

March 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, March, 10th, 2011, at 7 PM in the Tuscaloosa Public Library.

Commander David Allen will present a program on "Coins, Currency and Economic Policy of the Union and Confederacy through 1865". He will have examples of many of the items discussed to display.

It is time to begin planning something special to do during April 2011, Confederate History Month, this Sesquicentennial year. Bring up any suggestions you have at this meeting.

The date for dedication of the General N. B. Forrest monument in Gainesville, AL has been set for 10:00 AM, Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the site. Reenactors will be present to participate in the program activities. Walter Dockery has provided directions for getting to the site as given below.

Take Interstate 59-20 south to County Road 14 which leads to Clinton, Alabama. At Clinton, take County Road 39 through Mt. Hebron to Gainesville. Stay on 39 to County Road 116 (State Street). You will see a small park with a gazebo. The Forrest Monument is located on the road to the west (Gainesville Noxubee Road). You should see a small fenced-in area on a small raised area and the monument in within the fenced area.

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.



Upcoming Events



- 10 March - Camp Meeting
- 12 March - Gen. N.B. Forrest Monument Dedication
10 am Gainesville, AL
- 2 April - J.C.C. Sanders Lecture - Smith Hall, UA Campus
10 am - 2 pm
- 14 April - Camp Meeting
- 24-29 April - Confederate Memorial Day Ceremonies
Day/Time/Location TBD
- 12 May - Camp Meeting
- 9 June - Camp Meeting
- 14 July - Camp Meeting

August - Summer Bivovac - Stand Down

Reenactment Dates on **Page 5**

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, Virginicus Hudson Rodes; and his parents. His wife Virginia Hortense is buried in Alabama, her home state.

His Major Commands included Rode'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>



News of the Rodes Camp

Commander Jones Speaks to Camp on Legality of Secession



Brigade Commander Carl Jones spoke to the Camp during the February meeting on the Constitutional Issues Regarding Secession.

Rodes Camp Swears in Father and Son As New Camp Members



The Rodes camp welcomed two new members; a Father-Son duo. Doug Draper (red shirt) and his son Todd Draper joined on the basis of their ancestor, William Wilson "Wilse" Heck, served in Company C, 63rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment.

Shown also is Adjutant Frank Delbridge, Camp Commander David Allen, and Chaplain Dr. Wiley Hales.

John Clayton Receives Compatriot of the Year Award



John Clayton (far right) receives the Lyman Findley Compatriot of the Year Award at February's Lee-Jackson Dinner. At John's right are Adjutant Frank Delbridge, and Camp Commander David Allen. Photo by Dr. Richard Rhone.

Military Order of the Stars and Bars Invites Rodes Camp to Dedication of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Monument

Past Rodes Camp Commander and current Gorgas Chapter Military Order of the Stars & Bars Commander Dr. Richard Rhone informs and invites the Rodes Camp to



the dedication of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Monument in Gainesville Alabama at 10 am on Saturday March 12, 2011. Re-enactors will be present to participate in the program activities.



Directions are: Take Interstate 59-20 south to County Road 14 which leads to Clinton, Alabama. At Clinton, take County Road 39 through Mt. Hebron to Gainesville. Stay on 39 to County Road 116 (State Street). You will see a small park with a gazebo. The Forrest Monument is located on the road to the west (Gainesville Noxubee Road). You should see a small fenced-in area on a small raised area and the monument in within the fenced area.

2011 Reenactments in this Area.

March 11-13, 2011

Battle of Cuba Station

Gainesville, AL

Note: This event will coincide with the Dedication of the General Nathan Bedford Forrest Monument in Gainesville. **PLEASE**, let's make an extra effort for a great turnout for both the reenactment and the monument dedication.

March 25-27, 2011

17th Annual Siege at Bridgeport

Bridgeport, AL

April 2-3, 2011

Ohatchee

Ohatchee, AL

April 8-10, 2011

Siege at Fort Blakeley

Spanish Fort, AL

April 16-17, 2011

Crooked Creek Living History

Vinemont, AL

April 28-May 1, 2011

[Battle of Selma](#)

Selma, AL

May 6-8, 2011

Rienzi, MS

Rienzi, MS (Between Boonesville and Corinth, MS)

May 20-22, 2011

[Battle of Resaca](#)

Resaca, GA

May 28-29, 2011

Skirmish at Tannehill

Tannehill State Park, AL

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](#).

Historical Markers of Tuscaloosa County & Surrounding Area

Skirmish at Trion

On 31 March 1865, Union Brig. Gen. John T. Croxton's Cavalry of some 1500 troops entered Tuscaloosa County with orders to destroy the State University (military school) and anything else of value to the rebel cause. Near Bucksville they destroyed Saunders Iron Works and William's Tannery (now Tannehill State Park). Learning that Confederate cavalry units under Gen. Nathan B. Forrest and Brig. Gen. W.H. (Red) Jackson were traveling near Trion, some 10-miles distant, Croxton's Brigade rode to intercept.

The Union forces camped that night on the farm of Squire John White, and were attacked by Jackson's Cavalry Division as they broke camp at daybreak, 1 April. The skirmish, the first in Tuscaloosa County, occurred about a half-mile south of present-day Vance.

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Historical Marker (Continued): Union losses were heavy in the running fight: some 30 killed or wounded, another 30 captured, and 150 horses lost. Croxton was forced away from his original line of march, retreating to the northeast before turning west towards the Black Warrior River some 40 miles above Tuscaloosa. Crossing to the west bank at Johnson's Ferry or Black Rock Shoals (near old Lock 17 area), the Union raiders resumed their advance on Northport and Tuscaloosa on 3 April. Jackson's Confederate forces suffered several casualties in the skirmish. One soldier from Tennessee, who died several days later in the Squire John White home, was buried nearby by Trion-area citizens.

Confederate Generals Birthdays for March

- General Braxton Bragg - 22 Mar. 1817 - Warrenton, N.C.
- Lt. General Wade Hampton - 28 Mar. 1818 - Charleston, S.C.
- Maj. General Matthew Calbraith Butler - 8 Mar. 1836 - Greenville, S.C.
- Maj. General Thomas James Churchill - 10 Mar. 1824 - Jefferson Co., Ky.
- Maj. General Henry DeLamar Clayton - 7 Mar. 1827 - Pulaski, Ga.
- Maj. General Patrick Romayne Cleburne - 17 Mar. 1828 - County Cork, Ireland
- Maj. General George Bibb Crittenden - 20 Mar. 1812 - Russellville, Ky.
- Maj. General James Fleming Fagan - 1 Mar. 1828 - Clark Co., Ky.
- Maj. General John Sappington Marmaduke - 14 Mar. 1833 - Arrow Rock, Missouri
- Maj. General William Thompson Martin - 25 Mar. 1823 - Glasgow, Ky.
- Maj. General William Henry Chase Whitting - 22 Mar. 1824 - Biloxi, Miss.
- Brig. General William Wirt Adams - 22 Mar. 1819 - Frankfort, Ky.
- Brig. General William Nelson Rector Beall - 20 Mar. 1825 - Bardstown, Ky.
- Brig. General William Robertson Boggs - 18 Mar. 1829 - Augusta, Ga.
- Brig. General William Felix Brantley - 12 Mar. 1830 - Greene Co., Ala.**
- Brig. General John Bratton - 7 Mar. 1831 - Winnsboro, S.C.
- Brig. General Montgomery Dent Corse - 14 Mar. 1816 - Alexandria, D.C.
- Brig. General William Ruffin Cox - 11 Mar. 1832 - Halifax Co., N.C.
- Brig. General Johnson Kelly Duncan - 19 Mar. 1827 - York, Penn.
- Brig. General John Dunovant - 5 Mar. 1825 - Chester, S.C.
- Brig. General John Echols - 20 Mar. 1823 - Lynchburg, Va.
- Brig. General Martin Witherspoon Gary - 25 Mar. 1831 - Cokesbury, S.C.
- Brig. General Hiram Bronson Granbury - 1 Mar. 1831 - Copiah Co., Miss.
- Brig. General Louis Hebert - 13 Mar. 1820 - Iberville Parish, La.
- Brig. General John Robert Jones - 12 Mar. 1827 - Harrisonburg, Va.
- Brig. General John Herbert Kelly - 31 Mar. 1840 - Pickens Co., Ala.**
- Brig. General Lewis Henry Little - 19 Mar. 1817 - Baltimore, Md.
- Brig. General Robert Lowery - 10 Mar. 1830 - Chesterfield Dist., S.C.
- Brig. General Samuel Bell Maxey - 30 Mar. 1825 - Tompkinsville, Ky.
- Brig. General Thomas Taylor Munford - 28 Mar. 1831 - Richmond, Va.
- Brig. General Allison Nelson - 11 Mar. 1822 - Fulton Co., Ga.
- Brig. General Elisha Franklin Paxton - 4 Mar. 1828 - Rockbridge Co., Va.
- Brig. General Edward Aylsworth Perry - 15 Mar. 1831 - Richmond, Mass.
- Brig. General William Flank Perry - 12 Mar. 1823 - Jackson Co., Ga.
- Brig. General Roswell Sabine Ripley - 14 Mar. 1823 - Worthington, Ohio
- Brig. General Felix Huston Robertson - 9 Mar. 1839 - Washington, Tx.
- Brig. General Jerome Bonaparte Robertson - 14 Mar. 1815 - Woodford Co., Ky.
- Brig. General Robert Emmett Rodes - 29 Mar. 1829 - Lynchburg, Va.
- Brig. General Francis Asbury Shoup - 22 Mar. 1834 - Laurel, Ind.
- Brig. General William Richard Terry - 12 Mar. 1827 - Bedford Co., Va.
- Brig. General Edward Lloyd Thomas - 23 Mar. 1825 - Clarke Co., Ga.
- Brig. General William Henry Wallace - 24 Mar. 1827 - Laurens Dist., S.C.
- Brig. General John Wilkins Whitfield - 11 Mar. 1818 - Franklin, Tenn.
- Brig. General Sterling Alexander Martin Wood - 17 Mar. 1823 - Florence, Ala.**

Alabama Civil War Units

Fifty-Fifth Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was made up of Snodgrass's and Norwood's battalions, the former of six companies, the latter of five. Snodgrass's battalion was organized at Corinth, in the spring of 1862, out of companies that had been in the service a year at that time, in the organizations of other states; and they had suffered severely at Shiloh; while the battalion itself had fought at the first siege of Vicksburg, and in the battles of Baton Rouge and Corinth.

Norwood's battalion was organized at Clinton, Miss., out of the five companies of Alabmians which had fought and been captured at Fort Donelson while part of Quarles' "Tennessee" regiment.

Organized at Port Hudson, February 1863, with 900 veterans, the Fifty-fifth fought at Baker's Creek in Buford's brigade, Loring's division, losing considerably. It shared in the fighting at Jackson, and the subsequent operations in Mississippi. As part of Scott's brigade, the regiment was attached to the Army of Tennessee in the spring of 1864. It was much reduced by the constant fighting on the retreat from Dalton, but entered the battle of Peach-tree Creek (July 20, 1864) with 22 officers and 256 men, and lost in killed and wounded 14 officers, and 155 men.

After some further skirmishing, the Fifty-fifth participated in the winter campaign in Tennessee, and its lists of casualties both at Franklin and Nashville were large. Proceeding to North Carolina, the regiment, sadly reduced in strength, surrendered at Greensboro, under Col. Snodgrass.

Field and Staff

Colonels -- John Snodgrass of Jackson.

Lieut. Colonels -- John H. Norwood of Jackson; wounded at Peach-tree.

Majors -- J. H. Jones of Jackson; killed at Peach-tree. J. B. Dickey of Madison.

Adjutants -- Hal. C. Bradford; detached. J. C. Howell of Cherokee, killed at Peach-tree.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Madison -- J. B. Dickey; promoted. J. M. Campbell.

Cherokee -- D. C. Daniel; wounded at Resaca and Atlanta.

Calhoun -- Peter Nunnally; wounded at Peach-tree.

Jackson -- Thomas Bridges; resigned. J. M. Thompson; wounded at Peach-tree.

Jackson and Marshall -- John W. Evans; killed at Peach-tree.

Jackson -- Wm. D. McCampbell.

Marshall -- Arthur B. Carter; killed at Peach-tree. A. S. Mitchell.

Jackson -- J. H. Cowan; wounded at Peach-tree.

Jackson -- Alex'r Sisk; absent without leave. A. S. Wheeler.

Cherokee (consolidated) --

Wm. Randall; cap. Vicksb'g.

Robert Wright; resigned.

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Alabama Civil War Units (Continued):

Fifty-Sixth Alabama Mounted Regiment

The Fifty-sixth was made up of two battalions, commanded by Majors Boyles and Hewlett, and which had been in the service several months. Thus organized in the summer of 1863, the Fifty-sixth operated in north Mississippi for some time under Gen. Ruggles. It was there brigaded under Gen. Ferguson, and sent to north Georgia.

It served on the flank of the army during the Dalton-Atlanta campaign, and saw arduous duty. The regiment moved with Gen. Hood to the Tennessee, then turned and harassed Sherman.

It was in the trenches of Savannah, and operated near Augusta. It moved into the Carolinas, and was surrendered at Greensboro, about 200 strong.

Field and Staff

Colonels -- William Boyles of Mobile.

Lieut. Colonels -- Wm. A. Hewlett of Walker; transferred. P. H. Debardelaben of Autauga; transferred. Wm. F. Martin of Mobile.

Majors -- P. H. Debardelaben; promoted. Wm. F. Martin, promoted. Thomas D. Hall of Autauga.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came

Autauga and Montgomery -- Thomas D. Hall; wounded near Kingston, Ga; promoted. George Rives.

Mobile -- W. F. Martin; promoted; James W. Bryant.

Butler -- F. D. N. Riley.

Mobile -- William McGill; killed near Decatur, in Morgan. H. O. Eaton.

State of Mississippi -- Geo. F. Peake, (company detached.).

Walker ----- Johnson; killed accidentally. ... Broach.

There were also five companies from Walker and adjacent counties, under Captains Bibb, Sheppard, James Moore, and Rice; the latter succeeded by Capt. Morrow, as he was absent without leave.

Rodes Camp Website Report for March

For the month of February, the Rodes Camp website logged 61 visits and 126 pageviews. We had visitors from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, Tennessee, California, Louisiana, Virginia, New York, Kansas, and Minnesota. We also had visitors from London and Moscow. Since April of 2010, our website has had over 700 visitors and well over 2,000 pages viewed.

Send Wal-Mart a "Thank You" Message

Mom always encouraged you to say "please" and "thank you" when asking for assistance. And soon after Walmart announced plans to build a Superstore on Virginia's Wilderness Battlefield, NPCA activists and supporters--like you--politely asked Walmart's CEO not to build on this site. You told him that the Wilderness Battlefield is worth protecting, and that the proposed development would not be an appropriate way to honor those who died here.



Thanks to your efforts, Walmart has now taken the action you recommended. Congratulations! And thank you!

And now, here is *your* chance to thank Walmart's corporate leadership for reversing their decision to build at the proposed location, and also to encourage them to go one better by pledging to preserve the site as open space in keeping with the meaning and character of neighboring Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Take Action: Send a note of thanks to Walmart President and CEO Michael Duke for NOT building on land that was part of the Battle of the Wilderness, and encourage him to keep moving forward to protect America's sacred places for our children and grandchildren.

It is important to thank leaders when they do something right. So, thank you for taking a moment to send Mr. Duke this important note of your appreciation. At the same time, this victory would not have been possible without action from NPCA activists and supporters like you. Generations to come will appreciate what you helped accomplish.

Sincerely,

Pamela Goddard
Chesapeake and Virginia Program Manager
National Parks and Recreation Association

News From the Civil War Trust

Help Save 104 Acres at Gettysburg

"NO MAN CAN TAKE THOSE COLORS AND LIVE..."

Ten different color bearers from the 26th North Carolina, including their "boy colonel", Henry Burgwyn had been killed or grievously wounded holding aloft the regiment's colors.

Despite suffering enormous casualties in their fight with the 24th Michigan and the rest of the Iron Brigade, Lt. Col. J.R. Lane lifted the flag once more and yelled, "twenty-sixth, follow me!" The fight for Herbst Woods proved to be the bloodiest regimental fight in the Civil War's bloodiest battle. The 26th North Carolina lost 687 out of 843 men at Gettysburg and the 24th Michigan suffered 73% casualties. These two units suffered more casualties than any other regiments in their respective armies.

Now we have the opportunity to join with our friends at the Conservation Fund to save the very ground that the Iron Brigade and the 26th North Carolina trod during their epic struggle on July 1, 1863. This long sought-after ground, coupled with a separate preservation effort at the Josiah Benner House property, makes this one of the most exciting opportunities in our history.

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CWT Preservation News (Continued Next Page):

Gettysburg 2011 Preservation Campaign	
Acres: 104 acres	Match: \$29 to \$1
Civil War Trust Fundraising Goal: \$70,000	Match Sources: National Park Service, Large Donor
Total Cost: \$2,005,000	
For more: www.civilwar.org/gettysburg2011 . New battle map, historian videos, history articles, battle flags and photos online!	

So if we can raise \$70,000, we will help save \$2.05 million worth - 104 acres - of irreplaceable Gettysburg battlefield land. What a way to kick off the Sesquicentennial, and what a legacy!

I know that's a lot of money in these still-uncertain times; and certainly I don't want to become over-confident. But that is a fantastic \$29-to-\$1 return on your donation dollar!

Lastly, if you can send a gift of at least \$30 in the next 30 days, it will be my honor to send to you as a thank you gift, our new Civil War Trust cap, embroidered with our updated logo.

Dear Civil War Preservationist,

February is turning into one remarkable month for all of us. The month started off with the tremendous news from Walmart that they had decided to forgo developing the Wilderness site that so concerned us all. I'm still not exactly sure why Walmart suddenly came around to our way of seeing things. All I can say is that sometimes, good things happen to good people, and you and I fought the good fight every step of the way, so we deserve this bit of good news.

And with the month now coming to a close I am proud to announce a national campaign to save 104 battlefield acres at Gettysburg. This new preservation campaign will help us to secure the long sought after Gettysburg Country Club property and the beautiful and historic Josiah Benner House property. I do hope that you will check out our [Save Gettysburg](#) page online. There you will learn about these tracts, the remarkable history associated with these places, and how you can help us add this land to the saved column.

Jim Lighthizer, *Civil War Trust President*

Give a Teacher Institute Scholarship

Help ensure that thousands of students will receive a quality education on the American Civil War.

Do you remember who inspired your love for the American Civil War? Many historians and Civil War buffs cite teachers as the number one source for their initial interest.

The Civil War Trust's annual Teacher Institute is a three-day professional development program for K12 teachers. This year's institute will be held in [Nashville, Tennessee, July 14-16](#). During the institute, teachers will attend multiple workshops, lectures, and partake in a day-long battlefield tour of Stones River, Murfreesboro or Franklin. *Teachers receive invaluable knowledge about the Civil War*, take away hundreds of resources, receive expert advice on teaching this challenging topic, and come away with a personal experience on the very land you have preserved.

This is your opportunity to arm our teachers with the knowledge and tools they need to *develop the next generation of Civil War historians and preservationists*. The Civil War Trust Teacher Institute, now in its tenth year, has provided Civil War educational experiences for hundreds of teachers and in turn thousands of students. These students are the recipients of a rich Civil War history which can only come from a well-educated and experienced teacher. *Get involved with the Teacher Institute* by providing a scholarship to a teacher.

While the Civil War Trust Teacher Institute is free, the Trust does not cover the cost of the Pre-Conference Workshop, travel, or lodging. In the past, teachers could apply to their schools for help funding this cost; however, due to budget cuts most schools can no longer pay for or subsidize this expense.

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CWT Preservation News (Continued Next Page): Many teachers have also taken pay cuts, making it more difficult for them to fund personally. The teachers who apply for scholarships are self-motivated learners, who simply cannot afford the expense.

A full scholarship is \$1,000, but any amount will help. All donors will be recognized on the Trust's website as well as in the Teacher Institute Program and Classroom Resource Book.

If you decide to provide a full or multiple scholarship(s), your scholarship can be named for yourself or your family. Given the individual's permission, you may also honor your favorite teacher by naming the scholarship after them. Please help us meet our goal of providing at least fifteen scholarships this year!

If you are interested in providing larger funds to support our education programs contact Frank Deluca at fdeluca@civilwar.org.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Lighthizer
President, Civil War Trust

Last United States World War One Veteran Passes Away

Last living US WWI vet dies in W. Va. at age 110



From Dr. Richard Rhone.....Frank Buckles was an honorary MOSB member. Thanks to the efforts of Dick Knight, Bryan Roehrig and others, an honorary membership was presented to Compatriot Buckles by Dick in West Virginia a couple of years ago.

By VICKI SMITH, Associated Press Mon Feb 28, 2011

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – He was repeatedly rejected by military recruiters and got into uniform at 16 after lying about his age. But Frank Buckles would later become the last surviving U.S. veteran of World War I. Buckles, who also survived being a civilian POW in the Philippines in World War II, died of natural causes Sunday at his home in Charles Town, biographer and family spokesman David DeJonge said in a statement. He was 110.

Buckles had been advocating for a national memorial honoring veterans of the Great War in the nation's capital. When asked in February 2008 how it felt to be the last of his kind, he said simply, "I realized that somebody had to be, and it was me." And he told The Associated Press he would have done it all over again, "without a doubt."

On Nov. 11, 2008, the 90th anniversary of the end of the war, Buckles attended a ceremony at the grave of World War I Gen. John Pershing in Arlington National Cemetery.

He was back in Washington a year later to endorse a proposal to rededicate the existing World War I memorial on the National Mall as the official National World War I Memorial. He told a Senate panel it was "an excellent idea." The memorial was originally built to honor District of Columbia's war dead.

Born in Missouri in 1901 and raised in Oklahoma, Buckles visited a string of military recruiters after the United States entered the "war to end all wars" in April 1917. He was repeatedly rejected before convincing an Army Captain he was 18. He was actually 16 1/2. "A boy of (that age), he's not afraid of anything. He wants to get in there," Buckles said.

Details for services and arrangements will be announced later this week. The family asks that donations be made to the National World War One Legacy Project. The project is managed by the nonprofit Survivor Quest and will educate students about Buckles and WWI through a documentary and traveling educational exhibition.

More than 4.7 million people joined the U.S. military from 1917-18. As of spring 2007, only three were still alive, according to a tally by the Department of Veterans Affairs: Buckles, J. Russell Coffey of Ohio and Harry Richard Landis of Florida.

The dwindling roster prompted a flurry of public interest, and Buckles went to Washington in May 2007 to serve as grand marshal of the national Memorial Day parade.

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Last WW One Veteran (Continued): There are no French or German veterans of the war left alive. Coffey died Dec. 20, 2007, at age 109, while Landis died Feb. 4, 2008, at 108. Wash., died in February 2010. Unlike Buckles, those two men were still in basic training in the United States when the war ended and did not make it overseas. The last known Canadian veteran of the war, John Babcock of Spokane,

When they died in late 2007 and 2008, Buckles became the last so-called doughboy — and a soft-spoken celebrity. He got fan mail almost every day, DeJonge said, and had enough birthday cards to fill several bushel baskets. DeJonge had visited Buckles late last week and was driving back to Michigan with about 5,000 letters to organize and answer when he got the call telling him his friend had died.

"The letters are so heartfelt," he said. "Each night, Susannah would go in and sit at Papa's bedside and read them to Frank. That kept him going." Buckles had been battling colds and other minor ailments this winter, but he was not ill at the time of his death. The day before he died was warm, DeJonge said, and he spent three hours sitting in the sunshine on the porch of his farmhouse, talking with his daughter. She worked diligently to keep Buckles in his own home, even though it exhausted his life savings. DeJonge said home health nurses and other medical care cost about \$120,000 a year.

Details for services and arrangements will be announced later this week, but the family is planning a burial in Arlington National Cemetery. In 2008, friends persuaded the federal government to make an exception to its rules for who can be interred there.

Buckles had already been eligible to have his cremated remains housed at the cemetery. Burial, however, normally requires meeting several criteria, including earning one of five medals, such as a Purple Heart. Buckles served in England and France, working mainly as a driver and a warehouse clerk. The fact he did not see combat didn't diminish his service, he said: "Didn't I make every effort?"

U.S. Rep. Shelley Moore Capito and the rest of West Virginia's congressional delegation were also working Monday on a plan to allow Buckles to lie in repose in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. According to the Architect of the Capitol's website, the last person to do so was President Gerald Ford. The honor is reserved mostly for elected and military officials, but others have included civil rights activist Rosa Parks and unknown soldiers from both World Wars and the Korean War.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller called Buckles "a wonderfully plainspoken man and an icon for the World War I generation" and said he will continue fighting for the memorial Buckles wanted.

"He lived a long and rich life as a true American patriot," said Sen. Joe Manchin, "and I hope that his family's loss is lightened with the knowledge that he was loved and will be missed by so many."

"We have lost a living link to an important era in our nation's history," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki. "But we have also lost a man of quiet dignity, who dedicated his final years to ensuring the sacrifices of his fellow 'Doughboys' are appropriately commemorated."

An eager student of culture and language, he used his off-duty hours to learn German, visit cathedrals, museums and tombs, and bicycle in the French countryside. After Armistice Day, Buckles helped return prisoners of war to Germany. He returned to the United States in January 1920.

Buckles returned to Oklahoma for a while, then moved to Canada, where he worked a series of jobs before heading for New York City. There, he again took advantage of free museums, worked out at the YMCA, and landed jobs in banking and advertising.

But it was the shipping industry that suited him best, and he worked around the world for the White Star Line Steamship Co. and W.R. Grace & Co. In 1941, while on business in the Philippines, Buckles was captured by the Japanese. He spent more than three years in prison camps. "I was never actually looking for adventure," Buckles once said. "It just came to me."

He married in 1946 and moved to his farm in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle in 1954, where he and wife Audrey raised their daughter, Susannah Flanagan. Audrey Buckles died in 1999.

In spring 2007, Buckles told the AP of the trouble he went through to get into the military.

"I went to the state fair up in Wichita, Kansas, and while there, went to the recruiting station for the Marine Corps," he said. "The nice Marine sergeant said I was too young when I gave my age as 18, said I had to be 21." Buckles returned a week later. "I went back to the recruiting sergeant, and this time I was 21," he said with a grin. "I passed the inspection ... but he told me I just wasn't heavy enough."

Then he tried the Navy, whose recruiter told Buckles he was flat-footed. Buckles wouldn't quit. In Oklahoma City, an Army captain demanded a birth certificate. "I told him birth certificates were not made in Missouri when I was born, that the record was in a family Bible. I said, 'You don't want me to bring the family Bible down, do you?'" Buckles said with a laugh. "He said, 'OK, we'll take you.'" He enlisted Aug. 14, 1917, serial number 15577.

Faith's role in Civil War Examined

UA professor's book calls conflict 'holiest war' in U.S. history

By Adam Jones *The Tuscaloosa News* Staff Writer January 30, 2011

God surely had a rough go of it during the American Civil War. With devout believers on both sides, He was seemingly a divine pendulum constantly casting his favor north or south to help win battles.

"Our president and many of our generals really and actually believed that there was this mysterious Providence always hovering over the field and ready to interfere on one side or the other, and that prayers and piety might win its favor from day to day," wrote Confederate artillerist Edward Porter Alexander in a letter to his family.



Dr. George Rable speaking at the 2011 Lee-Jackson Dinner this past January.

University of Alabama history professor George Rable makes no claim on what God wanted out of the Civil War, but does exhaustively show the role religious beliefs played in the war in his book, "*God's Almost Chosen Peoples*," out this month from the University of North Carolina Press.

The war was the "holiest war in American history," and the role religion played should not be dismissed, although it normally is, Rable writes. Religion's absence from most histories of the era would surely puzzle those who lived through it, he said.

"Religion crops up everywhere," he said of researching the war. Indeed, the Battle Hymn of the Republic, the famous anthem of the Union penned during the war, relates that "His truth is marching on." Yet, in the South, the Confederate motto was *deo vindice*, a Latin phrase meaning "God vindicates." "Most people on both sides were pretty sure the Lord was on their side," Rable said in an interview.

Both U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate President Jefferson Davis called for days of prayer and fasting after major battlefield defeats and days of thanksgiving after victories. Many took a broader view that the war and its bloodshed of 600,000 Americans was punishment for sins including slavery, materialism, treatment of American Indians and, for some in the South, not slavery, but the treatment of slaves. And both Yankee and Rebel believed God supported their righteous cause whether it was to preserve the union, abolish slavery or, for Confederates, maintain the true, God-ordained American republic. Religion most likely lengthened the war, Rable writes.

Poring over sermons, often published in newspapers, diaries along with personal letters and official correspondence, Rable sheds light on other views, particularly American Catholics whom many viewed the war as a natural outcrop of Protestants, already prone to bickering among themselves. A strong, central church here would have halted the war, some Catholics believed.

He touches on religion among black Americans, both slaves and free, who also believed God was working for their ends. To many blacks, Lincoln was a Moses-like figure, bringing them out of slavery like Moses did with Hebrews in the Bible, both dying before reaching the promise land, Rable said. In fact, the most lasting religious impact of the war is probably the strong black church that cropped up after freedmen left in droves from the white churches they attended as slaves, he said.

Though not a theological work, Rable relates how the nation tried to align the war and its death and destruction with their faith. In some ways, there was a crisis of faith, but most Americans then, as now, weren't theologians, Rable said.

"You can quote all kinds of people who were disillusioned, but most of them were intellectuals," he said. "For ordinary people, they just kept on keeping on. That is, they had found their religious faith and beliefs could bring them through the war and could help them come to grips with the war's meaning."

For brevity's sake, Rable doesn't spend much time on the war's aftermath. Many on both sides simply believed the will of God prevailed, rather than learning a possible lesson the folly of hard assertions on God's mind during the midst of turmoil, he said.

"There was a little more humility in the aftermath of this war, but I wouldn't push it too far," he said.

Lincoln, though, was humble, Rable said. Not terribly popular when he delivered it, his second inaugural address was given as the Union was a breath away from victory.

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Rable (Continued): Lincoln implored there should be no judgment or malice cast on the Confederates. Both sides read the same Bible and prayed to the same God, Lincoln said.

"It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not, that we be not judged," Lincoln said. "The prayers of both could not be answered — that of neither, has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes."

Reach Adam Jones at adam.jones@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0230.

Sons of Confederate Veterans commemorate Jefferson Davis inauguration in Montgomery

Saturday, February 19, 2011 The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Alabama — Hundreds of men in Civil War uniforms marched past the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s church Saturday to commemorate the inauguration of the Confederate president 150 years ago in a city that no longer rolls out the red carpet for them.



Members of Sons of Confederate Veterans march up Dexter ave. to celebrate, Feb. 19, 2011 in Montgomery, Ala., the re-enacting of the swearing in ceremony of CSA President Jefferson Davis on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol. (AP Photo/ Kevin Glackmeyer)

"A sesquicentennial doesn't have the cache of a centennial," McMichael said. And in the 1960s, "you had a lot more people alive who knew Confederate soldiers," he said. Simelton said elected officials stayed away because they knew attendance would be viewed as a slap in the face to African-Americans, who make up one-fourth of Alabama's population.

Black leaders had discussed holding a protest like the one held in December at a Secession Ball in Charleston, S.C., but decided against it. "We didn't want to give them more publicity," said Rep. Alvin Holmes, the longest serving black member of the Alabama Legislature.

A downtown shopper, Shirley Williams of Montgomery, who is black, shook her head as she walked by the parade. She said she was offended the parade occurred during Black History Month. "It represents things in the past that were not positive. Some things ought to be remembered, but this brings up too many painful things people went through," she said.

Not every African-American shared that view. Barbara Marthal of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., put on her hoop skirt and marched in the parade to honor a cousin who fought as a slave. "There are few people of African descent who are aware of how many people of African descent supported the Confederacy," she said. "This is our history and we should be proud of it."

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Jefferson Davis Reenactment (Continued): Sons of Confederate Veterans members, who trace their history to ancestors who fought in the war, call it the "War Between the States" or the "War of Secession" rather than the Civil War. They say its origins have been distorted by modern historians.

SCV member Randy Beeler said he drove from Paducah, Ky., to "send a message the war was fought over states' rights. Slavery was an issue, but it was not the main issue." "Yes, it was about states' rights. It was about states' rights to have slavery," said Rep. Holmes, a retired college history teacher.

The Montgomery event is the biggest event planned by the SCV this year to mark the sesquicentennial. In 2012, McMichael said the action will switch to Richmond, Va., which replaced Montgomery as the capital of the Confederacy.

Holding up a Confederate flag near the end of the ceremony, he told the crowd, "As long as there blows a southern breeze, this flag will fly in it." [Photos from the Event](#)

Rally In Montgomery A Huge Success !!!

Chuck Rand Adjutant in Chief Sunday, February 20, 2011

Compatriots,

Yesterday the SCV held a re-enactment of the swearing in of Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederacy and a re-enactment of the first raising of the 1st National Flag of the Confederate States of America. The sun shone brightly as the parade of over a thousand made its way up Dexter Avenue to the Alabama State Capitol. When the parade arrived, an opening prayer was given by Chaplain in Chief Mark Evans, greetings were brought from Alabama Division Commander Reames, members of the General Executive Council (Danny Honnoll, Tom Strain and Gene Hogan), and A. J. Widowski, President General of the Children of the Confederacy. Adjutant in Chief Rand served as Master of Ceremonies.

Following the greetings the crowd of two thousand plus was addressed by Lt. Commander in Chief Barrow and Past Commander in Chief McMichael. At this point the re-enactments began, with a brief address on the history of the events soon to be presented given by Past Commander in Chief Chris Sullivan.

President elect Jefferson Davis (Tyrone Crowley) then delivered the exact address Jefferson Davis gave in 1861. Also represented were Vice-President elect Alexander Stephens (Paul Bergeron), Judge Cobb (Philip Davis) and Col. Jones

(Lee Millar). The swearing in took place on the exact spot, marked by a star in granite of the capitol steps, as it did in 1861. Following the swearing in the first raising of the 1st National Flag of the Confederacy was held. Musket and Cannon salutes, which reverberated off the nearby buildings, were given following both the inauguration of Jefferson Davis and the raising of the 1st National.

At the end of the ceremony, a closing prayer was given by Chaplain Evans and the entire crowd was led in the singing of Dixie! by South Carolina Division Commander Mark Simpson. The 5th Alabama Band then played Dixie! accented by the firing of a final artillery salute.

The event was covered by the USA Today, the BBC, NY Times, German and Swiss TV and many others.

See <http://confederate150.com/2011.html> for some of the media coverage and photos of the event. Every State of the Confederacy and associated territories were represented in the parade and there were visitors who came from as far away as California to experience this historical recreation.

Stay tuned for more information about yesterday's activities, and make plans to attend the next Sesquicentennial event sponsored by General Headquarters which will be held in Richmond, VA in February 2012!

It was a great day in Dixie!

Deo Vindice!

Chuck Rand
Adjutant in Chief

SCV Recreates Davis' Inauguration

Alabama ceremony marks anniversary of Davis inauguration

By Matt Okarmus, Montgomery (Ala.) USA TODAY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — It may be 2011, but it might well have been 1861 in Montgomery on Saturday as hundreds of people marched to the state Capitol to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the swearing-in of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Men, women and children dressed in Civil War-era attire flocked to the Capitol to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Davis' inauguration. The event included speeches, the firing of cannons and a re-enactment of the inauguration. Davis was sworn in Feb. 18, 1861, as president of the Confederate States of America. He was elected to lead the Southern states after secession from the union.

As the people who portrayed Davis and his vice president walked up to the Capitol, a cry of "God bless you, Mr. President!" was heard from the crowd. It would set the tone for the afternoon, as several more loud cries could be heard from those in attendance. The biggest cheers came after speakers noted that they were there to celebrate the birth of the Confederacy, which they said was based on a government for the people and by the people. One speaker also got the crowd going with a yell of "Long live Dixie!"

"We tried to recreate it as close as we could. We wanted to give people a glimpse into history," said Charles Rand, adjutant in chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Rand said his ancestors include Civil War and Revolutionary War veterans, and events like Saturday's are meant to praise them and what they stood for. "For me, I celebrate the right of our ancestors to have a government of our own choosing," Rand said.

The reasons for the Civil War have been widely debated, and controversy surrounded Saturday's event because of the war's connection to slavery. Kelley Barrow, lieutenant commander in chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, seemed to address those who criticized the celebration in his speech. Barrow mentioned civil rights hero Rosa Parks, stating that while she moved from the back of the bus to the front, the "people of the Confederacy have been forced to the back of the bus."

Chuck McMichael, a past commander in chief, said the celebration of the Confederacy is a personal issue to him. He compared it to the celebrations of Independence Day, Veterans Day and Memorial Day. McMichael ended his speech by holding up one of the many flags of the Confederacy that were on display. "As long as there blows a Southern breeze, this flag will fly in it," McMichael said.

Lee Beasley was in town from Tuscaloosa with her husband and son when they saw the people in costume and wanted to know what was going on. After the celebration drew to a close, her son was asked to help fold a flag. "He was careful not to let it touch the ground," Beasley said with a smile.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-02-19-alabama-davis_N.htm

Black Confederate Soldiers Denied Recognition

Marker rejected for slaves in South's Army Union County says plan poses an inconsistency.

Adam Bell The Charlotte Observer Feb. 16, 2011

Proposed marker wording:

In memory of Union County's Confederate Pensioners of Color

Wilson Ashcraft, Ned Byrd*, Wary Clyburn, Wyatt Cunningham, George Cureton, Hamp Cuthbertson, Mose Fraser, Lewis McGill, Aaron Perry, Jeff Sanders (Free person of color)

In honor of courage & service by all during The War Between The States (1861-1865)

*At time of death, last surviving male pensioner in the county.

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Black Confederates Monument (Continued):

(MONROE) Union County is refusing to approve plans for a marker to commemorate slaves who served in the Confederate Army, raising questions of how to appropriately honor men virtually ignored by history.

On the eve of the Civil War's 150th anniversary, amateur historian Tony Way led the push for a granite marker to be placed at the Old County Courthouse in Monroe next to a 1910 Confederate monument. The new marker would be for 10 black men, nine of whom were slaves, who served the Confederacy during the war and eventually got state pensions. It would probably be one of a few public markers of its kind in the country, experts say.

Way, a Sons of Confederate Veterans member from Monroe, says he and some friends sought to highlight a little-known facet of county history and make commemorations more inclusive.

But county officials recently recommended the marker not go on the 1886 courthouse grounds, saying it would be inconsistent with other monuments. The existing Confederate monument cites regiments, not individuals. Other war monuments on the grounds name only those who died.

Earl Ijames, curator of community history and African-American history at the N.C. Museum of History, worked on proposed wording for the marker. "A tremendous opportunity has been lost to have this outreach for black and white people to understand a facet of history that has been swept under the rug," he said. "It re-enslaves them all over again" by not recognizing their service.

So how would a slave end up in the Confederate Army?

Armies need vast amounts of labor, and slaves provided a plentiful source, said David Blight, a Civil War expert at Yale University. Nearly all of the work that blacks did for the Confederacy was support and logistical, from building latrines to working in armories. Some slaves could have been hoping for more favorable treatment back home because of their service, James said.

Almost no black men fought in battle for the Confederacy, Blight said. He added that though it's impossible to know how many slaves went willingly, many bolted for the Union lines the first chance they got.

Still, there have been occasional commemorations of the South's slaves. At Tyrrell County's courthouse in Eastern North Carolina, a 1902 Confederate statue includes the words, "To Our Faithful Slaves." In the 1990s, stories about "black Confederates" seemed to pick up traction, Blight said. "For neo-Confederates, it was a way of legitimizing the Confederacy in the popular memory: 'Look, the blacks supported us, too,'" he said. "If they were there, they were impressed or ordered into service. They were not soldiers."

After the Civil War began, Wary Clyburn ran away from his plantation to join his master's son, Frank Clyburn, acting as his cook and bodyguard for his old friend. Wary's daughter, Mattie Rice, was fascinated to hear her father's stories when she was a young girl in the 1920s. She remembers him describing a battle where Frank was shot. "He crawled up a hill on his stomach, like a snake, and pulled Frank to safety."

In later years, Wary moved to Monroe, played his fiddle at reunions and got his Civil War pension. He was buried in a Confederate uniform in 1930 at about age 90. Rice, an 88-year-old High Point-area resident, is proud of her father's service. The city of Monroe and a Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter honored him in 2008.

The next year, Way, the historian, got to wondering about other pensioners. He and several friends began research with a county librarian's help. They found records for 10 black pensioners, including a free man, Jeff Sanders. All were described as "body servants" or bodyguards, even Sanders. Some hauled supplies, carried water or cooked. At least two were wounded.

Hamp Cuthbertson helped build Fort Fisher near Wilmington in 1863, his pension application stated, "under the direction and command of his masters, and enduring severe privation, hunger, illness and punishments, and being returned to the home of his owner about one year later."

Southern states began providing Civil War pensions in the 1880s; only Mississippi did not exclude blacks. In 1927, N.C. law finally let people of color seek pensions -but only if they went to war as laborers or servants.

"They essentially got pensions by being loyal slaves," Blight said. Fewer than 200 sought N.C. Civil War pensions, Ijames said. They got annual pensions of \$200, about \$2,550 today. In Union County, most of the 10 men had an average age of 90 when their pensions began. Last May, Way asked county commissioners to approve a marker honoring the men.

Commissioners sent the request to the county Historic Preservation Commission, which recommended that no new marker go on the courthouse grounds unless there was a major new conflict to commemorate. A Civil War room in a future museum at the courthouse would be the best place to memorialize the 10 men, the preservation group said. No money has been budgeted for a museum, nor is there any timetable to create the center. The county manager agreed with the group's assessment.

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Black Confederates Monument (Continued): Staff told county commissioners they did not recommend the marker be added and recently told Way of the decision.

He isn't sure what he will do next. Way said he felt the historic commission did not want to see a monument to African-Americans at the courthouse. County Manager Cindy Coto and preservation commission Chairman Jerry Surratt said they did not think the historic commission's actions were based on race. Surratt said all of the other monuments at the site, except for the Revolutionary War marker where records were hard to come by, honor those who died in service. No marker mentions a person's race.

About 552 Union County soldiers died in the Civil War, Surratt said, but only their regiments are on the monument.

"If you go back 100 years later and put up a supplement to the monument, with names, it elevates the 10 people by name above the 500 other people who died," Surratt said. "(It) would turn a race-neutral monument to be racially a step backwards." Ijames called it disingenuous to think a monument erected in 1910 at the height of the Jim Crow era would have been intended to honor contributions by black residents. Until Way contacted Greg Perry, he knew little about his great-great-grandfather, pensioner Aaron Perry, who toiled at Fort Fisher. "To find out he fought for the Confederacy was mind-blowing," said Perry, 48, of Monroe. Perry said he understands but disagrees with the reasons the marker was rejected.

"It's really sad," he said. "One thing about history, it can be divisive or it can be healing."

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<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/02/16/2065809/marker-rejected-for-slaves-in.html#ixzz1EAkLZJi>

SCV Under Leftist Attack

Sons of the Confederacy a Racist Group? Historical Group Under Attack by the Left

Randy Inman, Yahoo! Contributor Network Sept 13, 2009

Recently writer Jeff Musall wrote this article about Congressman Joe Wilson shouting at President Obama. In the article Jeff indicates Joe Wilson is a member of the "Sons of Confederate Veterans" which has been taken over by pro slavery folks (paraphrasing there). This of course falls back on the claim of many liberals that anyone opposing President Obama must do so because of race.

Of course some really do believe that people oppose Obama only because of the color of his skin. It never occurs to them that we really only are against Obama's politics. But many liberals use the race card to try to get right wingers to be quiet to avoid being called a racist. But I digress this article is really about the "Sons of Confederate Veterans", the South and even a little on the Civil War.

I live in North Carolina and am a history buff, particularly interested in the American Civil War. I have a connection to the war as one of my ancestors was the father of W.P. Inman of Cold Mountain fame. You can read about that with this link.

I think groups like "Sons of Confederate Veterans" mostly attract people with a love of history and southern heritage. And yes I can see where some racist white trash may be attracted to a group like this. But I honestly do not believe the group should be held in contempt for the thought process of a few of its members. That would be like saying all democrats are scum because of the far left members of their party who hate America.

Some love to paint the Civil War as only being about slavery and Abraham Lincoln as a saint. Both points are incorrect. This war like most wars was about money and power. Rich men got richer by selling arms and equipment to one side, the other, or both.

The average Union Soldier probably was fighting to preserve the Union. The average Confederate Soldier was fighting to defend his homeland and way of life. The rich on both sides stirred up the poor to get them to fight, something you see happen repeatedly in this country for all wars.

The rich slave owners wanted to keep their way of life and income, so they told the poor that the damn Yankees would destroy THEIR way of life. Newspapers on both sides stirred people into a frenzy to get the war going.

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SCV Under Attack (Continued)

Abraham Lincoln was no real friend to slaves other than freeing them which was more of a strike against the Confederacy than trying to help slaves. Abraham Lincoln wanted to round up slaves and force them out of the country. His solution was to simply send all African Americans out of the United States to fend for their selves somewhere else.

Lincoln also abused his powers by imprisoning people who opposed his views, had an illegal military draft and ignored Congress when it suited him. Sounds like a progressive to me. That is why the liberal controlled school system made Abraham Lincoln a saint.

I covered some of my interest in the Civil War and the Confederate flag in this article. It was a reply to Jim Stillman's attack on the Confederate flag in an earlier article. We in the south get labeled racists so often over the flag and other things, we ignore the term now. Racism has been watered down by so many false claims, that real racism can go ignored now.

The "Sons of the Confederacy" are not a racist group, but rather a historical one in my eyes. I will probably join them soon, if for no other reason, just because they are under attack by the left.

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/2169545/sons_of_the_confederacy_a_racist_group_pg2.html?cat=37&com=4

North and Lincoln Wanted to Deport Freedmen

Book: Lincoln sought to deport freed slaves

By Stephen Dinan The Washington Times February 9, 2011

DISCOVERED DOCUMENTS: A new book shows President Lincoln pursued colonization of freed slaves. The Great Emancipator was almost the Great Colonizer: Newly released documents show that to a greater degree than historians had previously known, President Lincoln laid the groundwork to ship freed slaves overseas to help prevent racial strife in the U.S.

Just after he issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Lincoln authorized plans to pursue a freedmen's settlement in present-day Belize and another in Guyana, both colonial possessions of Great Britain at the time, said Phillip W. Magness, one of the researchers who uncovered the new documents.

Historians have debated how seriously Lincoln took colonization efforts, but Mr. Magness said the story he uncovered, to be published next week in a book, "Colonization After Emancipation: Lincoln and the Movement for Black Resettlement," shows the president didn't just flirt with the idea, as historians had previously known, but that he personally pursued it for some time.

"The way that Lincoln historians have grappled with colonization has always been troublesome. It doesn't mesh with the whole 'emancipator,'" Mr. Magness said. "The revelation of this story changes the picture on that because a lot of historians have tended to downplay colonization. ... What we know now is he did continue the effort for at least a year after the proclamation was signed."

Mr. Magness said the key documents he and his co-author, Sebastian N. Page, a junior research fellow at Oxford, found were in British archives, and included an order authorizing a British colonial agent to begin recruiting freed slaves to be sent to the Caribbean in June 1863. By early 1864, the scheme had fallen apart, with British officials fretting over the legality of the Emancipation Proclamation and the risk that the South could still win the war, and with the U.S. Congress questioning how the money was being spent. Roughly a year later, Lincoln was assassinated.

The Belize and Guyana efforts followed other aborted colonization attempts in present-day Panama and on an island off the coast of Haiti, which actually received several hundred freed slaves in 1862, but failed the next year. Michael Burlingame, chair of Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield, said there are two ways to view Lincoln's public support for colonization.

One side holds that it shows Lincoln could not envision a biracial democracy, while the other stance — which Mr. Burlingame subscribes to — says Lincoln's public actions were "the way to sugarcoat the emancipation pill" for Northerners. "So many people in the North said we will not accept emancipation unless it is accompanied by colonization," said Mr. Burlingame, adding that Lincoln himself had always made clear colonization would be voluntary and nobody would be forced out of the United States.

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Lincoln and Freed Slaves (Continued)

The newly released documents underscore just how hot a topic colonization was in the 1800s, when prominent statesmen debated whether blacks and whites could ever live together in a functioning society. Earlier in the century, the American Colonization Society already had organized efforts to ship thousands of black Americans to Africa to the colony of Liberia, and the debate over colonization raged even within the black community.

Frederick Douglass, one of the country's most prominent free blacks, generally opposed colonization, though Mr. Burlingame said on a couple of occasions he showed signs he might embrace it — including appearing open to a venture in Haiti during the Civil War. Still, Douglass also rejected the argument that blacks and whites couldn't live together, and he pointed to places in the North as examples of where it already was happening.

Mr. Burlingame said some abolitionists viewed colonization as a plot to preserve slavery by getting rid of free blacks in the North, while others saw it as a way to undermine slavery by fundamentally questioning the principles slavery was based on.

Mr. Magness, a researcher at the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, said he first got wind of Lincoln's efforts while researching a meeting between the 16th president and Union Gen. Benjamin Butler in the waning days of the war, at which colonization had been discussed.

Most of the U.S. documents about the Belize and Guyana deals have gone missing, but Mr. Magness and his co-author tracked down what he called an "almost untapped treasure cache of Civil War-era records" from the British side that showed Lincoln's deep involvement in the planning and authorization.

With 4 million blacks in the U.S. at the time of the war, colonization would have been a tricky and pricey move. The Belize project's first shipment of laborers would have only been 500, and even if the project had been seen through to fruition, it would have accommodated just 50,000.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/9/book-lincoln-sought-to-deport-freed-slaves/?page=1>

Capt. Ramsey - True Blue

Capt. Ramsey and the Birth of the 'True Blues'

By RONALD CODDINGTON

Southern patriotism and revolutionary fervor burned bright in early February 1861, perhaps nowhere more so than in Alabama. There, representatives from six states convened in Montgomery to draft and adopt a provisional Confederate constitution. Meanwhile troops were mobilizing across the state, and three federal military posts, including two forts at the mouth of Mobile Bay, had been seized by the Alabama state militia. And local leaders were now rallying their communities to defend the emerging republic.

Ramsey and his comrades marched out of the county three days later, calling themselves the Wilcox True Blues. They joined companies from other counties with similarly colorful titles like the Talladega Rifles, the Guards of the Sunny South, the Rough and Ready Pioneers and the Red Eagles. Together they formed a regiment, the First Alabama Infantry. The rank and file elected staff officers, a common practice among volunteers. They voted the captain of the True Blues as the regiment's lieutenant colonel; when he left to assume his new duties, Ramsey advanced to captain and company commander.

The men mustered in for a one-year enlistment. The unique company names were replaced with letters. The True Blues would be officially referred to in future orders and reports as Company K, and after subsequent reorganizations as Company B. They did, however, get to keep their company flag, a blue silk standard trimmed with gold fringe. Tradition has it local women cut the material from a donated dress. A county man, a painter born in England, decorated it with cotton blooms and a landscape. On one side he added gold letters that spelled out the company name followed by "Woman's Offering to Patriotism." A Latin phrase on the other side of the flag warned off invaders: "Noli me tangere," or "Don't touch me."

The raw recruits prepared to defend the homeland, and what they expected to be an easy fight. "When we volunteered, we thought we could whip the Yankees in three months," stated a private who wrote a history of the regiment. "Most of these young men were from homes of wealth and culture, of the best Southern families, and, inflamed with resentment against the North for long-continued aggressions upon the rights of the South, as well as by the recent John Brown raid in Virginia." He further noted that less privileged soldiers, "who, with no property interests involved, equaled the zeal and loyalty of their wealthy comrades in devotion, courage, sacrifice and duty."

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CPT. Ramsey (Continued) A number were students, who toted along their textbooks. "We had several scholarly teachers in the regiment," observed the historian, and "we expected to fight Yankees and pursue our studies at the same time." But there would be little room for book learning. Tough times lay ahead.

Stationed in Florida along Pensacola Bay to man coastal defenses, the regiment's first enemy was disease. Measles, malaria and typhoid fever swept through the men in epidemic proportions. As the death toll mounted, they grew indifferent to the sight of their comrades' corpses being carried to a makeshift cemetery for burial or being shipped to grieving families back home. The regiment's historian recalled that one nervous soldier observed, "A man can die and be buried here with the least ceremony and concern I ever saw."

Despite raging sickness the troops became so proficient at working the big guns in area forts and batteries that they converted to artillerists. But they reverted to foot soldiers on the night of October 8-9, 1861, when they participated in a 1,200-man amphibious raid on nearby Santa Rosa Island, home of Fort Pickens, a federal post that had eluded Confederate capture. The Confederates overran and burned the camp of the Sixth New York Infantry before Union reinforcements drove them back. The True Blues suffered just one casualty, a drummer boy accidentally shot in the leg during the withdrawal.

The regiment's enlistment expired in early 1862, but Ramsey and many of the True Blues reenlisted. Fresh recruits, including Ramsey's little brother, 18-year-old Rob, replaced those who had died of disease or decided that they had enough of war.

The Alabamians soon left the warm climate of Florida for the cold and inhospitable conditions of a nondescript sandbar in the Mississippi River labeled on maps as Island No. 10 (so named because at one point it was the 10th island in the Mississippi south of its junction with the Ohio River). It sat at the base of a horseshoe-shaped bend near New Madrid, Mo., just north of the Tennessee border. Confederate-held defenses on the island and its vicinity lay in the path of riverborne Union forces intent on splitting the Confederacy in two along the great waterway.

Once they arrived another round of disease decimated the regiment. The sick were housed in hospitals established in a church and on a steamboat anchored near the island. On the ship "the men were lying on the floor across the cabin, head to wall and feet to feet, with a space of 12 or 18 inches between each. They all had pneumonia, and the space between each was literally covered with phlegm expectorated by the patients. The same was the case in the aisle, which was about three feet wide. The coughing, wheezing and groans were distressing," according to the regimental historian.

The situation grew more desperate when federal forces moved in. After Union soldiers captured New Madrid, just downriver, over a dozen gunboats and mortar rafts began shelling the 7,000 Confederate troops on Island No. 10. After several days of bombardment, the Confederates tried to escape south into Tennessee, only to be met by federal forces that had landed downriver and then advanced northward. The Confederates surrendered on April 8, 1862; Ramsey, his True Blues and the rest of the First Alabama were among the prisoners.

The Alabamians spent that day in conversation with their captors. The federals "repelled as an insult the least insinuation that the war, professedly for the Union, involved the emancipation of slaves, declaring they would lay down their arms at once if they had the remotest apprehension that such was the case. Though doubtless sincere at the time, they did not make good this declaration upon the issuance of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation nine months later," reported the regimental historian.

The captured officers and enlisted men were separated. Ramsey headed to a prison camp on Johnson's Island in Ohio. His brother, Rob, went to Camp Butler in Illinois, where he died of disease. The banner of the True Blues fared somewhat better. Wisconsin troops stripped it from the company color bearer and sent it home as a war trophy. The flag later became part of a display in a museum in Madison.

Five months after his imprisonment, Ramsey gained his release in a prisoner exchange and returned to duty along the Mississippi, only to suffer surrender and capture a second time. In command of an artillery battery at Port Hudson, La., he and the True Blues successfully defended the city and the river from several major Union assaults. But after Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captured Vicksburg, upriver, Ramsey's position became untenable, and approximately 5,500 men in gray were taken prisoner on July 9, 1863. The enlisted men were released on parole and eventually returned to duty. But for Ramsey and other officers captured, the fighting was over.

Following a prison stint in New Orleans, where Ramsey stood Napoleon-style for his photograph, he returned to Johnson's Island for a second time and remained in captivity for the war's duration. There he spent almost two years in prison before military authorities released him in June 1865. He returned to Wilcox County, married in 1866, and converted to his wife's Baptist faith. They started a family that grew to include five daughters and three sons.

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CPT. Ramsey (Continued) Ramsey eventually completed his medical studies and opened a practice. Ordained as a minister in 1883, he turned his attention to the spiritual needs of his patients. An 1893 typhoid epidemic claimed the life of his wife and a daughter. He remarried the following year, and lived until 1916.

One year after his death, survivors of the True Blues learned that their blue-silk banner, which they had assumed long lost, was still in existence in Wisconsin. They negotiated for its return in 1921, almost 60 years after its capture.

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/08/capt-ramsey-and-the-birth-of-the-true-blues/>

Alamo Surrenders to Texas Troops

Reenactment of Twigg's surrender at Alamo

Martha Cerna February 12, 2011 KENS 5 TV San Antonio, TX

It's possible that the Civil War could have started on the doorsteps of the Alamo. That is what Texas historians say and that is why this reenactment in front of the Alamo is so significant. The story begins in 1860 when talk of secession spooked military leaders...apparently on both sides.

The Texans didn't want the weapons housed there would ever be used against them in a war. So, on February 15, 1861, 150 years ago, about 1,000 Texas militiamen (they are the ones depicted in rough and rugged garb - there were no uniforms at the time...yet) surrounded the Alamo demanding the weapons inside. At the time there were only 200 soldiers within the walls. They were trapped.

The commanding officer, U.S. Army General David Twiggs was en route to those historic walls, when he was circumvented and treated to a confrontation of Texas military leaders. They issued Twiggs an ultimatum: Surrender the gear, or fight. 200 vs. 1,000? The general negotiated terms wherein his soldiers would be allowed to depart with their own weapons, leaving the arsenal in tact. Twiggs had to withdraw all 2,500 soldiers who were in Texas then.

Needless to say, U.S. Army bigwigs didn't look to kindly on this move. Twiggs was booted out of the Army, but he soon took up post as a Confederate general. That's the story, and this is its 150th anniversary.

Authentic reenactors from all over Texas participated in the event held Saturday morning at Alamo Plaza. They each paid their own way, and provided their own attire. Some of the participants said they do reenactments 3 to 4 times each year. Others say they dress up for historic 'performances' once a month. Next time you have a chance to catch one of these reenactments, step forward and talk to these fascinating folks. They have stories to tell. Like the woman who described her eight layers of clothing, and how she sometime 'cheats' during hot summer months. I also heard from one characteristically charming gentleman who revealed that his genuine, non-replica spectacles were actually specifically designed for syphilis patients. How extraordinary!

(Presented by The Alamo Rifles Living History Organization, Co. K, 6th Texas Infantry and the Texas Department of the Sons of Confederate Veterans)

<http://www.kens5.com/news/local/SLIDESHOW--116087389.html>

Professor Denies Ties To Secessionist Group



BALTIMORE, Feb. 15 (UPI) -- An economics professor at Loyola University Maryland says he has no relationship with the League of the South, a secessionist group.

The league, which advocates an independent republic made up of the former Confederate states, has been described as a racist hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay accused Thomas DiLorenzo of ties to the group when he testified last week at a subcommittee hearing on the Federal Reserve.

Thomas DiLorenzo at the Conservative Political Action Conference in D.C. on Feb. 18 2010,

Professor (Continued): Timothy Law Snyder, Loyola's vice president, said the school is looking into whether the league is, in fact, a hate group and whether DiLorenzo is affiliated with it.

"All this takes place in a background of academic freedom and free speech, both of which we need to be concerned with in a situation like this," Snyder said. Loyola is a Catholic school in Baltimore.

The league on its Web site takes an anti-Federal Reserve position and calls for a return to the gold standard. The Web site does not mention race or slavery, although it says the future southern confederation will be based on Christian principles.

Read more: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/02/15/Prof-denies-ties-to-secessionist-group/UPI-64331297778940/#ixzz1EeDUV99I

Mississippi Legislator Wants Rebel Symbols Back

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 26 (UPI) -- A state legislator wants to bring Colonel Reb and "Dixie" back to the University of Mississippi.

State Rep. Mark DuVall has introduced a bill requiring Ole Miss to restore the Confederate mascot and making its band to play the Civil War tune at football and basketball games, the Memphis Commercial Appeal reported.

The school dropped Colonel Reb, a caricature of a white-hatted Southern planter, as its on-field mascot in 2003 to counter charges that it offended and excluded black students, alumni and fans.

Last year a vote by administrators, students, alumni and season ticketholders chose the black bear as a replacement. DuVall said he was responding to constituents upset with the change.

"They had come to me and asked if there was anything the Legislature could do since they weren't getting the actions they were hoping to get from the institution, either through alumni groups or student groups," DuVall said. "The only way I have to bring into the discussion to the Legislature is by filing a bill."

"There never was a vote to do away with Colonel Reb. The decision ... was totally taken away from the fan base," he asserted.

Read more: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/01/26/Miss-legislator-wants-Rebel-symbols-back/UPI-62131296083628/#ixzz1EeEehDau

Confederate group rejects hate groups, helps community

By Steve Jones - sjones@thesunnews.com

CONWAY -- Editor's note: This is the second in an intermittent series called Conway Conversations that run as part of the Conway Notebook.

Terry Carter says it's hard enough for his organization to carry out its primary mission - tending to the graves of Confederate soldiers - without having to continually fight misconceptions that the Sons of Confederate Veterans somehow longs for a return to the days when slavery was legal. "We are not associated, we are not linked in any way, shape or form with hate groups," Carter said.

Carter is president of Litchfield Camp 132, a group that was recently given permission to hold its third annual Confederate Memorial Day service April 23 on the grounds of the Horry County Courthouse in Conway. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. and will include speeches, taps, prayers, pledges to the U.S., S.C., Christian and Confederate battle flags, a 21-gun salute, mortar firings and the reading of the names of the 98 Horry County residents who died fighting for the Confederacy.

Carter said the names will be read by the organization's ladies auxiliary, Daughters of the Confederate Rose, who will be dressed in mourning black. A bell will toll as each name is read. The whole thing, he said, will take about 45 minutes.

Carter and others in the organization believe the Civil War was an economic war, and that Lincoln fought secession so the United States could continue receiving the tariffs that came from the goods imported through Southern ports. Carter said 95 percent of the tariffs at the time came through states south of the Mason-Dixon line and that the loss of that revenue would have sunk the less-than-100-year-old federal government.

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Image (Continued): The website of the state organization, scscv.com, backs up what Carter says.

It says the organization does not at all condone the institution of slavery and it understands that slavery was an issue at the time the war began, 150 years ago this year. "The SCV has removed, and will remove, any member who expresses racist sentiments," the website says.

Additionally, any member found recruiting for racist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan, American Nazi Party or National Alliance, disseminating racist literature or promoting the violent overthrow of the U.S. government will be immediately dismissed. "If I heard any black jokes or if I heard statements or saw any evidence of anti-government feeling," Carter says, "the long and short of it, [the person who did it] would be banned."

That taken care of, Carter talks proudly of what his camp's 95 members do in Horry County.

He said there are 155 cemeteries in the county with the graves of 550 Confederate veterans, and Litchfield Camp members see that they are kept cleaned, have proper grave markers and display Confederate battle flags to honor the veterans. Some members see that the gravesites of World War I and World War II vets in the cemeteries they are assigned are equally well-tended and marked with American flags.

Carter's own great-great-grandfather, a private in the Confederate Army, is buried at Rehobeth Cemetery in Aynor.

The Litchfield Camp has had booths at past Aynor Hoedowns and Loris Bogoffs, and, for the first time this year, has rented booth space for the spring Harley rally. Additionally, the camp presents a Junior ROTC member at eight of Horry County's nine high schools the H.L. Hunley Award for dignity and honor. Carter said Myrtle Beach High School won't allow the award there.

Members clean a roadway in the Conway area as part of the state's Adopt-A-Highway program.

And they present baskets to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Carter said he's taken aback by the negativity with which some automatically view the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "Who can cast shame on a man who wants to honor the graves of his ancestors?" he asks. "We simply mind our own business and tend our graves."

Read more: <http://www.thesunnews.com/2011/02/07/1966788/confederate-group-not-haters-just.html##ixzz1Fazb7T4r>

Confederate car tag proposal revs up a row Klan figure in history is at issue

By Emily Wagster Pettus Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. | A fight is brewing in Mississippi over a proposal to issue specialty license plates honoring Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was an early leader of the Ku Klux Klan.



Greg Stewart, a member of the SCV, displays a sample of the latest Civil War Sesquicentennial tag that is being sold (left), adjacent to the current tag. A fight is brewing over a proposal for a license plate honoring an early leader of the Ku Klux Klan. (AP)

The Mississippi Division of the Son of Confederate Veterans wants to sponsor a series of state-issued license plates to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, which it calls the "War Between the States." The group proposes a different design each year between now and 2015, with Forrest slated for 2014.

"Seriously?" state NAACP President Derrick Johnson said when he was told about the Forrest plate. "Wow."

Forrest, a Tennessee native, is revered by some as a military genius and reviled by others for leading the 1864 massacre of black Union troops at Fort Pillow, Tenn. Forrest was a Klan grand wizard in Tennessee after the war. Sons of Confederate Veterans member Greg Stewart said he believes Forrest distanced himself from the Klan later in life. It's a point many historians agree upon, though some believe it was too little, too late, because the Klan had already turned violent before Forrest left.

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Forrest Tag (Continued): "If Christian redemption means anything — and we all want redemption, I think he redeemed himself in his own time, in his own actions, in his own words," Mr. Stewart said. "We should respect that."

State Department of Revenue spokeswoman Kathy Waterbury said legislators would have to approve a series of Civil War license plates said if every group that has a specialty license plate wanted a redesign every year, it would take an inordinate amount of time from Department of Revenue employees who have other duties. SCV has not decided what the Forrest license plate would look like, Mr. Stewart said. Opponents are using their imagination.

A Facebook group called "Mississippians Against the Commemoration of Grand Wizard Nathan Forrest" features a drawing of a hooded klansman in the center of a regular Mississippi car tag. Robert McElvaine, director of history department at the private Millsaps College in Jackson, joined the Facebook group. Mr. McElvaine said Forrest's role at Fort Pillow and involvement in the Klan make him unworthy of being honored, even on the bumpers of cars.

"The idea of celebrating such a person, whatever his accomplishments in other areas may have been, seems like a very poor idea," Mr. McElvaine told the Associated Press.

Mississippi lawmakers have shown a decidedly laissez-faire attitude toward allowing a wide variety of groups to have specialty license plates, which usually sell for an extra \$30 to \$50 a year. The state sells more than 100 specialty plates for everything from wildlife conservation to breast cancer awareness. One design says "God Bless America," another depicts Elvis Presley. Among the biggest sellers are NASCAR designs and one with the slogan "Choose Life."

The Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has had a state-issued specialty license plate since 2003 to raise money for restoration of Civil War-era flags. From 2003 through 2010, the design featured a small Confederate battle flag. The Department of Revenue allowed the group to revise the license plate this year for the first of the Civil War sesquicentennial designs.

The 2011 plate, now on sale, depicts the Beauvoir mansion in Biloxi, Miss., the final home of Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president. SCV wants license plates to feature Civil War battles that took place in Mississippi. It proposes a Battle of Corinth design for 2012 and Siege of Vicksburg design for 2013. Mr. Stewart said the 2015 plate would be a tribute to Confederate Veterans.

Mr. Johnson, with the NAACP, said he's not bothered by Civil War commemorative license plates generally. But he said Mississippi shouldn't honor Forrest, who was an early leader of what he calls "a terrorist group." "He should be viewed in the same light that we view Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden," Mr. Johnson said of Forrest. "The state of Mississippi should deny any vanity tags which would highlight racial hatred in this state."

Democratic Rep. Willie Bailey, who handles license plate requests in the House, said he has no problem with SCV seeking any design it wants. "If they want a tag commemorating veterans of the Confederacy, I don't have a problem with it," said Bailey, who is black. "They have that right. We'll look at it. As long as it's not offensive to anybody, then they have the same rights as anybody else has."

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/10/confederate-car-tag-proposal-revs-up-a-row/?page=1&utm_medium=RSS&utm_source=RSS_Feed#

KKK leader on specialty license plates? Plan in Mississippi raises hackles.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans want to honor Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Confederate general who subsequently joined the Ku Klux Klan, on some Mississippi license plates in 2014.

By Patrik Jonsson , *The Christian Science Monitor Staff writer / February 11, 2011*

Atlanta - Plans for a Mississippi specialty license plate honoring controversial Confederate Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest are reviving tensions over "unreconstructed" Southerners and their place in the modern South. The Sons of Confederate Veterans want to honor Forrest on a 2014 specialty license plate. Mississippi has more than 150 specialty plates, the most popular ones being "Choose Life" and NASCAR-related license plates.

But the state NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and a Facebook group are raising objections, saying that a

Forrest Tag (Continued): state-sanctioned Forrest license plate sends a not-so-subtle signal to African-Americans that Mississippi condones a man who helped start the Ku Klux Klan after the war. Forrest's involvement in the KKK gave the organization a credibility that helped boost its popularity.

Forrest is one of the most controversial – and popular – icons of the war. A Tennessee native, he raised his own militia at the start of the war and rose quickly from a private to a lieutenant general. He drew praise for his battlefield courage, as well as criticism for a raid on Fort Pillow, Tenn., where his troops massacred a black Union regiment.

Forrest's visage on a license plate is a reminder, experts say, of the lingering debate in US society about the appropriateness of state-sanctioned Confederate symbols and icons. "The thing that made [Forrest] so popular ... is that he remained unreconstructed, still the fiery rebel," says Mike Martinez, a political scientist and expert on Confederate symbols at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. "He became a symbol of, 'Hell, no, we won't capitulate,' and that was extremely affecting for many Southerners who were smarting from battlefield losses."

After the war, Forrest – bitter and nearly broke – joined the nascent Ku Klux Klan. But he disassociated himself after 18 months, finding that the organization lacked a proper military hierarchy. "Trying to decipher reality from spin [in the case of Forrest] is hard," says John Coski, a historian at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va. "Was Forrest the founder of the Klan? No. Is he the one who asked the Klan to cease and desist? It's not clear where the truth on that lies."

Along with Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, Forrest is by far one of the most popular Civil War generals, at least judging by sales trends of modern-day depictions of those icons. "It's that military rags-to-riches story that's part of the allure of Forrest," says Mr. Coski. But for many critics, Forrest's legacy is one of hatred, dissent, and rebellion – hardly notions that a state like Mississippi, which has struggled to escape its racist past, should advertise, state NAACP president Derrick Johnson told the Associated Press.

"He should be viewed in the same light that we view Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden," he said. "The state of Mississippi should deny any vanity tags which would highlight racial hatred in this state."

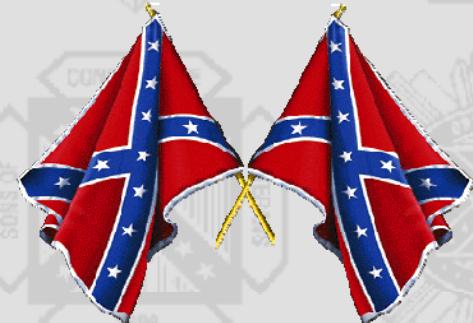
For some, Forrest has been central to attempts to understand the war and assimilate its lessons in the modern era. "[Historian] Shelby Foote told [filmmaker] Ken Burns that two geniuses came out of the Civil War: Lincoln and Forrest," Mr. Martinez says.

But many modern-day Americans still see Forrest as an offensive image radiating out of Mississippi. "I wonder how they'd feel if [Ohio], birthplace of General W. Tecumseh Sherman, proposed a license plate depicting Sherman on a horse with a torch in hand and a silhouette of Atlanta in the background?" commenter Tinsk writes on TPM Muckraker.

To be sure, Confederate symbols and icons "are sort of like the middle finger: You're not going to tell us what to do," Martinez says. "That's ... enormously appealing, not to a large segment, but a segment that's very vocal." But he adds: "To say this is only about heritage is being disingenuous. But to say it's only about hate, that's disingenuous as well. The problem is, you never solve this issue, because both sides are talking about their viewpoint. But they're both sort of right and wrong."

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2011/0211/KKK-leader-on-specialty-license-plates-Plan-in-Mississippi-raises-hackles>

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.

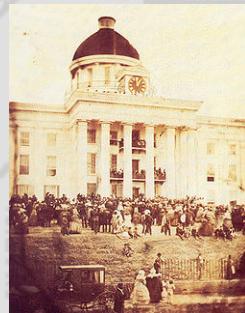


Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us the undeniable birthright of our Southern Heritage and the vision, desire, and courage to see it perpetuated.

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