

General Robert E. Rodes
Sons of Confederate Veterans 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



The General Robert E. Rodes Camp 262, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will meet on Thursday night, May 10, 2012 at 7 PM. The Index of Articles and the listing of Camp Officers are now on Page Two

This month's program will the DVD "American Civil War: A Nation Divided."

"I worked night and day to prevent it, but I could not. So war came."

- Jefferson Davis

James (Jim) B. Simms

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and is 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. Membership is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate military.

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. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$15. Please send information, comments, or inquiries to Robert E. Rodes Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #262, PO Box 1417, Tuscaloosa, AL 34501; or to James Simms at jbsimms@comcast.net.



Upcoming Events



10 May - Camp Meeting
26-27 May - Tannehill Reenactment

13 September - Camp Meeting

14 June - Camp Meeting

11 October - Camp Meeting

21 October - Thisldu - **TBD**

12 July - Camp Meeting

8 November - Camp Meeting

August
Summer Stand-down

13 December - Camp Meeting

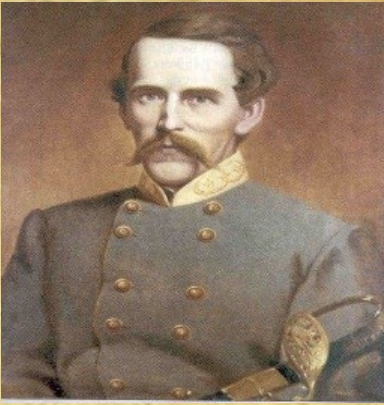
Officers of the Rodes Camp

Commander	David Allen	danptal@aol.com
1st Lieutenant Commander	John Harris	
2nd Lieutenant Commander & Adjutant	Frank Delbridge	Reb41st@aol.com
Color Sergeant	Clyde Biggs	
Chaplain	Dr. Wiley Hales	
Newsletter	James Simms	jbsimms@comcast.net
Website	Brad Smith	tidepridebrad@gmail.com

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General Robert Emmet Rodes (1829-1864)



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

commander of his. Rodes used his civil engineering skills to become chief engineer for the Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He held this position until the start of the Civil War. Although born a Virginian, he chose to serve his adopted state of Alabama.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

His Major Commands included Rodes's Brigade/D.H. Hill's Division and Rodes Division/II Corps.

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



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

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

How to buy:

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

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

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

You may reserve your choice before you go by going to:
<https://www.alabamainteractive.org/dorpt/UserHome.str>

ALABAMA REGISTRATION (TAG) FEE SCHEDULE
<http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/mvforms/feeschedule.htm>

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.

Alabama SCV Car Tag T-Shirt



Most of you are aware that the Alabama Division has a new t-shirt that promotes the SCV car tag approved for sale in the State of Alabama.

Pictured is Morgan Strain wearing the new shirt. The front of the shirt has an Alabama state flag on it with Alabama Division above the flag. Please contact Northeast Brigade Commander Tom Strain at tom@ssnurseries.com or at 729-8501 to order the shirts. Order blank here:

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

Historical Markers of the Tuscaloosa Area

Running Skirmish at Romulus

5 April 1865 – Croxton's brigade left Northport by way of the (old) Columbus Road to Coker, then camped for the night on the old Eutaw Road toward Romulus. Confederate Gen. Wirt Adams's 1500-man cavalry brigade, traveling from Columbus Miss to reinforce Gen. Forrest at Marion Ala, learned of Croxton's presence in the area.

6 April – Croxton's brigade traveled southward across the swollen Sipsey River toward Lanier's Mill near Pleasant Ridge. After looting and burning the mill, they reversed direction to move back toward Northport, stopping along the way to feed horses and eat provisions taken at Lanier's Mill. As the brigade resumed its march near noon, Adams's brigade launched a vigorous assault on the Federals' rear guard, the 6th Ky. Cav. Regt. A running skirmish began as the 6th Ky. Cav. broke until reinforced by 4 companies of the better-armed 2nd Mich. Cav. The brisk engagement continued through a heavy rain until complete darkness overtook the combatants. Both sides then encamped near Romulus, some 13 miles from Northport. Gen. Croxton reported 34 casualties and the loss of a number of horses and ambulance wagons (one of which carried his personal papers). Confederate losses were not reported.

7 April 1865 – Adams's Confederates returned westward toward Columbus Miss in the belief that Croxton was headed that way. Croxton continued on to Northport.

8 April – Croxton, determined to rendezvous with the main Union force sweeping from Selma towards Ga, departed Northport. He followed a route to the northeast dictated by flooded creeks and the Black Warrior, traveling 23 miles north on the old Byler Rd. (US 43N).

9 - 11 April – While encamped in the area, Federal foraging parties stripped the countryside of provisions and its citizens of valuables. War of 1812-veteran John Prewett lost \$26,000 in gold when one of these bands forced his slave to reveal its whereabouts in a nearby cave.

12 April – Traveling via Crabbe Rd. (old Jasper Rd.) to Windham Springs, the brigade departed Tuscaloosa County into the area of Wolf Creek in Walker County. Croxton's "Lost Brigade" eventually rejoined Gen. Wilson's Cavalry Corps on May 1 in Macon Ga, some 3 weeks after Gen. Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Bibb Naval Furnaces-- Brierfield Furnaces – Bibb County

The principal iron producer for the Confederate foundry at Selma, where naval guns and ironclads were made. 1865–Furnaces destroyed by Wilson's Raiders, U.S.A. 1866–Furnaces rebuilt and operated by Gen. Gorgas, former Ordnance Chief, C.S.A.

Website Report for April

For the month of April, there were 29 visits. All time there have been 69 page views, 1,413 all-time visits, and 3,513 all-time page views.

Upcoming Area Reenactment Dates and Locations

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event Website</u>
May 25 - 27, 2012	Battle for the Ironworks	Tannehill, AL	
June 15 - 17, 2012	Skirmish at Buckhorn Tavern	New Market, AL	
September 8 - 9, 2012	Battle of Tunnel Hill Civil War Reenactment	Tunnel Hill, GA	http://www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com/#!reenactment

2012 5th Alabama Regiment Band Event Calendar

Tannehill Reenactment & Dance	Sat/Sun...May 28/29	Tannehill, AL
P. Bryant Fish Fry (Thsl'du).....	Sun...Oct. 21	Bolige, AL (CONFIRMED)
Suwannee Reenactment & Dance	Sat/Sun...Nov. 17/18	Live Oak, FL. (CONFIRMED)
Dickens Christmas Concert	Tues...DEC. 4	Northport, AL

NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

News of the Rodes Camp and of Alabama

Local Businessman helps Preserve CSS Hunley



Jeff Vick gave his account of assisting in the preservation of the CSS Hunley.



Group photograph.



Close up of the CSS Hunley restoration. (photo by Jeff Vick)

Confederate Memorial Day Ceremonies At Evergreen Cemetery



Commander David Allen addresses the gathering



First Lieutenant Commander John Harris addresses the gathering



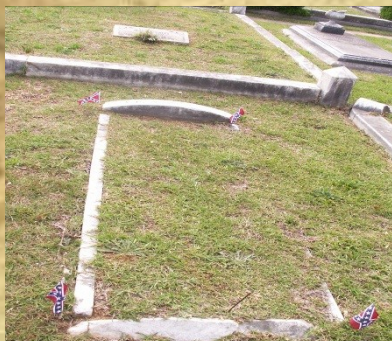
Mrs. Martha Shirley addresses the gathering

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Rodes Camp News (Continued):



First Lieutenant Commander John Harris and Mrs. Martha Shirley lay a wreath on the grave of Virginia Hortense Rodes.

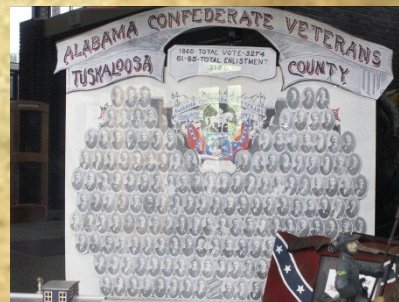


Virginia Hortense Rodes (Woodruff)



Top to bottom: Virginia Hortense Rodes, Robert E. Rodes, Jr, his wife Emma, their son John and a baby infant.

First Lieutenant Commander John Harris Sets up Confederate Heritage Month Display in the Tuscaloosa Public Library



Alabama News

Alabama Division Commander Resigns

From Commander David Allen

April 30, 2011

Gentlemen,

I must tender my Resignation as Alabama Division Commander. The specific reasons for this are personal and shall remain confidential to myself alone. I have taken on a professional position that is quite demanding, and I have taken far too much of my personal time from my family.

Those who know my character will simply have to trust in me, and those who question my character will be free to believe what they wish.

The simple fact is that I cannot continue to serve as Commander of the Alabama Division, or in any capacity, and must take my leave. I sincerely wish my service had been more effective and worthwhile.

It has been an honor to serve with my staff and the leadership of the Division. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Cause.

My very best wishes to you all, to the Alabama Division, and to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

(Continued Next Page)

Reames (Continued):

Deo Vindice,
Robert C Reames,
Former Alabama Division Commander,
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Deo Vindice,
Tom V. Strain Jr
AoT Commander
Commander
Alabama Division, SCV

www.scv.org

www.scvaot.org

www.scv-strain.com

Mobilians gather at Magnolia Cemetery to honor Confederate troops (Gallery)

Bernell Dorrough *The Press-Register* Mobile, AL April 15, 2012

MOBILE, Alabama -- Beautiful weather in Magnolia Cemetery set the scene for the Confederate Memorial Day of Observance and Sesquicentennial of Confederate Rest on Sunday in Mobile.



From left, Scott Owens, 21st Ala. Infantry; John Brewer, 21st Infantry; Barron Collum, 21st Ala. Infantry; Terry Bailey, 6th Ala. Calvary; Cameron A. Grant, Camp 11; and Jessie Taylor, Semmes Camp, salute during the Confederate Memorial Day of Observance ceremony and Sesquicentennial of Confederate Rest at Magnolia Cemetery on April 15, 2012, in Mobile, Alabama. (*Press-Register*, Kate Mercer)

Check out our gallery with 15 photos from the event.

http://blog.al.com/live/2012/04/mobilians_gather_at_magnolia_c.html

Photo Gallery: http://photos.al.com/4464/gallery/confederate_memorial_day_observance_41512/index.html

Ward, Wallace save Confederate Memorial Park funding

Justin Averette *The Clanton Advertiser* Clanton, AL April 20, 2012

Sen. Cam Ward and Rep. Kurt Wallace worked together this week to stop attempts to take funding away from the Confederate Memorial Park in Mountain Creek. Other legislators wanted to redistribute that money elsewhere.

“Not only is the Confederate Memorial Park a part of our heritage as Alabamians, it is a tourist attraction for families traveling throughout the state,” Ward said. “The park brings tourism money to our county that is essential to our families’ livelihoods.”

In the Alabama House of Representatives, House Bill 610 would have taken 80 percent of the funding from Confederate Memorial Park and redistributed that money to five other parks, according to Wallace.

(Continued Next Page)

Memorial Park (Continued):

“It would have completely destroyed the park and forced it to close,” said Wallace. “We have some hard choices to make in our state budgeting, but cutting tourism dollars for Chilton County is not a choice we are willing to make. Our heritage and our way of life must be defended.”

Confederate Memorial Park is funded, in part, by a property tax that was once used to support Confederate veterans and their wives. The tax was also used to operate the Alabama Confederate Soldiers’ Home, which was located on what is now park grounds. The veterans home closed in 1939.

According to an Associated Press report from July 2011, the tax brings in more than \$400,000 annually for the park.

<http://www.clantonadvertiser.com/2012/04/20/ward-wallace-save-confederate-memorial-park-funding/>

Underwater Cultural Act Passes Out of Senate Committee

Bill Britt *Alabama Political Reporter* Montgomery, AL March 27, 2012

For years a bullet, buckle, arrowhead or any old item found in an Alabama waterway way was considered property of the State of Alabama. The Historical Commission so jealously guard any artifact that picking a arrowhead out of a stream could land a young boy or girl in jail.

Due to an over-zealous interpretation of the law, historical memorabilia has rotted and vanished in the muddy waters of the state. Rep. Dr. Jim McClendon (R-Springville) has fought to see the law amended, today he passed another milestone as HB54 also known as the Underwater Cultural Resources Act, received a favorable report from the Senate Committee.

The bill was vigorously challenged by the Alabama Historical Commission, a state department created by the State’s Legislature. In the agency's view, any artifact found in an Alabama waterway is the sole property of the state.

Alabama native, Steve Phillips, a professional diver and author of many books on historical artifacts said he was pleased with the Senate's findings. Phillips is the only person every arrested and tried under the Historical Commission’s interpretation of the law. Phillips was not found guilty of the offense but was nevertheless, charged and had to defend himself at considerable expense and inconvenience. At the Senate hearing Frank White, Executive Director of Historical Commission asked, “The question that I have as Executive Director of Historical Commission is what is wrong with the law as it is now? If a diver wants to dive, they come and get a permit from us. They go dive, they find whatever, they bring it up. We will look at it and make a judgement decision about what is historically significant for the State of Alabama and whether it ought to remain with the state, then the diver can take the remaining finds with them.”

Mr. White’s assertion that, “...The diver can take the remaining finds with them,” has not proven to be the case. Even though not convicted the Historical Commission has yet to return Phillip’s property.

During the hearing Sen. Trip Pittman (R-Daphne), asked Director White, “ What about the idea of historical doesn't have anything to do with the value. So, you could find something that had value that didn't have historical significance and it would still go to the diver, correct, under the current law?” White answered, "Correct.”

Rep. McClendon later stated that divers have turned over artifacts to the Historical Commission and have found that those items they trusted to the commission were sold and shipped to museums out of state.

Sen. Dick Brewbaker (R-Montgomery) asked White, “From the state point of view or archeologists that work for you...sites that are underwater, what projects does the state have going on now to recover these? Are there any active ones except the one in Mobile Bay? Other than that, There is no state-sponsored recovery of these historical artifacts.” White responded that he was correct.

McClendon as said on numerous occasions,

(Continued Next Page)

Artifacts (Continued): “The current law is confusing and has caused much consternation among those people who wish to retrieve those artifacts that no one else is going after. The Historical Commission, over the years, has done little to explore, retrieve or preserve these artifacts. Unless these [private citizen divers] people are allowed to do this, the artifacts will stay in the mud and continue to deteriorate and be lost to future generations of Alabamians.”

Two amendments were added to the bill. One provides that no such artifacts are recovered by the process of mechanical and/or hydraulic dredging. The other amendment came from Senate Minority Leader Roger Bedford (D-Russellville) stating, [It] shall be a Class A misdemeanor to violate the provisions of this law. This would be equivalent to a speeding ticket, according to Bedford.

<http://www.alreporter.com/al-politics/political-news/in-case-you-missed-it/254-in-case-you-missed-it/1665-underwater-cultural-act-passes-out-of-senate-committee.html>

More articles @ <http://ssdsupply.blogspot.com/>



Friends of the *Gen. Joe Wheeler* Home Foundation

April 2012

The Newsletter of the Friends of the General Joe Wheeler Home Foundation

From the President's Desk...

There is much excitement at the Wheeler Home these days. The main house is ready for visits. Group tours of ten or more are available Monday-Friday by appointment. It appears that those who appreciate the power of history and heritage are delighted to have the main house open after 12 years of closure. Tours are being booked, as many as 4 - 5 a day! After the Grand opening / General's Birthday Party on September 8th., new schedule will be posted, and individuals will be admitted.

Thanks to all of you who supported us through the years; yet please realize that there is still much to be done. We need restrooms, a welcome center, comprehensive landscaping, etc. we are confident that, with your help, we can achieve these goals.

Please, meanwhile, put September 8th on your calendar, and help us celebrate this important milestone. Details will be announced later.

The Wheeler Home is now open for group tours, civic, corporate or school outings, weddings and other social events. For rental information or to schedule a tour, contact Melissa Beasley at 256-637-8513 or wheplan@hiwaav.net.

Milly Caudle,

President, Friends of The General Joe Wheeler Home Foundation

Holding on to Historical Roots : A Glimpse of Restoration Efforts at Pond Spring

By Loretta Gillespie

Lawrence County has lost numerous historic homes and buildings, many of which are now parking lots or subdivisions. The Joni Mitchell song "Big Yellow Taxi" in which the songwriter laments the loss of nature to a parking lot has been prophetic in many cases, especially in Lawrence County. But there's one area that has, thankfully, held onto its roots, cherished its memories and preserved its heritage. That place is Courtland. Courtland has seen a renaissance in recent years, investing in a quaint old-fashioned square with a gazebo, and even a museum.

(Continued Next Page)

Wheeler Home (Continued):

Down the road is the crown jewel of the area - if not the entire county - the General Joe Wheeler Home, known as Pond Spring. The historic home place of one of Alabama's most recognized Civil War heroes has been preserved, in large part, because of the Wheeler family. It was wholly owned by Gen. Wheeler's descendants until 1994, when they deeded fifty acres to the state of Alabama to be managed by the Alabama Historical Commission. Since then, there have been many improvements, as well as some setbacks, while the house underwent a twelve-year renovation. Until now.

During the past few months, staff and volunteers have been hanging portraits and photographs, cleaning and reinstalling decorative arts, planning the installation of military exhibits, and speaking to local historical groups who support Pond Spring and the Alabama Historical Commission. "Our staff and volunteers are composing a study guide for teachers based on Pond Spring's collection of historic artifacts and buildings at the site with plans to open the main house and grounds in time for Spring field trips for students," said Pond Spring Site Director, Melissa Beasley, of the Alabama Historical Commission. "Our preparations also include a soft opening for group tours during the Summer months, the rededication party on September 8, 20L2, and being prepared for regularly scheduled tour hours Wednesday thru Sunday after September." Beasley added.

Many people are interested in this historic spot. Some are history buffs who recognize the value of the legend surrounding its famous owner, some are people who love old homes and want to see them preserved, while others are garden enthusiasts who enjoy the many flowers and plants that surround the home. still, others are school children who need to know about this special heritage so that thousands of them might once more enjoy the privilege of witnessing the history that made Alabama great, which unfolded right here at our back door.

In addition to funds allocated by the state, the home receives private funding through donations from The Friends of the General Joe Wheeler Home Foundation, a group of people who have a common interest in seeing the grand old place regain its former glory. The Friends group donated \$200,000 toward the structural restoration, with an additional \$75,000 toward restoring the many pieces of furniture and memorabilia on display in the home. A total of approximately \$2 million dollars has been spent on the restoration, including monies from both state and federal funds. Due to budget cuts at the state level, support from the community is now more important than ever. Membership to the Friends group should be renewed annually, and donations of any size are always welcome. Volunteers are needed to lend their expertise or time toward keeping the house and grounds as historically accurate and as pleasing to the eye as they were when Miss Annie Wheeler walked the garden paths.

Newsletter Suggestions? We welcome your feedback. If you have an idea for the next quarterly newsletter, please let us know. Submit suggestions to:

Milly Caudle, Foundation President Email: millycaudle@pclnet.net

Thanks to You, the Home's Furnishings are Being Restored!

The Friends of the General Joe Wheeler Home Foundation continues to play a key role in the restoration of the home. The major task of restoring the home's furniture to its original glory has begun - thanks to a sizeable grant from the foundation, made possible by your generous donations. Please renew your membership today with a tax deductible contribution.

Thank you for your generosity.

Membership Categories are: Senior \$10, Student \$10, Individual \$15,
 Corporate/Institutional \$250, Family \$25
 Patron \$50, Benefactor \$100

Wheeler Home (Continued):

Name:
 Mailing Address:
 City, State, Zip:
 Make checks payable to: Friends of the
 Gen. Joe Wheeler Home Foundation

Mail to:
 Friends of Wheeler Home
 c/o Marilyn Clark
 P.O. Box 125
 Courtland, AL 35618

Alabama Personalities & Connections to Alabama During the WBTS

Emma Sansom:

"An incident connected with the recent Yankee raid is worthy of record. When Gen. [Nathan B.] Forrest arrived at Black Creek, 3 miles from Gadsden [AL], in hot pursuit of the Vandals [Col. Abel D. Streight's Raid, 11 April-3 May 1863, through northern AL], he found his progress checked by a swollen stream and a demolished bridge, while a detachment of the enemy lingered behind to dispute his passage to the opposite side. Ignorant of the ford, if indeed there were any, Gen. Forrest himself rode back in quest of the necessary information. At the first house he made the inquiry whether there was any person who could pilot his command across the stream, to which a young lady made reply -- no male person being present -- that she knew the ford, and that if she had a horse she would accompany and direct him. There being no time for ceremony, Gen. Forrest proposed that she should get up behind him to which, with no maiden coyness, but actuated only by the heroic impulse to serve her country, she at once consented. Her mother, however, overhearing the suggestion, and sensitively alive to her daughter's safety and honor, interposed the objection. "Sir, my child cannot thus accompany a stranger." "Madam," respectfully urged the far-famed chieftain, "my name is Forrest, and I will be responsible for this young lady's safety." "Oh," rejoined the good woman, "if you are Gen. Forrest she can go with you!"

Mounted behind the General, she piloted him across the stream, exposed to the whistling bullets of the enemy; nor did she retire from her post of danger until the last man had safely crossed, and the column seen in continuance of its rapid pursuit, accompanied by her earnest prayers for success.

The name of this heroine is Miss [Emma] Sansom, who deserves to be long and gratefully remembered, not only by Gen. Forrest and his gallant men but by every lover of the cause to which she rendered such gallant and timely aid. The General wrote a note of thanks, and sent it back to the heroic girl."

Additional information can be found in John A. Wyeth, *Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest* (New York, 1899), or in other biographies of Forrest. There are no biographies of Emma Sansom that I am aware of, except for a juvenile book called *Emma Sansom : Ride to Glory* by Richard Cooper (Raleigh, NC : Creative Productions, 1987). There are also a few articles about her in the *Confederate Veteran*. She married a man named Christopher B. Johnson in Alabama in October 1864 and lived in Gadsden for several years. Ultimately the family moved to Texas and settled near Gilmer, Upshur County, where they reared five sons and two daughters. Christopher died in 1887, and Emma never remarried. She died 9 August 1900 and is buried in Little Mound Cemetery, about 12 miles west of Gilmer, Upshur County, Texas. She was honored with a poem by John Trotwood Moore, and with a monument in Gadsden, Alabama. Their family included:

1. Mattie Forrest Johnson [15 Aug 1866, Gadsden, AL--9 Oct 1871, Gadsden, AL]
2. Joseph Bivins Johnson [4 May 1868, Gadsden, AL--5 Aug 1948, Upshur Co., TX]
3. Thomas Cooper Johnson [11 Dec 1869, Gadsden, AL--26 May 1936, Upshur Co., TX]
4. Edward Van Smith Johnson [30 Dec 1872, Gadsden, AL--17 Nov 1953, Houston, TX]
5. Chester Lucy Johnson (Burgin) [26 Oct 1874, Gadsden, AL--9 April 1958, TX]
6. Benjamin Cain Johnson [18 Dec 1877, Upshur Co., TX--8 April 1967, Upshur Co., TX]
7. Mercer Meeks Johnson [17 March 1881, Upshur Co., TX--19 March 1961, Dallas, TX]
8. Jennie Maud Johnson (Pond) [3 Oct 1884, Upshur Co., TX--11 March 1951, Weatherford, TX]

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Alabama Personalities (Continued):

Emma Sansom's and her Husbands Gravesite @ Little Mound Baptist Church;
West of Gilmer, TX



Alabama Born Confederate Generals

BG Thomas Harrison

Thomas Harrison was born May 1, 1823, in Jefferson County, Alabama but was raised in Monroe County, Mississippi. He was a brother of Confederate Brigadier General James E. Harrison. Thomas Harrison moved to Brazoria County, Texas in 1843 and studied law, establishing a law practice at Waco. He returned to Mississippi in order to become a member of the 1st Mississippi Rifles, commanded by future Confederate President Jefferson Davis during the Mexican-American War.

Harrison served a term in the Texas legislature from Harris County. He then settled in Waco, Texas. He was the captain of a volunteer militia company and served for a time in West Texas.

After service in West Texas, Harrison's militia company joined the 8th Texas Cavalry Regiment of the Confederate States Army, which was known as "Terry's Texas Rangers," after a measles epidemic caused a large reduction in the number of men in the regiment. Harrison began his service as captain and was promoted to major in early 1862. He fought with the regiment at Shiloh, Corinth, and Perryville. Harrison became Colonel of the regiment on November 18, 1862, about six weeks before the Battle of Stones River and led the regiment at that battle. Harrison was wounded in the hip on January 1, 1863 at Stones River. He subsequently led the regiment during the Tullahoma Campaign.

Between July 1863 and April 26, 1865, Harrison commanded cavalry brigades in the divisions of Brigadier General John A. Wharton (including Major General William T. Martin's detachment), Brigadier General Frank Crawford Armstrong and Brigadier General William Y.C. Humes in Major General Joseph Wheeler's Cavalry Corps of the Army of Tennessee and the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. His regiment and brigade often were used as scouts.

Harrison fought under the command of Cavalry Corps commander Major General Joseph Wheeler at the Battle of Chickamauga and in the Knoxville Campaign, Atlanta campaign, Savannah Campaign (Sherman's March to the Sea) and the Carolinas Campaign. Despite Brigade command, Harrison was not appointed as a brigadier general until near the end of the war, February 18, 1865, to rank from January 14, 1865. His brigade was placed in Brigadier General Robert H. Anderson's division in Lieutenant General Wade Hampton's cavalry corps during the Carolinas Campaign. Harrison was wounded at the Battle of Monroe's Crossroads in North Carolina on March 10, 1865. He was paroled at Macon, Georgia on May 31, 1865 and pardoned on March 29, 1866.

Harrison returned to Waco after the end of the war. He was elected district judge. He became an anti-Reconstruction Democrat. He was a Democratic Party Presidential Elector in 1872.

Thomas Harrison died July 14, 1891 at Waco, Texas and is buried at Waco.

Camps and Hospitals Located In Alabama During the WBTS

CAMP JOHNS[T]ON (near Auburn, AL): near Auburn, AL (14th, 18th Inf). Captain Searcy's Alabama Volunteers (later Co H of 37th AL CSA)

CAMP JORDAN (Blue Springs, AL): about five miles north of Huntsville.

CAMP LEE (Santa Rosa, FL): Santa Rosa Co., FL (2nd Cav).

CAMP LEE (near Pollard, AL or Santa Rosa Co., FL): near Pollard, AL or in Santa Rosa Co., FL (2nd Cav; 29th Inf), 57th Alabama Regiment (of Scott's Brigade, Loring's Division Stewart's Corp.

CAMP LOMAX (near Pensacola, FL): near Pensacola, FL? (2nd Cav). A CSA camp for Alabama troops located above *Pensacola*.

CAMP MAGNOLIA (at Grande Lagoon, near Warrington, FL): occupied, 1861-62.

Madison House Hospital (Montgomery, AL): Two buildings on opposite corners of Perry and Main Streets [Monroe Street] (formerly a hotel and Masonic Hall).

Moore Hospital (Mobile): Located on Royal Street, a former hotel.

Negro Hospital (Mobile): Provided for Negro laborers working on city fortifications.

Nidelet Hospital (Mobile): Formerly the US Naval Hospital and named after the physician in charge.

Alabama Civil War Units

Seventh Alabama Infantry Regiment

The Seventh organized at Pensacola, May 18, 1861, with eight infantry and two mounted companies. It was composed of twelve months' men, of companies that rendezvoused at that place. It remained on duty there till November, when it was ordered to Chattanooga, and a month later to Bowling Green. It was in a temporary brigade under Col. S.A.M. Wood, and fell back with the army to Corinth.

The time of service of most of the companies expired the first week in April 1862, and it disbanded, though the company from Montgomery and Autauga, and other men of the regiment, fought at Shiloh. The mass of the men went at once into other organizations, and rendered efficient service therein.

Seventh Alabama Cavalry Regiment

This Seventh was organized at Newbern, in Greene, July 22, 1863, and was raised as part of the brigade of Gen. Clanton. Ordered to Pollard, the regiment remained in that vicinity for nearly a year. In the fall of 1864, the Seventh reported to Gen. Forrest at Corinth, and was assigned to Rucker's brigade. It took part in the raid on Johnsonville, and was engaged in the fighting as Hood moved up to Nashville.

The Seventh also bore the brunt of the night attack of the enemy at Brentwood, suffering severely in killed and wounded. During Hood's retreat, the regiment fought daily and nightly, repelling the repeated assaults of the enemy's swarm of cavalry. When the Seventh reached Corinth, only 64 rank and file (effective) were left of the 350 with which it began the campaign. After recruiting a few weeks, the regiment joined Gen. Buford, at Montevallo, 300 strong. Ordered to west Florida, the Seventh reached Greenville, then turned and confronted Wilson's corps from Benton to Girard, fighting and obstructing his march.

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Alabama Civil War Units (Continued): At Girard the regiment was in the line, and took part in the last fighting of the great war. It moved by way of Dadeville and Wetumpka, and surrendered at Gainesville, May 14, 1865.

Gage's Battery

This battery was organized at Mobile, October 1861, and was composed of Mobilians. It remained in the defenses of the city during the winter. It was then sent to Tennessee, and suffered severely at Shiloh. The battery was then sent back to Mobile, and remained in garrison there till the city was evacuated. It was surrendered with the department at Meridian.

Eighth Alabama Infantry Regiment

This was the first Alabama command that enlisted "for the war." It was organized by the appointment of its field officers by the war department. The regiment lay at Yorktown, Virginia, the first eleven months of its service, and a detachment of it was engaged in a skirmish near Winn's Mill. Placed in Gen. Pryor's brigade, the regiment fell back with the army till the enemy overtook it at Williamsburg. It won its first laurels on that fiercely-contested field, losing about 100 men.

At Seven Pines it was again under the most deadly fire, and its loss was 32 killed, 80 wounded, and 32 missing. Now in the brigade of Gen. Wilcox, --with the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Fourteenth Alabama regiments-- the Eighth was under fire at Mechanicsville, and took part in the desperate assault of Longstreet's division on the enemy's position at Gaines' Mill, and emerged victoriously from the bloody combat with the loss of half of the 350 men it had engaged.

Three days later, the regiment was in the line of assault at Frazier's Farm, where it met Meagher's Irish brigade, and of 180 effective men, only 90 were at regimental muster the next morning. Its ranks soon began to fill up, and the Eighth marched with the army towards the Potomac. At the second battle of Manassas it was under a destructive fire, and lost about 60 men, but was held in reserve. The regiment took part in the capture of Harper's Ferry, then crossed the river and fought obstinately at Sharpsburg, where it lost 67 killed and wounded.

It wintered at Rappahannock, and lost slightly at Fredericksburg. At Salem Church, Wilcox's brigade of Alabamians, of which it was part, bore the brunt of the federal assault, and drove them back in confusion, capturing 1500 prisoners; the Eighth losing 58 men killed and wounded. It was in the exultant army that Lee led into Maryland the second time, and its colors were flouted in the face of death at Gettysburg; where of 420 engaged, 260 were left on the bloody field.

With the army it re-crossed the Potomac, and wintered in the vicinity of Orange C.H. The regiment was again hotly engaged at the Wilderness, losing heavily, and at Spotsylvania suffered considerably. It was under fire nearly every day as the federal army pressed up to Richmond, and its loss was severe at the second Cold Harbor. At Petersburg the Eighth again suffered largely. It fought the cavalry raid on the Weldon Railroad, and participated in the capture of the "Crater."

At Deep Bottom the regiment participated with some loss, and lost heavily in the attempt to dislodge the enemy from their position on the Weldon Railroad. The regiment assisted at the repulse of the foe on the plank road below Petersburg, and fought cheerfully on the retreat up the James. At Appomattox the remnant indignantly denied the first rumors of the contemplated surrender, many wept like children at the announcement, and the survivors tore their battle-rent banner into shreds to retain as a memento. Of 1377 men on its roll, the Eighth had 300 killed or mortally wounded, over 170 died of disease, and 236 were discharged or transferred.

Eighth Alabama Cavalry Regiment

This regiment was organized in April 1864 at Newbern, by adding a company to the nine of Hatch's battalion, which had entered the service the previous winter. Ordered at once to Blue Mountain, the regiment was under General Pillow. Moving into north Georgia, the regiment was in the desperate encounter at Lafayette, with a loss of 30 killed and wounded and about 75 prisoners. Shortly after, the Eighth fought at Rome, losing about 20 men killed and wounded.

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Alabama Civil War Units (Continued): It was ordered to west Florida soon after, and was in front of Steele as he moved on Pollard. The Eighth surrendered at Gainesville, after some further operations of minor importance.

Eighth Confederate Regiment

This regiment was organized just after the battle of Shiloh by the consolidation of Brewer's, Bell's, and Baskerville's battalions--six Alabama, and four Mississippi companies. Brewer's battalion was among the first mounted troops raised in Alabama, and had fought at Shiloh with severe loss. The Eighth Confederate marched with the army into Kentucky, and was engaged in a series of bloody encounters, extending up to and subsequent to the battle of Murfreesboro.

It was in Wheeler's dash on Rosecrans' rear during that battle, and was badly cut in two or three cavalry fights shortly after. The regiment lost very severely at Shelbyville, and was engaged at Chickamauga. Near Dalton, May 1864, the regiment had a protracted fight, with heavy loss. During the Dalton-Atlanta campaign the regiment fought as infantry nearly the whole time.

It was engaged at Jonesboro, and in the captured of Stoneman. It was with Wheeler in his last grand raid into Tennessee, fighting often, then moved into Virginia, and fought Burbridge at Saltville. The Eighth then pursued Sherman into the Carolinas, sad was in constant contact with him till it surrendered at Greensboro, less than 100 strong.

Hardaway's Battery

This battery was recruited in Russell, Macon, and Tallapoosa, and was provided with tents, side-arms, camp equipage, &c., at the private expense of its first captain. It reached Virginia in June 1861, and remained at Manassas till March 1862. Thenceforth the record of Hardaway's battery was that of the immortal Army of Northern Virginia.

Its guns roared at Seven Pines, Mechanicsville, the first Cold Harbor, White-oak Swamp, Sharpsburg, Shepherdstown, Upperville, Port Royal, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Hanover Junction, the second Cold Harbor, Dutch Gap, Deep Bottom, Fussell's Mill, Fort Field, Fort Gilmer, Fort Harrison, Henrico Poorhouse, Darbytown Road, Appomattox, and in numerous other stubborn conflicts of lesser note.

The long range and soft whir of its Whitworth bolts were the pride of the service. The losses of the battery were severe in a number of engagements, for it was ever active and bold in its movements.

Haynie's Battery

This was also a Mobile battery, and was organized in that city, October 1861. It remained there till May 1862, then tarried at Columbus, several months. Sent to Corinth unequipped, the men served with other batteries till the siege of Vicksburg, when the battery was organized, and suffered in casualties while in charge of the heavy guns.

Captured and paroled, the battery was on garrison duty at Mobile, and one or two other points, till the struggle closed.

A Detailed Time Line of Secession and the Civil War in Alabama:

May

May 1-2, 1862: Athens is sacked by three Federal regiments under Col. Ivan Vasilevitch Turchininov (John Turchin, a former Russian artillery officer and veteran of the Crimean War).

May 9-10, 1862: Pensacola evacuated by CSA forces.

May 12, 1862: Governor Shorter calls on the entire male population between the ages of 16 to 60 to organize themselves into volunteer units to be called the State Guard.

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AL WBTS Timeline (Continued):

May 1, 1865: Governor Watts is captured in Union Springs, sent to Montgomery and later Macon, Georgia, before being released by mid-June.

May 4, 1865: Gen. Richard Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, surrenders all troops under his command at Citronelle, Alabama, becoming the last organized CSA force to surrender east of the Mississippi River.

May 21, 1861: CSA capital relocated to Richmond.

May 25, 1865: Mobile is nearly destroyed by fire following a deadly accidental explosion of a powder magazine.

This Month in the War Between the States

May 1, 1863: Battle of Chancellorsville begins in Virginia. Battle of Port Gibson.

Battle of Chalk Bluff.

Alabama-Skirmish at Blountsville

May 2, 1863: Stonewall Jackson is accidentally shot. Jackson rode forward to reconnoiter the territory for another assault. But as he and his aides rode back to the lines, a group of Rebels opened fire. Jackson was hit three times, and a Southern bullet shattered his left arm. His arm had to be amputated the next day.

Battle of Chalk Bluff ends.

Alabama-Skirmish at Blount's Plantation.

May 2, 1865: A \$100,000 reward offered for the arrest of Jefferson Davis.

May 3, 1863: General Joseph Hooker and the Army of the Potomac abandon a key hill on the Chancellorsville battlefield. Nonetheless, Hooker's forces were still in a position to deal a serious defeat to Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia because they had a numerical advantage and a strategic position between Lee's divided forces. But Lee had Hooker psychologically beaten. Once Stuart's artillery occupied Hazel Grove, the Confederates proceeded to wreak havoc on the Union lines around Chancellorsville.

Alabama-General Nathan Bedford Forrest surrounds and accepts surrender of Col. Abel Streight three miles east of Cedar Bluff, AL

May 4, 1864: The beginning of a massive, coordinated campaign involving all the Union Armies. In Virginia, Grant with an Army of 120,000 begins advancing toward Richmond to engage Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, now numbering 64,000, beginning a war of attrition that will include major battles at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. In the West, Sherman, with 100,000 men begins an advance toward Atlanta to engage Joseph E. Johnston's 60,000 strong Army of Tennessee.

May 4, 1995: The CSS Hunley was discovered off the coast of Sullivan's Island by N.U.M.A. archeologists Ralph Wilbanks, Wes Hall, and Harry Pecorelli. After diving in nearly 30 feet of water - they removed three feet of sediment to reveal one of the Hunley's two small conning towers.

May 5, 1864: Battle of the Wilderness begins in Virginia.

May 6, 1861: Arkansas secedes from the Union; the ninth state to secede.

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WBTS Timeline (Continued):

May 7, 1864: William T. Sherman begins his Atlanta campaign. Battle of Spotsylvania. Battle of Rocky Face Ridge.

May 8, 1862: Battle of McDowell.

May 10, 1863: Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson dies. The South loses one of its boldest and most colorful generals on this day. He died of pneumonia a week after losing his arm when his own troops accidentally fired on him during the Battle of Chancellorsville. In the first two years of the war, Jackson terrorized Union commanders and led his army corps on bold and daring marches. He was the perfect complement to Robert E. Lee. He died, as he had wished, on the Sabbath, May 10, 1863, with these last words: "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."

May 10, 1865: After the collapse (Conquest) of the Confederate government, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured in Irwinsville, Georgia by Union forces.

May 11, 1864: Confederate Cavalry General J.E.B. Stuart is mortally wounded. A dismounted Union trooper fatally wounds J.E.B. Stuart, one of the most colorful generals of the South, at the Battle of Yellow Tavern, just six miles north of Richmond. Stuart died the next day. The death of Stuart was a serious blow to Lee. He was a great cavalry leader, and his leadership was part of the reason the Confederates had a superior cavalry force in Virginia during most of the war. Stuart's death, like Stonewall Jackson's the year before, seriously affected Lee's operations.

May 12, 1863: Battle of Raymond.

May 12, 1864: Close-range firing and hand-to-hand combat at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, result in one of the most brutal battles of the Civil War. After the Battle of the Wilderness (May 5-6), Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee raced their respective forces southward toward the critical crossroads of Spotsylvania Court House. Sensing Grant's plan, Lee sent part of his army on a furious night march to secure the road junction before the Union soldiers got there.

On May 10, Grant began to attack Lee's position at Spotsylvania. After achieving a temporary breakthrough at the Rebel center, Grant was convinced that a weakness existed there, as the bend of the Confederate line dispersed their fire. At dawn on May 12, Union General Winfield Scott Hancock's troops emerged from the fog and overran the Rebel trenches, taking nearly 3,000 prisoners and more than a dozen cannons. While the Yankees erupted in celebration, the Confederates counterattacked and began to drive the Federals back. The battle raged for over 20 hours along the center of the Confederate line—the top of the inverted U—which became known as the "Bloody Angle."

Around the Bloody Angle, the dead lay five deep, and bodies had to be moved from the trenches to make room for the living. The action around Spotsylvania shocked even the grizzled veterans of the two great armies. Said one officer, "I never expect to be fully believed when I tell what I saw of the horrors of Spotsylvania." And yet the battle was not done; the armies slugged it out for another week.

May 13, 1863: Union General Ulysses S. Grant advances toward the Mississippi capital of Jackson during his bold and daring drive to take Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River.

May 13, 1864: Struggle for the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania concludes. This day also marked the Battle of Resaca, Georgia.

May 15, 1864: Battle of New Market, Virginia: Students from the Virginia Military Institute take part in the Battle of New Market, part of the multipronged Union offensive in the spring of 1864 designed to take Virginia out of the war. Central to this campaign was Ulysses S. Grant's epic struggle with Robert E. Lee around Richmond.

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This Month in the WBTS (Continued): Union General Franz Sigel had been sent to apply pressure on a key agricultural region, the Shenandoah Valley. He marched south out of Winchester in early May to neutralize the valley, which was always a threat to the North. But the Confederates were hard pressed to offer any opposition to Sigel's 6,500 troops.

Unable to lend troops, Lee instructed John Breckinridge to drive Sigel from the valley but could offer him little in the way of troops to do the job. Breckinridge mustered a force of regular troops and militia units and pulled together 5,300 men. They included 247 cadets from the nearby Virginia Military Institute, some of the boys just 15 years old.

Breckinridge attacked Sigel's troops at New Market. Sigel fell back a half mile, reformed his lines, and began to shell the Confederate center. It was at this juncture that Breckinridge reluctantly sent the VMI cadets into battle. The young students were part of an attack that captured two Yankee guns.

Nine of the cadets were killed and 48 were wounded, but Sigel suffered a humiliating defeat and began to withdraw from the valley. The courage of the VMI cadets at the Battle of New Market became legendary, and the pressure was temporarily off of the Rebels in the Shenandoah Valley.

May 16, 1861: Tennessee officially admitted to the Confederacy.

May 16, 1861: The Confederate government offered a \$10 bonus for volunteers.

May 16, 1863: Battle of Champion's Hill, Mississippi: The Union army seals the fate of Vicksburg by defeating the Confederates at the Battle of Champion's Hill. General Ulysses S. Grant had successfully run the Confederate gauntlet at Vicksburg and placed the Army of the Tennessee south of the stronghold, the Rebels' last significant holding on the Mississippi River.

May 18, 1861: Arkansas admitted to the Confederate States of America.

May 18, 1863: The siege of Vicksburg commences Union General Ulysses S. Grant surrounds Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, in one of the most brilliant campaigns of the war.

May 21, 1861: North Carolina secedes from the Union.

May 21, 1863: Battle of Port Hudson (Siege of)

May 23, 1865: Grand parade of the Federal armies in Washington, D.C.

May 24, 1864: Battle of North Anna River, Virginia. General Jeb Stuart is killed.

May 25, 1862: First Battle of Winchester, Virginia. Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson notches a victory on his brilliant campaign in the Shenandoah Valley. Jackson, with 17,000 troops under his command, was sent to the Shenandoah to relieve pressure on the Confederate troops near Richmond, who were facing the growing force of George McClellan on the James Peninsula.

May 25, 1864: Battle of New Hope Church, Georgia.

May 26, 1865: Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi division, surrendered. When the Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee and Joseph Johnston surrendered in the spring of 1865, Smith continued to resist with his small army in Texas. He insisted that Lee and Johnston were prisoners of war and decried Confederate deserters of the cause. He was the last surviving full Confederate general until his death in 1893.

May 28, 1863: 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry leaves for action. This is the first fully trained black regiment in the Union army.

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This Month in the WBTS (Continued):

May 29, 1865: President Andrew Johnson issues general amnesty for all Confederates

May 31, 1862: Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks), Virginia. Confederate forces strike Union troops in the Peninsular campaign. The battle had two important consequences. McClellan was horrified by the sight of his dead and wounded soldiers, and became much more cautious and timid in battle—actions that would eventually doom the campaign. And since Johnston was wounded during the battle's first day, Robert E. Lee replaced him. The history of the war in the eastern theater drastically changed as Lee ascended the ranks. His leadership and exploits soon became legend.

Significant Events Leading Up to the WBTS: 1853

- Democrats control state governments in all the states which will form the Confederate States.

- The United States adds a 29,670-square-mile (76,800 km.) region of present-day southern AZ and southwestern NM to the United States through the Gadsden Purchase of territory from Mexico, on December 30, 1853. The U.S. Senate ratifies the treaty with some changes on April 25, 1854 and President Pierce signs it. The purposes of the Gadsden Purchase are the construction of a transcontinental railroad along a deep southern route and the reconciliation of outstanding border issues following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War. Many early settlers in the region are pro-slavery.

- Filibusterer William Walker and a few dozen men briefly take over Baja California in an effort to expand slave territory. When they are forced to retreat to California and put on trial for violating neutrality laws, they are acquitted by a jury that deliberated for only eight minutes.

Confederate Generals Birthdays for May

General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard - 28 May 1818 - St. Bernard Parish, La.

General Edmund Kirby Smith - 16 May 1824 - St. Augustine, Fla.

Maj. General Robert Frederick Hoke - 27 May 1837 - Lincolnton, N.C.

Maj. General William Fitzhugh Lee - 31 May 1837 - Arlington Co., Va.

Maj. General John Bankhead Magruder - 1 May 1807 - Port Royal, Va.

Maj. General Dabney Herndon Maury - 21 May 1822 - Fredericksburg, Va.

Maj. General Stephen Dodson Ramseur - 31 May 1837 - Lincolnton, N.C.

Maj. General Isaac Ridgeway Trimble - 15 May 1802 - Culpeper, Va.

Maj. General Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox - 29 May 1826 - Wayne Co., N.C.

Brig. General Edward Porter Alexander - 26 May 1835 - Washington, Ga.

Brig. General Alpheus Baker - 28 May 1828 - Abbeville Dist., S.C.

Brig. General Laurence Simmons Baker - 15 May 1830 - Gates Co., N.C.

Brig. General Richard Lee Turberville Beale - 22 May 1819 - Westmoreland Co., Va.

Brig. General Charles Clark - 24 May 1811 - Warren Co., Ohio

Brig. General William George Mackey Davis - 9 May 1812 - Portsmouth, Va.

Brig. General George Pierce Doles - 14 May 1830 - Milledgeville, Ga.

Brig. General Basil Wilson Duke - 28 May 1838 - Georgetown, Ky.

Brig. General Samuel Jameson Gholson - 19 May 1808 - Madison Co., Ky.

Brig. General Thomas Harrison - 1 May 1823 - Jefferson Co., Ala.

Brig. General William Young Conn Humes - 1 May 1830 - Abingdon, Va.

Brig. General George Doherty Johnston - 30 May 1832 - Hillsborough, N.C.

Brig. General William Edmondson "Grumble" Jones - 9 May 1824 - Washington Co., Va.

Brig. General Edwin Gray Lee - 27 May 1836 - Loudoun Co., Va.

Brig. General Collett Leventhorpe - 15 May 1815 - Exmouth, England

Brig. General James Patrick Major - 14 May 1836 - Fayette, Missouri

Brig. General Mosby Monroe Parsons - 21 May 1822 - Charlottesville, Va.

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Confederate Generals Birthdays (Continued):

Brig. General Henry Hopkins Sibley - 25 May 1816 - Natchitoches, La.
 Brig. General William Steele - 1 May 1819 - Albany, N.Y.
 Brig. General Bryan Morel Thomas - 8 May 1836 - Milledgeville, Ga.
 Brig. General William Feimster Tucker - 9 May 1827 - Iredell Co., N.C.
 Brig. General Alfred Jefferson Vaughn Jr. - 10 May 1830 - Dinwiddie Co., Va.
 Brig. General Reuben Lindsay Walker - 29 May 1827 - Albemarle Co., Va.
 Brig. General Felix Kirk Zollicoffer - 19 May 1812 - Maury Co., Tenn.



April 2012

Dear Civil War Preservationist,

For the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, I had the honor to accompany Board members John Nau, Mike Grainger, and Trace Adkins to the Shiloh Battlefield. During the press conference we were able to sign the deed that will transfer 167 acres of battlefield land held by the Civil War Trust to the Shiloh National Military Park. I can think of no better way to honor the great sacrifices of the soldiers who fought and died at Shiloh than by saving the very ground where they met in combat.

Before returning to our offices in Washington DC., I also had the chance to stop by the 491 acre tract that we are now working to save at Shiloh. What a magnificent and historic piece of ground. This is a must have piece of land, my friends. And when we save this ground, with your help, the Civil War Trust will have saved more than 1,000 acres of battlefield land at Shiloh. How about that!

- Jim Lighthizer, *Civil War Trust President*

SAVING 491 ACRES AT SHILOH: For the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, you and I have an once-in-a-lifetime chance to save 491 acres of battlefield at Shiloh. A \$5 to \$1 match will greatly magnify the giving power of every dollar donated. [Learn More »](#)

PHOTOS: SHILOH 150TH EVENTS: President Jim Lighthizer and Civil War Trust Board Members John Nau and Trace Adkins announced the transfer of 167 acres and highlighted the new opportunity to save an additional 491 acres at the battlefield. [See the Photos »](#)

WILDERNESS GATEWAY STUDY: After more than a year of public meetings and intense research, the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition has announced the findings of its study of the Wilderness Battlefield gateway region, designed to offer a mutually beneficial blueprint for balancing conservation with economic development. [Read the Story »](#)

SPRING 2012: HALLOWED GROUND: Our new Spring 2012 issue of Hallowed Ground is out. Check out two of our new feature stories from this issue: [Secession at Shiloh](#) | [Defiance in the Valley](#) »

2012 TEACHER INSTITUTE: The 2012 National Teacher Institute will be held July 12-15 in Charleston, SC. If you are a K-12 educator please consider joining us for this event. Distinguished lecturers, Civil War tours, and more. [Learn More »](#)

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CWT News (Continued):

VIDEO: CHALMERS VS. STUART AT SHILOH: Shiloh NPS historian Stacy Allen describes the fateful struggle between James Chalmers' Mississippians and Col. David Stuart's Federals on the battlefield tract that the Civil War Trust is working to save. [Watch the Video »](#)

PHOTOS: PARK DAY 2012: See our collection of photos from Park Day events throughout the country. See members and volunteers in action. [See the Photos »](#)

DISCOUNTS AT HISTORIC HOTELS: Did you know that Civil War Trust members can now get 10% off best available rates at participating Historic Hotels of America? Book your stay today. [Learn More »](#)

CIVIL WAR TRUST CREDIT CARD: The Civil War Trust has partnered with Capital One® Card Lab Connect to bring you our newest fundraising program, which helps you earn money to save battlefields effortlessly every day! [See How it Works »](#)

NEW MALVERN HILL PAGE: We've expanded and improved our popular Malvern Hill battlefield page. Check out all the maps, history articles, videos, photos, facts, and travel resources on the updated page. [See the Page »](#)

LEAD LIKE A GENERAL: The Civil War Trust recently had the opportunity to sit down with Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority. Mr. Gilbert has recently published a new book entitled "Lead Like a General." [See the Interview »](#)

APRIL CIVIL WAR BATTLES : Expand your knowledge of the Civil War by learning more about some of the great Civil War battles that occurred this month. Access our history articles, photos, maps, and links for the battles listed below:

[Shiloh »](#)

[Mansfield »](#)

[Five Forks »](#)

[Sailor's Creek »](#)

[Appomattox Station »](#)

[Appomattox Court House »](#)

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT LINES

Civil War preservation news from around the country

[Wilderness Gateway land-use plan gains some fans \(Fredericksburg.com\)](#)

[For midshipmen, 'teachable moments' hiking Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah trail \(Washington Post\)](#)

[Franklin battlefield group nears grant deadline for pizza place \(Tennessean.com\)](#)

[Shiloh Sesquicentennial Commemoration Includes Growth of National Park, New Land Preservation Campaign](#)

[Visitation Hits Record Level Where Civil War Began \(AJC.com\)](#)

[Richmond Region Presents 60 Days of Events for Civil War 150th \(Richmond Times-Dispatch\)](#)

[Great Railroad Chase Commemoration: 'Both Sides' Salute 150th Anniversary](#)

[Georgia Cities Remember Madcap 'Great Locomotive Chase' \(CNN\)](#)

[Some interesting views of the Fox's Gap Battlefield at South Mountain](#)

[New Film Marks 150th Anniversary at Shiloh National Military Park](#)

(Continued Next Page)

CWT News (Continued):

New Opportunity to Save 491 Acres for the 150th Anniversary

"We were right on top of you. It was like shooting into a flock of sheep. I never saw such cruel work during the war." - Maj. Whitfield, 9th Mississippi

With the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh before us, you and I have an once-in-a-lifetime chance to [save 491 acres of battlefield at Shiloh](#). This rugged swath of land is one of the last and largest areas of major combat action that remains to be saved at this historically important battlefield.

History »	Photos of the	Maps »	Historian Video »
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This land saw crucial fighting in the opening hours of the Battle of Shiloh, on April 6, 1862, as Confederates from Mississippi and Tennessee, attempting to flank the end of the Union left, slammed into troops of the 54th Ohio and 55th Illinois regiments, who stubbornly held the high ground.

If that sounds a little familiar, Shiloh chief park ranger Stacy Allen says that the Union defense of the high ground on this 491-acre parcel was the "Little Round Top" of the west. The purchase price to save this wonderful, absolutely crucial piece of our country's history? \$1.25 million. Fortunately, a government grant of \$1 million is available to put into the transaction, **leaving us — the 53,000 members of the Civil War Trust — to raise the final \$250,000.** Again, that turns **every \$1 you donate for this effort today into \$5.00** — a 500 percent return on your preservation dollar! If you can find ANY investment that will give you an instantaneous 500 percent return, well, I'm no investment advisor, but I'd suggest you take it!

Very sincerely yours,

Jim Lighthizer
President
Civil War Trust



If you make a donation of \$50 or more, it will be my pleasure to send you a special pre-release copy of the new Shiloh documentary DVD that is being produced by Wide Awake Films, utilizing new footage they are shooting at the 150th re-enactments at Shiloh. This DVD should be ready by early July. The wait will be well worth it!

Professional Development on the American Civil War

July 12-15, 2012 Charleston, South Carolina

Schedule	Location	Scholarships	Cancellation
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The Civil War Trust Teacher Institute is a four-day professional development for K-12 educators focused exclusively on the American Civil War. Join us in Charleston, South Carolina as we explore the history of the Civil War and new methods for instruction.

FAQ: [Answers to your questions »](#)

Contact Us: Teacherinstitute@civilwar.org

(Continued Next Page)

Saving the Flank Attack PRESERVATION AT THE CHANCELLORSVILLE BATTLEFIELD

Stonewall Jackson's Flank Attack at Chancellorsville is one of the most famous and most dramatic incidents of the Civil War — the doomed military legend leading an audacious assault that won his army its greatest victory, but cost him his life. But until recently, there was little promise that students of the war would ever be able to walk that ground where the tide of battle turned.

The land where the attack climaxed, where Jackson's troops smashed through the Union's so-called Bushbeck Line had long been a privately owned farm until 2009, when the Civil War Trust negotiated the chance to buy the 85-acre parcel. Driven by its large Route 3 frontage, the price of the property was a steep \$2.125 million and time was of the essence; when the deal was announced the Trust had less than 90 days to raise its share of the money before a Virginia matching grant that could be used to complete the transaction would expire.



Civil War Trust's John Nau (left) and Jim Lighthizer (right) accept a check from the Commonwealth of Virginia for the 85-acre Jackson Flank Attack property. (Photo: Rob Shenk)



View of a portion of the 85-acre Jackson Flank Attack property that the Civil War Trust worked to save in 2009 -2010 (Photo: Rob Shenk)

But, as Trust President James Lighthizer said at the time, the site was “arguably one of the most historically significant pieces of hallowed ground we have ever saved, and we have just got to get it... This is what we are in business to do. This is why we exist!”

A massive fundraising campaign ensued, but the Trust met its obligations, securing the necessary matching grants and purchasing the land. In an example of its work to find mutually agreeable outcomes, although the Trust owns the land, its previous guardians continue to live on the site under a long-term lease, maintaining the land as a functioning farm. The site is made available periodically for public tours and interpretation.

A Permanent Preservation Legacy

In April 2010, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell came to the Wagner Farm to sign into law a measure permanently establishing a state matching grant program for battlefield preservation. The program that the Trust had utilized by making its 90-day fundraising deadline had proved so successful that state lawmakers chose to make it a permanent tool in the Commonwealth's land conservation arsenal. “Today,” said Gov. McDonnell, “we reiterate our commitment to the future through the stewardship of Virginia's remarkable open space lands, including important historic landscapes.”

When the preservation opportunity was first announced, historian Robert K. Krick described the significance of both the site's place in history and its protection.

“Nearly 30,000 Confederates erupted out of the thickets behind their surprised foe and ‘swept like an avalanche’ over the enemy, screaming the Rebel Yell. ‘They fled before us equal to sheep,’ one attacker recalled. In his official report, a colonel from Massachusetts drolly described his fleeing friends as being ‘under the influence of an aversion for Stonewall Jackson.’ A demoralized Federal said of the Southern battle cry that afternoon that the rebels ‘all . . . roar like beasts.’

“The preservation coup by the Civil War Trust in acquiring some 80 acres in the midst of the Flank Attack deserves universal applause as a spectacular success. The Wagner tract, just east of Wilderness Church, includes nearly 2,000 feet of frontage on the north shoulder of the historic Orange Plank Road. Extinguishing the potential for dense commercial use along that long stretch seems to me to constitute the most dazzling jewel in the Trust's long and impressive history of preserving hallowed ground.”

(Continued Next Page)

Mike Stevens HEROES OF PRESERVATION

In 2006, the Civil War Trust made history with its \$12 million purchase of the 208-acre Slaughter Pen Farm property in Virginia's Spotsylvania County — a portion of the Fredericksburg Battlefield whose name speaks to the intensity of the fighting that occurred there. This purchase was, and remains, the most expensive in the realm of nonprofit battlefield preservation to date. A key partner in the Old Dominion, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust pledged to contribute \$1 million to save this hallowed ground.

In June 2012, CVBT President Mike Stevens will present the Civil War Trust with a check completing the group's generous contribution. We had the opportunity to discuss the occasion with Stevens earlier this year.



*Dr. Mike Stevens
(Rob Shenk)*

Civil War Trust: Civil War Trust President Jim Lighthizer has called the purchase of Slaughter Pen Farm “the most ambitious nonprofit battlefield acquisition effort in American history.” What about this property in particular inspired you to join with the Trust in acquiring it?

Mike Stevens: The 208-acre Slaughter Pen Farm property was on Central Virginia Battlefields Trust's radar long before CVBT even existed. For years we as individuals would visit regularly with Mr. Pearson, the elderly farmer who owned the property. We did so because we recognized that this was hallowed ground in the truest sense of the word, the key to the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, and almost certainly still the resting place today for many of the brave men who fought and fell there. It is quite literally sacred soil, and to destroy such ground would be to dishonor their suffering and sacrifice, to dishonor their memory and their meaning. We of CVBT simply

could not let that happen.

Civil War Trust: The purchase price of Slaughter Pen Farm was historical in its own right — \$12 million, towards which CVBT pledged to contribute \$1 million. How hard a pledge was this for you to fulfill? Was it worth it?

Mike Stevens: Our pledge of \$1 million was huge for a small organization like ours, but we felt that the property was that important and we wanted to send a clear message to the Civil War Trust's Board of Directors that we stood firm in our commitment that this tract was simply too important to lose. Fundraising is always hard, of course, but when you're next in Fredericksburg, come to Slaughter Pen Farm, walk its ground, close your eyes and listen to what it has to say. Feel the sense of the numinous that pervades such a place. Know that, if you are open to it, the spirit of such a special place will touch your heart in ways that will change you forever. Words cannot express precisely what I mean by this, but all of us involved with CVBT affirm that this is so because we have experienced this truth firsthand. Was our \$1 million pledge worth it? Of course.

Civil War Trust: You recently worked with the Civil War Trust on the creation of the Chancellorsville Battle App as well. What do you think of the finished product? What impact do you anticipate this and similar apps will have on the future of heritage tourism?

Mike Stevens: The Chancellorsville Battle App is a wondrous thing to behold. I am a technologic illiterate, and even I have found it easy to use and extremely helpful in learning about the battle. Its potential benefit for heritage tourism is enormous, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Civil War Trust for embarking on such a wonderful effort.

Civil War Trust: CVBT was active in Central Virginia long before the preservation of Slaughter Pen Farm — and the advent of the battle app. What are some of the group's other accomplishments of which you are most proud?

Mike Stevens: CVBT has saved over 900 acres of hallowed ground on all four of our major local battlefields (check out our website for details, www.cvbt.org), has remained focused on, and faithful to, our original mission of preserving threatened battlefield land, has established a reputation in the community and country for integrity and honesty, effectiveness and seriousness of purpose. We keep our promises. And, as important as anything else, we continue to prove ourselves worthy of those brave men in blue and gray whose suffering and sacrifice on these fields provide the reason why we do what we do. **(Continued Next Page)**

CWT News (continued):

Success is not always possible, but remaining faithful to our cause is, and we of CVBT are committed to continuing the good fight until our Final Role is called.

Civil War Trust: Tell us a bit about your own past. Are you originally from Central Virginia? What brought you to the area — or influenced you to stay?

Mike Stevens: I was born and went through high school in New Jersey, went to Texas A& M University, Tulane Medical School, two years in the US Army Medical Corps, and have been in the private practice of dermatology with my wife Pat since 1976.

Civil War Trust: Who — or what — first inspired your interest in the Civil War? In battlefield preservation?

Mike Stevens: I became interested in the Civil War through watching the Ken Burns series, and I became passionate about battlefield preservation after spending a weekend at Gettysburg with Ed Bearss.

Civil War Trust: What do you hope Americans take away from the ongoing commemoration of the Civil War sesquicentennial, both in Virginia and across the country?

Mike Stevens: I hope that the sesquicentennial will allow Americans to know more about their history, to better appreciate that the past does matter, to understand that history is important, that our society today has grown out of the past, and that we as a country and as a people simply cannot know where we are or where we're going if we don't know where we've been. Just as a tree will die if its roots are cut, so too our country will be diminished if we as citizens allow ourselves to be cut off from the historical roots that define the American experience.

And as a battlefield preservationist, I hope that Americans will become more fully sensitive to the fact that a preserved battlefield is a uniquely wonderful and effective place for this learning experience to occur.

Union Pacific Railroad Runs Commemorative Train For Shiloh's 150th Anniversary

Pictures are from Facebook



Federals do battle with naked Rebels

Clint Johnson *The Washington Post* December 3, 2009

"The Union pickets didn't know what to think of soldiers fighting as naked as jaybirds,"

Confederate Lt. Bennett H. Young wrote in an unusual report to his superiors about a skirmish between Union and Confederate forces on the Cumberland River in western Kentucky on July 2, 1863. Still, it was an accurate description of what happened.

Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan was dashing, handsome, bold and brave, a beloved, trusted leader to the young men who rode by his side. That summer Morgan impatiently waited for an assignment to disrupt the buildup of Union forces aiming to split Tennessee into pieces. Morgan lobbied for permission to raid behind Union lines, but his timid commander, Gen. Braxton Bragg, approved only a small raid into Kentucky.

In late June, Morgan's men scouted the rain-swollen Cumberland River marking the border between Tennessee and Kentucky. The normally placid river was now half a mile wide, choked with floating logs and other storm runoff. Anxious to get his raid on the road, Morgan began crossing his men on July 2 when the river was still overflowing its banks. He had more than 2,500 with him, 1,000 more than his orders authorized.

The impetuous Morgan should have waited for the swirling river to fall, as it was an impediment to keeping his men together, but because of the flood conditions, the Federals on the Kentucky side had relaxed their patrols. The Federals believed no one would try such a dangerous crossing.

Morgan's men carefully wrapped their cap-and-ball weapons and paper cartridges in rubber blankets and tossed them into make-shift rafts and leaky boats. Many forgot modesty, stripping off their clothes to keep them dry. They jumped into the river, literally swimming bareback or holding onto their horses' tails.

It is hard to hide 2,500 men, scores of wagons and hundreds of mules swimming a river. Union patrols discovered the crossing and rushed to the bank to start shooting at the men in the boats that they could see. What they could not see was that hundreds of Confederates had already landed and were now hidden from view by the bank's slope and trees.

Nineteen-year-old Lt. Bennett Young of Morgan's command, who would gain fame the following year for leading a raid on St. Albans, Vt., remembered: "Those who had clothing on rushed ashore into line. Those who swam with horses, unwilling to be laggard, not halting to dress, seized their cartridge boxes and guns and dashed upon the enemy. The strange sight of naked men engaging in combat amazed the enemy."

Bennett's assessment was accurate. Although the Federals on the Kentucky side of the Cumberland were superior in numbers and had heard reports of large numbers of Confederate cavalymen approaching from the south, Morgan's crossing at several locations had confused them. By the time the Union forces had organized, Morgan was already in Kentucky and moving north.

Morgan and his men would later cross the Ohio River, clearly against Bragg's orders to bring supplies back from Kentucky, and spend the next three weeks raiding southern Indiana and Ohio. Many of the men, including Morgan himself, would be captured and imprisoned. The Confederate high command was enraged at Morgan's insubordination, but the raid entered Civil War history as one of the boldest ever attempted by a cavalry command.

July 1863 must have been a hot month as another nude battle was fought in North Carolina within weeks of Morgan's skirmish in Kentucky.

The July 26 Battle of Boon's Mill, a few miles east of the important railroad bridge crossing of the Roanoke River at Weldon, pitted a few score Confederates against two regiments of Union soldiers trying to take and burn the bridge. Had the Federals succeeded, the steady stream of supply trains coming up from Wilmington, N.C., bound for the Confederate depot at Petersburg, Va., would have dried up.

Learning of the impending Union raid, Confederate Gen. Matt Ransom rushed from Richmond to take command of the troops in the area. Ransom was scouting the approach the Federals would take to the bridge when he saw them and they saw him. He rushed back toward the Boon's Mill pond, yelling for the soldiers to take up the planks of the bridge behind him.

(Continued Next Page)

Federals (Continued):

As he rode over the bridge, Ransom realized a large number of his men were skinny-dipping, having ignored the rumors that Federals were on their way.

The outnumbered Confederates had only two cannons to the Federals' nine guns, but they held out all day until the demoralized Federals retreated, giving up the opportunity to rob the Confederacy of those vital supplies.

The lesson learned from these two nude battles still applies today - never fight naked Southerners armed with pistols, rifles and cannons.

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/dec/3/federals-do-battle-with-naked-rebels/?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS

Confederate dead rest beneath magnolias

Kyle Martin *The Augusta Chronicle* Augusta, GA June 28, 2011

The sense of history in Magnolia Cemetery is as strong as the sweet smell of its namesake.



Ron Udell, of Augusta's Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 158, walks in Magnolia Cemetery, where more than 700 Confederate soldiers are buried. Jackie Ricciardi/Staff

War heroes are buried there, such as John Martin, who survived a tomahawk blow to the head during the Cherokee War of 1755 and went on to serve through the Revolutionary War.

Nearby is the mausoleum of Wylly Barron, which was built 24 years before his death as protection from a dying gambler's curse.

For Ron Udell, it's not one grave that interests him, though, but the more than 700 graves of Confederate soldiers buried in this cemetery on the outskirts of downtown Augusta.

"To take care of these graves for me is more like an honor," said Udell, the camp commander of Augusta's Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 158. "We try to do the very best we possibly can for them."

Most of the Confederate graves are concentrated in a special section at the rear of the cemetery. Dozens of white headstones are bordered by a bubbling white-rimmed fountain and a platform topped with marble benches.

A few of Magnolia's soldiers, such as Sgt. P.O. Hansom, died in Civil War battles such as Gettysburg. A majority probably died from the usual killers of 19th century soldiers, however: disease and infection.

Some of their stories are known by the descendants who have traced their ancestors through census rolls and service records. Others are a mystery, but that doesn't diminish the responsibility of caring for the grave, Udell said. "Some of these fellows went off to war and their family doesn't even know they're buried here," he said.

Augusta's original public graveyard, Magnolia started with a land purchase in 1817. Its first burial was in 1818, a signal of relief for other private cemeteries that were rapidly filling up, such as the one at St. Paul's Church on the riverfront. The cemetery was later expanded to its current 60 acres with a land donation by Nicholas de L'Aigle.

In the 1860s, Magnolia Cemetery's location along Second Street placed it on the outskirts of town. As such, Augustans incorporated the cemetery's brick wall into its perimeter defenses in anticipation of Gen. William T. Sherman's attack. There are still visible signs along the wall where the bricks were removed for cannon placements.

The section where about 330 Confederate soldiers are buried -- along with the war's survivors and a handful of Union soldiers -- was dedicated for that purpose in 1924.

Most of the cemetery's residents died in one of Augusta's eight military hospitals; each Confederate state and branch of service is represented in the square.

Roughly 400 other Confederate soldiers and noteworthy people are buried in other sections of the cemetery, including Nathaniel Savage Crowell, the medical director of the Confederate Army, and John Troup Shewmake, a member of the Confederate Congress.

There is a section dedicated to 183 Union prisoners of war who died in the Augusta area. Most were reinterred at the National Cemetery in Marietta, Ga., but there are still 15 headstones dedicated to federal soldiers. Magnolia also claims seven Confederate generals, including two born in Augusta and one from Washington.

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Magnolia Cemetery (Continued):

Maintaining the Confederate Square is a work in progress; the elements are the primary enemy of the decades-old headstones. Fallen leaves from the dozens of magnolia trees on the property pile up on the roads in waist-high drifts. Heavy branches fall and crack headstones or, in some cases, the trees fall and cause damage.

In one case, the weight of a fallen tree pushed a headstone all the way into the ground. "We were cleaning up and thought, 'Shouldn't there be a headstone here?' " Udell recalled with a chuckle. "There was about an inch (of headstone) poking out of the ground."

Though the city does maintain the property, the local Sons of Confederate Veterans say they want this part of the cemetery to stand out for visitors.

Henry Gilmer's ancestors are not buried at Magnolia, but his contributions are done in honor of all Civil War soldiers. "I'm helping take care of my plot like I would my own family," he said.

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2011-06-28/confederate-dead-rest-beneath-magnolias>
 Related Article: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2011-06-26/app-allows-views-history>

Jefferson Davis Highway has winding history

Kyle Martin Staff Writer *The Augusta Chronicle* Augusta, GA July 2, 2011



A plaque for Confederate President Jefferson Davis is on the Fifth Street bridge on U.S. Highway 1. The push to name a highway for Davis started in 1913. Sara Caldwell/Staff

Naming a highway after the president of the Confederate States of America makes sense in the heart of the South.

Augusta and Aiken's stretch of U.S. Highway 1 have several markers identifying the road as Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway, including over the Fifth Street bridge. But if the history of Jefferson Davis Highway starts in the South, it doesn't end there.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy launched plans for a coast-to-coast highway commemorating Davis in 1913. It was common in the years just before World War I for private organizations to name a stretch of highway for their cause. The transcontinental Lincoln Highway, for instance, was proposed in 1912 by industrialist Carl Fisher, who also developed Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Miami Beach.

UDC President-General Mrs. Alexander B. White wanted a similar route through the South and announced the project at the group's 1913 convention.

In her annual report, she recommended "that the United Daughters of the Confederacy secure for an ocean-to-ocean highway from Washington to San Diego, through the Southern States, the name of Jefferson Davis National Highway."

Besides the main route, there would be two other routes: one from Davis' birthplace in Fairview, Ky., to his home in Beauvoir, Miss., and the other following his route after the Civil War through Irwinsville, Ga.

The official marker along the route had three 6-inch wide bands of red, white and blue and the letters "JDH." The national highway was eventually extended north along the Pacific Coast to Washington State in 1939.

A brochure on the highway published in 1948 by the UDC says Augusta's Fifth Street bridge was dedicated June 3, 1932, by the group's South Carolina and Georgia chapters.

By the mid-1920s, there were more than 250 "official" highways, ranging from the Yellowstone Trail to the Dixie Highway. This generated confusion for the growing number of motorists, so a number system was developed by state and federal officials in 1926.

Some of the named trails had to go. In the scramble to preserve Jefferson Davis Highway, U.S. Rep. Earl B. Mayfield, of Texas, emerged as an advocate.

In a 1925 letter to Chief Thomas H. MacDonald, of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, Mayfield defended a road that touched all but four Southern capitals. The federal response detailed the general confusion about where exactly Jefferson Davis Highway traveled.

E.W. James, the secretary of the Joint Board on Interstate Highways, wrote that a "careful search" in "our extensive map file" showed three Jefferson Davis Highways.

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Davis Highway (Continued): One extended from Miami to Los Angeles, and another traveled the Kentucky-to-Mississippi route. There was not a route from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco in their records. "(T)he routes on these maps are themselves different and neither route is approximately that described by you, so that I am somewhat at a loss as to just what route your constituents are interested in," James wrote.

Ultimately, the Lincoln Highway and the Jefferson Davis highway were broken up among several numbers in November 1926. Today, Jefferson Davis Highway runs along U.S. highways 1, 15, 29, 80 and 90, among others.

DeeLois Lawrence, the national chairman of the UDC's Jefferson Davis Memorial Association, is collecting information on markers from across the United States. Vandalism isn't always an issue with these markers because they are often placed in areas with heavy traffic, she said, but with the misconceptions surrounding the Civil War, it's always a risk.

"We have a population that if you say anything Confederate, it's wrong," she said.

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2011-07-02/jefferson-davis-highway-has-winding-history>

Lincoln: Slavery Irrelevant to War

President Lincoln stated repeatedly before and during the war that his paramount purpose was to prevent southern independence, or as he termed it, to "Preserve the Union."

Commentary by Bragdon Bowling Originally published in the *Washington Post* March 4, 2012

On August 20, 1862, Horace Greeley, Editor of the New York Tribune, published a sharply critical and passionate editorial titled "*The Prayer of Twenty Millions*" which took Abraham Lincoln to task for his failure to free the slaves in Union occupied territory. Greeley, one of the nation's leading abolitionists, spoke through his newspaper as an advocate for emancipation.

Greeley felt he spoke for the millions of Northerners who were angry at Lincoln's conduct of the war and his failure to aggressively move forward by his halfhearted use of the Confiscation Acts. Greeley should have known better. Lincoln, throughout his political career had steered clear of radical abolitionists like Greeley, but felt he needed to answer the powerful editorial. He would once again make his position on the war perfectly clear. Lincoln had previously expressed his opposition to the expansion of slavery into western territories but conversely, he actively supported the Corwin Amendment, a measure which would permanently allow slavery in the states where it was presently legal.

On August 22, 1862, Lincoln responded in a famous open letter to Greeley and the Tribune;

My paramount object in the struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.

Nobody should have been surprised by Lincoln's letter. He had made his position known many times. His primary purpose in conducting the war was clearly the preservation of the Union. Lincoln was peripherally interested in slavery but was quite willing to leave it in place and allow it to die a natural death. His strong support of the Corwin Amendment which failed only because the South had left the Union illustrates Lincoln's slavery position both pre-war and well into the war. The Corwin Amendment would have forbidden any attempt to amend the Constitution "to abolish or interfere with the domestic institutions of the states, including persons held to labor or service (slaves).

In Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, he said he had no objection to the Corwin Amendment being made "express and irrevocable." It also begs the question--if the South was seceding to keep slavery, all that was needed to avoid war and preserve the Union would be for the Southern states to accept the Corwin Amendment. This offering did not move the South. The South fought for a higher purpose, their political independence.

The First Inaugural Address as well as the Lincoln-Douglas debates illustrated Lincoln's constitutional limitations regarding slavery when he stated "

(Continued Next Page)

Lincoln (Continued):

I have no purpose directly or indirectly of interfering with slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so."

This does not mean Lincoln was pro-slavery but that he regarded the Constitution as a brake on abolition. His ideas on race were similar to most Americans in the 19th century. Lincoln's solution to ending slavery was through colonization to Africa (Liberia) and throughout Central and South America.

But on August 22, 1862, the farthest thing from Abraham Lincoln's thoughts was the ending of slavery. *Preservation of the Union* was his goal.

Brag is a native Virginian who grew up in Arlington. He graduated from the University of Richmond with a BA in History and also has a JD Degree from the University of Richmond Law School. He served as a First Lieutenant in the US Army for two years. He worked as a staff attorney in the Virginia General Assembly for 5 years before changing careers and going into real estate, which is his present occupation. He has served the Sons of Confederate Veterans in a variety of positions including Commander of the Virginia Division and Adjutant-in-Chief for the International Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Where the Civil War's horrors ended

Bob Downing *AKRON BEACON JOURNAL* Akron, OH via
The Philadelphia Inquirer Philadelphia, PA March 18, 2012

APPOMATTOX, Va. - Private Jesse H. Hutchins joined the Confederate Army five days after the South bombarded Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C.

He enlisted on April 15, 1861. His unit, Company A, 5th Alabama Battalion, was initially sent to Florida. It then moved to join Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia.

Hutchins was at virtually every major Civil War battle in the East: Seven Pines, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, the second battle of Manassas or Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Winchester, and Petersburg.



The Peer House, one of 13 original buildings still standing at Appomattox Court House. BOB DOWNING / *Akron Beacon*

flap in the breeze along the row of 19 fading sandstone grave markers: one Union flag and 18 Confederate flags.

America is marking the 150th anniversary of the Civil War that began in 1861 in Charleston and ended in 1865 at Appomattox Court House, a crossroads hamlet between Lynchburg and Petersburg, 92 miles west of Richmond.

At Appomattox Court House National Historical Park where it ended, the National Park Service oversees 1,695 acres of old buildings, farm fields, split-rail fences, and historical markers.

The park's visitor center is in the rebuilt courthouse at the center of the village, which housed about 150 in 1865. The old building burned in 1892 and was rebuilt in 1964.

Appomattox Court House is a historical site that is not heavy-handed. It is largely a self-guided park that is filled with ghosts of Union and Confederate soldiers. You experience the site via anecdotes and personal stories of soldiers North and South.

http://articles.philly.com/2012-03-18/news/31207670_1_confederate-soldiers-cold-harbor-confederate-flags

Suggestion to consider removing Va. Confederate statues brings firestorm on council member

Media General News Service / Winston-Salem Journal Winston-Salem, NC April 03, 2012

A Charlottesville, Va., city council member decried what she saw as a "firestorm of vitriol and hatred" that came her way after she publicly floated the idea of tearing down Civil War statues.

In an emotional speech at Monday's council meeting, Kristin Szakos said she expected her comments at a Virginia Festival of the Book event last month to "ruffle some feathers" and start conversations, but she didn't expect the hatred directed toward her in online comments, emails and phone calls to her house.

"Tell your mother that she's (an expletive) and to get her (expletive) hands off our heritage," Szakos recounted a caller saying to her daughter. Szakos stood by the need to have the conversation.

"I'd like to know what you think about it, but please do me a favor, if you want to call me names or be hateful, don't do it through my kids," Szakos said.

After a March 22 speech by historian Edward Ayers, Szakos asked about Confederate statues and whether the city should talk about tearing them down or balancing them out. "By the gasps around me, you'd have thought I'd asked if it was OK to torture puppies," Szakos said Monday. Szakos said she was told she had stirred up disharmony between races, warned that violence would ensue if she pursued taking statues down and that she didn't understand Southern heritage.

Not all comments were negative or hateful, Szakos said, recalling one person who had originally gone to an online comment section to suggest the statues were purely historical and have no other meaning.

"But after reading the bigotry and some of the other comments, I realized the statues may still represent something hateful to a small but vocal subset of our community," Szakos said, quoting the comment. "If it turns out this is true, and these are not just Internet trolls, I would be amenable to moving the statues to a new, specific historical and educational setting. And replacing them in our municipal parks with something that represents the community we live in today."

Szakos said she doesn't believe that the worst comments came from city residents, but insisted that the "hate-filled bigotry" she experienced reminded her of her childhood in Mississippi, when her parents suffered abuse for standing up for civil rights and a neighbor's house was bombed by the Ku Klux Klan.

"The South does have a proud heritage," Szakos said. "The heritage of those like my parents and others who fought for equal rights in the 1960s and still do today; the heritage of countless enslaved parents who taught their children to believe in themselves in a society that considered them property; the heritage of people who farmed and loved this land before the Europeans came ... I'm proud of our Southern heritage. So proud that it saddened me to see it reduced to two Confederate generals and the myth of the superiority of a proud, noble, slave-holding South, in which only a few held power."

<http://www2.journalnow.com/news/2012/apr/03/suggestion-to-consider-removing-va-confederate-sta-ar-2121523/>

DelDOT rescinds suspension for worker with Confederate flag

Terri Sanginiti *The News Journal* Wilmington, DE April 3, 2012

The state Department of Transportation has rescinded a written reprimand and one-day suspension of an employee who displayed a Confederate flag on a decorative license plate on the truck he drives to work.

In a letter today to the employee, Tom Drummond, DelDOT North Operations Manager William Thatcher wrote that his union grievance of March 20 is "now a moot issue."

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DeIDOT (Continued):

“The employee who complained about the flag will be advised to contact his AFSCME staff representative to address any further concerns he has about this issue,” Thatcher wrote in the letter.

Drummond, who has worked as an equipment operator for the last four years, was notified earlier this month that if he did not remove the inappropriate plate from his truck while on DeIDOT property that he could be disciplined because it violated state policy.

He then received a written reprimand and a one-day suspension – which he had not served.

The action was taken because another employee claimed to be offended by the license plate, which Drummond had displayed on his truck for 17 years.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware intervened in the case, supporting Drummond’s First Amendment right to free speech.

"We're pleased that DeIDOT has recognized its obligation to respect its employees' free speech right under the United States and Delaware Constitutions," ACLU of Delaware Legal Director Richard Morse said today in a statement after hearing of the news.

A grievance hearing, scheduled to be held last Wednesday, was then cancelled and today DeIDOT dropped the matter.

“The withdrawal of the reprimand and proposed suspension does not negate the fact that the Department of Transportation encourages all employee to work together to resolve differences so that each employee can work in an environment which is respectful to all,” Thatcher said in ending the letter.

http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20120403/NEWS/120403060?nclick_check=1

Sons of Confederate Veterans seeks to protect Broad Street monument

Bianca Cain Johnson *The Augusta Chronicle* Augusta, GA April 3, 2012



Carroll Nettles (from left) and Joe Winstead, members of Sons of Confederate Veterans, put a chain around the Confederate monument on Broad Street in an attempt to keep skateboarders from damaging the steps. The group also plans to install bricks around the monument inscribed with the names of veterans.

Jim Blaylock/Staff

A century and a half after the American Civil War, Augusta’s Sons of Confederate Veterans has another fight on their hands — trying to protect the 1878 memorial monument from skateboarders. “We’re just trying to preserve it,” said Quartermaster Joe Winstead, who spent two days this week on a project at the steps of the monument in the 700 block of Broad Street.

When it first became an issue, the group pulled more than \$1,200 from its dues to put up short, thick posts and a heavy black chain around the 76-foot-tall Georgia granite and Italian marble monument. Winstead said he hoped it would prevent further damage. Instead it appears the barrier provides an additional challenge for the skateboarders.

“They have no respect,” he said of the monument that was dedicated in 1878. “When they chip off the steps, there’s nothing we can do. It’s gone forever.”

Already the steps are blackened and scarred from the frequent contact with the boards. The posts and fence, installed less than a month ago by members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, will also have to be pulled up and replaced at members’ expense.

“Everything we’ve done came out of pocket,” Winstead said. “The city didn’t spend a dime, but we didn’t ask them to.” On several occasions, members have spotted skateboarders at the site but have been unable to catch them.

Richmond County code 3-8-17 prohibits use of skateboards and skates on any street, alley, sidewalk, park, median or parking area between the levee and Walton Way and between Fourth and 15th streets. Anyone found in violation will be charged with a misdemeanor, officials said.

The members of the local chapter of Sons of Confederate Veterans are working on another out-of-pocket project at the steps of the monument, but they’re concerned the new project could also be damaged if the skateboard vandalism isn’t stopped. Members are urging prosecution of people in violation of the ordinance.

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Augusta Monument (Continued): The members are filling in holes in the sidewalk where trees once grew and planning to add granite pavers in the gaps. Families can then purchase recognition for engraving an ancestors name for \$50.

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2012-04-03/sons-confederate-veterans-seeks-protect-broad-street-monument>

Confederate event honors Arkansas history

Lauren Buchter *Arkansas Democratic-Gazette* Little Rock, AR April 7, 2012



Members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans attend an event, combining the observance of Confederate Memorial Day, Arkansas Confederate History and Heritage Month and Confederate Flag Day Saturday at the state capitol. PHOTO BY Stephen B. Thornton.

A crowd gathered around the Confederate monument at the state capitol building this morning to honor soldiers who died during the Civil War.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans organized the annual event, combining the observance of Confederate Memorial Day, Arkansas Confederate History and Heritage Month and Confederate Flag Day. The ceremony began with the reading of the names of soldiers who had died in the war and the ringing of a bell to honor them.

"My mother raised me to honor my ancestors," Danny Honnoll, commander of the Army of Trans-Mississippi, SCV, said. "It's important for everyone to remember history accurately or we are doomed to repeat it. This is a way for me to honor my five ancestors who died in this war."

"It's a commitment our family has made to honor our causes and Confederate dead," Bobbie Barnett, matron of the SCV Arkansas Division, said. Barnett, who wore a 1860's Victorian black dress, researches historical figures and hand stitches dresses modeled after them, she said. "I make a dress to bring that person to life."

Various Confederate flags stood on display around the monument and along the sidewalk as re-enactors, who were dressed in period attire, stood at attention during the ceremony.

"It's a way to experience some of the things that they went through as close as we can without modern conveniences," Mike Loum, a re-enactor and commander of the Little Rock SCV camp, said. "I've eaten raw bacon. I've gotten to boil coffee in a pot. It's about history, but re-enactments are also about camaraderie. "

This is the 16th year the event has been held.

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2012/apr/07/confederate-event-honors-arkansas-history/>

Confederate flag raises concerns

Jason Hibbs/Mason Watkins WPSD-TV Paducah, KY April 12, 2012

MCCRACKEN COUNTY, Ky. — A giant Confederate flag: that's what will soon be flying over a local community and near a busy interstate. The group behind the flag and the memorial park where it will fly said they're not trying to stir up trouble.

But lots of people say that's happening anyway, so they are speaking out against the group's plans. Among them are county leaders, who are coming out against it. The flag will fly right along I-24 in Reidland.

The group commander said the parcel of land was given to the group by a man who has Confederate ancestors and wanted a Confederate memorial built. It'll sit right beside Trader's Mall in Reidland. It's not the memorial causing concerns. It's the message many fear the big Confederate flag will send.

"It's a good location," said John Suttles with the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "It's quiet here and it'd be a good place for a memorial park for people to come out here and sit."

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Flag (Continued): The park is a \$24,000, including ancestor bricks, plaques, markers and a big Confederate flag.

The flag pole was the first thing put on the property. Suttles said he's not sure when they'll raise the 12 foot by 18 foot symbol.

Some would rather they didn't raise it at all. "I wouldn't have it in my front yard. I certainly wouldn't," said neighbor Jerry Vasseur, who lives right across the road. But he knows he'll see it from his front yard every day. "I just don't agree with it, surely don't," Vasseur said.

He fears what others will think of the community when they drive by. And he's not alone. "We would prefer it not being there of course," McCracken County Deputy Judge Executive Doug Harnice said.

Harnice said the plans caught the county off guard and even though he doesn't like it, there's absolutely nothing he can do. "It's a First Amendment thing," Harnice said. "First of all, he has the right to fly the flag on his property." Suttles said his group is about history, not hate or racism.

"That's all they're wanting to teach any more is tolerance and we deserve tolerance, too," Suttles said.

But to Vasseur, it's history he'd like left behind. "I just don't know why we just can't let bygones be bygones and go on with our lives," Vasseur said.

Suttles said his group will allow people to buy bricks and put their ancestor's names on them. He's not sure when the park will be completed. Suttles said they are also considering putting state flags around the monument.

<http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/news/local/Confederate-flag-raises-concerns-147259225.html>

For midshipmen, 'teachable moments' hiking Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah trail

Daniel de Vise *The Washington Post* Washington, DC April 15, 2012

Swift Run Gap, Va. — This is the U.S. Naval Academy's idea of spring break: a 70-mile march along the craggy spine of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in a sesquicentennial tribute to Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and his torturous Shenandoah Valley Campaign.



Fourteen midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy undertook a 70-mile march in the Blue Ridge Mountains over spring break in tribute to Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and his Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

Fourteen midshipmen forsook Cancun or Panama City last month for a five-day slog along the Appalachian Trail, eating peanut butter and gorp and drinking water collected from mountain streams. Only nine completed the journey. Injury and exhaustion claimed the rest — a development that only reinforced the week's lessons about hardship and resolve.

The Valley Campaign of Spring 1862 secured Jackson's legacy as a consummate military leader. Jackson's "foot cavalry" marched 646 miles in 48 days and won a string of improbable victories against larger but separated Union forces, including memorable contests at Front Royal (May 23) and Port Republic (June 9). The Federals were prevented from reinforcing a drive on Richmond, and Jackson eventually slipped away from his befuddled enemies in the valley and joined the forces that drove the Union army away from the Confederate capital, fueling Southern hopes of winning the Civil War.

Retracing some of Stonewall's steps heralds a new academic approach at the Annapolis academy, one of five federal service academies that train future officers. Midshipmen are among the few college students required to study leadership — and to learn the skills well enough to lead sailors or Marines into battle.

"We can't take these kids over spring break to Afghanistan, nor would we necessarily want to," said Joe Thomas, a professor of leadership education at the academy who led the Valley

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Midshipman Hike (Continued): Campaign expedition from March 11 to 16. “But we can take them to somewhere in their back yard that has really valid, timeless lessons for people who are going to go to Afghanistan in a few years.”

Past generations studied leadership mostly in the classroom. In recent years, though, the emphasis of leadership training in Annapolis has shifted to what academy instructors call “epic” experience — lessons learned in real life. It’s part of a broader educational movement toward experiential learning. Groups of midshipmen go sailing in Maine, kayaking on the Chesapeake or hiking in Alaska, learning to lead in places where decisions can have life-altering consequences. Other military schools, including the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and Virginia Military Academy, also teach leadership in real-world settings. “Optimism is a force multiplier. Keep that in mind,” Thomas said, addressing a circle of weary midshipmen. It was dusk on Day Three of the hike, and Thomas was doing what he could to buoy spirits after 55 miles on foot.

Jackson’s troops crisscrossed the valley from February to June of 1862, marching from Winchester to Port Republic, up into West Virginia and across the mountains to Charlottesville.

(Civil War completists will note that Jackson’s men passed through Swift Run Gap, where Thomas and his midshipmen camped, around April 17. Confederate records show the “foot cavalry” slept “exposed in open bivouacs to the snow, rain and sleet,” a far cry from the balmy sunshine that greeted the midshipmen in mid-March 150 years later.)

Thomas’s midshipmen, 13 men and one woman, took a path that was shorter but harder, hiking south from Front Royal to Waynesboro along parts of the 2,180-mile Appalachian Trail and descending into the valley in a pair of white cargo vans to visit battle sites. The vans allowed them to hop around on the trail.

Some of the students knew one another from Thomas’s class “Military Ethics: The Code of the Warrior,” a semester-long meditation on the nature of military leadership and the value system that distinguishes warrior from murderer.

But this was an entirely different experience: an endless ribbon of rocky trail, every step pounding feet, twisting ankles and knees.

“People see ‘Appalachian Trail’ and think it’s going to be a trail,” said Jackson Thornton, 21, a senior from Liberty, Tex. “It’s not like a sidewalk. By the end of it, we hated going down more than we hated going up. It was like falling on your feet.”

Day One took the group roughly 17 miles, from Front Royal to a camp north of Sperryville. Day Two was 22 miles to a camp west of Old Rag. Day Three was 16 miles to Swift Run Gap. Day Four was a side trip to Old Rag, 11 miles up and down. Day Five took the midshipmen six final miles to McCormick Gap.

The midshipmen took to the trail head at the peak of youth and fitness. But the rocky terrain “turned their feet into hamburger meat,” said Thornton, a lifelong hiker who completed the journey relatively unscathed.

He said the expedition taught him that “when the going gets tough, you need to be able to step out in front and say, ‘Follow me.’” Surrounded by suffering, Thornton did his part to lift spirits by quoting lines from the movie “Dumb and Dumber” and acting “like I was out on a stroll with friends.”

Thornton walked in “homage to my ancestors” — specifically, a great-great-grandfather, Willis Thornton, who fought with the 2nd Louisiana Infantry until he caught a Minie ball in the knee at the Second Battle of Bull Run [Manassas] in August 1862.

“I was trying to play it as period as I could,” Thornton said. He wore a Confederate cap and packed lightly: a few dehydrated meals and a couple of PowerBars.

“Their rations were five ounces of bacon and two ounces of cornmeal a day, and that can fit in one hand. It’s not much,” he said. “But those guys were smaller than we are.”

Unlike many of Jackson’s troops, these midshipmen had shoes. But for some, the footwear proved a hindrance. Several midshipmen arrived with stiff new hiking boots that hadn’t been broken in. By the second day, their ankles were bruised purple. The outing became an exercise in pain management.

“You put it away, don’t think about it,” said Kieran Simonson, 21, a sophomore from Zionsville, Ind. “As soon as you start thinking about pain, it amplifies itself. Start whistling a song. Talk to somebody. Listen to the bird calls. Do anything to avoid it. We kind of have a saying here. It’s called, ‘Suffer silently.’”

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Midshipmen Hike (Continued):

The journey was filled with what Thomas called “teachable moments.” On the first day, one of two hiking groups walked past a crucial water source and went thirsty. On the second day, the lone female hiker suffered such pain from her boots that she finally removed them and walked several miles in socks. One group overshot the camp and didn’t get in until near midnight.

“They got lost,” said Michael Gonzales, a sophomore from Sacramento, sitting at a picnic table near dusk on Day Three.

“We didn’t get lost,” Simonson said. “We went straight past where we were supposed to.”

“Which is lost,” Gonzales said.

Vans shuttled the midshipmen between battlefields and hikes — but not to motel beds or hot meals. A rare exception was dinner on Day Three: a case of hot food brought from Famous Dave’s BBQ.

“We’ll go oldest in the rear, youngest in the front,” Thomas said, supervising the food line. “Everybody knows officers eat last, right?”

Hiking boots were removed, blisters compared and ibuprofen distributed. Some midshipmen could barely walk. As the group hobbled toward the camp site, one midshipman observed, “This is like march of the zombies.”

Around the circle at dusk, the midshipmen talked about Elisha Hunt Rhoades, the Union officer who once marched his regiment 34 miles without stop. And about the toil that still awaited all of them. “The things I’m concerned about with a lot of you, I’m looking at a lot of swelling knees and swelling ankles,” Thomas said.

“Pat yourselves on the back, all right? We’ve had some pretty aggressive hiking.”

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/for-midshipmen-teachable-moments-hiking-stonewall-jacksons-shenandoah-trail/2012/04/15/gIOAI9jJT_story.html

Photo Gallery: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/seeking-teachable-moments-on-stonewall-jacksons-trail/2012/04/14/gIOAcI97HT_gallery.html#photo=1

Mother and Child’ statue unveiled as part of Locomotive Chase festivities

Marcus E. Howard *The Marietta Dailey Journal* Marietta, GA April 16, 2012



MARIETTA — A bronze statue was unveiled Sunday afternoon at Brown Park near the Marietta Confederate Cemetery, concluding Marietta’s Great Locomotive Chase anniversary festivities.

The “Mother and Child” statue depicts a mother and son visiting the grave of their loved one. It was made by sculptors T.J. Dixon and James Nelson, who were commissioned to do the project.

Marietta Mayor Steve Tumlin, former Councilwoman Betty Hunter and 7-year-old Henry Sinclair, Councilman Johnny Sinclair’s nephew who modeled for the statue, unveiled the bronze creation following a ceremony. The firing of a cannon and playing of “Taps,” concluded the event. Cemetery tours followed. About 100 people attended the unveiling, which included Confederate re-enactors.

Women played an important part in holding families together during the Civil War, said guest speaker Dr. Brian S. Wills, a history professor and director of the Civil War Center at Kennesaw State University. Often times, he said, they and their children carried memories of soldiers and the war onward to future generations. “When we think about suffering, we think about battlefield casualties and the effects of the war,” Wills said.

“But the war hit home for people in so many different ways. It hit home in ways that disrupted their daily lives, that disrupted their routines, but even more importantly, it disrupted the connections that held them as a family that bonded them so closely together.” The statue unveiled Sunday was based on entries from the diary of Mattie Harris Lyon (1850-1947), the late head of the Ladies Memorial Association, which was instrumental in fixing up the Marietta Confederate Cemetery, said Marietta City Manager Bill Bruton.

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Statue (Continued): “One of the phrases that she used in her diary was that there was nothing left for the women to do for the soldiers, only to guard their last resting places from desecration,” Bruton said.

“The reason for the woman and child is very simple. It’s to represent the families that were here. Not only taking care of the graves of their loved ones, but also experiencing that great sadness and that great lost.”

The placing of the statue, leading into the cemetery, is meant to draw people to the site where more than 3,000 soldiers from every Confederate state are buried. The statue can be seen from Powder Springs Street and will be lit up at night, Bruton said.

“We want this to be something that you feel a relationship with and you want to actually go up and put your hands on, get pictures taken with it and stand with it, instead of something that’s up on a pedestal that you look up at,” Bruton said.

Dixon and Nelson, the sculptors, also created the statue of Lyon in the cemetery and various bronze pieces located on benches throughout the cemetery and Brown Park. More pieces of their work will be placed in the cemetery and park, according to the city.

Money from the city’s parks bond was used to pay for the statue, which is part of a series of park and cemetery upgrades.

The Ladies Memorial Association was the original owner of the cemetery. Later, the Kennesaw chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy retained ownership. The property was deeded to the state in 1908, the same year the UDC dedicated the tall marble monument in the center of the cemetery.

Carole Jordan, president of the UDC Kennesaw chapter, said her organization will conduct its annual Confederate Memorial Day ceremony at 4 p.m. Sunday at the cemetery.

<http://mdjonline.com/bookmark/18248800>

Controversy Continues Over Dodge County Flag

WGXA NewsCentral Staff Macon GA April 16, 2012

It's been an issue in Dodge County for years...the Confederate Battle Flag that stands by the Confederate memorial outside the Dodge County Courthouse. In fact its been so much of an issue that a padlock was put in place to keep the flag from being removed.

Today the controversy continued at a special NAACP rally.

There weren't many attending the rally but the message of those there was strong. They want the flag gone. "We are not asking them to forget their heritage. We love the southern heritage. Good old fried chicken and grits, sausage and BBQ ribs and etc. We are not asking them to do away with their heritage. We are asking them to be honest and obey the Constitution." - John Battle Sr./NAACP

The group says they would compromise that the flag could be flown on Confederate Day, in April but should remain down for the rest of the year.

"If they want to hang this flag in trucks or cars or in their homes, private property. We don't have a problem with that..that's private property but to hang it on public property where Vietnam Veterans, WWII, WWI, Korea..We didn't fight for this flag!" - John Battle Sr./NAACP

The group plans to file a lawsuit against the County about the flag, they are currently in talks with a lawyer.

<http://www.newscentralga.com/news/local/Controversy-Continues-Over-Dodge-County-Flag-147682135.html>

Gettysburg’s 150th Anniversary Taking Shape in Pennsylvania

Visitors from around the world are expected to converge on Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 2013 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War’s most famous battle. The historic town is observing this important anniversary through 10 continuous days of ceremonies, programs, re-enactments and the opening of the Seminary Ridge Museum, ranging from June 28 through July 7, 2013

“This is an exciting time for Gettysburg,” said Norris Flowers, President of the Gettysburg Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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Gettysburg (Continued): “These 10 days will highlight not only the battle, but the fighting that occurred before and after Gettysburg, along with the heroic and tragic stories of the town’s own citizens in 1863.”

The commemoration will begin with the Gettysburg Foundation’s Sacred Trust Series, a collection of speakers and panelists focusing on a variety of Civil War-related subjects, along with living history encampments, programs, ceremonies and observances throughout the historic town and in nearby communities as part of the Gettysburg Campaign.

On June 30, Gettysburg National Military Park will hold a special commemorative ceremony, “Gettysburg: A New Birth of Freedom” on an outdoor stage near U.S. Gen. George Meade’s Headquarters on the Gettysburg battlefield. The event will include music, a keynote address, and “Voices of History,” a dramatic reading of eye witness accounts written by soldiers and citizens swept into the events of the battle and its tragic aftermath. The ceremony ends with a procession to the Soldiers’ National Cemetery where luminaries marking each of the more than 3,500 graves of soldiers killed in the Battle of Gettysburg will be lit. National Park Service battle anniversary events will continue through July 4 with guided walks on the battlefield led by National Park Rangers and other special programs on the battlefield and in the park’s Museum and Visitor Center. The June 30 ceremony is sponsored by Gettysburg National Military Park and the Gettysburg Foundation.

On July 1, the grand opening of the Seminary Ridge Museum will take place on the campus of the Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary. This museum will highlight the first day’s battle – of which it played a significant role – along with Civil War medicine and faith in battle.

“This museum is expected to provide an extraordinary experience,” said Flowers. “The building – used as a Civil War hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers – is one of the most historic in the United States. Soon visitors can walk the halls and learn about the important part it played in the war’s most famous battle.”

The Gettysburg Re-enactment, always a significant draw for visitors, will take place July 4-7. Over these four days, soldier and civilian re-enactors will re-create the 1860s, through battles, encampments and demonstrations. Visitors can get an up-close look at cavalry, artillery and the lives that soldiers led during the Civil War. Re-enactment organizers are expecting 15,000 re-enactors, thousands more civilian interpreters, 400 horses and 100 cannons.

Throughout the 10-day commemoration, several nearby towns will commemorate their respective roles in the Gettysburg campaign, including Union Mills, Md.; and Hanover, Cashtown, and Hunterstown, Pa. In each of these communities, fighting occurred that had a big impact on the battle in Gettysburg.

“To fully understand the battle of Gettysburg, it’s important that visitors take the time to learn about these smaller battles that helped shape the major conflict in Gettysburg,” said Flowers. “Our visitors are always hungry for more history, and the anniversary commemoration will provide people with some lesser-told stories of the Civil War.”

The Battle of Gettysburg – the only major battle of the American Civil War that took place in the north – took place July 1-3, 1863. The battle, a Union victory, resulted in 51,000 casualties over the three days. Nearly five months later, President Abraham Lincoln visited this small town to deliver that would become the Gettysburg Address, a short speech that forever changed history.

Many accommodations in the Gettysburg region are taking reservations for 2013. For a list of available lodging or information, call (800) 337-5015. For more on the 150th anniversary in Gettysburg, visit www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com.

The Gettysburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, the official tourism promotion agency, markets Gettysburg – Adams County as a premier travel destination, producing a positive economic impact.

<http://www.travelvideo.tv/news/uncategorized/04-18-2012/gettysburgs-150th-anniversary-taking-shape-in-pennsylvania>

Confederate sub lantern is blue light mystery

Bruce Smith *The Associated Press* via *The Dailey Reflector* Greenville, NC April 19, 2012

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Call it a blue light mystery now that scientists have conserved the lantern from the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship.

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Blue Lantern (Continued):



The lantern used on the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley is seen after conservation in a lab in North Charleston, S.C., on Thursday, April 19, 2012. The picture to the left shows what the lantern looked like after the sub, the first in history to sink an enemy warship, was raised off the South Carolina coast 12 years ago. (AP Photo/Bruce Smith)

According to Hunley lore, there were reports from both Confederates and Union sailors that a blue light was seen that February night in 1864 when the hand-cranked sub sent the Union blockade ship Housatonic to the bottom off Charleston Harbor.

It's long been thought the blue light was a sort of mission accomplished signal from the Hunley and its eight-man crew before the sub itself sank. The cause of the sinking is another mystery.

But the small lantern shown Thursday at the lab where the sub is housed has a clear lens a senior conservator Paul Mardikian says there's no indication there was any sort of blue film over the lens.

Mardikian showed both the conserved lantern as well as a photo of the lantern corroded and covered hardened sediment when the submarine when it was raised in 2000. The lantern of iron is covered with a thin layer of tin and required several years of chemical treatment and painstaking work with hand tools to remove the corrosion.

Mardikian said if the lantern was a signaling device it would likely have had a blue glass lens. "And we don't have a blue glass and so where does the story of the blue light come from?" asked Mike Scafuri, a staff archaeologist for the Hunley project. "The myth is that the Hunley signaled shore at the completion of the mission and supposedly onshore they saw this light."

The facts, he said, are that a Union sailor holding onto the rigging of the sinking Housatonic saw a blue light in front of another Union vessel coming to the aid of the Housatonic. "Did he see a light that was colored blue or did he see a light that was referred to as a blue light?" Scafuri asked.

During the Civil War, emergency flares and other signals — regardless of color — were sometimes referred to as blue lights. Scafuri said that's akin today to people referring to police lights as blue lights even if they might be of another color.

Another possible explanation is that the lantern light, seen from a distance, might appear blue because of the water vapor in the atmosphere. He suspects the oil lantern was probably more likely a sort of flash light for the crew, lighting the sub's interior sub and helping the crew get in and out. It's also unclear why the Confederates would want to signal shore and draw possible attention from the Yankee ships.

Even before the conservation of the lantern, scientists, with the help of Pennsylvania high school students, had a good idea what it looked like.

X-rays were taken before the corrosion was removed and those details as well as drawings and pictures were sent to students at Hamburg Area High School west of Allentown, Pa. The students made several replica lanterns, one of which is in the lab museum, Scafuri said.

The 40-foot Hunley never returned from the mission in which it rammed a spar with a black powder charge into the Housatonic. It was discovered off the coast of South Carolina in 1995 and raised five years later.

It has been at a conservation lab for the past 12 years as scientists excavated the interior and the crew remains, removed sediment that had hardened on the hull and are preparing to conserve the hull.

<http://www.reflector.com/ap/staten/confederate-sub-lantern-blue-light-mystery-1031683>

Groups plan ceremony for black Union soldier buried in Dahlonga

Rucker's unit fought in Battle of Decatur in Alabama

Jeff Gill *The Gainesville Times* Gainesville, GA April 22, 2012

DAHLONEGA — Isaac Rucker escaped slavery in North Georgia and fled to Knoxville, Tenn., where he joined the Union Army's black forces.

After the Civil War, he returned home and lived out the rest of his days, his body buried atop a hill at Mount Hope Cemetery in Dahlonga. A former Confederate sergeant signed for Rucker to get his federal pension. The irony doesn't stop there

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Grave (Continued):

Tim Ragland, commander of the Dahlonge-based Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1860, is trying to set up a ceremony with the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War to honor Rucker.

“Even though I’m a descendant of Confederates, I find it amazing that not only was this guy from here, was held as a slave, but he fought for the Union and then came back,” Ragland said, speaking Sunday at the gravesite.



Tim Ragland, commander of a Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter in Dahlonge, stands at the grave marker of Cpl. Isaac G. Rucker of Company G and the 1st U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery at Mount Hope Cemetery. Rucker was a runaway slave who joined the Union Army. SARA GUEVARA/*The Times*

Ragland came across the grave when doing some research for articles on Civil War history. “It was after a real heavy frost last fall, and I looked over here and noticed that the stone had a federal shield (etched) on it,” he said. “I came over and scraped off some of the lichen and stuff that was growing on it.”

He began researching the information he pulled from the headstone. Rucker was a corporal in Company G of the 1st U.S. Colored Troops, Heavy Artillery.

Black troops made up a large part of the Union Army during the Civil War, with the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry perhaps the best-known unit. That group suffered huge losses in leading the Union assault on Fort Wagner, S.C., a battle dramatized in the popular movie “Glory.”

“What we know about Rucker himself is he was a slave and was held by a family, yet to be determined, over in the Mount Olive district of the county close to White County,” Ragland said. “Somewhere along the line, he escaped and wound up going to Knoxville, where he signed up (with Union black troops).”

His unit’s “biggest claim to fame was they were one of the artillery groups that repulsed (Confederate) Gen. John Bell Hood in the Battle of Decatur (in Alabama),” Ragland said. “Very little is known about the group after that ... except that (Rucker) came home, which I find utterly surprising,” he said. “The man ... moved back to a town (and lived among) a whole bunch of people that fought on the other side of the war.”

By Ragland’s research, Mount Hope contains the grave of just one other Union soldier, while some 60-plus Confederates are buried in the cemetery. Buried next to Rucker is his wife, Mary Stephens Rucker, who died March 11, 1937. “These two never had children, as I understand it. The children they had were hers from a previous marriage,” Ragland said.

Ragland said he contacted the Educational Foundation and Museum of Beulah Rucker in Gainesville to see if there might be a connection between Isaac Rucker and Beulah, a black education pioneer of children in Gainesville-Hall County. No connection could be made.

Rojene Bailey, volunteer executive director of the museum, said he hadn’t heard of Isaac Rucker. Ragland also contacted Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War about a ceremony, possibly in September, honoring Rucker and his military service. “He must have been a very highly thought-of man here,” Ragland said.

One person he contacted was Brad Quinlin, a Sons of the Union member and graves register for Georgia and South Carolina. “This is perfect timing because I’ve been working on USCT (soldiers buried) in Marietta National Cemetery,” Quinlin said.

A ceremony recognizing Rucker is an example of how the two Civil War groups “can work together and do the (very) ceremony for why our two groups were formed,” he said. “We are doing the exact thing that they wanted us to do, and to be able to do it together is really the ultimate of praise and remembrance for these men.”

<http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/section/6/article/66529/>

MB leaders deciding on confederate flag welcome sign

Evan Lambert WMBF – TV Myrtle Beach, SC April 24, 2012

MYRTLE BEACH, SC (WMBF) - A welcome sign is supposed to give visitors a good first impression, but a proposed sign in Myrtle Beach is already stirring controversy because of the Confederate Flag one group wants to put on it.

(Continued Next Page)

Myrtle Beach Sign (Continued): The group is called the Myrtle Beach Sons of Confederate Veterans. It asked city council for permission to put up a group sponsored welcome sign on private land along Highway 501.

City leaders say right now, they're checking with their lawyer about whether the sign would adhere to the city's ordinances. Typically leaders don't allow signs on land without a building. While the city considers the sign, some community leaders and neighbors don't think it's a good idea. "I say bad idea because there's not enough people using the Confederate Flag like it's supposed to be used. There's too many people using it in a negative context," said Pat Causey.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans acknowledge that many people believe the Confederate Flag has a negative connotation, but say it's not meant to be seen that way.

"They're wrong. The flag is actually a replica of the cross of St Andrews," said Ken Thrasher, with the group's Myrtle Beach chapter. "We're not an organization that is biased toward anybody. We're not partisan, non-denominational and non-racist," Thrasher said.

City Council should get back to the group by its next workshop in two weeks.

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/17698833/mb-leaders-deciding-on-confederate-flag-welcome-sign>

Girl barred from prom over Confederate flag dress

United Press International April 24, 2012



Texanna Edwards, a senior at Gibson County High School, in the Confederate flag dress she had made for prom. Photo via *The (Nashville) Tennessean*.

DYER, Tenn., April 24 (UPI) -- A Tennessee teenager says she was denied access to her high school prom because she wore a dress that resembled the Confederate flag.

Texanna Edwards, a senior at Gibson County High School, wore the dress to prom Saturday, but was not allowed to enter because the dress was deemed offensive, *The Nashville Tennessean* reported.

Edwards said she talked to fellow students about the dress before prom and they seemed supportive, but added that a teacher suggested she speak to school administration before wearing the dress.

"I didn't talk with administration because we wore rebel flags all through my four years at Gibson County,"

she said. "I didn't ask for approval because I didn't think I needed to. I had one teacher tell me it was a bad idea, but I just thought she only said that because it would offend people. But I asked a bunch of people before I had the dress made and they all loved the idea."

Eddie Pruett, director of schools for the Gibson County School System, said there have been race-related issues at the high school in the past and Principal James Hughes thought the dress may cause a problem.

"She was told because of the dress and what it would look like, it would be considered inappropriate," Pruett said. "She had talked with the prom sponsor and they told her it would be inappropriate. ... I feel like Hughes followed legal precedents set by other court cases. Students have legal rights, and we don't infringe upon those. But we have to follow legal precedents, and if there is a reason to believe something could happen, we don't wait until after the fact to do something."

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2012/04/24/Girl-barred-from-prom-over-Confederate-flag-dress/UPI-84601335312427/#ixzz1t726aCnJ

Legal battle over Confederate flags in Lexington takes another step in court

Chris Hurst WDBJ-TV Roanoke, VA April 24, 2012

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is suing the city, saying it wants to raise the controversial flag on city property. The city recently asked for the case to be thrown out.

(Continued Next Page)

Lexington, VA Case (Continued): Your Hometown News Leader has learned that last week the SCV filed a motion for that to be denied, saying it doesn't meet the standards to do so. It also mentioned how other groups have flown flags, so why not the Confederate one. The trial is set to start in November.

<http://www.wdbj7.com/news/wdbj7-legal-battle-over-confederate-flags-in-lexington-takes-another-step-in-court-20120424,0,2654348.story?track=rss>

Flag returns after 147 years

PRISCILLA LOEBENBERG *The Sun Herald* Gulfport, MS April 28, 2012



The 46th Mississippi Infantry Battle Flag was recovered from the Hall of Flags in Springfield, Ill., and is on permanent display at Beauvoir. The flag was unveiled at the Confederate Memorial Day observance on Saturday at Beauvoir.

PRISCILLA LOEBENBERG/SPECIAL TO *THE SUN HERALD*

BILOXI -- The Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans observed Confederate Memorial Day on Saturday at Beauvoir, the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the 46th Mississippi Infantry Battle Flag, which was recently received from the Hall of Flags in Springfield, Ill. The flag left Mississippi in 1865. Capt. Mike Bieser of the 46th Infantry Re-enactors said it has been a 25-year dream of his to see the flag returned to its home state.

The transfer was made possible through cooperative efforts of the Mississippi National Guard and Illinois National Guard. The flag will be on permanent display at Beauvoir.

The flag was captured during the Civil War, Bieser said.

"When the war ended, the men were released, but the flag has been a prisoner of war for over 147 years," he said. Bieser said the flag will rest now near the

graves of some of the soldiers who went with it into battle.

Commander of the Mississippi Division Alan Palmer said the flag was an important means of communication during battles. When a flag bearer went down, said Palmer, another soldier would throw down his musket to take his place. In the midst of battle, it was often the only way soldiers knew where to rally and make sure they were not left behind.

The observance included attendees in regular clothes as well as re-enactors in period dress. The ceremony had a floral tribute and musket salutes for the battle flag and the soldiers.

<http://www.sunherald.com/2012/04/28/3913009/flag-returns-after-147-years.html#storylink=cpy>

The Cadet Rangers Ride Again The First Annual Battle at Congaree Creek

On December 3, 2011, a unique historical event occurred during the 1st annual Battle at Congaree Creek. The reenactment honored the memory of fifty Citadel Cadets who resolved to take a stand for their state and sacred principles, even at the risk of being shot for desertion. One hundred and fifty years ago to the day cadets from the South Carolina Military Academy left their posts and cannons at the Citadel to form the 6th South Carolina Cavalry. They called themselves the Cadet Rangers. They acquired and rode the famous horses known as Marsh Tacky.

Marsh Tackys are small horses with direct lineage to Colonial Spanish horse which are found on the offshore Islands of Carolina. The 6th South Carolina Cadet Rangers then offered their services to General Wade Hampton and remained faithful to the cause until the legion's surrender.

(Continued Next Page)

Cadet Rangers (Continued):

After 150 years, the current military cadets from the Citadel took to the saddle again to honor the memory of those brave military trainees and to pay homage to such a historical event. Mollie, the South Carolina heritage horse, was present and bravely led the cadets into battle. She is twenty-three years old and won the horse race at Hilton Head's Coligny Beach. Currently there are approximately two hundred and fifty horses left in existence. For more information about Marsh Tacky, go to the following website: <http://www.marsh tacky.org/>

The Battle at Congaree Creek was held on the beautiful farm of John Culler located at Sandy Run (mile marker 125 off Interstate 26). The farm also hosts the Battle for Columbia. School Days offered several stations and sutlers with their wares. On February 15, 1865, a four hour fight raged in an effort to slow down Sherman's march through South Carolina. Union's Army of Tennessee under the command of General Logan ironically went against Confederate Army of Tennessee that was under the command of General George Dibrell. The battle terminated with the Confederates burning the Old State Road Bridge over Congaree Creek. Unfortunately for the rebels, the fire was extinguished by the Federals, thus allowing Sherman's army to march on Columbia.

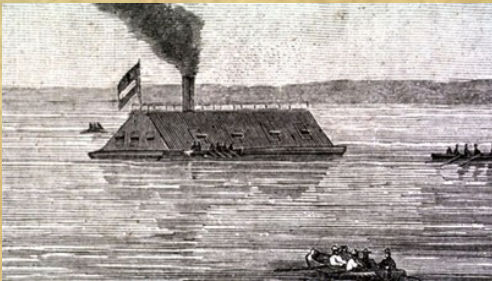
http://www.alabamadivision.org/From_the_Field.html

Civil War shipwreck creates hurdle for government's \$653M plan

The Associated Press May 5, 2012

Before government engineers can deepen one of the nation's busiest seaports to accommodate future trade, they first need to remove a \$14 million obstacle from the past -- a Confederate warship rotting on the Savannah River bottom for nearly 150 years.

Confederate troops scuttled the ironclad CSS Georgia to prevent its capture by Gen. William T. Sherman when his Union troops took Savannah in December 1864. It's been on the river bottom ever since. Now, the Civil War shipwreck sits in the way of a government agency's \$653 million plan to deepen the waterway that links the nation's fourth-busiest container port to the Atlantic Ocean. The ship's remains are considered so historically significant that dredging the river is prohibited within 50 feet of the wreckage.



This undated image provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shows a rendering of the CSS Georgia, a Confederate warship that sank in the Savannah River nearly 148 years ago in Savannah, Ga.

So the Army Corps of Engineers plans to raise and preserve what's left of the CSS Georgia. The agency's final report on the project last month estimated the cost to taxpayers at \$14 million. The work could start next year on what's sure to be a painstaking effort.

And leaving the shipwreck in place is not an option: Officials say the harbor must be deepened to accommodate supersize cargo ships coming through an expanded Panama Canal in 2014 -- ships that will bring valuable revenue to the state and would otherwise go to other ports.

Underwater surveys show two large chunks of the ship's iron-armored siding have survived, the largest being 68 feet long and 24 feet tall. Raising them intact will be a priority. Researchers also spotted three cannons on the riverbed, an intact propeller and other pieces of the warship's steam engines. And there's smaller debris scattered across the site that could yield unexpected treasures, requiring careful sifting beneath 40 feet of water.



This photo shows a buoy from Old Fort Jackson marking the shipwreck of the CSS Georgia, a Confederate warship that sank in the Savannah River nearly 148 years ago, in Savannah, Ga.

We don't really have an idea of what's in the debris field," said Julie Morgan, a government archaeologist with the Army Corps.

(Continued Next Page)

CSS Georgia (Continued):

"There could be some personal items. People left the ship in a big hurry. Who's to say what was on board when the Georgia went down."

Also likely to slow the job: finding and gently removing cannonballs and other explosive projectiles that, according to Army Corps experts, could still potentially detonate. That's a massive effort for a warship that went down in Civil War history as an ironclad flop.

The Civil War ushered in the era of armored warships. In Savannah, a Ladies Gunboat Association raised \$115,000 to build such a ship to protect the city. The 120-foot-long CSS Georgia had armor forged from railroad iron, but its engines proved too weak to propel the ship's 1,200-ton frame against river currents. The ship was anchored on the riverside at Fort Jackson as a floating gun battery. Ultimately the Georgia was scuttled by its own crew without having ever fired a shot in combat.

"I would say it was an utter failure," said Ken Johnston, executive director of the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Ga., who says the shipwreck nonetheless has great historical value. "It has very clearly become a symbol for why things went wrong for the Confederate naval effort."

As a homespun war machine assembled by workers who likely had never built a ship before, the CSS Georgia represents the South's lack of an industrial base, Johnston said. The North, by contrast, was teeming with both factories and laborers skilled at shipbuilding. They churned out a superior naval fleet that enabled the Union to successfully cut off waterways used to supply Confederate forces.

Despite its functional failures, the shipwreck's historical significance was cemented in 1987 when it won a place on the National Register of Historic Places, the official listing of treasured sites and buildings from America's past. That gave the Georgia a measure of protection -- dredging near the shipwreck was prohibited.

Still, a great deal of damage had already been done. The last detailed survey of the ship in 2003 found it in pieces and its hull apparently disintegrated. Erosion had taken a large toll, and telltale marks showed dredging machinery had already chewed into the wreckage.

Salvaging the remains will likely move slowly. Divers will need to divide the site into a grid to search for artifacts and record the locations of what they find. The large sections of armored siding will likely need to be cradled gently by a web of metal beams to raise them to the surface intact, said Gordon Watts, an underwater archaeologist who helped lead the 2003 survey of the shipwreck.

The Army Corps' report also notes special care will be needed find and dispose of any cannonballs and other explosive projectiles remaining on the riverbed. "If there is black powder that's 150 years old, and if it is dry, then the stability of it has deteriorated," Watts said. "You'd want to be as careful as humanly possible in recovering the stuff."

Once the remains of the Georgia are removed from the river and preserved by experts, the Army Corps will have to decide who gets the spoils. Morgan said ultimately the plan is to put the warship's artifacts on public display. But which museum or agency will get custody of them has yet to be determined.

Right now the Confederate shipwreck legally belongs to the U.S. Navy. More than 150 years after the Civil War began, the CSS Georgia is still officially classified as a captured enemy vessel.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/05/05/civil-war-shipwreck-creates-hurdle-for-government-653m-plan/?test=latestnews>

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.

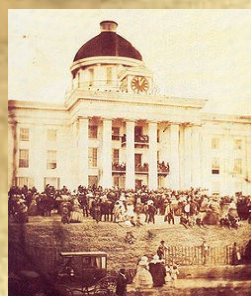


Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us the undeniable birthright of our Southern Heritage and the vision, desire, and courage to see it perpetuated.

"The Principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form."
President Jefferson Davis, CSA

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

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



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