducia, 14, of Long Branch.

The Tenth Amendment, stating laws not addressed at the federal level fall under the states' jurisdiction and photos of Davis' prison cell were a part of the defense exhibits.

In his closing arguments, defense attorney Peter Davis, 14, of Neptune City, said the north broke the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, thereby giving the South good reason to secede.

While the original case against Davis never saw trial, McDonald said he tries each year to pick a controversial case that will give both sides a fair chance of winning.

"My main objective is for all the students to develop an appreciation for the Constitution and become more learned about the workings of the judicial system," McDonald said.

<http://www.app.com/article/20110524/NJNEWS/305240020/Eighth-graders-hold-mock-trial-Jefferson-Davis-found-not-guilty>

Confederate Graves Identified in NYC

NYC project IDs more than 4,000 Civil War graves

Clarence McKenzie, a local boy fatally wounded in an accidental shooting in Maryland, was buried June 14, 1861, two months after the Union garrison at Fort Sumter surrendered to Confederate forces. He was followed to the grave 12 days later by Adolph Vincens, a 23-year-old London-born jeweler who was the first Civil War battle casualty buried at Green-Wood.

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Confederate Graves (Continued): By the time the war ended four years later, about 200 other soldiers and sailors who died in the Civil War were buried at Green-Wood, established in 1838 in what was then a rural section of Brooklyn. In the decades after the war, thousands of others would join their comrades — and even some of their one-time enemies — at the historic cemetery.

Today, the 478-acre expanse of greenery and statuary covering the cemetery's rolling hills is believed to be the final resting place of about 8,000 Civil War veterans.

A team of volunteers and Green-Wood staff has spent nearly a decade trying to identify all those graves. When the project began in September 2002, cemetery officials figured they had, at most, 500 veterans of the nation's bloodiest war buried here.

Using the cemetery's own burial records, plus government, military and privately owned documents available online, Green-Wood's project has identified the graves of about 4,600 Civil War veterans. Green-Wood historian Jeffrey Richman estimates 3,000 to 4,000 more are scattered among the cemetery's more than 560,000 total interments.

The Civil War dead buried at Green-Wood include unknown privates and famous officers, buglers and Medal of Honor recipients, Yankees from Maine to Iowa, fathers, sons and brothers, and even 75 Confederates, including two generals. None of the original gravestones for the Confederates gave any indication they had fought for the South, an intentional omission being rectified by the installation of new granite markers provided by Veterans Affairs.

Some of the gravestones and other markers at the previously known burial plots indicate that a person was a Civil War veteran, but most don't bear information or an insignia that would tip off researchers, Richman said. Some of the grave markers are so worn the inscriptions can't be read, while others are overgrown by grass or have sunken below ground level. Many of the veterans lie in unmarked graves, and it's only by checking the cemetery's detailed maps that individual burial plots can be located.

Part of the project includes placing new granite markers at the graves, marked and unmarked, of 2,000 of the Civil War veterans. So far, about 1,300 of the VA markers have been installed.

This Memorial Day weekend, the cemetery is hosting a three-day commemoration that includes re-enactors' encampments, an evening procession past the candlelit graves of the Civil War veterans and a gathering of some of their descendants, who will read their ancestor's name during a ceremony on Monday.

Jeanne Vincens, whose ancestor was mortally wounded at Big Bethel, Va., plans to take part in the ceremony. She helped acquire a VA marker for Adolph Vincens' grave several years ago. So, she knows what some of the other descendants will be experiencing when they see their ancestor's grave and remember the sacrifices made 150 years ago.

"It's very, very emotional," said Vincens, a 57-year-old information technology manager from Richmond, Va. "It's really a culmination of a lot of family history, and then being able to honor this person to make sure they're going to be remembered."

The cemetery's project includes compiling brief biographies for each Civil War veteran interred at Green-Wood. Some 4,600 are included on a compact disc the cemetery is selling for \$10 each. According to the information on the CD, burials of Civil War veterans at Green-Wood continued through the 1930s and into early 1941, when 94-year-old Henry Stamm and 101-year-old Joseph H. Smith of East Orange, N.J. were laid to rest.

With several thousand graves still to be identified, Richman said it's unclear if Stamm and Smith were the last in a long blue and gray line to be buried at the cemetery, a line led 150 years ago by the drummer boy from Brooklyn.

Online:

Green-Wood Cemetery: <http://www.green-wood.com>

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_civil_war_cemetery_project

Truth of Fight For Freedom Told Old Stone Church Honors Confederate History

by Jennifer Crossley Howard *The (Anderson, SC) Independent Mail* May 10, 2011

CLEMSON — Ken Nabors' voice echoed off the Old Stone Church walls when he wanted to make a point about the Civil War's origins. Nabors isn't a preacher, but he spoke with all the fire of a Southern evangelist about the war and South Carolina's role in it.

Nabors, president of the Pickens County Historical Society, said the cause of the war is widely misunderstood. "Truth needs no defense, but a lie hides behind a mask so let's expose some truth today," Nabors said.

Almost 50 people listened Tuesday as Nabors spoke at the Clemson church on Confederate Memorial Day. They stood inside a white-washed sanctuary and sang a jubilant rendition of "Dixie's Land" and saluted the Confederate flag. Some wore full beards and suspenders reminiscent of the 1800s. The Reeves family accompanied the congregation on violin.

The John C. Calhoun Chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy celebrated the holiday by marking the graves of 45 Confederate soldiers at the church's cemetery. The recognition ended with a short service, and refreshments under an old oak tree.

The Calhoun chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy has been honoring soldiers for more than 50 years, said Marion Whitehurst, chapter president. On Tuesday, the group also marked the graves of 13 Revolutionary War patriots, including two women.

The Old Stone Church was built in 1797, and slaves once worshipped under its wood beams, Whitehurst said. Nabors said one of the biggest misconceptions about the Confederacy is that hot-headed Southern men craved war.

Many of South Carolina's soldiers came from prominent backgrounds, Nabors said. Three were future governors, 12 were ministers, two were West Point alumni and 14 were judges.

The average age of men who signed an ordinance for succession was 53, Nabors said. "This was a solemn act by the state of South Carolina made by solemn men," he said. The reason the Civil War started, Nabors said, was that the South was invaded.

"Secession didn't cause the war; firing on Fort Sumter caused the war," he said. "We were only protecting our sovereign territory."

Churches, schools and media teach that slavery was the root of the war, but that isn't true, Nabors said. Slavery did lead to war, he said, but it was not the biggest reason.

The North wanted high tariffs on Southern cotton exported to Europe, and that dispute, along with a host of political ones, formed an atmosphere ripe for conflict.

"I think everything he said was true," said Jim Bay of Six Mile. He went to Walhalla's Confederate Memorial Day observance Tuesday morning and decided to go to the Old Stone Church to support the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Al Robinson of Seneca is a retired Anderson teacher and principal. He taught his students about the Confederacy out of the textbook and also told them the facts absent from its pages, he said.

"If you don't study it, you believe what you hear," he said. The losing end often has little say what goes down in history, said Wayne Kelley, vice president of the Pickens County Historical Society.

"The victors always write the history," he said. "If you were educated in any public school in the U.S. you were taught their version."

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2011/may/10/old-stone-church-honors-confederate-history/>

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

Deo Vindice

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