

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 9, 2013. The meeting starts at 7 PM in the Tuscaloosa Public Library Rotary Room, 2nd Floor. The Library is located at 1801 Jack Warner Parkway.

The Index of Articles and the listing of Camp Officers are now on Page Two. Look for "Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #262 Tuscaloosa, AL" on our [Facebook page](#), and "Like" us.

Former Rodes Camp Commander Richard McLain Passes Away

Former Rodes Camp Commander Richard "Rick" Keith McLain, passed away April 10, 2013, and was buried on April 13, 2013. His obituary may be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/dxa9zdg>



I am happy to report that the 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry, "4th Alabama" (Task Force Centurion); returned safely last week from a nine month tour in Afghanistan. The 4th Alabama fought at Seven Pines, Second Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg and The Wilderness among other battles as the 4th Alabama.

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.



Upcoming 2013 Events



9 May - Camp Meeting
24-26 May - Tannehill Reenactment

12 September - Camp Meeting

13 June - Camp Meeting

10 October - Camp Meeting
27 October - Thsil'du Fish Fry

11 July - Camp Meeting

14 November - Camp Meeting

August—No Meeting
Annual Summer Stand Down/Bivouac

3 Dec - Dicken's Northport
12 Dec - Camp Meeting

Officers of the Rodes Camp

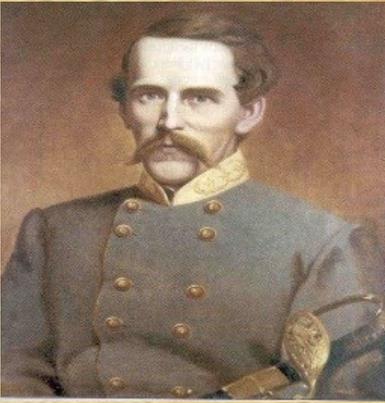
2

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	John Clayton	
Newsletter	James Simms	jbsimms@comcast.net
Website	Brad Smith	tidepridebrad@gmail.com

Inside This Edition

Page		Page	
3	General Rodes Biography	38	Soldier's Rest
5	Tuscaloosa County Historical Markers	40	150th Gettysburg Anniversary Upcoming
5	Website Report	40	Confederate Flag Over Palestine, TX
5	Area Reenactment Dates	41	Stirring Stone Mountain Speech
5	Fifth Alabama Regiment Band Dates	43	Vicksburg: Battle Tested Belle
6	News From the Rodes Camp	44	Private Watkins's War
10	Alabama News	46	Graves Robbed
17	Alabama Personalities	46	Backhoe Runs Over Graves
18	Alabama Born Generals	47	TX SCV Plate Efforts Struck Down
19	Alabama Camps and Hospitals	47	SD Veterans Administration Removes Flag
19	Alabama WBTS Shipwrecks	48	Unknown Graves Found
20	Alabama WBTS Timeline	48	GA Group Praised for Memorial Efforts
20	Alabama WBTS Units	49	Memphis, TN and Parks
23	Events Leading to the WBTS	50	Confederate Flag Doesn't Fly for Official Reason
23	This Month in the WBTS	50	A General and a General
25	Confederate Generals Birthdays	52	VMI to Mark Jackson's Death
26	Civil War Trust News	52	A Mission to Honor Confederate Soldiers
27	Museum of the Confederacy News	53	Moon and Jackson's Death
28	Petition to Erase Stone Mountain Carvings	54	Camp Lawton, GA Dig Starts
28	Confederacy and Jury Selection	55	SD Man Defends Confederate Flag
30	Historical Censorship		
31	Unknown Confederate Soldier in PA Marked		
32	Confederate Flag gets NM Man in Hot Water		
32	LA Dilemma in Marking Sesquicentennial		
34	Confederate Veteran's Honored		
34	Debunking Civil War Myths		
37	Orange, TX Confederate Flag Update		
37	Long Lost Ring Returned		

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 with his family in The Presbyterian 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 Rode'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 51 Visitors and 149 Pageviews. Because of Technical issues, overall numbers are not available.

2012 5th Alabama Regiment Band Event Calendar

Vicksburg, MS	May 19	Concert, 2-4 PM
Jackson, MS	May 31	Civil War Trust Reception Concert
Boligee, AL	October 27	Thils'du Fish Fry Concert
Suwanee, FL	Nov. 16-17	Reenactments/Dance
Northport, AL	December 3	Dickens Christmas Concert

Upcoming 2013 Area Reenactment Dates and Locations

Battle of Resaca	May 17 -19	Resaca, GA
Tannehill	May 24-26	Tannehill, AL State Park
Civil War Trust Annual Conference	May 29 - June 2	Jackson, MS http://www.civilwar.org/aboutus/ events/annual-conference/

(Continued Next Page)

Upcoming 2013 Area Reenactment Dates and Locations (Continued)

205th Birthday Celebration President Jefferson Davis	May 31- June 2	Fairview, KY	
2013 Alabama SCV Reunion	June 7 - 8	Foley, AL	http://www.aladivscv.com/ reunion.htm
150th Battle of Gettysburg	July 4 - 7	Gettysburg, PA	
Battle of Iuka	August 30	Iuka, MS	
Siege of Decatur	Aug. 30- Sept. 1	Decatur, AL	
149th Battle of Tunnel Hill	Sept. 6 - 8	Tunnel Hill, GA	
Battle of Buckhorn Station	Sept. 27-29	New Market, AL	
Fall Muster @ Beauvoir	Oct. 18 -20	Biloxi, MS	
Cotton Pickin' Celeration	Oct. 27- 28	Harpersville, AL	Old Baker Farm
Battle for the Armory	Nov. 8 -10	Wetumpka, AL	

News of the Rodes Camp

Confederate Memorial Day Ceremonies and Monument Dedication to General and Virginia H. Rodes 26 April, 2013



Military Order of the Stars
and Bars Josiah Gorgas
Chapter President John
Coleman



Dr. Richard Rhone

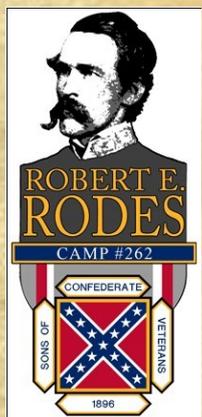


Rodes News (Continued):

Improvements made to Robert E. Rodes website

Compatriots,

For the month of April 2013 our website received 51 Visits and a total of 149 pageviews. Since April of 2010, when I first took over as webmaster, we have received just over 2,000 visits for a total of over 5,160 pageviews. Our site has been viewed in forty-four of the fifty states in the Union. Roughly 7% of our guests are international viewers.



To mark the three year anniversary of SCVTuscaloosa.org, I designed a new "Rodes Camp" logo to be used on the website as well as on our Facebook page and Twitter feed. As you see, the logo is comprised of two elements. The first is the likeness of our camp's namesake, General Robert E. Rodes. His name is written across his chest in a bright gold. The second element of this design is the Sons Of Confederate Veterans logo. The Confederate battle flag within the logo was given a border of gold instead of the traditional white. This flag design was known as the "first bunting" and was carried by regiments under Rodes' command. These two elements, Rodes' likeness and the modified SCV logo, are joined together by a navy blue pin with golden trim. Inside the pin is "CAMP #262" written in gold. This pin is fixed to a ribbon with a pair of red and white stripes, this being the SCV's official regimental stripe pattern.

All of the colors of this new logo have been recycled throughout the website, which has been given a face lift. The overall page width has been expanded slightly to provide more breathing room for text. The "header" is completely new. Throughout the website, you will also find several paintings by three very talented artists. I must thank artists Bradley Schmehl, John Paul Strain, and Don Troiani for graciously allowing their work to be displayed on our website. These three were a joy to speak with and could not have been more helpful.

Non-aesthetic changes have also occurred to the Rodes camp website - most importantly, our server underwent maintenance for increased security and stability.

If you have not visited our website in some time, please do. Also, take a moment to visit the section entitled "Our Ancestors." This page acts as a memorial for Confederate soldiers whose descendants are members of this camp. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me your contribution. Some members have only submitted their ancestor's name and unit. Others have sent pictures of the veteran, a photograph of his tombstone, a synopsis of his contribution to the war effort, and/or anecdotes passed down from generation to generation. If e-mail isn't "your thing" there is also a submission form on the "Our Ancestors" page that you can print off and fill out to be turned in at the next meeting.

Lastly, I am happy to report that in this year's SCV National Reunion in Vicksburg, Mississippi our website will be competing for the Sons Of Confederate Veterans' General Samuel Cooper Award. This award is given annually to the camp maintaining the best website in the SCV.

Best regards,

Bradley Smith
Webmaster, SCVTuscaloosa.org

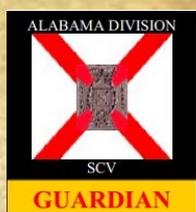
Alabama Sons of Confederate Veteran's 2013 Annual Reunion

June 7 and 8, 2013
Foley, AL

For more information, see: <http://www.aladivscv.com/reunion.htm>

Alabama Guardian Program

From the October 2012 issue of the *Alabama Confederate*



Purpose: The program is designed to honor the memory of our Confederate ancestors and through its implementation will provide the preservation of their final resting places and will document for future generations their sacrifices.

Eligibility: Any Alabama Division camp member in good standing, who is at least 12 years of age and who has demonstrated his desire and ability to serve as a GUARDIAN. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in the program to honor our ancestors and to protect their final resting place. For more information, please see:

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

(Continued Next Page)

Rodes News (Continued):

Mechanized Cavalry, Alabama Division

From the October 2012 issue of the *Alabama Confederate*

When we look into our ancestors who fought to defend their homeland, we see that they cut a swath of the social economic spectrum of the time. White, black and red men took up arms. Jew, Christian and non believers face death side by side. Yeoman farmers, merchants, college professors and planters stood together risking their lives and fortunes. Today their descendant's are just as diverse, coming from all backgrounds and professions.

We have varied interests as well. In each of our camps we have some who come to hear historic lectures, some who are re enactors, others who are committed to historic research, and those whose passion is finding and honoring graves of those who fought.

We also have throughout the SCV those who have a passion for riding motorcycles and use that passion to forward the cause. You may have them in your camps, and if not you surely have seen them at events with their vests proudly displaying that they are a member of the SCV Mechanized Cavalry. From a small group that joined together a little over 20 years ago they have grown to a group of approximately 1700 members spread across the States and overseas.

They are first and foremost SCV members, they just happen to also love to ride motorcycles. They are camp commanders, division officers, and national officers. Because of the patch on their back they are often highly visible at events, and they are workers in the SCV. During the re enactment of President Davis being sworn in, they were one of the largest contingents in the parade to the Capital. At the National Convention in Murfreesboro they put on a motorcycle ride and a motorcycle show, showcasing the SCV to the community in a very public way.

The 2013 ride takes them to the Jackson, Mississippi area for more rides, tours of historic sites, and good fellowship. The Mechanized Cavalry may not look like the typical SCV member with whom you may be familiar. But like our ancestors who while different in so many ways were dedicated to the cause, so today we have members from different backgrounds are committed to the memory of our ancestors. If you are interested finding out more check out their website (<http://alabama-scvmc.weoka.com>) or ask one of those men wearing the vest.

UDC - FOF - PAVERS ORDER FORM

As you all are aware, we, the Friends of Forrest, are in a full blown war with our local domestic terrorist, Rose Sanders, her husband Senator Hank Sanders and now they have brought in the national organizations that have been waging war on our heritage & culture for years. Let me assure you...WE HAVE THE HIGH GROUND AND WE ARE GOING TO WIN!

We are in a truce at this time...I will be able to expound more on that in the upcoming days. In the meantime, my job is to raise money...AGAIN! I know a lot of you might be saying, "well, I have been giving to this effort for years...when is it gonna stop and when is Pat Godwin going to stop asking me for money "...Gentlemen, there are not words adequate enough to express to you my most sincere gratitude for everything y'all have done for us and General Forrest here in Selma through all these years, plus the committed money for the reward for the information leading to the arrest & conviction of the perpetrators of the theft of the NBF bust. I am just an humble player in this theater of war...I have told many folks through the years, that I really think this entire project from its inception has been Providential.

There are people who walk the planet for their entire life, and then when the time comes for them to stand at their judgment, they wonder why they have been here and feel they have lived a lifetime not knowing why they were here and wondering what they have done with their lives during their time here. I am blessed to KNOW why I am here...our Lord has allowed me to be just a small part in this effort to pay homage to General Forrest that is properly due him...especially here in Selma Alabama where he only had about 3000 troops against more than 13,000 of the best equipped troops in the history of the world..this took extreme raw courage and commitment to duty to his country! Based on the history of Selma, I truly believe that General Forrest's spirit STILL LIVES HERE IN SELMA...and there is a reason this war continues to exonerate him in OUR time as he was exonerated in HIS time.

Confederate Circle will be an historical learning site ...we plan to have historical markers telling the history of the circle, the Ladies Memorial Association, Selma chapter 53 UDC, Elodie Todd Dawson, the Confederate Monument, the Forrest Monument...we are installing two more flag poles - one will fly the Confederate Battle Flag (the soldiers flag) one will fly the Stars & Bars (the daughters flag) and we plan to move the existing flag pole to the Forrest Monument and fly Gen Forrest's 7th Tenn Cavalry flag (the Battle Flag without the center star).

(Continued Next Page)

Rodes News (Continued): We plan to have the heavy duty wrought iron park benches within the circle also. We are planning to re-landscape the Circle with Southern trees, flowers & shrubs.

There is sooo much to tell and I will be putting out a detailed report soon...however, please be assured that SECURING the FORREST monument and the entire Confederate Circle is the objective...we will have state of the art security system installed with 24/7 surveillance. There also will be LED lights installed on the Forrest Monument and the Confederate Monument.

There will be a 5 foot wrought iron period correct fence installed around the Forrest monument, as well. I am currently working on the order forms for the sponsorship of these features.

Thank you again for your continued faithful support of the Forrest Monument effort here in Selma...again, I will be putting out a detailed report soon.

Confederately yours,
Pat Godwin

Friends of Forrest
oldsouth@zebra.net

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone: _____
(Home) (cell)

e-mail _____

Please engrave my 4" x 8" paver as follows: (Max. 3 Lines, 19 Characters per line)

Calling all SONS and DAUGHTERS to the 9th Annual Sam Davis Youth Camp!

If the South should lose, it means that the history of the heroic struggle will be written by the enemy, that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers, will be impressed by all of the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.

-- Major General Patrick Cleburne

Educated men are as much superior to uneducated men as the living to the dead.

-- Aristotle

[View Powerpoint presentation \(no audio\)](#)



When and Where?

Virginia Camp: Sunday June 16th to Friday, June 22th, 2013 at SW Virginia Woodmen of the World Family Activity Center, 1336 Simmons Mill Rd, Thaxton, VA 24174. The deadline for applications is Monday, Jun 11, 2012.

Texas Camp: Sunday Aug 5th to Saturday Aug 11th at Three Mountain Retreat, 1648 FM 182, Clifton, TX 76634. The deadline for applications is Monday Jul 30, 2012.

For more information: <http://samdavis.scv.org/>

The April issue of the *Alabama Confederate*

<http://www.aladivscv.com/april2013.pdf>

News From Alabama

The Burning of the University of Alabama (Part 2)

By Clark E. Center Jr.

This article is a reprinting of a piece that appeared in issue 16 (Spring 1990) of Alabama Heritage, pp. 30-45. Copyright The University of Alabama. All rights reserved. All images courtesy W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, unless otherwise noted.

Morning, April 4, found General Croxton in peaceful possession of Tuscaloosa, but his mission was not yet completed. Under orders from Croxton, Colonel Thomas M. Johnston of the Second Michigan Cavalry led two hundred men east on Broad Street and out the Huntsville Road. About a mile from town on the left, Johnston and his men spotted the wooden fence enclosing the University grounds. Across the way, visible through the spring-green trees, were the University buildings. To the soldiers' right stood the President's Mansion, an imposing, Greek revival structure, surrounded by fields. The blue-coated column wheeled left, passing through a wooden gate onto the tree-lined, gravel road leading through the campus. Before them stood the University of Alabama as it would never be again.

In the center of the campus and immediately in front of the approaching Federals, about eighty-five yards away from the main road, stood the Rotunda, home of the University's library and natural history collection. Standing in front of the Rotunda were several members of the faculty, including André Deloffre, University librarian and professor of French and Spanish, and Dr. William S. Wyman, professor of Latin and Greek. Colonel Johnston, mounted on a white horse (it was said he sat stiffly), approached the group and made his purpose known. The University was to be burned.



The Rotunda ruins were sketched in 1866 by Eugene Allen Smith

Librarian Deloffre pleaded for the library. Surely this one building could be spared. Colonel Johnston agreed that it would be senseless destruction to burn one of the finest libraries in the South. Hurriedly he scrawled a message to General Croxton asking permission to spare the building, noting that it had no military value. No record exists of the conversation between Johnston and the professors as they waited for a reply, though Dr. Wyman later described Johnston as a "man of culture and literary taste."

When at last the courier returned, the general's answer was disheartening. "My orders leave me no discretion," wrote Croxton. "My orders are to destroy all public buildings."

What happened next has become a part of the University of Alabama's mythic fabric. It is said that Colonel Johnston, lamenting the destruction of such a fine library, decided to salvage one volume as a memento. Perhaps he sent one of his aides, or perhaps he sent Librarian Deloffre, or perhaps he went himself, to take one book from the library. The book saved was an English translation of *The Koran: Commonly Called The Alcoran Of Mohammed*, published in Philadelphia in 1853.

Federal troops then began throwing flaming combustibles through the open door of the Rotunda and onto the roof. In a matter of minutes, the building was engulfed in flames. The raiders then turned their attention to the other buildings, and soon almost the entire campus was ablaze. One witness recalled years later that "as I looked in astonishment, the flames from the tall buildings reached far above the tree tops." The University cadets, from their position on Hurricane Creek, eight miles away, could see the billowing smoke.

In addition to burning the University, Croxton's men also burned properties in and near town, including the Confederate nitre works, the Leach & Avery foundry, a hat factory, a cotton mill, a tanyard, and two cotton warehouses.

The next day, April 5, Croxton and his troops left town, crossing the Black Warrior River and burning the bridge behind them. They headed west on the Columbus Road. At Romulus, they encountered Confederate Brigadier General Wirt Adams, whose force drove the Federals back to Northport. Eventually, Croxton and his men made their way across the state to rejoin General Wilson in Georgia.

The Alabama Corps of Cadets stayed at Hurricane Creek a full day before marching sixty-seven miles to Marion, Alabama. There they learned of the fall of Selma, which had occurred on April 2. Because the town of Marion could not feed 300 boys indefinitely, the officers disbanded the Corps with the intention of assembling again in thirty days. The Alabama Corps of 1864-65, of course, never reassembled. On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The Civil War was over.

Because the University of Alabama was destroyed so near the end of the war, one can easily imagine a scenario in which the University survived unscathed. Indeed, on the day following the burning, General Grant, several hundred miles away, told General Sherman, "Rebel armies are now the only strategic points to strike at." But the University did not escape unscathed, and the events of April 3-4, 1865, set back the course of higher education in Alabama for decades. With no dormitories, classroom, or public buildings, little money, and no library, the University of Alabama started over.

(Continued Next Page)

News from Alabama (Continued): *In the original printing of this article, we identified this soldier as "George C. Labuzan." Many thanks to Laurel Labuzan for providing the correct name.

The Approach to Tuscaloosa: Under orders to destroy Confederate supplies and manufacturing, Union Major General James H. Wilson moved south from his camp on the Tennessee River in northwest Alabama. His intention: to capture Tuscaloosa, Selma, and Montgomery, and then to turn east to Columbus, Georgia. Key objectives were the armories at Selma, where gunboats, armor plate, and the formidable Brooke cannon were produced; if Selma fell, Confederate arms manufacturing would come to a halt. On the way to Selma, Wilson would level iron furnaces, bridges, and the University of Alabama.



Brigadier
General
John T.
Croxton
(1837-1874)

Wilson kept the Confederate guessing as to his intentions by moving south in three columns, and on March 30 he brought his columns together at the village of Elyton (Birmingham), fifty miles northeast of Tuscaloosa. Here he rested before pushing on toward Selma via Centreville. In an effort to divert Nathan Bedford Forrest, who might bring his scattered forces together in time to protect the route to Selma, Wilson sent Croxton to Tuscaloosa.

Croxton left Elyton with his brigade on the afternoon of March 30. Late the next day he arrived at Trion (Vance), about twenty miles from Tuscaloosa, and made camp. Six miles down the road sat a Confederate force of about 2,600 men under Brigadier General W. J. Jackson, who was on his way from Tuscaloosa to join Forrest at Centreville. Each commander knew of the other's presence but was unsure of this opponent's strength. Because Croxton thought he faced Forrest's entire force on Saturday morning, April 1, he attempted to avoid Jackson by moving to a parallel road. His troopers were already on the move, when, about daybreak, Jackson's men attacked his rear-guard.



Because neither commander was willing to commit his forces fully, a day-long picket fight ensued, with neither side gaining any real advantage. Finally, Croxton withdrew. With his route to Tuscaloosa blocked, he retreated ten miles and stopped to rest. Jackson, thinking he had sent Croxton packing, gave up his pursuit and headed his division toward Centreville.

With his force of about 1,500 men, Croxton proceeded due west to the Black Warrior River. The crossing, made at Johnson's Ferry near the Tuscaloosa-Walker county line, took twenty-four hours, from late Saturday afternoon until late Sunday. Heavy rains had swollen the river and, in the words of a Federal

trooper:

It being unfordable, and having but one little ferry boat, we were obliged to cros[s] our equipments in it and to swim on our horses. This was a novel sight. The horses were stript of everything, even to their halters, driven down to the water like sheep and pushed in one after the other and sometimes on top of one another....

Croxton and his cavalymen moved down the Watermelon Road throughout the day of April 3. That night they entered the city of Tuscaloosa.

Bridesmaids and Bullets: A Melodrama or, The Carpenter-Leach Wedding: As General Croxton's forces approached Tuscaloosa from the North, a lone Confederate officer rode into town from the opposite direction. Captain James S. Carpenter, C.S.A., attached to the commissary Department in Demopolis, was on leave to be married. The date had been set for April 6, three days hence. But he could not wait. On Greensboro Street he encountered Miss Mary Matthews and her companion, both close friends of his intended bride. "I cannot stay," Captain Carpenter explained, "but I am afraid that I cannot come back. Times are so precarious, so our marriage must take place right now." And then he added, "By the way, where does Em live?"

"Em" was Emily Leach, the daughter of Dr. Sewell J. Leach, a Tuscaloosa physician and businessman. She had met Carpenter while visiting Demopolis, and romance had blossomed. Now her betrothed was at her doorstep, imploring her to marry him that very evening. She agreed.

The Leach household turned topsy-turvy. Everything had to be made ready immediately. There were guests and relatives to notify, the house to decorate, a wedding supper to prepare. Nevertheless, when the guests arrived that night at 8:30, all was ready.

The ceremony, with Miss Matthews as one of the bridesmaids, was a handsome affair. Afterwards came the wedding supper, and when someone began playing the piano, the bride and groom led the others in a cotillion. The dancing ended when Mrs. Leach, mother of the bride, called out in a cheery voice, "Make way for the bride's cake. Let us cut for the ring and see whose wedding we shall next attend."

The ring had just been found when the revelers heard the sound of gunfire. Suspecting the worst, the young women turned to Mrs. Leach. She assumed her role as matriarch, calming the women while issuing orders for the protection of her silver and glassware. She stood, according to Miss Matthews, "in dignified calm, forgetting herself, but never for an instant forgetting that she was our hostess." Courtesy always.

(Continued Next Page)

News from Alabama (Continued): The women went upstairs, hiding jewelry, watches and other valuables inside their clothes. Mrs. Leach remained below with the men, almost all of whom were soldiers home on leave who had come to the wedding unarmed. Fearful of endangering the women, the men determined to surrender and made no move to resist when the door burst open and Federal cavalymen entered the house.

According to Miss Matthews, who recounted the story years later and who may well have added a few embellishments, Mrs. Leach cried, "Don't please don't kill anyone in my house," and knocked one trooper's gun aside as it went off, hitting no one.

The Federals quickly turned their attention to securing the prisoners and to finishing off the wedding supper. Carpenter was allowed to say goodbye to his bride before being marched away with the other prisoners to Northport. One of the Union cavalymen, disgusted with the actions of his compatriots, wrote to his brother, "I do believe it is a sin, and a disgrace to the Yankee nation, that such proceedings are tolerated."

The women, who had returned downstairs, and Dr. Leach, who had been left behind because of his age and feeble health, sat on the parlor floor in hopes of avoiding any stray bullets that might come through the windows. From time to time a squad of soldiers would enter the house, ostensibly in search of Rebels, but they always headed straight for the dining room. Finally there was a lull and then the sounds of marching, shouted commands, and "a fearful rattle of musketry." The University cadets had engaged the foe.

Miss Mathews would later recall:

Screams of agony came from our little group, huddled together in the Leach drawing room. "Cry of 'Oh, oh, oh my boys, my dear sons!' Or, 'My brothers are out there in the battle!'... There was convulsive weeping. Moans, sobs and prayers were heard all over the room. Those who had no loved ones in the fight poured out sympathy to those who had, trying to comfort them.

When the fighting ended and the night again became quiet, Captain Carpenter, paroled until the next sundown to be with his bride, rejoined the guests. About daybreak some of the women began to make their way back home. Two were treading very carefully. One had diamond rings stuffed in the toes of her shoes; the other was walking on two gold pocket watches.

April 3, 1865: Designed by the noted English architect William Nichols, the University of Alabama was laid out in the shade of the Greek letter Π . At the center of the campus—of the Π —stood the Rotunda, a three-story, domed building surrounded by a colonnade of two dozen Ionic columns. The first two floors housed an auditorium used for commencement ceremonies, Sunday church services, and morning prayers. The University's natural history collection and the 7,000-volume library occupied the third floor.

Flanking the Rotunda were four brick dormitories or barracks—Franklin, Madison, Washington, and Jefferson halls. Madison Hall also housed the rooms of the University's two literary societies and their libraries, the University dining hall, and President Garland's study, containing the bulk of his private library. Between each north-south pair of barracks was a single-story frame dormitory. These structures, called Johnson and Lee halls by the cadets, had been built in 1863 to accommodate the increased demand for admission.

North of the Rotunda was the Lyceum, a two-story brick building which housed laboratories and several classrooms. West of the Lyceum were two, or possibly three, faculty houses. To the east was a faculty house and, at some distance, the Corps' gunpowder magazine. Northwest of the Rotunda and only a few feet away, stood the only building on campus erected for a purely military purpose—the guardhouse.



April 4, 1865: Although there was little wind the morning of April 4, 1865, sparks from the burning buildings set two faculty homes ablaze, including the house occupied by Librarian Deloffre and his wife, who managed to save only a few of their possessions before the flames drove them back.

The President's Mansion barely escaped being burned as well. Mrs. Garland and her children had fled the campus the evening before, hiding for a time near the Confederate nitre works (near the present location of Evergreen Cemetery) before seeking refuge in the Alabama Insane Hospital, east of the University. Upon learning that the University was being burned, Mrs. Garland returned to her home to find several cavalymen setting fire to her furniture. Outraged at this unwarranted attempt to destroy a private dwelling, she convinced the soldiers to put out the fire and leave.

Legend has it that Mrs. Reuben Chapman, who lived near the Observatory, was able to dissuade the troops from destroying that building. Union soldiers did, however, damage the instruments and remove several telescopic lenses as souvenirs.

The magazine containing the University's gunpowder was another target for destruction. A detachment of cadets, left behind with instructions to blow it up, had failed to do so, but Union soldiers completed the task. The resulting explosion broke windows in nearby houses and left one professor's wife deaf for a week.

News from Alabama (Continued):

About the Author

Clark Center, who holds both the A.B. and M.A. degrees in history from Samford University, is a reference archivist in the William Stanley Hoole Special Collections of the University of Alabama Library. He became interested in the history of the University of Alabama, and especially its Civil War period, while helping others with their research. "Over the years I've helped a number of people find information on various aspects of the University and the Alabama Corps of Cadets. In doing so I became familiar with both the events and the sources and developed quite an interest. One day I realized that I knew quite a lot about it."

Biographical Update (April 2006): Clark Center, who holds the A.B. and M.A. degrees in history from Samford University and the MLS degree from the University of Alabama, is Curator of the William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library at The University of Alabama. He has served in various capacities in the Society of Alabama Archivists, is archivist of the Alabama Library Association, and is active in the Preservation Section of the Society of American Archivists.

Additional Information

Further information on the Alabama Corps of Cadets, Croxton's Raid, and Wilson's Raid can be found in manuscript sources available in the Hoole Special Collections and in the following books and articles:

- Willis G. Clark, *History of Education in Alabama, 1702-1889* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1889.)
- J. G. Cowen, "The Destruction of the University of Alabama, in April, 1865," *Alabama University Bulletin* (1901): 37-44
- William Stanley Hoole and Elizabeth Hoole McArthur, *The Yankee Invasion of West Alabama, March - April, 1865*. (University, Alabama: Confederate Publishing Company, 1985). (This volume contains reprints of reminiscences of the participants.)
- Samuel Will John, "Alabama Corps of Cadets 1860-65," *The Confederate Veteran*, 25 (1917): 12-14.
- Edward G. Longacre, ed., "To Tuscaloosa and Beyond: A Union Cavalry Raider in Alabama, March - April 1865," *The Alabama Historical Quarterly*, 44 (1982): 109-122.
- John Massey, *Reminiscences* (Nashville, Tennessee: Publishing House of the M.E. Church, South, 1916).
- Rex Miller, *Croxton's Raid* (Fort Collins, Colorado: Old Armory Press, 1979).
- James T. Murphee, "University Cadet Corps," *The Alabama Historical Quarterly* 5 (1943): 55-58.
- Suzanne Rau Wolfe, *The University of Alabama: A Pictorial History* (University: The University of Alabama Press, 1983).
- James Pickett Jones, *Yankee Blitzkrieg: Wilson's Raid Through Alabama and Georgia* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1976).

<http://www.alabamaheritage.com/vault/UAburning.htm>

Summerdale council avoids vote on request to fly Confederate flag at city's welcome sign

Russell Colburn WALA-TV Mobile, AL April 8, 2013

SUMMERDALE, Ala. (WALA) - The Summerdale City Council chose not to make a motion to vote on the Confederate Flag controversy Monday, April 8. A local man said he wanted to fly the third national Confederate Flag at the city's 'welcome to' sign off Highway 59.

Ray Harris said he wanted to purchase and install the flag. He said he'd pay to maintain it and purchase replacements. The council, however, took its own stance.

"That's not the kind of notoriety we want," said councilwoman Norma Giles. "Even though the Confederate Flag is not bad in and of itself, groups have adopted it, groups that are racist, that are white supremacist."

Harris disagrees, saying his stance comes from his southern roots. "There's no race, no slavery, nothing. I won't even discuss that. It's a historical, heritage thing with me," Harris said. "I think they should've at least had the courage to vote on it, whether they voted it up or down- that was their decision- but I think it was a little disrespectful to me that they didn't even take a vote on it."

FOX10 News got the other side, asking if the council felt its decision was disrespectful. "Somebody would've had to have made that motion, and I guess if a person makes a motion it's assumed that person is going to probably vote for it," Giles said. "That's why I didn't make a motion."

Mayor David Wilson admitted he doesn't know if the council made the right decision is not opening the floor for a vote. "I feel that we do have a Confederate heritage here, but I also feel that this type of flag would create some type of controversy," Wilson said.

<http://tinyurl.com/clbhtf6>

(Continued Next Page)

News from Alabama (Continued):

Options for Forrest Monument unveiled to council

Ashley Johnson *Selma Times-Journal* Selma, AL April 13, 2013

Selma City Council President Corey Bowie handed a letter to all council members Tuesday evening that spelled out four options he said would help avoid litigation between the city and KTK Mining of Virginia — the construction company contracted by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Friends of Forrest to move and expand a monument to Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and make handicap accessible modifications to an existing Confederate Monument in Old Live Oak Cemetery.

The company filed suit after the Selma City Council by majority vote shut down construction work, citing a dispute over whether or not the property where the monument work was being done is owned by the city or owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. A federal court in Mobile is scheduled to hear the case in September.

“Bottom line is whenever a city is sued, it has an adverse effect, not only financially, but also with its image, and that is something we are trying to avert,” Bowie said Tuesday, explaining his main reason for giving the council members the four options was to avoid litigation in September. “It may not materialize, but we have to at least offer the olive branch and at least reach across the lines to see what we can come up with.”

The first option listed in Bowie’s proposal gives KTK Mining of Virginia the right to continue with all planned construction, and place plaques around the site that portray accurate historical accounts approved by a third-party historian. It also stipulates all lawsuits against the city and city personnel be dropped.

The second option allows for KTK Mining of Virginia to complete all construction and enhancement plans on the monuments, but then — if requested — the city would allow anyone else the same right and opportunity to erect monuments or statues in equal size next to the Forrest monument. This option also stipulates all lawsuits against the city and city personnel be dropped.

The third option — in addition to ending all lawsuits — calls for the Forrest monument to be relocated to Riverside Park, where the Battle of Selma is held annually. KTK Mining of Virginia would also be allowed to make the Confederate monument handicap accessible at its current location in Old Live Oak Cemetery.

The last and final option would be for the city to take no action and let the lawsuit be heard in federal court.

Selma attorney Wes Kelly said he, along with three other attorneys, is representing KTK Mining of Virginia in the suit. Kelly forwarded Bowie’s letter to his client but as of Friday, had not heard any response from his clients.

“I think any attempt at settlement, it shows there is some flexibility and spirit of compromise, and so basically we want to take that spirit of compromise and try and do what we can with it,” Kelly said. “I have suggested in our letter to Mr. Bowie is that we try to get together in a sit down so we can discuss the options in a frank manner and move forward with the options and get this resolved.”

Kelly said he does not have a specific option he would recommend at this point, but did say his client may consider the third option, locating the Forrest monument to Riverside Park.

“I don’t think they would have that level of security at the battlefield and there have been some problems with theft in the past,” Kelly said, referring to the theft of the Forrest bust from the monument in April 2012.

Kelly, however, said he would not close the door on this option because council members might find a resolution to those concerns of safety and security at the battlefield.

“The council should obey the law and lift the suspension that illegally passed and let the work continue,” said Cecil Williamson, city council representative for Ward 1 and a supporter of KTK Mining of Virginia’s project in the cemetery. Williamson has previously voted to reverse the council’s decision to shut down the construction project.

Bowie said he does not know when the options will be voted on, but because of concerns about historical tourism he would like the matter resolved prior to the Battle of Selma, which is scheduled to begin April 25.

<http://tinyurl.com/co8ant5>

Reflecting on sacrifice in the South

About 30 show up to pay tribute on Monday

Don Fletcher *Prattville Progress* Prattville, AL April 23, 2013

Attrition has thinned their ranks; political correctness has caused a decline in public support, but still they gather each year to remember those who came before them.

Slightly more than two dozen people turned out for Monday’s Confederate Memorial Day observance in Prattville, a ceremony that lasted about 20 minutes. The annual event, sponsored by Camp 1524 of Sons of Confederate Veterans, was held to pay tribute to the local men and those from elsewhere who fought for the Confederate States of America in the war of 1861-65.

(Continued Next Page)

News from Alabama (Continued): The Rev. Tom Snowden, who serves as chaplain for the local SCV camp, mentioned during his invocation the misinformation and historical inaccuracies that have been handed down by those who portray the war as a general rebellion by residents of the South against the federal government over the issue of slavery.

"I pray we'll all remember these were men who accepted the call for country and their South, time and time again, yet with faith enduring," Snowden said. "Help us, Lord, to continue to strive for the truth surrounding the war. As time marches on, it seems people become further removed from the memory of it. I pray that we can keep the flame of interest burning."



Trey Jones, 11, of Clanton unfurls his miniature Confederate flag Monday. / Photos by Don Fletcher / *Progress*

As the time approached to begin the ceremony, those in attendance were treated to recorded versions of several songs that arose from the Civil War-era, including "The Prattville Light Dragoons March." Most chatted with friends and acquaintances; a few waved miniature Confederate flags as the ceremony continued.

Stuart Waldo, commander of the local heritage group, said the crowd, though not huge, was impressive. He pointed out that this year marked the sesquicentennial of the year in which came the war's turning point, when Confederate losses at Gettysburg and Vicksburg became too much for the South's bedraggled army to overcome.

"We had a good turnout for the Confederate Memorial Day program here in downtown Prattville," the SCV commander said. "We had maybe about 30 people, but I really would like to have more public participation.

It's the sesquicentennial of the War Between the States. It was 150 years ago that Gettysburg and some other things happened that caused the Southern cause's fortunes to sag.

But we're here to remember the Confederate soldiers from Prattville, from throughout the South and from across the United States who fought for their homeland."

He said he hoped the world was beginning to wake up to the real facts behind the bloody conflict, which divided families and filled graves throughout the country.

"The Southern cause was decimated by horrendous Vicksburg and Gettysburg campaigns," he reiterated. "But 150 years later, today, we can signal the beginning of a resurgence in the public appreciation for the valor and history of the Confederate soldiers and the principals they treasured and that motivated them to create a true Constitutional republic, embracing individual and states' rights, liberty and responsibility."

Kim Seago of Autauga County, whose CSA ancestor is buried in the Booth community, said she would continue to take part in the annual observance, an event she said was important in telling the real story behind the War Between the States.

"I think it's very important to remember Confederate Memorial Day, especially for our children," said Seago, who wore a jacket fashioned from the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy. "We need to keep it alive so our children will know the real story behind this flag."

Harold Grooms, one of the local camp's lieutenant commanders, presented a brief history of Confederate Memorial Day, then he and fellow lieutenant commander Chris Booth placed a wreath at the base of the first Confederate monument placed at the corner of Washington and Fourth streets. A recorded version of "Taps" followed.

Waldo then summed up the reason for the annual observance. "This is a somewhat solemn commemoration of sacrifices these Dragoons and many other brave soldiers made, some of whom left to fight this bloody war and never returned to their homes and families," he said. "These patriots laid down their lives for a cause embodied posthumously by our Alabama state motto, 'We dare defend our rights.' These same inalienable rights and those of our sovereign home state are important to consider today. The SCV embodies the spirit these brave men and women carried into battle."

The group, which earlier had placed miniature flags on the graves of Confederate veterans across the county, and those who came to witness the event then joined voices for a rousing rendition of "Dixie," which marked the traditional end of the program.

<http://tinyurl.com/bxl6cwt>



Kim Seago, decked out in her 'Stars and Bars' jacket, listened as Monday's Confederate Memorial Day observance continued in Prattville.



From left, Chris Booth and Harold Grooms, lieutenant commanders for the local Sons of Confederate Veterans camp, prepare to place a wreath Monday / Don Fletcher / *Progress*

News from Alabama (Continued):

Civil War Trust marks North Alabama site of battle

Staff Reports WSFA-TV Montgomery, AL April 27, 2013

CULLMAN, Ala. (AP) - A battlefield preservation group is highlighting a north Alabama site where Confederate and Union soldiers clashed during the Civil War 150 years ago. The Civil War Trust unveiled signs over the weekend making the 40-acre Hog Mountain battlefield in Cullman County.

The group installed two interpretative signs on the property, which with trust acquired in 2011. State historical markers already are nearby.

Forces led by Union Col. Abel Streight and Confederate Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest met at Hog Mountain on April 28, 1863. Streight's troops continued on to Georgia after fighting with Forrest's smaller force.

Trust chairman Henry Simpson of Birmingham says the battlefield is largely untouched since the fighting occurred.

<http://tinyurl.com/d5y9b26>

Hundreds turn out as South holds off Union troops Saturday

Katie Wood *Selma Times-Journal* Selma, AL April 27, 2013

Hundreds of people of all ages could be seen Saturday at Riverside Park, all eager to catch a glimpse of living history as they watched the annual Battle of Selma take place. As cannons fired and troops charged, residents saw history come alive.



Reenactors played the part Saturday as the Confederate troops succeeded in holding Union soldiers off at the Battle of Selma. -- Katie Wood

With the smell of gunpowder in the air, onlookers stepped back in time as they saw Civil War infantry, cavalry and artillery tactics unfold on the battlefield. But not all reenactors were dressed in military attire. Some, like David Friddle, a trumpet player in the 5th Alabama Infantry Regiment Band, dressed in a Civil War band uniform.

Friddle, who is from Brierfield, Ala., explained that during the Civil War, confederate troops would bring bands along with them to “keep their spirits high.” While marching, the band would walk in front of the troops so they could hear their music.

They usually had small groups with two or three trumpets and some lower brass and a few woodwinds,” Friddle said.

“We get to play the waltzes, the Virginia reel — a little bit of everything. It’s a tradition of the past — you just don’t get that anymore.”

While walking through the tents at the battlefield, which housed several wartime items such as dress patterns, playing cards, muskets, homemade desserts and more, Tammy Brantley, a native of Tallassee, Ala., donned a green period dress adorned with layers of lace.

Brantley said this was her second year participating in the battle reenactment, and she comes to remember her great-great grandfather who served as a Confederate soldier.

“I think it’s awesome to see all the people out here to celebrate and remember this,” said Brantley, who is also a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Order of the Confederate Rose. “I love to do anything I can to bring back the true history of the South.”

And not everyone at the battlefield Saturday was dressed in period attire. There were scores of families walking tent to tent and watching from the bleachers who had traveled to Selma not to participate but to remember their history.

The Patrick family brought their daughter Elleanor, who is elementary school in Montgomery, to the Battle of Selma. “We wanted to see the Battle of Selma and this is a first ever for us — we have never been to a re-enactment,” said Regan Patrick, who is originally from New Mexico.

Elleanor said she was excited to go back to school and surprise her teacher with her knowledge of the battle.

The day wasn’t complete for both families and reenactors before stopping by the sweet and savory smelling Ma & Pa Kettle Korn stand operated by Arnold Brunk.

Brunk started selling his kettle corn at the Battle of Selma in 1991, and he knows his handmade product is something special. “People all love kettle corn here; they look forward to it. I didn’t come [to the battle] last year on account of a death in the family, and they had a lot of people tell me, ‘We’re so glad you’re back,’” Brunk said as he bagged another batch of his famous pop corn.

Brunk is a Missouri farmer and said he used to work at a lot of other battles but now the Battle of Selma is only one of two he still travels to.

“I drive 800 miles to come down just to do this. It’s one of the few things I even do any more; I’m 82 years old,” he said with a chuckle. “I pride myself on how good I can make this stuff. I’ve met a lot of people I’d never have known had it not been for kettle corn.”

<http://tinyurl.com/c3843kt>

(Continued Next Page)

News from Alabama (Continued):

Auburn receives historical collection, including letter signed by captain of Civil War ship *CSS Alabama*

Evan Belanger al.com Birmingham, AL May 3, 2013

AUBURN, Alabama -- Auburn University's Ralph Brown Draughon Library has accepted a collection of 19th-century historical items, including a letter signed by Raphael Semmes, captain of the Confederate Navy commerce raider *CSS Alabama*.



Raphael Semmes, commander of the Confederate commerce raider *CSS Alabama*, aboard the Civil War ship that was sunk by the *USS Kearsarge* after a two-year career. (Wikimedia)

The collection, which includes historical items representing American postal, Civil War, Alabama and naval history, was donated to the library by John and Faye Vick of Andalusia. It will remain on display at the library through August. Visit the library's Special Collections and Archives Department website for details.

While the ship never anchored in a Confederate port, the *CSS Alabama*, built in England, was the South's most successful naval commerce raider during the American Civil War.

Under Semmes command, its two-year campaign resulted in the boarding of more than 400 vessels, the capture or destruction of 65 Union merchant ships, and the capture of more than 2,000 prisoners. The Union ship *USS Kearsarge* eventually tracked down and sunk the *Alabama* off Cherbourg, France in 1864.

Other items in the collection include Confederate Marine Corps letters from Lt. Edward Crenshaw of Butler County and a wide variety postal items, including both historic and international postal stamps and marks.

The Vick donation adds to the university's growing collection of 19th-century artifacts, the university said in a press release. John Vick, a 1962 Auburn graduate, has had a lifelong interest in U.S. postal history, Alabama postal history, as well as Civil War and naval history, Auburn said.

"The Vick donation was literally thousands of items. It was hard choosing which ones to exhibit, but in the end we managed to narrow it down to some really fine pieces I think the public will enjoy seeing," said Dwayne Cox, head of Special Collections and Archives at Auburn.

Hesper and Hector Montford, both graduate students in the archival training program in Auburn's Department of History prepared the exhibit for display. For more information about donating historic collections, contact Auburn's Office of Development at 334-844-7375.

<http://tinyurl.com/bwvpg7>



The *USS Kearsarge*, right, sinking the *CSS Alabama* off the coast of France in 1864. Painting by Jean-Baptiste Henri Durand-Brager, 1814-1879. (Wikimedia Commons)

Alabama Personalities from 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. Straight'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.

(Continued Next Page)

Alabama Personalities (Continued): 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]

2.[some information provided by great grandson]

Alabama Born Generals

Brigadier General 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.^[4] 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.^[4] 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.^[3] He was a Democratic Party Presidential Elector in 1872.

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

Alabama Camps and Hospitals

Huntsville: Established before the battle of Shiloh (April 1862) for the treatment, primarily, of measles. Included several houses on Jefferson and Holmes Streets, and the Easley Hotel. After Shiloh, the hospital stores were sent to Corinth, MS, to help in the care of the wounded.

Levert Hospital (Mobile): An officers' hospital, formerly a private clinic and named after the physician.

Locust Hill Hospital (Tuscumbia, AL): See Mary Wallace Kirk / Locust Hill (University, AL: U of AL Press, 1975)

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, Lorings 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

Alabama WBTS Shipwrecks

USS *Ida*. Union. Side-wheel steam tug, 104 bulk tons, 77 tons. Armed with one gun. Built in 1860 at Gretna, La. Was blown up in the Main Ship Channel near Choctaw Pass, Mobile Bay, on April 13, 1865, with three killed and three wounded when a torpedo hit the starboard side, bursting the boiler. Was sunk with water up to the upper deck. The gun and engine were later removed from the wreck. The wreck was raised then sold on September 11, 1865. (ORN,22:96, 128-33, 256; ser. 2, 1:106; EAS, 173; WCWN, 123; Perry, *Infernal Machines*, 187-88.)

Isabel. Nationality unknown. Blockade-runner steamer. cargo of 200 bales of cotton. Grounded within 200 yards of Fort Morgan. Was captured by boats from the *USS R. R. Cuyler* on May 18, 1863, along with the vessel's master and six men. As the *CSS Gaines* approached the *Isabel*, Union Acting Master's Mate N. Mayo Dyer and nine of his sailors set fire to the *Isabel* to prevent recapture. (ORN, 20:198-99; Shomette, *Shipwrecks of the Civil War*, 435.)

Isabel. Confederate. Two-masted schooner. Length 48 feet 8 inches, beam 15 feet 2 inches, depth 4 feet 11 inches. Built in 1861 at Charleston, S.C. Was scuttled to act as an obstruction by Confederates at the Dog River Bar in Mobile Bay. (Irion, *Mobile Bay Ship Channel, Mobile Harbor*, 62.)

Ivanhoe. British. Iron side-wheel steamer, 308 bulk tons, 266 gross tons, 173 registered tons. Length 201 feet 5 inches, beam 20 feet 2 inches, depth 9 feet 6 inches. Built in 1864 in Scotland. Ran hard aground by the *USS Glasgow*, about 2 miles east of Fort Morgan on the night of June 30, 1864, while trying to enter Mobile Bay. Between seven hundred and eight hundred shells were fired at the vessel by the *USS Hartford*, *USS Metacomet*, *USS Kennebec*, and other Union vessels. In spite of the Union attacks, the Confederates saved most of the vessel's cargo. Was destroyed on the night of July 5-6, 1864, by three boats from Adm. David G. Farragut's fleet. One Union sailor was killed in a skirmish with Confederates on the beach. The *Ivanhoe's* crew brought the feared yellow fever to Mobile. The Confederates salvaged the vessel's machinery. The wreck was thought to have been located under dry land by Florida State University archaeologists using a magnetometer and ground penetrating sonar in 1991 and 1992, about a meter below the water table. (OR, 39:2:687, 693; ORN, 21:353-57, 904-5, 907, 936; Florida State University, "*Remote Sensing Investigation of the Civil War Blockade Runner Ivanhoe*," Web site; LLC, 178-79, 306.)

Josephine. Confederate. Sloop. Forced ashore by the *USS Aroostook* and burned near Fort Morgan on March 5, 1863. (ORN, 19:649.)

(Continued Next Page)

Alabama Shipwrecks (Continued):

CWC U.S. Department of the Navy, *Civil War Chronology, 1861–1865* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1971).

DANFS U.S. Department of the Navy, *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, 8 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1959–81).

EAS Bruce D. Berman, *Encyclopedia of American Shipwrecks* (Boston: Mariners Press, 1972).

LLC Stephen R. Wise, *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running in the Civil War* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1988).

MSV William M. Lytle and Forrest R. Holdcamper, *Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States:*

1790–1868, "The Lytle Holdcamper List," ed. C. Bradford Mitchell (Staten Island, N.Y.: Steamship Historical Society of America, 1975).

NUMA National Underwater and Marine Association, founded by Clive Cussler, www.numa.net.

OR *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880–1901), ser. 1 unless noted otherwise.

ORA Thomas Yoseloff, ed., *The Official Atlas of the Civil War* (New York: Harper and Row, 1967).

ORN Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, 30 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894–1922).

SCH Robert Wilden Nesser, *Statistical and Chronological History of the U.S. Navy, 1775–1907* (New York: Burt Franklin, 1970).

WCWN Paul H. Silverstone, *Warships of the Civil War Navies* (Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1989).

WPD Frederick Way Jr., *Way's Packet Directory, 1848–1983* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1983).

WSTD Frederick Way Jr. and Joseph W. Rutter, *Way's Steam Towboat Directory* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1990).

Timeline of Events in Alabama During the WBTS

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.

(Continued Next Page)

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.

Alabama Civil War Units in the WBTS

Fortieth Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was organized in May 1862 at Mobile, and remained there till December. It then moved to Vicksburg, and took part in the operations on Deer Creek. While in that region, it was brigaded with the Thirty-seventh, and Forty-second Alabama, and Second Texas, under Gen. Moore. Four companies were placed in Fort Pemberton, and were from there transferred to Gen. Bragg's army, and fought at Chickamauga. The other companies of the Fortieth were part of the garrison of Vicksburg, suffered severely, and were there captured.

The regiment was united near Mission Ridge, and took part in that battle, and at Look-out Mountain, but with light loss. Having passed the winter at Dalton, where Gen. Baker took command of the brigade, the Fortieth took part in the campaign from there to Atlanta, losing largely, especially at New Hope. When the army marched back to Tennessee, in company with the other regiments of Baker's brigade, the Fortieth was sent to Mobile, and was on garrison duty there for some months.

(Continued Next Page)

AL CW Units (Continued): In January 1865, the regiment proceeded with the remainder of the army to North Carolina, and shared in the operations, fighting at Bentonville with severe loss. Consolidated with the Nineteenth and Forty-sixth, the Fortieth was shortly after surrendered at Yadkin River bridge.

Fortieth Alabama Infantry Regiment

The regiment was united near Mission Ridge, and took part in that battle, and at Look-out Mountain, but with light loss. Having passed the winter at Dalton, where Gen. Baker took command of the brigade, the Fortieth took part in the campaign from there to Atlanta, losing largely, especially at New Hope. When the army marched back to Tennessee, in company with the other regiments of Baker's brigade, the Fortieth was sent to Mobile, and was on garrison duty there for some months. In January 1865, the regiment proceeded with the remainder of the army to North Carolina, and shared in the operations, fighting at Bentonville with severe loss. Consolidated with the Nineteenth and Forty-sixth, the Fortieth was shortly after surrendered at Yadkin River bridge.

This regiment was organized in May 1862, and soon after proceeded to Chattanooga. It operated in middle Tennessee some months, then joined the army of Tennessee soon after its return from the Kentucky campaign. It was initiated into the harsh realities of war when "stormed at with shot and shell," as part of Hanson's devoted brigade, at Murfreesboro; and on that fatal field left its brigadier and 198 of its dead and wounded. The regiment then remained at Tullahoma till ordered to Mississippi with the other portions of Breckinridge's division. It was engaged in the operations for the relief of Vicksburg, and in the trenches of Jackson. Having rejoined the Army of Tennessee, the Forty-first was in the forward movement at Chicamauga, and in the fierce struggle over the enemy's fortified position, left its brigade

Forty-First Alabama Infantry Regiment

commander (Gen. Helm of Kentucky) and 189 men on the bloody field.

The regiment was shortly after transferred to the brigade of Gen. Gracie of Mobile--Forty-third, Fifty-ninth, and Sixtieth Alabama, and Stallworth's battalion. As part of Longstreet's corps, the Forty-first participated in the bloody struggles and severe privations of the winter campaign in east Tennessee, sustaining much loss. The regiment reached Virginia in April 1864, and was engaged in the battle of Drewry's Bluff and Dutch Gap. It was then in the protracted siege at Petersburg, and in the bloody battles around that city. The regiment was also very hotly engaged at Hatcher's Run, and in the fighting on the retreat to Appomattox; and was there fighting under the matchless Lieut. Gen. Gordon, when the flag of truce appeared. About 270 of its number were there present for duty, under Col. Stansel. Of 1454 names on its rolls, about 130 were killed, about 370 died of disease, and 135 were transferred or discharged.

Forty-Second Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was organized at Columbus, Miss., in May 1862, and was composed principally of men who re-organized, in two or three instances as entire companies, after serving a year as the Second Alabama Infantry. The regiment joined Generals Price and Van Dorn at Ripley in September, and was brigaded under Gen. John C. Moore of Texas. A month later the Forty-second went into the battle of Corinth with 700 men, and lost 98 killed and about 250 wounded and captured in the fighting at and near that place. It wintered in Mississippi, Moore's brigade being re-organized with the Thirty-seventh, Fortieth, and Forty-second Alabama, and Second Texas regiments.

It was part of the garrison of Vicksburg, and lost 10 killed and about 95 wounded there, and the remainder captured at the surrender of the fortress. The Forty-second was in parole camp at Demopolis, then joined the Army of Tennessee. It fought with severe loss at Lookout and Mission Ridge, and wintered at Dalton. Gen. Baker of Barbour then took command of the brigade, which was in Clayton's (Stewart's) division, Polk's corps. In the spring the Forty-second fought at Resaca with a loss of 59 killed and wounded. It was then continually skirmishing till the battle of New Hope, where its loss was comparatively light, as it was at Atlanta the 22d of July. On the 28th of July the loss was very heavy, and the ranks of the regiment were fearfully thinned by the casualties of battle. A few days later the regiment was sent to Spanish Fort, where it remained on garrison duty during the fall, and till January 1865. It then moved into North Carolina, and its colors floated in the thickest of the battle at Bentonville, and were furled at the capitulation of that army.

(Continued Next Page)

AL CW Units (Continued):**Forty-Third Alabama Infantry Regiment**

The Forty-third was organized in May 1862 at Mobile. It was at once ordered to Chattanooga, and placed under Gen. Leadbetter. It moved into Kentucky in Gen. Kirby Smith's column, but was not actively engaged. Having passed the winter at Cumberland Gap, the regiment joined Gen. Bragg at Tullahoma being in a brigade under Gen. Grace -- the Forty-first, Forty-third, Fifty-ninth, and Sixtieth Alabama, and Stallworth's battalion. The regiment subsequently went back to east Tennessee, and operated there for some months Rejoining the main army, it passed through the iron hail of Chicamauga with very severe loss.

As part of Longstreet's corps, the Forty-third was shortly after sent towards Knoxville, and took part in the investment there, with light loss. It was also in the fight at Beene's Station, but the casualties were few. Having passed through the bitter privations of the winter campaign in east Tennessee the regiment reached Gen. Beauregard at Petersburg in May 1864. When Sheridan swooped upon the outposts of Richmond, the Forty-third fought him with some loss. At the battle of Drewry's Bluff the regiment was hotly engaged, and lost severely in casualties. It was then in the trenches of Petersburg from June 1864 to the close, fighting continually and taking part in most of the battles that occurred by the attempts of the enemy to flank the Confederate line.

At Appomattox the Forty-third, with the other portions of the brigade, had just driven back a line of the enemy, and taken a battery, when the capitulation of the army was announced. It surrendered as part of Moody's brigade, (Col. Stansel of Pickens commanding,) Bushrod Johnson's division, Gordon's corps, and about 50 men were present for duty. Of 1123 names on the rolls of the Forty-third, about 100 were killed, about 226 died of disease, and 161 were discharged or transferred.

Forty-Fourth Alabama Infantry Regiment

The Forty-fourth was organized at Selma, May 16, 1862, and reached Richmond the 1st of July. Attached to A. R. Wright's brigade, (Third, Twenty-second, and Forty-eighth Georgia,) R. H. Anderson's division, the regiment was a very severe sufferer by disease, and went into the second battle of Manasses with 130 rank and file. It lost 5 killed and 22 wounded there, then took 113 rank and file into the battle, and lost 14 killed and 65 wounded of that number. The regiment wintered on the Rappahannock, and was placed in the brigade of Gen. Law of Macon--with the Fourth, Fifteenth, Forty-seventh, and Forty-eighth Alabama--Hood's division, Longstreet's corps.

At Fredericksburg the regiment was under fire, but with light loss, and in the spring was at the battle of Suffolk with the same fortune. The regiment moved into Pennsylvania, and in the terrible assault at Gettysburg, lost heavily, but captured the only two guns of the enemy's that were brought off the field by the Confederates. Transferred, a few weeks later, with the corps, to the West, the Forty-fourth lost largely in casualties at Chickamauga. It then shared the privations of the east Tennessee campaign, losing lightly at Lookout Valley, Knoxville, and Dandridge.

The corps reached the Army of Northern Virginia in time to take part at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, where the Forty-fourth's casualties were numerous. Its losses were light at Hanover Junction, the second Cold Harbor, and Bermuda Hundreds. Around Petersburg, and in the trenches of that city, the Forty-fourth was constantly engaged. It left there with the remnant of the army, and folded its colors at Appomattox, under Col. Jones. The Forty-fourth had 1094 names on its roll, of whom about 160 perished in battle, 200 died in the service, and 142 were discharged or transferred.

Forty-Fifth Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was organized at Auburn, in May 1862 and proceeded at once to Corinth. At Tupelo it lost many men by disease, but in the autumn moved into Kentucky in Patton Anderson's brigade. It charged a battery at Perryville, and suffered very severely in casualties. The regiment came out of Kentucky with the army, and was soon after engaged in the battle of Murfreesboro, where its casualties were numerous.

Placed in the brigade of Gen. Wood of Lauderdale, Cleburne's division, (with the Sixteenth, Twenty-sixth-Fiftieth, and Thirty-third Alabama), the Forty-fifth remained on duty with the Army of Tennessee, passing the first half of the year 1863 at Tullahoma.

It fought under the eye of Cleburne at Chickamauga, and its mutilated ranks told the eloquent story of its services. Gen. Mark Lowery of Mississippi succeeded to the command of the brigade, and the Forty-fifth was present at Mission Ridge and Ringgold Gap with slight loss. The winter was passed at Dalton, and the regiment took a full share in the Dalton-Atlanta Campaign, especially at Resaca, and at New Hope, where Cleburne's division grappled with Logan's corps. On the 22d of July, at Atlanta, Death revealed in its ranks, and half the regiment went down on the hard-fought field. Six weeks later it again fought " where Cleburne crossed the line" at Jonesboro, with considerable loss. Then followed the long and disastrous march into Tennessee.

(Continued Next Page)

AL CW Units (Continued): The Forty-fifth opened the battle at Franklin the evening before by a brilliant fight at Springhill, and the next day was in the bloody and desperate assault of Cleburne's division on the enemy's works, and was almost annihilated around the corpse of its heroic division commander. Its colors floated before Nashville, and a remnant of the Fort-fifth moved into North Carolina. It was there consolidated with other Alabama regiments, and surrendered with Gen Johnston's forces.

Events Leading 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 km²) 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.

This Month in the WBTS

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 coning towers.

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

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

(Continued Next Page)

This Month (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. 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.

(Continued Next Page)

This Month (Continued):

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

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.

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.

Confederate Generals Birthdays

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.

(Continued Next Page)

Confederate General's Birthdays (Continued):

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 - Abbyville 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.
 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.



Document Your Battlefield Journeys

Calling all shutterbugs: the Civil War Trust's 2013 Annual Photo Contest begins tomorrow! As you visit battlefields and other Civil War sites this summer, bring along your camera and share the experience with other history lovers by uploading your favorite images. Winning shots will be featured in upcoming Trust materials, including our 2014 calendar. Read the official rules, dust off your tripod and share the beauty and history of your favorite battlefield with the world.

[2013 Civil War Trust Photo Contest – Learn More »](#)

From Our President April 2013

Dear Civil War Preservationist,

Spring is in the air at Civil War battlefields and other historic sites across the country. Earlier this month, 104 historic sites across the nation participated in our 17th annual Park Day clean-up effort. These 7,800 volunteers donated more than 31,000 man-hours of labor to beautify and improve parks and museums.

Tomorrow we begin the 2013 edition of our popular Annual Photo Contest. I hope that as you visit battlefields, reenactments and other events in the coming months, you will bring your camera along and share with us some of the views that inspire and remind you of this important period in our history.

This week we also begin one of the most packed periods of commemoration during the sesquicentennial. In the next two months, we will mark the 150th anniversaries of some of the war's most significant moments and turning points — Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, Gettysburg, the Vicksburg Campaign. I urge you to check the Trust's Facebook page and sesquicentennial events calendar at www.civilwar150.org to keep up with the huge variety of special programming being planned.

Jim Lighthizer, *Civil War Trust President*



Letter From a Museum of the Confederacy Staff Member Happy Spring MOC Members!

We just celebrated a year of the MOC in Appomattox with a special evening of thanks to our "Founders," as well as a big birthday party bash to show appreciation to all our members. Now we are gearing up for a very busy May and June in both Appomattox and Richmond, and we invite you all to join us!

John Coski, Museum Historian, will host a brown bag talk on Stonewall Jackson's Death on Friday, May 10th, followed by the display of Jackson's casket flag at the MOC-Richmond the weekend of May 11th and 12th. Mathew Lively will lecture about his new book, *Calamity at Chancellorsville: The Wounding and Death of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson*, on Saturday, May 11th, at 1:00 p.m. Some of you were fortunate enough to reserve coveted spots at "Losing Lee's Right Arm: The Death and Legacy of Stonewall Jackson" on Wednesday, May 15th, at Hanover Tavern. Dr. Bud Robertson will speak on Jackson's death, and though the lecture is sold out, we are maintaining a waiting list in case there are any cancellations. Meanwhile our new exhibit commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg – *Gettysburg "They walked through blood"* opens to the public on May 11th. This exhibit will be on display in Richmond throughout 2013.

In what is becoming a Richmond springtime tradition, the MOC hosts the [4th Annual Secret Garden Party](#) on Thursday, May 16th. [Extra Billy's Barbecue](#) in Richmond is the restaurant sponsor of the MOC. This popular progressive cocktail party takes place within Richmond's Court End district, and includes other sites: The Valentine Richmond History Center, Monumental Church, The John Marshall House and VCU Medical Center- Massey Cancer.

Our Annual Membership Appreciation Gala brings us into the summer months – it will be held on Friday June 7th! Join us for an evening of food, spirits, raffle items, live music and tours of the White House of the Confederacy. Contact me at (855) 649-1861 ext 142 or apowers@moc.org to reserve your spot at the Appreciation Gala. A full calendar of events is featured below.

At the Museum of the Confederacy, we greatly value our donors, and especially enjoy seeing everyone at the Museum events. We hope you all have a wonderful spring, and please come visit!

Sincerely,

Amanda Powers
Development Officer, Membership and Events

Gettysburg: They Walked Through Blood

Thursday, May 16, 2013
5:30PM-8:30PM

Come enjoy an evening of food, wine, and entertainment, as Richmond celebrates the charm and history of downtown urban gardens. The organizations involved are The Museum and White House of the Confederacy, The John Marshall House, Monumental Church, VCU Massey Cancer Center's Healing Garden, and the Valentine Richmond History Center. Each site will offer food, spirits, and entertainment. Visitors will be encouraged to visit each downtown oasis. A trolley bus will be available for people needing special assistance.

This year the Museum is proud to be sponsored by **Extra Billy's Barbecue** of Richmond, Virginia. Extra Billy's will be providing their signature barbecue and their in-house made craft beer. Music at the Museum will be provided by Andrew Alli & Last Night's Blues Band.

Tickets may be purchased at any event location. Contact Amanda Powers (855) 649-1861 ext. 142 for more information. Cost: \$30 per person for advanced tickets and \$35 at the door. [Click here](#) to buy your tickets!

2013 Membership Appreciation Gala

Friday, June 7, 2013

6:00PM-9:00PM

Without the support of its members, the Museum of the Confederacy could not continue to be the world class Museum that it is today. To show our appreciation, we invite all members to the annual Membership Appreciation Gala, which will include food, drinks, music, raffles, White House tours, and more. Reservations are required.

(Continued Next Page)

MOC News (Continued): To RSVP, contact Mandy Powers at (855) 649-1861 ext. 142 or apowers@moc.org or Will Glasco at (855) 649-1861 ext. 143. Thanks for all you do and we hope to see you June 7th!

Page Sponsorship on the Museum of the Confederacy Website

Sponsor a page on the Museum of the Confederacy's website, and show your support for the Museum! When you sponsor a page, your gift goes directly to support the work of the Museum in artifact preservation and presentation, research and cataloging in the library's archives, and education programs that unlock and share the secrets and mysteries held within the century-old collection. First and last name as well as the city and state of sponsors appear on the MOC's website. You can choose to sponsor a page for one month, two months, or three months. [Click here](#) to participate. We hope to see your name online soon!

Haversack Online

Be sure to visit the all new online Haversack Store for the latest in Civil War books, flags, and accessories. [Click here](#) to start shopping!

Change.org has Petition to Eliminate Carvings on Stone Mountain

Apparently, the Taliban are alive and well in Atlanta...



<http://tinyurl.com/dynq3a3>

Additional Article: <http://tinyurl.com/dydx6b3>

Additional Article: <http://tinyurl.com/d9ajx75>

The Confederacy And Jury Selection

By Ed Sebesta and Dr. Euan Hague, PhD

When reading about court cases in Texas where, with the use of DNA evidence, people were being exonerated following convictions for rape we noticed something striking; all these men who had been falsely charged and convicted of rape were African Americans. We are sure readers could supply other examples or studies of erroneous convictions of ethnic minority members and African Americans in particular. One potential action to reduce such convictions, we suggest, must be to exclude potential jurors who would have racial bias when acting as jurors. From my experience in jury pools in Dallas County, Texas, attempts to uncover a juror's racial bias comprise merely of a single question, given to the potential jurors assembled in a group, asking whether they are members of a white supremacist organization or have a racial bias against African Americans.

This question is entirely inadequate. Jurors have to believe that a person is innocent until proven guilty, and not be people who, when the defendant is African American, tend to think the defendant is guilty until proven innocent. People who are predisposed to think an African American defendant is guilty may be neither aware, nor willing, to admit that they are biased or racist. To many Americans, a racist is someone who wears a white hooded sheet, is belligerent, and says explicitly racist statements and racial slurs. A potential juror may be racially biased, but does not see him or herself as being like the members of these sensationalistic racist groups and sincerely imagines they are not racist and are free of racial bias.

Members of a jury must perceive the freedom of an African American, and the humanity of an African American, as being as important as anyone else's, not least their own.

(Continued Next Page)

Jury Selection (Continued): A juror always needs

to have serious concern to avoid falsely convicting someone of a crime and, if the defendant is seen as someone whose freedom is not so important and whose humanity is less, then the juror's concerns about false conviction surely has to be also reduced.

During voir dire jury selection, potential jurors are questioned by attorneys for both sides in attempt to exclude potential jurors who are biased against their side. Attorneys can ask that a juror to be excluded by a 'challenge for cause,' that is, where the attorney can show that there is a reasonable cause for the juror not to be impartial. There is no limit on the number of jurors that can be excluded 'for cause.' Additionally, each attorney can, for a certain number of jurors, make a peremptory challenge and exclude them without giving a cause where the attorney suspects there is a bias.

An April 2011 CNN Opinion Research Poll¹ which included questions regarding the Civil War asked individuals whether they sympathized more with the Union or the Confederacy. In the South 38% said that they were more sympathetic to the Confederacy (Sampling error +/- 6%). The data isn't further broken down further by race. We think it would be reasonable to assume that African Americans in the South are much less likely than whites to identify with the Confederacy, hence the percentages of whites who do is significantly higher than 38%. In April 2011 The Pew Research Center For the People released polling results of the attitudes towards the Civil War. ² The result of the poll was that 64% of whites in the former Confederate states considered themselves Southerners. Additionally of those whites identified as Southerners, 52% thought it was appropriate for politicians to praise Confederate leaders. This means that 33.3% of whites in the former Confederate states feel that it is appropriate for politicians to praise Confederate leaders ($0.64 \times 0.52 = 33.28$). The Pew Center results corroborate the CNN poll and suggest that there is a large fraction of white Southerners who have very positive feelings towards the Confederacy.

The historical record irrefutably shows that the Confederacy was formed for the purpose of reserving white supremacy and slavery. Such sentiments are expressed in the declaration and resolutions of the seceding states, in the speeches of the leaders of the Confederacy, and in innumerable other sources, typically being expressed in a straight forward manner.

It would be reasonable, therefore, to 'challenge for cause' potential jurors identifying with the Confederacy because of their identification with a white supremacist regime that sought to keep in African Americans enslaved. These potential jurors identifying with the Confederacy might object that they would not be biased as jurors, but elements of the pro-Confederate Lost Cause³ mythology inherently lead to bias. One element is that African American slaves were well treated and content as slaves, and that slavery was like being a part of a large family, rather than that it was a grave and often horrific condition. At some psychological level, Lost Cause rationalizations are embraced and accepted because for that individual, an African American's freedom and humanity are valued less than their own. Contrast Lost Cause beliefs about slavery with Patrick Henry's famous quote, "Give me liberty or give me death," regarding the freedom of white people during the American Revolution.

This demonstrates how the Lost Cause discounts the value of African American freedom. A potential juror sugar-coating African American slavery in the past through a Lost Cause worldview, will likely not be overly concerned about an African American losing his or her freedom in the present. It is difficult to understand how a person who expresses pro-Confederate views and does not reject Lost Cause myths of slavery, can reasonably and objectively serve on a jury of peers for an African American defendant. Such a potential juror may not perceive African Americans as fully part of the American community, fellow citizens, sharing a common humanity and belonging to a group people that they think of as "us."⁴

The 'challenge for cause' could simply be done on the historical record of how the Confederacy and its leaders defined their efforts rather than discussing Lost Cause rationalizations. Put simply, these potential jurors have chosen to identify with the white supremacist and proslavery Confederacy. That seems like a more than adequate cause for a challenge. The rejection of jurors on this basis could have a tremendous effect on the composition of juries in the South.

The use of identification with the Confederacy in voir dire jury selection need not be restricted to the South. The CNN poll found that 14% of Northeasterners, 23% of Midwesterners, and 11% of Westerners sympathized with the Confederacy over the Union. Other questions might also be employed. In the Pew poll, among whites who identified themselves as Southerners in the former eleven Confederate states, 22% had a positive reaction when they see the Confederate flag.

Questions regarding the Confederacy should not be restricted to potential jurors. Judges should be questioned and those that identify with the Confederacy be asked to excuse themselves. Public defenders should also be questioned, and those that identify with the Confederacy be understood to be potentially not fully committed to defending their client.

We propose the following series of questions regarding how potential jurors, judges and public defenders view the 19th-Century Confederacy should be used to identify potential racial bias. These provide multiple reasons for challenge for cause and if, for some reason, one or more of these questions were not accepted as a challenge for cause, they could provide information for peremptory exclusions of jurors.

(Continued Next Page)

Jury Selection (Continued): Are you a member of the League of the South, Council of Conservative Citizens, Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy or any other pro-Confederate organization?

1. Do you identify with the Confederacy or the Union?
2. Do you think it is appropriate for public officials to praise Confederate leaders?
3. Do you think it is appropriate when states, counties, cities and other municipalities adopt Confederate symbols in their logos, flags, seals, or other symbols they might adopt?
4. Do you think it would have been better if the Confederacy had succeeded in seceding?
5. Do you display Confederate symbols such as flags, flag decals, bumper stickers, tattoos or other visual representations?

Regarding the first question, there may be 40,000 to 60,000 members in neo-Confederate organizations in total. The membership of these groups overlap, and accurate membership numbers are typically not publically available. The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) has over 30,000 members, the United Daughters of the Confederacy publishes a magazine with 6000-8000 copies each issue. Members of these organizations are serving on juries and deliberating the fate of African American defendants. They should not be.

Some members of these organizations are judges.

It is outrageous that the descendants of those who fought for slavery and who still choose to glorify the Confederacy should be allowed to judge the descendants of the slaves. It is part of a continuing chain of oppression which goes back to the Confederacy and the plantation and still, to this day, inflicts harm on African Americans. It needs to stop, and asking potential jurors, judges and public defenders about their Confederate sympathies needs to start immediately.

1 CNN Opinion Research Poll, for release April 12, 2011

2 The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, "*Civil War at 150: Still Relevant, Still Divisive*".

3 The Lost Cause refers to a group of historical beliefs held by defenders of the Confederacy such that slaves were contented in the Antebellum South or at least well treated, that secession was over states rights. It also includes a view of Reconstruction as a time of African American misrule.

4 For a discussion how people use language to conceptualize who is included in groups of which they imagine to be a member and who isn't a member of that group and are the others, see Billig (1995) *Banal Nationalism*.

Guest Commentator, Ed Sebesta is an independent researcher. Co-editor of [Neo-Confederacy: A Critical Introduction](#) and The [Confederate and Neo-Confederate Reader: The 'Great Truth' About the 'Lost Cause'](#). Author of chapter about the Civil War and Reconstruction in the notorious Texas teaching standards in [Politics and the History Curriculum: The Struggle over Standards in Texas and the Nation](#). Click [here](#) to contact Mr. Sebesta
Guest Commentator, Dr. Euan Hague, PhD is Chair of the Department of Geography at DePaul University in Chicago. He is a professor of cultural and urban geography. Click [here](#) to contact Dr. Hague.
<http://tinyurl.com/ccl5wzb>

Historical censorship should be a concern

Thomas Smith *The News & Observer* Raleigh, NC April 3, 2013

Gov. Pat McCrory is, from all accounts, a man dedicated to helping North Carolina move ahead. However, on March 29, he made a serious mistake.

At first glance, maybe ordering (through his Secretary of Cultural Resources) the removal of an historical exhibit of period flags from the historic old State Capitol might seem like a minor concern. After all, we're not talking about the budget, roads or schools. But the removal of that exhibit of the historic Confederate battle flag because of political pressure from an individual, the Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP, who has never supported McCrory in anything and most likely never will, is both in error historically and politically.

The purpose of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, and in particular its Historic Sites Division, in this exhibit, was to portray the exact way the old Capitol looked during the tragic War Between the States period (1861-1865), and to do so with balance in the context of our lived history. After all, the old Capitol is an historic site and serves as a museum; the legislature meets over in the newer Legislative Building, and only very rarely uses the 1840 Capitol building ceremonially.

Accordingly, historical flags of the period were hung upstairs in the House chamber of the historic State Capitol as a part of an exhibit (not in Gov. McCrory's office downstairs at the far end of the building). Signage and docents were there to conduct tours and inform visitors about that painful period. As part of the sesquicentennial commemoration, the exhibit was scheduled to be there until the end of observances in 2015.

This, as Historic Sites director Keith Hardison explained, was entirely correct historically, since such flags did indeed hang in the old Capitol during that period. The object, very clearly, was to represent our history, *all* of our history, including some items and symbols that not everyone might approve of today and that might be painful to some.

As Hardison pointed out, the historian's role is not to censure the past, but to portray and illustrate it as accurately as possible.

(Continued Next Page)

Censorship (Continued): On the contrary, the NAACP president apparently sees himself as the unelected arbiter of anything and everything in our state, including real and tangible portions of our collective history that he interprets as "offensive." He complained loudly that the battle flag should not be displayed in the old Capitol, even though it was part of a strictly historical display and not displayed in any political or offensive manner. He insisted it had to go.

This is where the misguided action of the governor's office makes this issue much more than the usual complaint by Barber. The caving-in to political pressure by the governor and his secretary is very troubling. From a simple political consideration, Gov. McCrory must know that there is absolutely no way that he can ever placate Barber politically.

But more disturbingly, this action, for all the misplaced good intentions that Gov. McCrory and his secretary may well have had, indicates that the highly contagious infection of "political correctness" and the willingness to censure our history if a pressure group shouts loud enough has reached the halls of power in Raleigh.

Applying a litmus test to whether a portion of our history can be displayed at a state historic site, even if that portion is essential to understanding our history, is the worst kind of censorship. Such action is not worthy of our governor, certainly not of a governor who wants to represent our state, its people, and all its history.

Thomas Smith is the Commander of the North Carolina Division of The Sons of Confederate Veterans.

<http://tinyurl.com/d3plkys>

Confederate soldier's grave in Hellam Township to be marked again

Teresa Ann Boeckel *York Daily Record* York, PA April 5, 2013



This photo of the previous grave marker for a Confederate soldier is from Scott Mingus' blog, *Cannonball*. The site is in a field in Hellam Township, and the grave used to hold the bones of a Rebel scout who drowned in June 1863. His body washed ashore, and the locals buried him there. His bones washed away in 1972 during Tropical Storm Agnes, and the headstone apparently was swept away during the flooding from Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. As with the new one, this one, too, was donated by Silbaugh Memorials. (SUBMITTED)

An unknown Confederate soldier's grave along the Susquehanna River in Hellam Township will be marked once again. Silbaugh Memorials in Shrewsbury has donated a light gray granite marker for the grave. It's similar to the one that washed away during the flooding from Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, said Ron Silbaugh, president of the company. His company had donated the original stone, too, in the 1980s. Before that, the grave was marked by a 55-gallon drum.

This is a part of history that needs to be preserved, Silbaugh said. York County was a part of Civil War history leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg, which marks the 150th anniversary this year. A private rededication ceremony, at which the marker will be unveiled, will be held Saturday. Local author Scott Mingus will talk about who might be buried there.

Mingus said he strongly believes the soldier was part of the 17th Virginia Cavalry. His research suggests that he was a casualty of a fight near York Haven, or he was a spy or deserter and died while trying to cross the river. "Who he is, we don't know," Mingus said.

An effort has been under way since the flooding in 2011 to have the grave properly marked again. Civil War buffs say the man deserves to be recognized because he fought and died for his beliefs.

People don't have to agree with the soldier's politics, said Ivan Frantz Jr., secretary/treasurer of the Capt. E. M. Ruhl, Camp No. 33 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. "The man is a veteran," he said. "His service should be recognized."

Frantz tried to seek an official government marker, but that did not work out. Carol Posinski of Codorus Township is a member of the Civil War Heritage Foundation. She visited Silbaugh Memorials recently to see about a new stone. That's when Silbaugh volunteered to donate one.

Posinski said it was more than she expected. And she was pleased with the marker when she saw it recently. "They just did a beautiful job," she said.

Involved in the effort: Several groups have been involved in having an unknown Confederate soldier's grave marked again in Hellam Township. The groups include the Capt. E. M. Ruhl, Camp No. 33 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1961; the Voices of the Confederacy; and the Civil War Heritage Foundation.

<http://tinyurl.com/cz3o85p>

Related Article: <http://tinyurl.com/d6hsg78>

Otero man's Confederate flag lands him in hot water

Duane Barbeti *Alamogordo Daily News* Alamogordo, NM April 5, 2013

All Scotty Brown wanted to do was honor his father-in-law's death by flying a Confederate flag next to the American flag on top of a 25-foot pole.

Brown said he used the Confederate flag because it's the state flag of Alabama where his father-in-law, Kenneth Grimes, was born.

The official state flag of Alabama is a crimson St. Andrew's cross on a white field, patterned after the Confederate Battle Flag, and adopted by the state in 1895, according to the web site 50states.com.

He said the Confederate flag was fastened on one smaller pole attached at the top of the 25-foot flag pole with the American flag fastened on another small pole separate from the Confederate flag.

"They weren't sewn together," Brown said. "When they (the family) sent it to me, they said raise it up for the state of Alabama. It was just up for him out of respect. No one came to me and told me to take it down. I would have taken it down if they would have asked me. It was just up for respect of my wife's step father's death."

Brown was ticketed by an Otero County Sheriff's Office deputy for petty misdemeanor improper use of official symbols on Jan. 31. He could face a maximum sentence of 180 days in jail or a \$500 fine or both.

"They're (the DA's office) not offering me a (plea agreement)," Brown said. "I respect the American flag. I respect the United States. I am going to fight it because I've done nothing wrong. Go prosecute some drug dealers or someone molesting children. Go prosecute one of them. I've got cancer and my wife just had a stroke. I don't think I deserve six months in jail or a fine because I was showing some respect."

Otero County Sheriff Benny House said Brown had the two flags together and a passerby on U.S. Highway 54/70 saw the flag then called the Sheriff's Office. "It was a person who identified themselves from the American Legion drove by and saw the United States flag and the Rebel flag," House said.

"If you drove by, you would see the American flag then as you passed by it, you would see the Rebel flag. They had the two flags attached together up the flag pole. They were back-to-back. They were also observed by the deputy as such."

He said it's a violation of state law. "The flags were taken down by another person," House said.

"By that time, the two flags had been separated before they were brought down to the Sheriff's Office. I do take offense when someone is degrading the American flag. If it's in violation of state law, we will take action, then it's up to the courts to review the case and come to some resolution on this. It's in the hands of the courts."

<http://tinyurl.com/d7yol3a>

For Louisiana, Confederate History Month highlights a complex legacy

John Andrew Prime *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* Alexandria, LA April 5, 2013



The Battle of Pleasant Hill will be re-enacted this weekend. Re-enactments and activities in the re-enactors camp will take place three miles north of Pleasant Hill at 23271 La. Highway 175 in Pelican, La. Pelican is about 90 miles northwest of the Alexandria-Pineville area.

SHREVEPORT -- With April comes an annual dilemma in Louisiana: How do you reconcile the considerable Confederate and Civil War history commemorated in the state this month, and the tourism dollars rolling in as the conflict's sesquicentennial unfolds, with the anguish of slavery and the consequences of the war that continue to this day?

It could be a topic this weekend in April, Confederate History Month, as back-to-back battle re-enactments mark the 149th anniversary of the 1864 Battle of Pleasant Hill. The battle during the Red River campaign saw the Union army technically winning the battle in Sabine Parish by killing more of the enemy than it lost, but it was forced to abandon its dead and wounded and commissary train and scamper back to Alexandria and, eventually, New Orleans. The Union forces were led by Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks and the Confederate forces were led by Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor.

The battle followed by a day the clear-cut Confederate victory at Mansfield, fought April 8, 1864, one of the final Confederate victories of the conflict and the largest single battle fought west of the Mississippi River.

"This is a topic of never-ending interest," says Chris Jay, spokesman for the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau. "There's a seemingly endless stream of people who are interested in Civil War history. It's something that people ask about at the front desk all the time."

Shreveport historian and author Gary Joiner, who chairs the state's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, is co-writing a guide on the state's part in the war. That started with the capture of New Orleans in 1862 and focused largely on control of the Mississippi War until 1864, when President Abraham Lincoln personally planned a campaign to capture Shreveport, which failed with the Mansfield and Pleasant Hill battles.

(Continued Next Page)

Louisiana (Continued): The guide, to come out this fall from University of Louisiana Press, “is for anyone in Louisiana or anyone coming to Louisiana who wants to follow the armies,” Joiner said. “It will list the places you can go, like museums or battlefields. The text is written. ... We’re working on the maps now. It’s something that’s sorely needed.”

Joiner also is planning a conference for next spring to focus on campaigns and people associated with the latter part of the war here. “We’ll talk about how important 1864 was for Louisiana and Texas and Arkansas,” he said. “Things were going to hell in the East, but in this area, the events that were to shape our future history, even up to today, were set in motion or were set in place in 1864.

“We’re looking at tourism, and we’re looking at studying the history and trying to be as even-handed as possible. We’re not going to be ‘tripping through the daisies in the field’ and not looking at the carnage around it and the suffering. Dates and facts and figures are one thing, but the lessons learned are the key to it.”

Last year, the Shreveport branch of the NAACP was active in efforts to force removal of a Confederate flag from a monument outside of the Caddo Parish Courthouse, property that had been the site of the Louisiana Confederate government when it had been located here during the Civil war. Those efforts were ultimately successful.

But branch President Lloyd Thompson did not disparage the notion of a month marking Confederate heritage. “Each culture has a right to celebrate their history,” he said. “That’s no more than right. I don’t have a problem if that’s what they’re doing to celebrate their culture. The NAACP celebrated 104 years this year, we’re doing 45 years today since Martin Luther King died. I don’t have a problem with us celebrating history. I have a problem with folks using any culture or any organization for hatred.”

Jay said the tourism body also has to balance the history and the emotion. “Our job really isn’t to moderate people’s interests,” he said. “Our job is to help them get to the things they’re interested in. We want to make sure that if people are here looking for that history, they’re able to find it.”

But you can’t separate the history from the hurt it caused and the divisions that remain. It’s something that heritage groups, such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, are acutely aware of.

Both groups have websites that include areas where people can report assaults on heritage that, for the SCV, include tracking when and how hate groups and others misuse the Confederate flag.

“America as a whole has become very apathetic and, you perhaps could say, turned off by the tone of politics these days, and they have lost sight of what they can do,” said Chuck McMichael, Shreveport educator and past national commander in chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

He knows how tough a “sell” Confederate history can be. Even though the Trans-Mississippi Department, as this section of the organization is known, has led efforts to broaden membership by appeals to diversity and sharing information on the rich history of the state.

Because of its cultural and racial makeup, Louisiana had Creoles, Cajuns, Indians and even black volunteers in Confederate units. (The Confederate Army also had the war’s only Indian general officer, Stan Watie.) Direct and collateral descendants are eligible for membership, and the state and department units of the SCV have in recent years strengthened efforts to draw members from these avenues.

“It is a sensitive subject,” said state Rep. Roy Burrell, who has done family research that in recent years turned up a white branch that has Confederate connections. In that research and working in veterans issues, Burrell also worked closely with recently deceased local bagpiper Vernon Love, who was a member of the SCV.

“I really miss my friend Vernon,” Burrell said. “We had just started to connect on the research of the McWright side of my father’s family. It has their Scot-Irish roots as Irish exiles to an area called Lowland Scotland, relocated by King James I of England who was Catholic, and thought these Scot-Irish folks were too rowdy and independent. They later migrated to America after the potato famine. I plan to continue my research even without my friend.”

Another SCV member, the late historian and author Eric Brock, worked closely with local Civil Rights icon Dr. C.O. Simpkins. Simpkins had his house firebombed in the early 1960s and was a friend of Martin Luther King Jr.

Simpkins and Brock collaborated to preserve and release a speech King delivered at Galilee Baptist Church in 1958, which has become an important part of Shreveport — and King — history.

Like Burrell, Simpkins also has a heritage and history that illustrates the complexity of local history. he has researched a line of his family from DeSoto Parish that has a Confederate officer in it.

“I have some Indian, I have some Mexican-Spanish, I’m a United Nations,” Simpkins said. “I’ve got everything. I can’t be unkind to nobody. Life has taught me that you’re a mixture of everything. DNA is going to find out that a whole lot of people got mixed blood.

“We lose so much time over trivial things. We’ve got more important things to talk about. Honor the dead, both the Union and the Confederate. They died for our country, they were citizens of the country and the war’s over. Let’s get on to the business of making this country what it should be.”

<http://tinyurl.com/cpfa43a>

Veterans Honored during Confederate Memorial

Chip Scarborough WTOK-TV Meridian, MS April 8, 2013

Sunday was a day for people in this area to pay tribute to fallen veterans. A Confederate memorial service was held at the Confederate cemetery in Marion Sunday afternoon. Similar types of services are held on the first Sunday of April all over the state of Mississippi.

Organizers say they don't actually know the identities of some of the veterans buried in the cemetery. However, some were identified through a list discovered in the archives at the Lauderdale County Courthouse.

Photos and film at: <http://tinyurl.com/cxo3use>

Debunking Old Civil War Myths – Long Proven Wrong

The Victors Write the War History – But Should their Lies be Immortal”

Steve Scroggins *Veteran's Today* Riverside, CA April 8, 2013

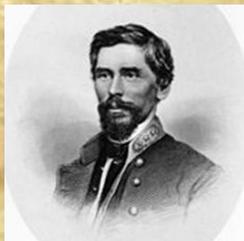
*The most persistent and pernicious Big Lie regarding the so-called “Civil War”— more properly called the “War to Prevent Southern Independence”— is this:
Noble and saintly Yankees fought the war to abolish slavery; evil Confederates fought to preserve it.*

The historical record incontrovertibly refutes this Big Lie and yet it lives on, repeated incessantly by many who know better, and by many, many more who accept without challenge what they were taught in government schools.

The proverbial phrase “the victors write the history” was well-known well before the war.

In fact, General Patrick R. Cleburne, arguing for freeing slaves in exchange for military service, warned what would happen should the South's bid for independence fail:

“... Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late. ... It means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the War, will be impressed by all influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, our maimed veterans as fit objects for their derision. ...to establish sectional superiority and a more centralised form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties.” –Major General Patrick Cleburne, C.S.A. (Jan. 2, 1864)



Gen. Patrick Cleburne

Cleburne's warning was indeed prophetic. The Big Lie is the official myth taught in virtually every public school in the country. Jim Dean noted this above, and he even went to a fancy prep school for two years in Massachusetts.

It is the myth believed and repeated incessantly by most Americans who never looked any deeper than the textbook they were issued in junior high history class. And when FDR's New Dealers migrated from government service to academia in Southern universities, they made sure the Big Lie was taught down here in the South.

The facts and the historical record, which we will review below, are widely and easily available, but unfortunately most Americans don't see it as their duty to understand American history in more depth than was offered in the superficial, *comic-book* summary they heard in government schools.

“It is a testament to the effectiveness of 140 years of government propaganda that a 308 page book filled with true facts about Lincoln could be entitled “The Lincoln No One Knows.” It is not a matter of a poorly-performing government education system but quite the opposite:

The government schools have performed superbly in indoctrinating generations of American school children with a pack of lies, myths, omissions, and falsehoods about Lincoln and his war of conquest.

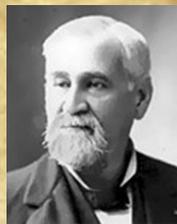
As Richard Bensel wrote in Yankee Leviathan, any study of the American state should begin in 1865. The power of any state ultimately rests upon a series of government-sponsored myths, and there is none more prominent than the Lincoln Myth.” –Thomas DiLorenzo, from *The Unknown Lincoln*

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has as its mission statement what is commonly called “*The Charge*,” issued by General Stephen Dill Lee, who was then the Commander General of the United Confederate Veterans.

The Charge is a reflection of Cleburne's warning above, and a stated desire to keep alive the memory of the Confederate soldier's true history and motivation and the founding principles he fought to defend.

“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 soldiers' 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.” —Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906



Gen. Stephen D. Lee

South Carolina seceded December 20th, 1860. Major Robert Anderson, commanding U.S. forces in Charleston, moved the garrison in Fort Moultrie (Sullivan's Island across the harbor East of Charleston proper)

(Continued Next Page)

Myths (Continued): –which he deemed indefensible– to Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor. He made this move in stealth in the middle of the night on December 26th.

South Carolina officials were understandably infuriated, but Anderson refused to evacuate Sumter. President Buchanan was a lame duck; he didn't want a war started on his watch, but refused to issue orders either way. South Carolina officials made clear that the U.S. Army staying in Sumter was NOT an option and that resupply or reinforcements would be viewed as a hostile act.

On January 9th, an unarmed steamer, the *Star of the West*, approached Charleston harbor intent on reinforcing Sumter with more troops and ammunition (see diagram below). Charleston batteries fired warning shots near the ship and the *Star of the West* turned and fled.

By February, South Carolina had joined six other states in the Confederate States of America. Confederate officials pressed for the evacuation of Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens (Pensacola, FL). Buchanan stonewalled and the crisis escalated. Lincoln would inherit the crisis March 4th.

"[T]he Union ... will constitutionally defend and maintain itself... In doing this there needs to be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall be none unless it be forced upon the national authority. The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government and to collect the duties and imposts; but beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere." –Abraham Lincoln, from inaugural address, March 4, 1861.

Lincoln essentially declared war in his inaugural address March 4th in which he promised not to invade or attack any one EXCEPT...EXCEPT to hold the forts and property of the U.S. government for the purpose of collecting tariffs. In essence, he was denying the right of secession and promising to invade the southern states and force them back into the Union.

Lincoln refused to meet with Confederate emissaries sent to negotiate full payment for U.S. properties now within the jurisdiction of the C.S.A. Secretary of State Seward gave mixed signals, suggesting that evacuation of the forts was likely — in fact, all senior U.S. military officers recommended immediate evacuation to Lincoln.

Instead, Lincoln ordered a flotilla of war ships with additional troops and supplies to Charleston, then advised Confederate officials that it was coming to "resupply" Sumter, "by force if necessary."

Rather than wait for war ships and the greater likelihood of loss of life on both sides, the Confederates decided to force a surrender before they arrived. Anderson was given a final chance to evacuate Sumter, given a deadline and told when the bombardment would commence. He replied that he would not evacuate.

The bombardment commenced on April 12th and Anderson surrendered on April 14th due to fears the magazine (with powder and ordnance) would ignite. No one was killed during the bombardment and Anderson's garrison was allowed to peacefully leave the fort .

Though he made force necessary, Lincoln had succeeded in provoking the Confederates to fire the first shots and it had the desired effect: it incited a war fever in the North. On April 15th, Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to invade the southern states to force their return to the Union, or as he phrased it, to quell "a rebellion."

As a result of Lincoln's call for a coercive force, four more states seceded in protest to join forces with the C.S.A. Virginia seceded April 17th and North Carolina, Arkansas and Tennessee followed in short order.

The stealthy taking of Fort Sumter was an act of war. The stated intention to insert more men and ammunition BY FORCE was another act of war. The bombardment of Fort Sumter to force its surrender was an act of war, but it was NOT the first act of war in the conflict.

Now, let's review the WHY of the war: There would have been no war if Lincoln had not ordered invasions and naval blockades of southern states. The southern states made known they wanted a peaceful separation. The answer to WHY the southern states fought the war is painfully obvious: Self Defense.

Duh! Because their country was being invaded!

In the same Inaugural Address (March 4th, 1861) in which Lincoln promised to use force to collect the tariffs (protect U.S. tax revenues), Lincoln reiterated his previous statements that he had no intent, no lawful right and no inclination to interfere with slavery where it existed.

He went on to say that he supported the proposed Constitutional Amendment (the Corwin Amendment) that would constitutionally enshrine slavery beyond the reach of the U.S. Congress.

The proposed amendment reads as follows: *"No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State."*

As noted earlier, Lincoln called for troops to launch an invasion April 15th. He ordered a naval blockade, and made various preparations for war beginning April 15th without a Congressional declaration of war. When Congress finally convened in July, it basically rubber-stamped his actions thus far.

But Congress also approved the Crittenden-Johnson Resolution on July 25th, specifically stating the purpose of the war was to reunite the southern states into the U.S.A.

(Continued Next Page)

Myths (Continued): It was clearly stated the war's purpose was to "preserve the Union" and NOT to overthrow or interfere with "the rights or established institutions of the states" (slavery). This unequivocal statement from Congress and Lincoln's unequivocal support for the Corwin Amendment directly contradict the official Big Lie. But there's more. As you'll see below, Lincoln's stated purpose remains the same 16 months into the war.

At this point (July 1861), it seems clear that if the Confederate States' purpose was merely to "preserve slavery," then its best option would have been to end hostilities and rejoin the Union. It was independence the South was committed to maintain and it was Southern Independence that the North intended to prevent by force if persuasion failed.

"My paramount object in this 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.

What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union." —Abraham Lincoln, from letter to Horace Greeley, Aug. 22, 1862

Over 16 months after the war began (Aug. 22, 1862), Lincoln wrote to Horace Greeley of *The New York Tribune*, an open letter in response to a Greeley editorial, in which Lincoln essentially said that slavery was not relevant to the war. He stated that his "paramount object" was to "preserve the union," and that slavery had no bearing on the war effort.

This was just days before the Emancipation Proclamation extended the offer, once again, to preserve slavery if the southern states would simply lay down their arms and return to the Union.

The Emancipation Proclamation didn't free any slaves in any territory controlled by the U.S. government. It was generally seen as a farce by both Americans and the British press.

"We show our sympathy with slavery by emancipating slaves where we cannot reach them and holding them in bondage where we can set them free." —Secretary of State William Seward

"The Union government liberates the enemy's slaves as it would the enemy's cattle, simply to weaken them in the conflict. The principle is not that a human being cannot justly own another, but that he cannot own him unless he is loyal to the United States." —London Spectator, 1862

Right up to very near the end of the war, the South could have saved slavery simply by returning to the Union. Independence was the southern goal.

General John B. Gordon, in his book Reminiscences of the Civil War (p. 19) summarized it this way: *"But slavery was far from being the sole cause of the prolonged conflict. Neither its destruction on the one hand, nor its defense on the other, was the energizing force that held the contending armies to four years of bloody work. I apprehend that if all living Union soldiers were summoned to the witness-stand, every one of them would testify that it was the preservation of the American Union and not the destruction of Southern slavery that induced him to volunteer at the call of his country.*

....No other proof, however, is needed than the undeniable fact that at any period of the war from its beginning to near its close the South could have saved slavery by simply laying down its arms and returning to the Union." —General John B. Gordon, from Reminiscences of the Civil War, page 19

The North's primary purpose was to prevent southern independence. It's the North that betrayed the Founding principle of "consent of the governed" from that celebrated secession document, the Declaration of Independence.

How can any American deny the right of secession and at the same time celebrate Independence Day and the principle it embodies? As Greeley put it in his editorial in the *New York Tribune* December 17th, 1860:

"If the Declaration of Independence justified the secession of 3,000,000 colonists in 1776, I do not see why the Constitution ratified by the same men should not justify the secession of 5,000,000 of the Southerners from the Federal Union in 1861..."

We have repeatedly said, and we once more insist that the great principle embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence that government derives its power from the consent of the governed is sound and just, then if the Cotton States, the Gulf States or any other States choose to form an independent nation they have a clear right to do it...

And when a section of our Union resolves to go out, we shall resist any coercive acts to keep it in. We hope never to live in a Republic where one section is pinned to the other section by bayonets." —Horace Greeley, New York Tribune, Dec. 17, 1860.

In December of 1860 and January of 1861, many newspapers across the North and Midwest echoed Greeley's sentiments to "let the South go in peace." But the bankers, railroads and shippers soon informed the press of the financial implications of southern independence.

The editorial tune changed dramatically in February and March of 1861 to "No, we must NOT let the South go," and "what about our shipping?" and "what about our revenue?" As the *New York Times* noted on March 30th, "We were divided and confused until our pockets were touched." [See Northern Editorials on Secession, Howard C. Perkins, ed., 1965 -- See Sample editorials here.]

All the powder keg needed was a spark to ignite a war. Lincoln sent the war ship flotilla to Charleston and it was on. Lincoln had his excuse.

There you have it. The North prevented southern independence because it threatened their financial interests. The South wanted independence for its own best interests, in the tradition of the American Founders.

(Continued Next Page)

Myths (Continued): It sought peaceful separation, but fought in self-defense when invaded and blockaded.

The current best estimate for death toll of the war is 750,000 American soldiers and at least 50,000 southern civilians. Adjusted to current population, that's the equivalent today of 8 million Americans dying in four years.

The *Official Big Lie* was created and maintained to obscure the overthrow of the Founding Principles, and the true motivations that resulted in tragic and unnecessary death on an epic scale.

<http://tinyurl.com/ckh3xha>

Update on Confederate memorial under construction in Orange

Leslie Rangel KBTW-TV Beaumont, TX April 9, 2013

Orange City Council members say they can't stop a Confederate Memorial from being built, but, they say they're taking action to express their unhappiness with it. The Confederate Memorial is under construction off Interstate 10 and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Orange.

During a Tuesday meeting, the council approved a resolution indicating it does not support the park and memorial, but the mayor says the resolution won't prevent the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans from building it.

New rules will also regulate what can be built on the property. A new ordinance will not allow flagpoles taller than 35 ft. or flags larger than 4 by 6 ft. within city limits.

Today, workers were laying concrete for the monument. The monument is expected to be complete in 30 days and the whole park could take until the end of the year to be finished.

"Hopefully after this today, we'll move on. We're not going to get so bogged down that it's going to shut us down. We will continue just a nice little city," Orange City Mayor, Jimmy Sims says.

City leaders say there's really not much else they can do. "There's no legal question here that the Sons of the Confederate Veterans have a Constitutional right to build their park and have a Constitutional right of free speech," City Attorney, John Smith said.

We spoke with representatives of the group building the memorial. Public information officer for the group, Marshall Davis says, "The Sons of Confederate Veterans would like to be able to honor fallen war heroes who fought to protect their homeland. We are disappointed that the Orange City Council has chosen not to support the American war veterans."

Davis also said the new ordinance would not affect the memorial because they never planned to have a large pole or flag.

<http://tinyurl.com/cz9ybbh>

Confederate Flags Fly Across Texas, Including Orange: <http://tinyurl.com/d6u69vg>

A soldier's long-lost Civil War ring is returned to his family in Pennsylvania

Michael E. Ruane *the washington post* Washington, DC April 9, 2013

Did he misplace it in camp there? Or discard it — divorcing himself at last from the butchery he witnessed in the closing weeks of the war?

On Tuesday, 148 years after the war ended and 81 years after he died at the age of 91, the ring that married him to the conflict was returned to his family in a modest ceremony at his grave in Reading, Pa., where he had lived.

It was handed over by John Blue, 40, a heavy equipment operator and veteran relic hunter from Manassas, to Ernest Schlegel, 49, a candidate for Reading City Council, who believes he is a distant cousin.

"To know what this person went through and get back here...and to know what he went through in battle . . . it's an amazing feeling to have this right here in my hand," Ernest Schlegel said when Blue gave him the ring.

Blue, who was wearing a ball cap and T-shirt bearing the name of White's Metal Detectors, said, "No matter where you walk, you could be walking on all kinds of history." Blue, who grew up in Manassas and learned relic hunting from his father and grandfather, said he found the ring in 2005 with a metal detector but didn't try in earnest to track down the soldier's relatives until recently.

He succeeded with the help of a friend, Margaret Binning, who is a genealogist and volunteer at the Manassas Museum. She tracked Levi Schlegel to the Reading Public Library, where Ernest Schlegel is on the board, he said. Blue said he believes it may be the first time that such a recovered Civil War object has been returned to a soldier's family.

"It's a great story for Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, and the Schlegel family all at the same time," Ernest Schlegel said. "Because when you read the kinds of battles that this man went through, and he came back and he lived a successful life...it's amazing, absolutely amazing."



Relic hunter John Blue displays the Civil War-era ring he found, carrying it on a chain around his neck, before returning it to the descendants of its owner on Tuesday in Reading, Pa. (Bill O'Leary/*The Washington Post*) -

(Continued Next Page)

Ring (Continued): Schlegel was 21 when he joined his first regiment, the 167th Pennsylvania, in 1862, Ernest Schlegel said. This was a nine-month outfit that disbanded in August, 1863 without seeing too much action.

Schlegel, who was a carpenter by trade, was out of the army for a year. He then signed up again in September 1864 with the 198th Pennsylvania Regiment, Company G, recruited in Berks County, Pa., where Reading is located.

Many in the company, like Schlegel, were the descendants of 18th century German immigrants. Some of Schlegel's comrades were Reuben Reifsnnyder, Alfred Seiple, Augustus Shupert, Annes Sicher, and Gideon D. Staudt, according a register at the Web site Pennsylvania Volunteers of the Civil War.

The war at this stage was exceptionally grim. The main Union and Confederate armies were locked in trench warfare around the city of Petersburg, Va. The Confederacy was in its death throes, but its Army of Northern Virginia was still dangerous.

Blue said the identity ring was one of several ways Union soldiers had to make sure their bodies would be identified if they were killed in battle. The soldier's name, company and regiment were etched on the outside of the ring, which probably was worn, in this case, on a pinky finger.

The ring, which appears to be silver, was likely purchased by Schlegel, Blue said, and served as daily reminder of the prospect of death. Blue found it at a construction site where he was hunting for relics. Soldiers also could buy identity discs, which looked more like dog tags.

And some, facing especially awful combat, simply wrote their names on pieces of paper that they pinned to their uniforms before battle.

If Schlegel was with his regiment throughout the final months of the war, he was lucky to have survived. The 198th saw a half-dozen savage battles, marched through dreadful weather, and saw comrades who had been stripped of their clothes and had their throats cut by partisans, according to a history of the regiment.

At the Battle of Hatcher's Run in February 1865, brutal fighting broke out at night. "The boys sprang upon the foe with the bayonet," the regimental history states. "The struggle for a short time was hand-to-hand, muskets being clubbed and bayonets freely used."

The regiment fought in quick succession at Quaker Road, White Oak Ridge, and Five Forks — bloody encounters in the closing days of the war. It lost Maj. Charles I. Meceuen, captains George W. Mulfrey and Isaac Schroeder, the chaplain's brother, Lt. Andrew Pomeroy. "No one can duly portray the horrors of the last hours of Slave-Holding-Powers rule," the regimental history records. "God's vengeance was upon them."

And the outfit was near Appomattox, Va., when Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the battered Army of Northern Virginia, on April 9, 1865, essentially ending the war.

"Oh, what happy hearts those blue coats held," the history states of the regiment's reaction to the surrender. "A country saved, one and undivided! The seed sown in sorrow and anguish upon so many fields had yielded its golden harvest - victory."

The regiment then slowly started home, reaching Richmond, and then marching through Fredericksburg on May 9. Probably, it was there that Levi Schlegel, no longer facing oblivion, parted with his ring. He may just have lost it. But he had seen so many wartime horrors. Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. And he had lost 117 comrades in the regiment to combat and disease.

"I just can't help but wonder if he didn't actually throw the ring on the ground in disgust," Ernest Schlegel said. "I don't know." The regiment marched on to Washington, took the train to Philadelphia and was mustered out of service on June 12, 1865. Levi Schlegel went home to Reading, got married and had 11 children.

He is buried beside his wife, Mary, beneath a twin "pillow"-style tombstone in Reading's 167-year old Charles Evans cemetery. An American flag and a Grand Army of the Republic veterans emblem marked the grave Tuesday. And he might never have missed the tiny ring that has been brought home to his grave.

More Photos at: <http://tinyurl.com/d455c26>

Soldiers' Rest eased the pain of Civil War

Judy Bainbridge *The Greenville News* Greenville, SC April 10, 2013

Two days before Confederate regiments, including one from Greenville, fought the first battle of the Civil War at Manassas Junction in Virginia, their womenfolk organized at home.

On July 19, 1861, Mary Ann Duncan, whose three sons were with the army in Virginia and whose husband, Perry Duncan, had been a delegate to the Secession Convention, called together 30 friends. Together they formed the Greenville Ladies Association in Aid of Confederate Volunteers. Mrs. Duncan was unanimously elected president. Mrs. C.J. Radford, the wife of the president of the Baptist Female College, became secretary.

Their stated goals were "to relieve the sick and wounded among the soldiers, by forwarding to them linen, underclothing, cordials, bed ticks, etc. & etc., and to make winter clothing for the Volunteers in the Confederate Army."

(Continued Next Page)

Soldier's Rest (Continued): They immediately began knitting and sewing, and at the same time gathered drugs, hospital supplies and provisions to be sent where they were most needed — to battlefield hospitals, ministers, other ladies' associations and, later, to Wayside Hospitals established by the Confederate government for sick and wounded men on furlough.

Within the first month, they were sending boxes by railway express to wounded men in Culpepper, Charlottesville and Richmond, Va., and to those suffering from typhoid, malaria and measles in Columbia, Charleston and Coosawhatchie, where South Carolina militia protecting the coast were stationed.

In August, they set up a "Wayside Table" at the Greenville & Columbia Depot on Augusta Street to provide refreshments for soldiers arriving by train. After a day or two, however, arriving men explained that the ladies of Greenwood had supplied them with food and drink aplenty and Greenville's goodies were "superfluous."

In October, Mrs. Duncan gathered warm clothes, food, wine and other provisions and personally delivered them to Charlottesville in order to observe hospital conditions. She ended up nursing in an army hospital and praying with sick and dying men.

Throughout the war, the Association regularly mailed out care packages. On July 27, 1863, for example, they shipped a ham, a bag of flour, a bushel of potatoes, two loaves of bread, a bottle of pickles, a bag of grist, two pillow cases and some apples to Charleston.

Two weeks later a larger shipment included one pair of drawers, 10 shirts, three bags of crackers, three bags of dried fruit, four loaves of bread, sugar, two bundles of old clothes, eight linen handkerchiefs, beeswax, Madeira wine, seven bottles of blackberry wine, 16 sheets, a coat, bandages and a Bible. In the summer of 1864, they sent \$100 to a hospital in Atlanta; later that year, they mailed provisions to a prisoner of war camp at Johnson Island, Ohio.

The organization changed over time. Local ladies were the first members, but the association soon expanded to include students at the Female College and "strangers" — refugees like Caroline Gilman, the widow of the minister of Charleston's Unitarian Church.

Men, including Vardry McBee, most ministers and several doctors, became honorary members who supplied wood, money and advice. By the summer of 1862, 245 ladies and 45 gentlemen were involved. After August 1862, they needed all the help they could get because Greenville authorities unexpectedly asked the ladies' assistance in providing local lodgings for soldiers arriving by train.

Female College President C.J. Radford offered the old Male Academy classroom building for use as a "Soldiers' Rest." Although it was, said Mrs. Gilman, writing early in 1863, "dilapidated (sic) and unfurnished," the ladies immediately accepted it and just as immediately began using it three days later. The Rest became a place where soldiers — some wounded, most not — could find a bed, a hot meal, a change of clothing and often a few dollars to help them on their way.

Association committees saw to maintenance and repairs. They hired a matron at \$12 a month and provided an additional dollar for fuel. During the first three months of operation, the ladies hosted 112 soldiers and spent \$241 at the Soldiers' Rest.

City Council supplied \$20 a month to cover costs of transporting soldiers from the depot. Members took turns delivering an evening meal. Each week an officer (or "directress") visited and reported statistics at the association's bimonthly meetings.

During the week of June 20, 1864, for example, the visitor noted that they had "entertained" four soldiers, spent \$9.50, and gave out one pair of underwear. Two weeks later, the Rest housed a penniless bride and her sister who arrived in town for her wedding. The following week they entertained one soldier and one black teamster.

Late in November 1864, Female College President Charles Judson (Radford had moved away) notified the ladies that he would soon need the building for students. So they requested the use of two rooms at Greenville's Wayside Hospital, housed in the Gilreath Hotel at the corner of Washington and Main Streets.

They were still at the college in early January, however, when the "directress" reported that Rest had housed only 16 soldiers since Dec. 12. In late February, though, after Federal troops invaded the state, the situation changed. Even though trains had stopped running, 60 soldiers arrived the last week of the month,

On March 27, the ladies moved beds, mattresses and supplies to the Wayside Hospital. The weeks that followed were confused. The matron and porter quit. The porter's replacement got drunk on "spirits" stocked for soldiers and stole sheets.

The news that the war was over didn't reach Greenville until April 27. In the meantime, more than 200 soldiers came seeking help. On May 1, Stoneman's Raiders, a Federal cavalry troop searching for Jefferson Davis, his cabinet and Confederate gold, stripped the Rest of whatever had been left after the move.

What happened to the building? The college used it for primary classes until 1892, but when a new college building was erected, it was demolished.

Its chapter in Greenville life was forgotten until the 1930s, when Association minutes were rediscovered and published, and the UDC (United Daughters of the Confederacy) placed a historic marker, darkened now with age, on the Women's College campus, now Heritage Green.

<http://tinyurl.com/cn68yr2>

GAC 150th Gettysburg Anniversary National Civil War Reenactment to be held July 4-7

Staff Reports *Civil War Courier* Morristown, TN April 12, 2013

The GAC 150th Gettysburg Anniversary National Civil War Battle Reenactment on July 4-7, 2013 is anticipated to be the largest and most significant 150th reenactment in America. Soldiers and spectators are registering from all over America and several foreign countries.

The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee held its winter planning session on February 15 in preparation for the reenactment. Over 100 senior reenactor leaders from all over America converged on Gettysburg. The scope and significance of the 150th Gettysburg National Civil War reenactment on July 4-7 demands an unusually high level of planning and organization, the committee reported.

Planning for this event began five years ago at the 145th reenactment, and the site is almost prepped and ready to go. As the most anticipated, largest and most significant reenactment in America, it is important that we be down to the details at this point and not just beginning the process.

The 150th Gettysburg National Civil War reenactment has over 7,000 reenactors registered and are pushing toward 8,000. More than 130 cannons are already signed up and registered with 10 of the cannons being horse drawn. This amount of artillery is unusual and very significant. It is probably the most cannons ever registered at one event, the committee reported. To have 10 horse drawn artillery units is very unique. Approximately 400 cavalry is anticipated.

The 150th Anniversary Prelude Weekend on June 29 and 29 at the Lutheran Seminary and in Hunterstown, presents a unique and rare opportunity to fight, camp, and re-create history at one of the most significant and historical sites in Gettysburg.

Participants will have the opportunity to camp through Tuesday, July 2, when the National Reenactment site opens. Contact Generals Baldwin, Gesuero or Living History Coordinator Kirk Davis at alhes1776@yahoo.com or 717-338-1776 for additional information or to register. Registration is limited for this Prelude Event.

General Allen Baldwin, Commanding, U.S. Forces, and General Brian Gesuero, Commanding the Confederate Army, gave an after action report on the planning meeting: More than 100 senior reenactors came from as far away as 1,000 miles to take part in this meeting.

We had a carload from Tennessee that traveled to days to make it, and a division commander and his staff from the western part of Indiana. An in depth overview of logistics included the onsite registration process for the different branches; port a johns, wood, hay, water, ice, to the dedicated on scene EMS and Fire protection. There were planning breakout sessions, and a tour of the battlefield.

Stan Daywalt, a reenactor who participated in the 100th Anniversary Battle of Gettysburg in 1963 provided closing comments about what the reenactors are doing right, as well as what needs to improve. He said that one area that has improved is the line of communication from event hosts and commanders down to the men in the ranks.

The GAC plans to recognize the reenactors who attended the 100th Gettysburg Anniversary Reenactment.

Maps, scenarios, schedules, ticket information, registration forms, etc. are on the GAC public website for everyone to review: www.gettysburgreenactment.com Gettysburg Anniversary Committee, P.O. Box 3482, Gettysburg, PA 17325-3482. Telephone 717-338-1525.
<http://tinyurl.com/d7ku64f>

Confederate flag flies high over Palestine, controversy heats up

Shaley Sanders KLTW-TV Tyler, TX April 13, 2013

PALESTINE, TX - A new park in Palestine has created a lot of controversy and on Saturday, opposition protested its grand opening. On Saturday morning, the Sons of Confederate Veterans hosted a parade and ceremony to officially open the "Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza". It is a park that honors confederate veterans from the Civil War.

However, members of the NAACP said the Confederate flag that flies over the park is offensive. "It's a flag that many of our ancestors fought under. It's a special flag to us because it was extremely special to them," said Doug Smith, Adjutant/Treasurer of the John H. Reagan Camp. However, the flag that now flies high over park is offensive to others in the Palestine community. So much so, that the president of Palestine's NAACP organized a rally. People came from all over Texas to show their support.

"I don't think you have to be a part of the NAACP to find offense to that flag," said Branden Johnson, President of the Longview NAACP. Kenneth Davidson is President of Palestine's NAACP and said the flag symbolizes, "hatred, depression, oppression, slavery, and it's nothing but division."

Sam Allen spoke at the ceremony in support of the park's opening and said the opposition's anger over the flag is misplaced. "There's some people who represent racism, the people here, at least the ones I've met, and I've been associated with the Sons of Confederacy for the last 15 years [are] not about that. They talk about history, they talk about heritage. Not racism or anything else," Allen said.

(Continued Next Page)

Palestine, TX (Continued): Both groups met after the ceremony to discuss their difference, however the only thing they did agree on is that they need to talk behind closed doors. An officer actually volunteered to be a mediator between the two parties who say they wanted to handle this peacefully.

"The NAACP is not going to be a violent rally. If you are going to be violent, you don't need to be with us," Davidson said. "We're just going to have to agree on some issues and disagree on the others and try to move on from there, and that's what we are going to try to do. As Americans, as Texans, as residents of Anderson County, there will always be many, many more issues that unite us than divide us," Smith said.

Video at: <http://tinyurl.com/dyuj8tb>

Additional Article: <http://tinyurl.com/cdrzrth>

Cassy Gray's stirring speech: Stone Mountain April 13, 2013

It has been said that a land without remembrance is a land without memories. And a land without memories is a land without history.



Standing before this majestic mountain with its beautiful relief of Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and Stonewall Jackson, it reassures my heart to know that Confederate memories and history are alive and well. For these three men were not only heroes to all in the newfound nation, but they remain heroes, not only for me, but for many of us here this afternoon.

But this imposing edifice would not have been diminished through the years if the designers had chosen three different men to immortalize. If we had gathered to celebrate Albert Sidney Johnston, Patrick Cleburne and Jeb Stuart or John B. Gordon, A.P. Hill and Nathan Bedford Forrest. No, this Stone Mountain would not have been diminished at all... for enveloping this monument is a great cloud of witnesses – witnesses dressed in gray and butternut – the brave soldiers who followed Lee and Jackson, fought and died with Cleburne and Gordon and rode with Stuart and Forrest. The soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia, the Army of Tennessee and the Army of Trans-Mississippi, who picked up their arms and left their loved ones to defend their homes and their liberty.

I remember the words of General Armistead at Gettysburg as he prepared to obey the order to advance on Cemetery Ridge. He faced his brigade and brought to their remembrance why they were on that battlefield and why they were prepared to lay down their lives for another if the Lord so asked. "For your lands! For your homes! For your sweethearts! For your wives! For Virginia! Forward!" These words survived that bloody day because they reveal the very heart of the Confederate soldier.

When the Lincoln Administration called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion in the cotton states, the men of the South kissed their wives and children good-bye, enlisted in the army and poured into the instructional camps that had sprung up throughout the South.

They were citizen soldiers, a sundry mix of family, near and distant kin, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. They came from every nook and cranny of Southern society: plantation owners, farmers barely scraping out a living on a few acres, merchants, tradesmen, professionals, students, rich, poor, educated, illiterate, secessionists, unionists, native sons and recent immigrants. A few of them had previous military experience but most of them did not. In the end it was not their differences that shaped them but their similarities.

Their fathers had passed down a legacy of heroism when they had defeated the might of the British Empire and had forged a new nation from the wilderness. How could their sons and grandsons do any less in this the second war for independence?

They may have arrived at the instructional camps as novices to the art of war, but their instructors quickly molded them into soldiers – into companies, regiments, brigades, divisions, corps, and armies. At night, after a hard day of drilling in the hot sun, they would sit around the campfires jesting about the hardships they were willing to endure for the Cause. What did they really know of hardships when their uniforms were whole, their shoes did not let in water and food was abundant?

But in the four years they had fought, when exactly they could not pinpoint, but some time during those four years, when misery, privation, and death became their daily lot, they had learned the bitter truth. War was the necessity of marching on empty bellies, on bare and bleeding feet through the snow and cold, and fighting even past exhaustion. When the last volley was fired, war was also the sad duty of burying friends you had joked with around the campfires those many years ago when war was a lark, one Southern could lick a dozen Yankees and heroes never died. If that was not enough, war was the cruel reality of having to do it all again tomorrow if so ordered.

In the long marches and hard fights, they had been purified in the refiner's fire and sifted like wheat by the severe demands of army life. What remained was the only thing that mattered - the assurance that they had been weighed in the balance, on the line and under fire, and had not been found wanting.

(Continued Next Page)

Stone Mountain (Continued): They were the courageous and determined soldiers of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Braxton Bragg, John Pemberton, Joseph Johnston, and John Bell Hood. They followed their generals in the advances and in the long retreats. They fought for each piece of ground like it was their home.

Manassas, Shiloh, Chancellorsville, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Cold Harbor, Atlanta, and Franklin. Never again would soldiers think of these places as quiet towns or villages full of welcoming friends, as green places where they had picnicked with sweethearts on the soft banks of slow-moving streams. The tender grasses where they had sat had now been cut to bits by heavy cannon wheels, trampled by desperate feet when bayonet met bayonet and flattened where bodies threshed in agonies... And the lazy streams and rivers were redder now than the red clay could ever make them. Never names of places of any more. Now they were the names of graves where friends lay buried, names where McClellan, Grant, Hooker, Meade, and Sherman had tried to force their armies in and Lee's, Johnston's, Pemberton's, and Hood's men had doggedly beaten them back.

Each battlefield now sanctified by the blood that was shed in its defense.

At night, exhausted and hungry, the soldiers closed their eyes and dreamed of the red hills of Georgia, the Blue Ridge Mountains covered with mist in the early morning light, the bayous of the Mississippi River, the jungles of cypress swamps and oaks covered with waving curtains of gray moss, fields of golden wheat ripening in the summer sun, and the unending ocean of the coastline.

The first book I read about the war was *Gone With the Wind*. In the opening chapter, Gerald O'Hara tells his daughter Scarlett that land was the only thing in this world worth working for, worth fighting for, worth dying for. But Gerald was not talking about red clay fields filled with cotton.

Land meant much more than that to him. It was the birthright that was passed from father to son and then from father to son again. It was the place you courted your sweetheart, won her hand, raised a family, and grew old together. It was the place where you visited graves of mothers and fathers on quiet Sunday afternoons and realized that the ties that bound you to the land were thrust deep into the soil and that soil was well able to sustain generations. The land was filled with familiar voices, scents, and sights. It was the incarnation of all they were. It was as comforting as a mother's warm embrace, and its value was determined by the blood that was shed in its defense.

For the men who stood on the line beneath waving battle flags and marched to the drums' long roll, their patriotism was rooted in love of country, love of home, and love of the old ways that were gone forever.

For the Invader had come. The Lincoln administration slipped loose the dogs of war upon the rich farmland of the South and in their rage, they had swept away a civilization. Nothing remained but memories of old times that would never be forgotten.

Any hope of true freedom in this country ended on a warm spring morning, in a small country hamlet in southern Virginia when Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia and the Cause for which the soldiers had so long and manfully struggled, for which they had braved dangers, endured privations and sufferings, and had made so many sacrifices. Once they returned home, they plowed their fields, loved their wives, and raised their children under the Stainless Banner, that precious flag for which they had fought.

As the century turned and the grave began to beckon these brave and gallant men, they had one final task to accomplish. They, along with their wives and widows of the fallen, built monuments to their generals, placed memorial markers on battlefields to bear silent witness to their gallantry, and raised up organizations -- the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Order of the Confederate Rose -- and charged these organizations with a solemn duty: to guard their history, to emulate their virtues, to perpetuate the principles they loved, and to present the true history of the South to future generations. I stand surrounded by men and women who have kept that charge. It is an honor to stand with them, and I thank them for allowing me to do so.

In great deeds, something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate the ground for the vision-place of the soul. And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of should come here, to ponder and to dream...that the power of the vision should pass into their souls...

Let that vision take root in your heart. For when tyranny threatened their freedom, the Confederate soldier did not hesitate to defend the right.

When reminiscing about the surrender, Robert E. Lee observed: "We failed, but in the good providence of God apparent failure often proves a blessing." What a blessing these men have proven to be. What men they were! The war, though war itself is the sum of all evil, revealed to us men of stature, men of integrity, and men of Christian character. How much poorer would we all be if Colonel Lee had remained unknown in Texas, Major Jackson at VMI, Captain Stuart on the plains of Kansas, Patrick Cleburne in his law office or Nathan Bedford Forrest on his plantation in Mississippi.

But war did come and these men, hidden from view, were suddenly revealed...and the fragrance of their lives still lingers and inspires us today.

(Continued Next Page)

Stone Mountain (Continued): These men I mentioned, these men on this great Stone Mountain, Lee, Davis, Jackson, Stuart, Cleburne and Forrest were not the exception but the norm. The Confederate soldiers held them out to history as the best of them...but still a part of them, from them, holding the same values, fighting the same battles, accepting their duty, knowing that they could not do more and never wishing to do less.

The inheritance of gallantry and honor they left us has not diminished in the last 150 years, even as that legacy has come under attack by politicians, intellectuals, and academics who would dare tell us who these men were and why they fought and gave their lives. We face an insidious enemy who is in the process of turning Southern emblems of courage and devotion into symbols of hatred and racism.

So now, it is our turn to meet these new invaders on the verge of a just defense and say to all those that would turn our heroes into villains that we will not let you. We will fight to keep their honor. We will fight to keep their history intact, and we will fight to keep their legacy out of your hands.

For the soldiers we honor this morning, the price they paid to defend their land is beyond measure, for what price can we put on a man's life? All we can do is stand in awe of their loyalty and devotion to the South, honor them for their service and their sacrifice, grab the tattered battle flag from their hands and continue the fight to preserve the truth of their legacy.

God bless you! God bless the honored dead who died for our freedom! And God continue to bless these United States of America.

<http://tinyurl.com/bl dhge3>

Vicksburg is Mississippi's battle-tested Southern belle

Andrea Sachs *the washington post* (Washington, DC) via the *Concord Monitor* (Concord, NH) April 14, 2013

Which of the following destinations does not belong on AAA Southern Traveler magazine's list of the top 13 travel spots for 2013: Christchurch, New Zealand; the Dominican Republic; Ireland; Mexico; Madagascar; Orlando, Fla.; Panama; San Francisco; South Korea; Spain; Sri Lanka; Turkey; Vicksburg, Miss.; or Las Vegas? You choose Vicksburg? You sure? Really sure? Because, well, you're wrong.

Vicksburg is a full-fledged member of this class; Madagascar is not. The designation, though, was a surprise, even to some residents of the warm and welcoming Southern town about 45 miles west of Jackson.

But one sweet-as-Tupelo-honey Vicksburger chirped with delight at the news, asking me to repeat the announcement to her father, who was busy cooking in the Tomato Place's kitchen. "This is just a real honor for our little town," she said. "What I love about Vicksburg is that it's slow – front porch rocking chair" slow.

If AAA's criteria included wit and charm, Vicksburg would have dominated the list. But the publication didn't factor in colorful characters, basing its decision on the Civil War Siege of Vicksburg and its sesquicentennial. The town is holding special events throughout the year, with most activities scheduled through July 4, the day Confederate Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton waved the white flag of surrender. The 1863 battle, a big score for Team Union, replays day after day in the hearts and minds of visitors to Vicksburg and its national military park. Here, you can imagine the gunfire exploding across the bluffs as the residents huddled in caves for safety. As a Jackson day-tripper later explained to me, Southerners hold onto the war because so much of the action occurred on their turf, the bullets grazing their homes and endangering their lives and livelihoods. Beneath the pocked cupola of the Old Court House Museum, I vowed to no longer tell my Southern friends to "get over it."

After the brief overview at the Vicksburg National Military Park Visitor Center, you can dig a little deeper in the museum gallery.

I read about Lyston Druett Howe, a 10-year-old who fought alongside his father and brother, Orion Perseus Howe, a drummer boy and one of the youngest recipients of the Medal of Honor. Beside me, a grandfather stood with his grandkids, who were about the same age as the sibling soldiers. The elder man seemed to be silently chastising his pint-size charges: Look, boys, these kids risked their lives for their country, and you can't even pick up your dirty socks.

Two-thirds of the battle sites rest in the park, sprinkled along a 16-mile touring road. I mulled the four strategies for exploring the route: the national park brochure and map, with numbered stops; the free cell phone tour; the CD audio tour; and a guided tour in your own vehicle.

The ranger told me that it would take about an hour and a half to complete the ribbon 15-stop route. But he must have been referring to individuals who treat the park like a drive-thru window to history. I, on the other hand, was compelled to stop at nearly every monument, statue, cannon, gunboat (the USS Cairo) and road sign with small print. I also lost time chasing a grasshopper around the inside of my car. I reached the Confederate side just as the park was closing.

The Civil War presses its stamp on myriad attractions and conversations in Vicksburg. In addition to several tours of 19th-century residences, there's the Old Court House Museum, which contains many war artifacts, including Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's chair, the stuffing bursting out of the seams, and the inauguration tie of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

<http://tinyurl.com/cxn6vbs>

Private Watkins's War

Phil Leigh *new york times*, new york city March 15, 2013



Pvt. Sam Watkins
National Park
Service

Although the battle of Perryville, Ky., was fought on Oct. 8, 1862, initial troop deployments occupied the preceding day while local residents pondered whether they should stay or leave. Much of the opposing lines were in plain view of one another. Upon drawing picket duty on the eve of the battle, a Confederate private named Sam Watkins of the First Tennessee was surprised to discover a Union guard, also on duty, just across the road. As Sam explains, that night they were not enemies.

We got very friendly ... and made a raid upon a citizen's pantry where we captured a bucket of honey, a pitcher of sweet milk, and three or four biscuits. The old citizen was not home – he and his whole household had gone visiting ... In fact, I think all of the citizens of Perryville were taken with a sudden notion of promiscuous visiting about this time; at least they were not home to all callers.

The anecdote comes from Watkins's memoir, "Co. Aytch" (as in "H"), which appeared after the war and offers an unparalleled look at the life of a rank-and-file Southern soldier. Still, beyond a small circle of Civil War devotees, Sam Watkins was unknown until about 20 years ago, when Ken Burns's groundbreaking "Civil War" series made him famous.

Watkins continually reminds readers that his memoir is not history. "I do not pretend to write the history of the war," he wrote. Rather, he wanted to "tell of the fellows who did the shooting and killing, the fortifying ... ditching ... drilling, and standing guard, for eleven dollars a month and rations."

Of the 120 men enlisting in his company in 1861, Watkins was one of only seven remaining upon its surrender two weeks after Appomattox. Such endurance speaks volumes about the young man's chronicle. During the war he was falsely arrested once, suffered three gunshot wounds and captured – and escaped – three times.

Though "Co. Aytch" was his prime contribution to American letters, Watkins proved a first-rate storyteller. After abandoning Corinth, Miss., in 1862, the Confederates moved to nearby Tupelo, where they remained for seven weeks. Such idleness invited diversion, of which gambling was a certainty. Bored soldiers would wager on anything.

In an anecdote that ranks alongside Mark Twain's famous story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," Watkins explained that

Our principal occupation was playing poker, chuck-a-luck and cracking lice. (Chuck won and luck always lost.) The boys would frequently have a louse race. There was one fellow (Dornin) who was winning all the money ... We could not understand it ... The lice were placed in plates ... and the first that crawled off was the winner. At last we found Dornin's trick; he always heated his plate.

Most of the book, though, is much more somber, told with a modern sensibility that resembles the work of World War I poets and novelists. "A private," he wrote, is but "a machine that works by the command of a good, bad, or indifferent engineer and is presumed to know nothing."

In struggling to make sense of the war, Watkins develops his own code of fighting. "I always shot at privates. It was they that did the killing," he wrote. "If I shot at an officer it was at long range, but when we got down to close quarters I always tried to kill those that were trying to kill me."

On the evening after the battle of Chickamauga, Watkins experienced a heart-rending sight that underscored the consequences of such shooting. He and another soldier named William A. Hughes were with a detail of soldiers looking for wounded. Presently, they were approached by a group of women with lanterns also searching for survivors.

Coming to a pile of our slain, we had turned over several ... when one of the ladies screamed ... ran to the pile ... and raised (a) man's head, placed it in her lap and began kissing him ... saying 'Oh, they have killed my darling, darling, darling! Oh, mother, mother, what must I do? ... My darling! Oh, they have killed him, they have killed him!' I could witness the scene no longer. I turned and walked away and William A. Hughes was crying.

Several times Watkins narrowly missed becoming the object of such bereavement himself. Once during hand-to-hand combat at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain,

a Yankee rushed me and said, 'You have killed my two brothers and now I've got you' ... I heard a roar and felt a flash of fire and saw ... William A. Hughes, grab the muzzle of the gun, receiving the whole (blast) ... He died for me.

Watkins watched as litter carriers took Hughes away. The dying soldier kept telling them, "Give me Florence Fleming," his name for his rifle, which was engraved on it with silver lettering. "It was the last time I saw him," Watkins wrote. "But I know away up yonder ... in the blue vault of heaven ... we will sometime meet at the marriage supper of the Son of God."

Evidently Watkins shared a simple faith with most of the common soldiers. Seemingly crude to a modern reader, it was nonetheless a type that could quickly detect false devotion in others, no matter how elaborately disguised. One Sunday a distinguished preacher was invited to address the troops, a visit Watkins satirized in his memoir:

'God is an abyss of light, a circle who is everywhere and His circumference is nowhere. Hell is a dark world made up of spiritual sulfur and other ignited ingredients.' When the old fellow got this far I lost further run of his prayer ... I don't think anyone understood him but the Generals ... About this time we heard the awfulest racket ... tearing through the woods toward us ... a mad bull ... running and knocking down the divine ... (bringing) the services to a close without the Doxology.

(Continued Next Page)

Pvt. Watkins (Continued): Presently, Yankee bullets started to thwack into trees and thud into the occasional soldier. “And the parson at that moment put spurs to his horse and was seen to lumber to the rear and almost every soldier yelled out. ‘The parson isn’t hungry and never eats his supper.’”

Shakespeare writes of combat transforming soldiers into a “band of brothers,” who become more motivated to fight for one another than any political cause. Similarly, during the hasty retreat from Missionary Ridge at the battle of Chattanooga, in November 1863, Watkins describes how four rebels demonstrated brotherly affection in a manner that would be unthinkable – even today – under almost any other circumstances:

We saw poor Tom Webb lying ... shot through the head, his blood and brains smearing his face and clothes, and he still alive ... We did not wish to leave the poor fellow in that condition and got up a litter and carried him ... to Chickamauga Station ... The next morning Dr. J.E. Dixon told us ... it would be useless to carry him further [because] it was utterly impossible for him to recover ... To leave him where he was we thought best. We ... bent over him and pressed our lips to his – all four of us. We kissed him goodbye.

Earlier in 1863, while the army was preparing fortifications they would never use at Chattanooga, Watkins’s father paid a visit. The soldiers were living on parched corn. Since Sam was ashamed to offer such a meal, he introduced his father to the regimental commander, Colonel Fields, who invited the two to have dinner with him.

Shortly thereafter, an African-American cook dumped a frying pan full of parched corn on an oil cloth and announced, “Master, dinner ready,” Watkins recalled. “He was living like ourselves – on parched corn.”

Watkins’ memoir rarely speaks of African-Americans or slavery. However, after the fall of Atlanta, the Army of Tennessee – then commanded by Gen. John Bell Hood – was advancing toward its namesake state in hopes of forcing Gen. William T. Sherman to backtrack. Along the route, Hood destroyed railroad track north of Atlanta to cut Sherman’s supply line. At Dalton, Ga., a 750-man federal garrison that included 500 African-Americans guarded the track. The federal commander, badly outnumbered, felt compelled to surrender, but wanted assurances that the African-Americans would be fairly treated. Hood would make no promises, but in the end the blacks were put to work tearing up railroad track. As Watkins described it,

We marched the black rascals out. They were mighty glad to see us and we were kindly disposed to them. We said, ‘Now boys, we don’t want the Yankees to ... blame you; so let’s us just go out here on the railroad track, and tear it up, and pile up the crossties, and then pile the iron on top of them and we’ll set the thing a-fire and when the Yankees come back they’ll say, ‘What a bully fight (you) did make.’

Indeed, Watkins’s eye for humor amid the fighting is spot on. One evening Watkins and the louse-racing champion, T. C. Dornin, were instructed to infiltrate the nearby Union picket line and gather information about the opposing army. His identity obscured by darkness, Watkins pretended to be a federal infantryman as he quizzed a Union sentinel.

‘Captain, what guard it this?’ He answered, ‘Nien bocht, you bet,’ is what I understood him to say. ‘What regiment are you from?’ ‘Iet du mein got Donnermetter stefel switzer.’ I had to give up – I had run across the detail of a Dutch regiment.

While Sam and the federal sentinel were friendly the night before Perryville, Sam fought savagely the following day. Few works from the Civil War capture the horror and pathos of the front-line soldier as well as Watkins’ reminiscence of that day:

While we were marching through a cornfield they opened their war dogs upon us ... from one end of the line to the other seemed to be a solid sheet of blazing smoke and fire. Here General Maney’s horse was shot. From this moment the battle was a mortal struggle. Two lines of battle confronted us. We had killed all in the first line and were charging over the second when ... their third and main battle line ... poured their deadly fire.

It was death to retreat now ... we were soon in hand-to-hand fighting, using the butts of our guns and bayonets. The guns were discharged so rapidly, it seemed the earth itself was in volcanic uproar. The next morning a wounded comrade ... asked me to lay down beside him. When I awoke the poor fellow was stiff and cold in death.

Watkins’ memoirs was first serialized in the Columbia, Tenn., *Herald* from 1881 to 1882, and was first published in book form in 1882. Watkins settled on a farm outside Columbia, where he died in 1901.

Sources: Watkins, Sam R., “*Co. Aytch*”; Powers, Ron, “*Mark Twain*”; Jones, Archer, “*Confederate Strategy from Shiloh to Vicksburg*”; Woodworth, Steven, “*Jefferson Davis and His Generals*”; Symonds, Craig L., “*Stonewall of the West*”; Noe, Kenneth, “*Perryville*.”

*Phil Leigh is an armchair Civil War enthusiast and president of a market research company. He is preparing an illustrated and annotated version of the memoirs of Confederate Pvt. Sam Watkins, which will be released by Westholme Publishing next spring entitled “*Co. Aytch: Illustrated and Annotated*.”*

<http://tinyurl.com/br4rd5o>

Grave robbers steal Confederate and Revolutionary clothing from soldiers' bodies

Elizabeth Rawlins WFXG-TV Augusta, GA April 15, 2013



BURKE COUNTY, GA (WFXG) - **UPDATE:** Burke County investigators are still looking for the grave robbers responsible for digging up soldier grave sites at the Old Church Cemetery. "Somebody is very sick to do something like this, to desecrate a grave," said Post Commander Leroy Bell Jr. Bell oversees the cemetery that is a secluded location where people from every century are buried dating back the 1700's.

"I just didn't think of anything like this ever happening," said Bell. "We've never had it happen before as long as this cemetery has been here." Bell said the gates to the cemetery remain locked all the time and it wasn't until he came out here to cut the grass that he realized that five of the graves were disturbed. "It would have to be that they thinking they could get some kind of relics," said Bell.

The grave robbers knocked over head stones and dug up graves of Revolutionary, Confederate and World War I soldiers and also some children, taking whatever was in those graves and leaving the bones behind. "Any of the artifacts that would have been buried on some of these soldiers is most likely what the grave robbers were hunting for, whether to keep them for themselves or to sell," said Sgt. Sean Cochran of Burke County Sheriff's Office.

Investigators cannot pinpoint exactly when these graves were disturbed but believe it happened within the last two weeks. They told FOX54, they are determined to find whoever is responsible. "They are going to sell it to the wrong person," said Sgt. Cochran. "They are going to say something, they are going to do something and somebody is going to tell me."

Investigators are restlessly working to bring these graves to rest once again. The post commander said they plan to properly re-bury the soldiers and children soon.

ORIGINAL STORY: Burke County Sheriff's Office is investigating Confederate and Revolutionary graves that were robbed at Old Church Cemetery off Idlewood Road in Burke County. Investigators said grave robbers turned over head stones, removed caskets from the ground and proceeded to remove the clothes worn by the soldiers, leaving their bones exposed.

The cemetery is under the care of the American Legion, Post 120. A \$1,000 reward is being offered for any information. Post Commander Leroy Matthew Bell Jr. said they are accepting donations to increase the reward. Anyone interested in donating may contact Post Commander Bell at (706) 564-6066. If you have any information regarding the investigation, contact Burke County Sheriff's Office at (706) 554-2133.

<http://tinyurl.com/bou4rql>

Gravedigger drives over graves at historic cemetery

Nate Morabito WJHL-TV Johnson City, TN April 16, 2013

A careless gravedigger may be to blame for tire tracks found above graves at historic Blountville Cemetery. Concerned family members called us after they visited their loved one's grave, only to find someone had driven over several plots nearby. The graves are clearly marked and there's more than enough room for a backhoe to get in and out without running over a single grave in the section of cemetery in question.

Still, that didn't stop someone from carelessly running over the graves. In fact, one set of tire tracks clearly shows a person not only drove over a veteran's grave, he or she drove over the grave marker too. The tracks all lead to two piles of dirt.

Shortly after we called the treasurer of the Blountville Cemetery Association, his sons came to take a look at the damage. Jim Long says this is the first the association's heard of this. He says the association isn't in charge of burying people. Instead, he says that's the job of the funeral home chosen by the family of the deceased.

Long says several funeral homes have buried people there in the past. Regardless, he says it's clear that one of the backhoe operators contracted by one of those many funeral homes was negligent.

"We just now found about this and didn't know anything about it and we would like to see that it never happens again and we'll contact those people who are responsible and make sure these kind of things are not done again," Long said. "That the people who are responsible next time are careful to watch out for other people's graves."

In the section of the cemetery in question there are a lot of newer graves, but there are hundreds of others spread across the property. Some of the graves date back to the 1820's. A battle during the Civil War also took place at the cemetery. Luckily, the problem appears to be isolated to just one section of the cemetery.

<http://tinyurl.com/cwp36zf>

Confederate flag license plates get struck down in Texas

Staff Reports KTBC-TV Austin, TX April 17, 2017



In 2011, the Sons of Confederate Veterans wanted to offer a specialty license plate honoring their ancestors that featured the rebel flag. But the Department of Motor Vehicles said "no thanks." So they sued them. U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks ultimately ruled against the plates last week.

"Well we're certainly disappointed, We're certainly shocked. There are eight other states in the former Confederate States of America that did have to sue the government to get to put the Sons of Confederate Veterans specialty plates on their license plates and...every one of those eight states, the Sons of Confederate Veterans prevailed," said Marshall Davis with the Texas Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Davis says the reason the DMV denied their plate in the first place is because it might be seen as offensive. Davis says the rebel flag was a soldier's flag and they condemn any misuse of it that makes it a symbol of racism.

"We have African American members who are descendent of black Confederate soldiers in our organization who are proud to be members and we are proud to have them. Our organization is all about the heritage and to preserve the true history of the South," Davis said.

FOX 7 asked Austinites if they think not allowing the plates is a violation of the First Amendment...free speech. "I don't really get bogged down in those types of questions because I don't think that you have a right to oppress someone and I don't think that it oppresses you to have your ability to oppress other people taken away," said Teri Adams.

"Yeah, yeah I do. I know it's a flag and it means certain things but if they're using it as a viewpoint of like...their ancestors were in war, in this major, major war that changed America forever then you know...that's pretty powerful," said Kevin Johnson.

On our Facebook page, Shon writes: "States can choose what to and what not to offer for their plates so it's not a violation. If you really want a Confederate flag on your vehicle so badly then go buy a bumper sticker." Tiffany writes "It does violate free speech. Some people associate it with hate and racism which is not the true meaning of it. Read some history books. People have changed the meaning of it. Just like the swastika symbol used to represent peace until Hitler changed that."

Davis says they are still talking with their attorneys about their next move. But if they go forward, he says they'll take it to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

<http://tinyurl.com/cqew65g>

Confederate flag removed at Hot Springs VA Center as officials consider next move

Kevin Woster *Rapid City Journal* Rapid City, SD April 18, 2013



After complaints from several veterans, a confederate flag similar to this one was removed from the Hot Springs Veterans Affairs facility. The flag was part of a historical display in the three-story rotunda.



A Confederate flag in a historical display at the Veterans Affairs medical center in Hot Springs has been removed following complaints from several veterans there for treatment. Steve DiStasio, director of the VA Black Hills Health Care System, said Wednesday he plans to meet with the veterans next week as he and other officials decide what to do with the flag.

"Some veterans want the flag removed," he said Wednesday. "What we realize here is that there are people who have strong opinions on both sides of issues." *The Journal* received a call Wednesday from a man who said he was concerned about the flag's removal. When contacted, DiStasio said the full-size Confederate flag was part of a Shrine to Democracy display in the three-story domed rotunda of the VA medical center in Hot Springs.

The flag has been part of the display for decades, he said. But several veterans who are in the Hot Springs center for treatment came to VA officials on Tuesday demanding the flag be taken down. DiStasio said he understands the flag is offensive to some, despite its historical significance.

DiStasio thought the flag was still up Wednesday morning. But VA public information officer Jill Broecher said later that it had been taken down, at least for now. DiStasio said he is now considering his next step.

"I don't know what's going to happen. This evolved very quickly yesterday afternoon," he said. "I've asked some of our folks to get some research on what is the position on flags and other memorabilia that are part of historical presentations."

Along with the full-size flag, there is another display with a smaller Confederate flag, DiStasio said. That, too, was removed for now and will be part of the discussion on appropriateness. "I don't have a hard time frame for making a decision,"

he said. "We're talking with our staff about short-term, long-term actions. I think it will take a little bit to work through that."

(Continued Next Page)

Flag (Continued):

<http://tinyurl.com/bvvuajb>

Director: Hot Springs VA will rehang the Confederate flags: <http://tinyurl.com/ax2lttk>
 Confederate Flags Ordered Removed a Second Time: <http://tinyurl.com/ckbsyrs>

Unmarked Graves Found in Lynchburg Cemetery

Mark Kelly WSET-TV Lynchburg, VA April 19, 2013

Lynchburg, VA – There was an incredible find Friday at Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg.

It's way back from the Civil War Era. Archaeologist's uncovered around 50 confederate soldier grave sites, and they expect to find dozen more. "We are making discoveries in these last couple hours that have puzzled people for decades," said Ted Delaney, assistant director of the cemetery.

Old City Cemetery is filled with graves, but most grave sites are not properly honored and marked. Officials believe 20,000 people are buried there and only 6,000 have a stone. The Confederate section of the cemetery has long been a mystery: There are [no] markers there, yet records show there are graves.

Randy Lichtenberger from Hurt & Proffitt is the archaeologist. "This is all unexplored territory. Every bucketful today is something surprising, I think," he said

The most surprising find at the dig sat just inches below the surface where the ground was red-colored. For these men, that color is the key to what they're digging for. "We wanted to find where that soil changed color because that's the grave, that's what we are looking for.," said Delaney.

Judging by the amount of red clay, archaeologists estimate 100 bodies under that ground - most confederate soldiers who died from disease. Once all grave sites are located, the match-making begins. Fortunately, paper records from 150 years ago are still intact.

"If we can just match those records that were so well kept to what the archaeologists are finding, then we can begin to figure out who is who. That's the next step," said Delaney.

Old City Cemetery is always getting visitors looking for their loved ones among those graves. Delaney says he hopes to take every one of them to a properly honor and marked tombstone.

<http://tinyurl.com/c42c7ax>

Mayor praises groups' Confederate Memorial effort

Lindsey Field *Marietta Dailey Journal* Marietta, GA April 21, 2013



The Cannonade at the closing of the ceremony in Marietta was presented by members of the Haralson County 'Invincibles Artillery,' from left, Stefanie Sapp, David Sapp Jr. and David Sapp Sr. Staff/Lindsay Field

Members of the United Daughters of Confederacy Kennesaw Chapter were joined by a little over 50 others Sunday to celebrate Confederate Memorial Day. The family-friendly event was held at the cemetery off Powder Springs Road in Marietta. It is where more than 3,000 soldiers from every Confederate state are buried.

Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon was the guest speaker and among a handful of others, including his mother Dorothy "Dot" Moseley Bacon, who were honored during the ceremony.

"I want to thank you for the rich history," he told chapter members and guests. "If not for y'all, it would be lost."

Bacon served in the Georgia National Guard from 1966 to 1970 and was recognized by the organization Sunday because he is an ancestor of Civil War soldier Pvt. William Jackson Stover of South Carolina. His mother was one of four people who received a cross for their military service. Dorothy Bacon, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and William D. "Bill" Dean, a sergeant in the U.S. Army, both earned their crosses for service during World

War II.

David Carey Brannan received a cross for his service as a damage controlman in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam and he accepted another on behalf of his father David A. Brannan, who served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Retired Capt. Ann Marie Huggins McCurdy with the U.S. Army during the Gulf War was the recipient for the group's Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal. Harold Anthony Dye, a brigadier general in the Georgia National Guard during the Korean War, was recognized for the Certificate of Appreciation to Serviceman.

Confederate Memorial Day has been a legal holiday in Georgia since 1874, and the members of the Ladies Memorial Association, United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of Confederate Veterans have kept the tradition alive.

In 2009, Georgia permanently designated April as Confederate History and Heritage Month.

<http://tinyurl.com/byc5s3j>

Fulton Historical Group Working to Preserve Mass Civil War Grave

Joe Proszek KMOU-TV Columbia, MO April 23, 2013

FULTON - A group in Fulton believes it has identified a mass Civil War grave in Callaway County. The Sons of Confederate Veterans of Missouri used high tech radar to scan areas underground to locate the grave. The grave is from the battle of Moore's Mill, in which Union and Confederate forces fought in Calwood.

The radar provided a graph readout of the ground, and marked any man-made disturbances underground, such as wells or graves. The radar indicated eight disturbances within one foot of where members of the group estimated the bodies would be. The group said there should be roughly eight or nine bodies in the grave.

With the site located, the group plan to build a monument dedicated to both the Union and Confederate soldiers who died during the fighting. The Sons of Confederate Veterans Commander Noel Crowson said it doesn't matter which side the soldiers fought for.

"These young men were drafted, they didn't have political motivation," Crowson said. "They were simply serving their country, and they deserve to be honored."

Crowson said he envisions an obelisk with the names of the Union soldiers killed in the battle on one side and the names of the Confederate soldiers on the opposite side. The monument would also include a note on the base stating the soldiers died serving their country honorably.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans of Missouri will be collecting donations from the community to finance the memorial project. The finished project will include a fence around the grave site and the monument to the soldiers.

Those who would like to make a donation can call the Kingdom of Callaway County Historical Society in Fulton at 573-642-0570.

<http://tinyurl.com/cnqkoqc>

Committee Split on Park Renaming Options

Bill Dries *The Dailey News* Memphis, TN April 23, 2013

The nine-member ad hoc committee that is supposed to come up with recommendations for the Memphis City Council on what to call three Confederate-themed city parks displayed a clear rift Monday, April 22.

But those on the panel will begin putting proposals on the table at their next meeting tentatively set for next week. Some in the group favor restoring the old names of Confederate, Jefferson Davis and Forrest parks. The council changed those names earlier this year to temporary ones and appointed the committee to make recommendations to it on what the permanent names should be.

Others on the ad hoc committee say the old names should not be restored although some were open to new names that retained some Civil War connotations. "Why not just take these three parks and make them represent the people of the city of Memphis," said University of Memphis associate history professor Beverly Bond who suggested the name Civil War Memorial Park for Forrest Park.

"I will not take anything away from the military genius of Nathan Bedford Forrest," she said of the Confederate general, slave trader and first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. "But I will also not concede that he was not a slave trader. You have to balance those things. ... Give some interpretation."

Fellow University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University history professor Doug Cupples, however, said the old names should be restored and the parks "expanded" with monuments to African-American citizens from the same era, including Robert Church Sr., the South's first black millionaire.

"This could be an energizing force. The park is already there," Cupples said. "I think we can take a big step forward to taking into account that this is a diverse city. ... The Confederacy was a significant part of the city's history. Nathan Bedford Forrest was probably one of the top five or six people in the history of Memphis." "They are part of our history," he said of the three parks. "Let's maintain them and build upon our history."

But Bond argued it's not as simple as saying "History is history." "That's not necessarily true," she said. "It's interpretation of what you have. And what we have been doing is interpretation."

Memphis branch NAACP President Keith Norman also opposed letting private groups put monuments in the parks without city approval. "I don't think we are here to discuss private funding," he said. "We are here to talk about the names. We keep the name thing the main thing we can get that worked out."

Norman said private funding is how the controversy began recalling the stone marker bearing the name of Forrest Park that the Sons of Confederate Veterans put on the Union Avenue side of the park.

The city removed the marker touching off the latest chapter in a long-running controversy over the name of that park and Forrest's legacy. The controversy came to include the other two parks when a legislator from another part of the state floated a bill in Nashville that would prevent local governments from changing the names or removing any monuments or markers from parks named for military figures, veterans or wars.

(Continued Next Page)

Memphis (Continued): "I like the names of the parks as they are. I can consider changing one or two maybe," said Jimmy Ogle, chairman of the Shelby County Historical Commission. "I know it's a difficult process. I would like to see us do more for history in this city in the park lands or other lands we have."

Any recommendations made by the group will go to the full council for action. The committee is co-chaired by council members Harold Collins and Bill Boyd.

Collins reminded the group the council is in budget season when any cost associated with the name changes would be considered. "We are not here to rename any park. We are here to offer suggestions to the Memphis City Council," Collins said. "Those are the only parks in Memphis we need to focus on. To try to move in any other direction would be wasting a whole lot more time that we don't have to spare as it is."

<http://tinyurl.com/ahetde>

Forrest Rides Again !: <http://tinyurl.com/cz7cz75>

City Council Votes to Rename: <http://tinyurl.com/c39hn6p>

May renamed for Civil Rights Leader: <http://tinyurl.com/clur23w>

Rebel flag isn't flying for official reasons

Bud Kennedy *Star Telegram* Fort Worth, TX April 23, 2013

In Dublin, Texas, they're proud of hometown golfer Ben Hogan and home-bottled pure-sugar colas. One businessman also proudly waves his Confederate battle flag.

In a month falsely promoted by Rebel loyalists as an official history observance, *Dublin Citizen* newspaper Publisher Mac McKinnon is flying the flag of war at his office on U.S. 377. McKinnon said he is flying it for a local heritage group's "Confederate Month."

In nearby Stephenville, Sons of Confederate Veterans camp commander Charles Leatherwood said he appreciates McKinnon's support and doesn't care whether anyone else says the "month" is official. "We believe it is," he said. Every April, the Civil War lives again across Dublin, Stephenville, Comanche and De Leon, home of some of the worst racial injustices in Texas history and also some of the fiercest Confederate sentiment.

In Comanche, the Confederate First National Flag -- the government flag with a blue field and red and white stripes, not the more incendiary battle flag -- actually flies all month over the courthouse. "We let the Confederates put it up there," Comanche County Judge James R. Arthur said. "The governor said to do that."

Actually, nobody but the Confederates said to do that. The myth of a "history month" began in 1999, when a state senator from the Houston area passed a ceremonial resolution in the Texas Senate. As the Senate does for birthdays or anniversaries, the resolution was passed without debate or vote as a polite gesture to the sponsor, then-Sen. Mike Jackson of La Porte. His spokesman said he observed it by flying the First National Flag, not the war flag.

Official celebrations require a vote of both houses. When Texas named pecan the "state pie" this year, it took debate and a vote. We now have a pie. There is no Confederate Month.

That doesn't stop the flag-wavers from Leatherwood's Sons camp, based in De Leon, one of the last cities in Texas and maybe America with a sign telling African-Americans not to "let the sun set on you." "I know where you're going with this," he said by phone. "You're not going to make this something racist."

I am not the one making anything up.

<http://tinyurl.com/9wuc54j>

A General and a Gentleman

Bob Hurst *Southern Heritage News and Views* Medina, TX April 24, 2013

I enjoy reading about Confederate generals. Well, actually, I enjoy reading about anything Confederate, but especially the generals. I enjoy reading about their lives and learning about their character and accomplishments in their non-military endeavors.



There are some Confederate generals, of course, who seem larger-than-life and almost mythical. Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, J.E.B. Stuart and Nathan Bedford Forrest come quickly to mind. Much is known about these magnificent men because much has been written about them.

There were Confederate generals who were so highly regarded by their states that their statues stand in Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. Wade Hampton, Joe Wheeler, Edmund Kirby Smith and the redoubtable R.E. Lee are represented in the Hall.

Many other splendid Confederate generals such as Patrick Cleburne, Jubal Early, Albert Sidney Johnston, Richard Ewell, John Hunt Morgan, William Hardee, George Pickett, and Pierre Beauregard are all widely known for their exploits during the War.

(Continued Next Page)

Jenkins (Continued): Some Confederate generals have even had United States military installations named for them - John Bell Hood, Leonidas Polk, Henry Benning, John B. Gordon, Braxton Bragg, A.P. Hill and, of course, Robert E. Lee are among this group.

While I revere all these magnificent warriors, and enjoy reading about each and every one, what thrills me the most now is to learn of lesser-known Confederate leaders who might not be as famous as the aforementioned but were truly outstanding leaders and, more importantly, outstanding human beings.

This article will be about such an individual - Albert Gallatin Jenkins.

Albert Jenkins was born in November of 1830 into one of the finest families of western Virginia. He was born in Cabell County which is now a part of West Virginia. His father was a wealthy plantation owner. (Note: I will not discuss here how western Virginia was unconstitutionally taken from Virginia by the Lincoln Administration. That will be the topic of a future article.)

Albert was extremely intelligent and graduated from Jefferson College in Pennsylvania at the age of 18 and Harvard Law School at the age of 20. He established a law practice in 1850 but his true love was agriculture and he was very successful at running his own plantation called "Green Bottoms".

He became active in Democrat politics and was elected to a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in the election of 1856. He served two terms in the House from March 4, 1857, to March 3, 1861. Realizing that Virginia would undoubtedly secede, he ended his congressional career and returned home to aid the Confederate Cause. He raised a company of mounted partisan rangers (which were nicknamed "Border Rangers") and served as captain of this unit. His ranger unit soon became a part of the 8th Virginia Cavalry with Jenkins serving as colonel of the company.

In the early part of 1862, Colonel Jenkins became a delegate to the First Confederate Congress. (Note: prior sessions of the body had been held as the Confederate Provisional Congress) . On August 1, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

General Albert Jenkins was given command of a brigade in General A.P. Hill's division which he commanded at Gettysburg where he was wounded. During the Gettysburg Campaign his brigade had formed the cavalry screen for General Richard Ewell's Second Corps. Jenkins' troops also seized Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, during the Gettysburg Campaign.

Upon his return to duty after recovering from the wounds he had suffered at Gettysburg, he was assigned to General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry corps and served in the Shenandoah Valley and western Virginia (by then that area had become West Virginia).

In May of 1864 he was appointed Commander of the Department of Western Virginia. Upon receiving information that a large federal force had been dispatched into his area, he led his troops into the field to counter the yankee advance. On May 9 he was severely wounded at the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain. He died twelve days later on May 21, 1864. Ironically, and sadly, this was only nine days after General J.E.B. Stuart had died at the Battle of Yellow Tavern.

This pretty much sums up the military and political careers of Albert Gallatin Jenkins. You might be thinking that he sounds like a successful person and leader but why does Hurst think so highly of him, especially since there were so many Confederates who were successful and good leaders. Well, its all summed up for me by indications of the character of this good man as displayed during a campaign where he led his forces into Ohio in August of 1862, shortly after his promotion to brigadier general.

Brigadier General Jenkins had been given orders by his commander, Major General William Wing Loring, to make a long raid throughout much of the northern section of western Virginia which was intended to put the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad out of commission and also to get Confederate troops to the rear of enemy troops in the area. General Jenkins started the mission with only five hundred troops.

One of his first moves was to make a decision that was controversial but proved to be highly advantageous to the Confederate forces in the area. His scouts had brought him word that Union forces between his location and the target B & O Railroad far outnumbered his own troop strength. The scouts also reported that the federals had stockpiled huge quantities of weapons and supplies at Buckhannon to the north.

General Jenkins decided to go after the weapons rather than the railroad as desired by General Loring. At Buckhannon the Confederates found a huge cache of weapons and supplies - a virtual treasure house of needed items. This cache included 5000 stands of rifles, huge amounts of ordnance and much clothing. The seizure of this stockpile allowed Jenkins to refit his forces with brand new Enfield rifles and other weapons superior to their own and to replace old, worn out boots and clothing with new items. Everything that could not be carried away by the Confederates was destroyed to prevent Union forces from having access to the stockpile.

From Buckhannon the Confederates continued with a series of encounters with federal troops around small towns. All outcomes were favorable for Jenkins' troops. One of these encounters perfectly identifies, in my opinion, Albert Jenkins for the man he truly was. As the Union commander, Colonel J.C. Rathbone, in the process of surrendering his forces, offered his sword to General Jenkins, Albert Jenkins refused to humble his adversary and told him to keep his sword. General Jenkins then commented that if the fortunes of war changed for him, he would hope for the same treatment from his captors.

Another example of the honor and dignity of Albert Jenkins occurred as his troops approached the town of Ravenswood. A local woman approached General Jenkins and identified one of the yankee prisoners being held by the Confederate forces as a person who had recently mistreated her.

(Continued Next Page)

Jenkins (Continued): Her husband demanded satisfaction. General Jenkins, after discussing the issue with each side, arranged for a fistfight between the husband and the yankee prisoner. He assured both sides that the fight would be fair. The fight was concluded to the satisfaction of all involved and the lady's honor was upheld.

Shortly after the Ravenswood event, General Jenkins led his troops across the Ohio River and into enemy territory in Ohio. He wrote of this experience: " The excitement of the command as we approached the Ohio shore was intense, and in the anxiety to be the first of their respective companies to reach the soil of those who had invaded us all order was lost and it became almost a universal race as we came into the shoal water. In a short time all [troops] were over, and in a few minutes the command was formed on the crest of a gentle eminence and the banners of the Southern Confederacy floated proudly over the soil of our invaders. As our flag was unfurled in the splendor of an evening sun, cheers upon cheers arose from the men and their enthusiasm was excited to the highest pitch."

Once across the river, General Jenkins addressed the civilian residents of the small Ohio town nearest to where his troops had come ashore to assure them that they would not be harmed by the Confederates. He told them, " Though that mode of warfare had been practiced on ourselves [by the yankees] ... we were not barbarians but a civilized people struggling for their liberties, and that we would afford them that exemption from the horrors of a savage warfare which had not been extended to us."

He later wrote that " it was a curious and unexpected thing to hear upon the soil of Ohio shouts go up for Jefferson Davis and the Southern Confederacy."

Unlike beasts of the north such as William T. Sherman, Phil Sheridan, David Hunter, John Turchin, Benjamin Butler and others, Albert Jenkins, a Southern gentleman, posed no threat to the civilian population of the North.

Perhaps the finest tribute to the character, leadership ability and goodness of Albert Gallatin Jenkins came in the after-action report of General William Wing Loring. After detailing that General Jenkins had claimed 40,000 square miles of territory for the Confederacy, captured and paroled 300 federal soldiers and destroyed "immense stores" of enemy supplies, General Loring wrote:

" Crossing the Ohio River twice and prosecuting at least 20 miles of his march through the state of Ohio, he exhibited as he did elsewhere in his march, a policy of such clemency as won us many friends, and tended greatly to mitigate the ferocity which had characterized the war in this section."

General Albert Gallatin Jenkins was an intelligent, educated leader of men. More importantly, he was a good man of honor , strong character and integrity - a true Southern gentleman. I am proud that he was another in that long line of outstanding individuals who wore the sacred gray.

DEO VINDICE

<http://tinyurl.com/boypffg>

VMI to mark 150 years since 'Stonewall' Jackson's death in May

Staff Reports *Associated Press* via *the washington post* Washington, DC April 26, 2013

LEXINGTON, Va. — Virginia Military Institute plans a May full of events in honor of one of its most notable faculty members: Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

A special exhibit opens May 1 at the VMI Museum, featuring Jackson's bullet-scarred raincoat, his blood-stained handkerchief and the surgeon's needle used in the amputation of Jackson's arm.

Later in May, a National Park Service historian will discuss Jackson's final hours and last journey to Lexington.

One-hundred-fifty years ago, Jackson was wounded by friendly fire in the din and confusion of battle. He died several days later On May 10, 1863. Jackson is buried in Lexington.

<http://tinyurl.com/c29oj94>

Man on a mission to honor fallen Confederate soldiers

Mark St. John Erickson *Dailey Press* Hampton Roads, VA April 29, 2013

Cecil W. Thomas III strides down an old brick walk outside historic St. John's Church, scanning its ancient cemetery left and right for the tell-tale signs of Civil War soldiers.

Hundreds and hundreds of tombstones and monuments rise from the earth as he walks. But what he's searching for much closer to the ground are the low gray forms of Confederate memorial crosses.

Singly and in clusters as large as six and seven, these cast-iron markers crop up like mournful flowers here -- and Thomas nods toward every one with the reverence and familiarity of someone who feels a personal attachment.

For nearly a year, he spent much of his free time alongside them on his hands and knees, wearing out a half-dozen wire brushes in a determined one-man campaign to scrape off the rust and restore every one of 166 crosses.

(Continued Next Page)

Mission (Continued): That's fewer than half, however, of the nearly 400 he's brushed off, primed and repainted over the past four years in a string of cemeteries that stretches from St. John's in Hampton across the James River to his old family burial ground at Mill Swamp Cemetery in Isle of Wight County.



Chesapeake resident Cecil W. Thomas III has restored 166 Confederate memorial crosses at St. John's Episcopal Church in Hampton. Thomas uses a wire brush to remove rust and old paint from the crosses, then repaints them with primer and a shade of Confederate gray. "I just really think that I'm doing God's work," he said. "I get plenty of satisfaction out of it." (Kaitlin McKeown / *Daily Press*)

"Most of these guys were simple, ordinary people. They believed they were fighting for their homes and their families," says Thomas, whose blood ties to the war include not only 28 kinsmen who fought for the South but also distant cousin George Henry Thomas, the Southampton County soldier whose battlefield prowess as a Union general sparked such nicknames as "The Sledge of Nashville" and "The Rock of Chickamauga."

"My great-great-grandfather, James Henry Thomas, was shot six times but still survived the war -- and I don't want people like him to be forgotten."

Such devout acts of remembrance are one reason why the Civil War, and the culture of honor and mourning it spawned, continues to draw scholarly attention more than 150 years after the conflict started.

Many of the distinctive military burial rites taken for granted in the United States today reach back to that turbulent time, says historian J. Michael Cobb, who will explore the origin of these traditions in a free lunchtime program scheduled for noon Wednesday at the Hampton History Museum.

Before the Civil War, the country had no systematic way to count and identify its fallen warriors, no way to notify next of kin and no provision for the decent burials of those killed in the line of duty.

But as described by Harvard University historian Drew Gilpin Faust in her ground-breaking 2008 book -- "The Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War" -- all that changed dramatically with the deaths of as many as 750,000 Union and Confederate soldiers.

"At the center of the war was the vast number of the killed and wounded. It was unprecedented," Cobb said, recounting losses that would be the equivalent of 6 million killed today.

"And in the South -- where three in five men of military age fought and one in five died -- practically everyone was touched."

Thomas learned about that impact early on, hearing story after family story about the war as a child.

But not until the Chesapeake man visited the Isle of Wight graveyard of his ancestors for the first time in 1986 did he begin to grasp the full extent of its consequences for his kin.

More than a dozen of those who fought are buried at Mill Swamp, and -- as the only surviving male Thomas in the region -- the young man started tending their headstones and memorial crosses.

Five years later, he says, he decided to remember their sacrifice by marking their graves with small Confederate flags.

Over time, that act of family devotion expanded to include the burial places of other Southern soldiers. Soon Thomas was planting some 200 flags twice each year in a ritual that cost him hundreds of dollars.

Not long after joining the Isle of Wight camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in 2008, he took on the added task of restoring the soldiers' cast-iron crosses.

"Whenever I put out the flags, I saw the way they looked -- and it really upset me," Thomas said.

"Some of the crosses at St. John's looked like they hadn't been kept up for 50 years."

Even that diligence may not be enough, however, for a man whose reverence for the fallen now takes him as far as Old Blandford Church in Petersburg, where more than 20,000 Confederate graves inspired one of the first Memorial Day observances in 1866.

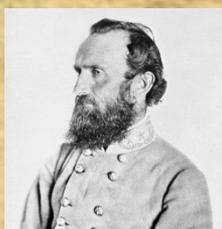
"I'm very serious about this," he says, looking out over the crosses at St. John's.

"I'm going to come back and clean off every single tombstone, too."

<http://tinyurl.com/cnbsgp>

Moon Behind Mystery of Stonewall Jackson's Death

Clara Moskowitz Space.com new york city, ny May 1, 2013



Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson is shown here in a photograph historians date to April 1863, just a few weeks before the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Thanks to astronomy, the 19th-century mystery surrounding the death of Confederate general "Stonewall" Jackson during the Civil War may finally be solved.

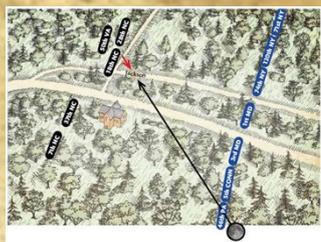
Lieutenant General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson was a major figure in the Civil War, second in command to Confederate general Robert E. Lee, when he was shot by friendly fire during the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863. Shortly after that battle in northeastern Virginia,

Jackson died of his wounds, leaving the Confederate army without one of its boldest military strategists just two months before the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg.

(Continued Next Page)

Moon and Jackson (Continued): But exactly how Jackson's own troops could have mistaken him for the enemy has been unexplained until now.

Famous 'flank attack': Firsthand accounts of the Chancellorsville battle describe how Jackson kept his troops fighting into the night — a rarity at the time. That same day he had accomplished a major victory, squashing the Union's Twelfth Corps in a famous "flank attack." When the sun set that night and the sky darkened, Jackson pressed on, continuing the fighting by moonlight. It was then that a Confederate officer on the left wing of the 18th North Carolina regiment spotted Jackson and a group of riders coming toward him.



This map shows the positions of the Union and Confederate troops on the night of the Battle of Chancellorsville, when Jackson was shot by friendly fire. *Sky & Telescope Magazine*

Mistaking his commander for advancing enemies, Major John Barry ordered his troops to fire. Jackson was hit with bullets in his right wrist and left arm, which had to be amputated, and died of complications from pneumonia eight days later.

His death has been described as a blow of bad luck, and Barry reportedly "felt extreme guilt over giving the command to fire," according to historian James Gillispie's book "*Cape Fear Confederates*" (McFarland, 2012).

But now, astronomers say they know why Barry couldn't identify his commander — it's all because of the moon. Astronomer Don Olson of Texas State University and Laurie E. Jasinski, a researcher and editor at the Texas State Historical Association, report their findings in the May 2013 issue of *Sky & Telescope* magazine.

"I remembered reading long ago that Stonewall Jackson was wounded by 'friendly fire' and that it happened at night," Olson told *SPACE.com* in an email. Olson decided to pursue the mystery on the occasion of the battle's 150th anniversary.

Olson and Jasinski calculated the moon's position and the lunar phase using astronomical software, and figured out exactly where Jackson's party, as well as the 18th North Carolina regiment, would have been at the time of the shooting, around 9 p.m. that night. They used Confederate almanacs in Richmond at the Virginia Historical Society, as well as battle maps by Robert Krick, a military historian who is an expert on the Battle of Chancellorsville, Stonewall Jackson and the Civil War in Virginia.

"Once we calculated the compass direction of the moon and compared that to the detailed battle maps published by Robert Krick, it quickly became obvious how Stonewall Jackson would have been seen as a dark silhouette, from the point of view of the 18th North Carolina regiment," Olson said.

Historical mysteries: Olson has used astronomy to solve other historical whodunits before. For example, he calculated the direction of moonlight on the night of Paul Revere's ride in 1775 to explain why Revere wasn't spotted by British sentries on a nearby ship, and exposed how moonlight allowed soldiers on the Japanese I-58 submarine to see, and sink, the USS *Indianapolis* in 1945.

"We are always interested in any historical event that happened at night — very often, the moon plays an important role, as happened here," Olson said.

This latest discovery may help restore the reputation of Barry and the 18th North Carolina regiment, which "unfortunately became famous and best known for accidentally wounding Stonewall Jackson," Gillispie wrote.

Jackson's death was mourned not just by his troops and fellow generals, but by the civilian public in the South. He is still regarded as one of the greatest military tacticians in U.S. history, and he earned his famous nickname for leading his troops to stand against attackers like a stone wall.

Without a trick of the moonlight on that fateful night, Jackson may not have died, and historians debate whether the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg, or even the whole Civil War, would have been different.

<http://tinyurl.com/bv1r2r8>

GSU archaeologists begin Camp Lawton preservation project

Staff Reports *Statesboro Herald* Statesboro, GA May 3, 2013

Georgia Southern University archaeologists will begin a major conservation project to identify and conserve 150-year-old metal artifacts found at Camp Lawton, a Confederate Prisoner of War camp located at what is now Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen. The project is the next step in preparation for the opening of a planned History Center at the park.

As part of the project, Georgia Southern archaeologists will X-ray recovered artifacts to determine whether solid metal remains inside visible corrosion. In a unique partnership, the team will work with Gary Edwards and the staff at Gateway Animal Hospital of Statesboro, who are donating their time and equipment to X-ray the artifacts before conservation is attempted.

"Some of the artifacts that we have discovered are extremely corroded, which is making it difficult to identify what they are. The X-ray will enable us to clearly identify the shape of the artifact if the metal has not totally corroded away," said Matt Newberry, a Georgia Southern graduate student working on the Camp Lawton project team.

(Continued Next Page)

Camp Lawton (Continued): In the fall of 2009, Georgia Southern, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, began researching Camp Lawton, which was originally constructed in 1864 to alleviate overcrowding at Andersonville Prison. Once constructed and opened, Camp Lawton became the world's largest prison and housed more than 10,000 Union POWs.

The ongoing excavation of archaeological sites is the first step in the research process. Once artifacts are recovered, especially metal, they are treated to preserve them before they are put on display. Georgia Southern archaeologists are using a variety of conservation methods to treat and preserve artifacts from Camp Lawton, ranging from mild mechanical removal of surface rust to in-depth chemical treatments.

When metal artifacts are buried in the ground, they begin to corrode in the soil and will eventually reach a state of equilibrium with the water and mineral content of their new environment. After 150 years, when the artifacts have been excavated, they suddenly have an entirely different environment to react to. This causes further damage if not addressed in a timely manner.

"It is important that we work to conserve these artifacts so that they can help tell the story of Camp Lawton to future generations," said Lance Greene, an assistant professor of anthropology in Georgia Southern's Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

The first step in artifact conservation involves soaking the artifacts in distilled water which removes the accumulated salts.

Next, any loose or disfiguring corrosion on the surface of the artifact is carefully removed. This can be delicately and slowly achieved with small hand tools if the artifact is especially fragile. Alternatively, electrolysis may be used to remove corrosion from artifacts that are solid enough to withstand the process. Electrolysis involves using an electrical current moving through a solution to stabilize corroded metals and remove accumulated rust.

After the cleaning is completed, artifacts are sealed against further environmental damage and ready for display in a climate-controlled museum setting.

"Once the conservation process is completed, the Camp Lawton artifacts will be stable and ready for permanent display in the new History Center," Greene said.

<http://tinyurl.com/czyzta7>

South Dakota Man Defends Confederate Flag

Kevin Woster *Rapid City Journal* Rapid City, SD May 5, 2013

Don Balyeat is going classroom to classroom, club to club in defense of the Confederate flag. He's not defending the hate. He's defending the history.



Don Balyeat is a Civil War historian who believes the history of the Confederate battle flag should remain in the context of the four years it was used as the battle flag for the Confederate states. The racism associated today with the flag was created by the Ku Klux Klan's later adoption of it, Balyeat said.

It's a challenging labor of love for the 73-year-old Sturgis-area resident, a retired AAA manager and self-made historian on the Civil War. He travels to schools and local history groups clarifying what he considers to be misconceptions about the familiar-and-controversial Confederate battle flag.

It is much more, Balyeat contends, than a symbol of prejudice and racial division, although he admits that it has often been used as such. "It is not a hate flag. It is a piece of history that cannot be lost," Balyeat said. "Should we hate the flag because it's carried by racist people?"

That question is being debated these days in western South Dakota, far from the traditional battlegrounds of the Confederate flag conflict in states farther south. A dispute over an historical flag display in a building at the VA Medical Center in Hot Springs has turned a formerly distant issue into an up-close topic of debate across the Black Hills region.

In a clumsy sequence of events, officials for the VA Black Hills Health System lead by Director Steve DiStasio took down Confederate flags after two African-American veterans complained that they were symbols of racism. But VA officials put the flags back up about a week later, after the men left a treatment program at Hot Springs for their homes in Colorado and Nebraska.

The response that followed included a call from South Dakota Sen. Tim Johnson for removal of the flags and a backlash that reached VA officials from the Black Hills to Washington, D.C.

Last week a regional director for the VA, Janet Murphy, stepped in and had the flags removed again. The removal included three Confederate flags. One was the well-known Confederate battle flag, which has a St. Andrew's cross with two blue bars containing white stars crisscrossed over a red background. Another flag was white with the Confederate battle flag in a corner.

And a third Confederate flag known as the Stars and Bars resembles U.S. flags of the time, but with fewer stars and stripes.

That Confederate battle flag was designed to be easily distinguished from the U.S. flag during battle.

(Continued Next Page)

Flag (Continued): It was carried by Confederate forces during the Civil War. Its place in history for that is clear.

But the flag has since become a symbol of Southern pride to some, citizen resistance to federal control to others and racial bigotry to individuals or groups promoting such division. All that, however, should be secondary to the flag's rightful place in history, Balyeat said.

He contends that DiStasio was right to put the flags back up in the historical display in the rotunda of the main building of the VA Medical Center in Hot Springs. DiStasio said at the time that the flags, given as a gift to the center by a Rapid City service club in 1995, were there as symbols of history and respect for all American veterans.

Balyeat said that's how they should be seen. The flags were not out of place in Hot Springs because Confederate Civil War veterans ended up in the Black Hills in mining camps or serving with the federal troops they might have fought against in the war, he said.

Honoring Confederate veterans doesn't affirm support for segregation or racism, but rather acknowledges history, he said. "Steve DiStasio did the right thing. Should we go to the Smithsonian and tell them to take the Confederate flag down?" Balyeat said. "Should that flag fly over the post office? No. But should it fly in an historic setting? The answer is 'yes.'" The answer was "no," however, according to the VA.

And the removal of the flag has been supported by Johnson, a Democrat, and South Dakota Rep. Kristi Noem, a Republican. The third member of the state's congressional Delegation, Republican Sen. John Thune, has declined to say whether the flag should have been removed. But he did say the VA is best equipped to make decisions affecting the environment where veterans seek treatment.

Rob Campbell, a history professor at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, said it didn't make sense to have the Confederate flags in the Hot Springs VA. VA officials said they were not aware of any other VA facility in the network overseen by Janet Murphy — which includes all or parts of 10 states — that displayed Confederate flags.

Campbell said he's not a Civil War historian and doesn't pretend to be an expert on veterans affairs. But he does point out that Confederate veterans in the Civil War were "fighting against the United States." That puts them in a different category of veterans, he said.

As for the VA display, he disputes the notion that it was historically appropriate and believes it was "shameful" for the VA to present them as they did in an area called the "Freedom Shrine." "Those flags were not in something I would consider to be an historical display," he said. "I would imagine an historical display to be in a glass case or something. Those, to me, just looked like the VA was flying the Confederate flag. And I certainly would not ever imagine the Confederate flag flying in something called a Freedom Shrine."

Craig DeMouchette of Denver, one of the veterans who originally spoke out against the Confederate flags at the VA in Hot Springs, said he understood the argument about the historical value of the flag. But DeMouchette says the VA complex is not the proper setting. "I can see that flag in a museum," he said. "I can't see it at a VA center."

Balyeat appreciates those arguments, particularly when they are made by African-Americans hurt by instances where the flag was misused or who had ancestors who were victimized by prejudice and hate. "I can understand it, how you must feel if your ancestors suffered and it was connected to that flag," he said. "But the flag didn't do it. It was people who did it."

Balyeat will continue to make that argument at schools and clubs. He'll point out the difference between the battle flag, which so many know, and the official flags of the Confederacy. He'll continue to work with the Civil War Trust, a national non-profit based in Maryland and Washington, D.C., committed to the preservation of Civil War battlefields and history.

He'll point out that Congress made gestures of reconciliation to Confederate veterans over the years. And he'll encourage all those he meets, but especially young people, to see the controversial flag as a valuable part of history rather than simply a symbol of division and hate. "History should not be confused with ignorance," Balyeat said. "We need to introduce this new generation that has not been introduced to the hate what the real story of that flag is."

<http://tinyurl.com/ctlkj5>

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.



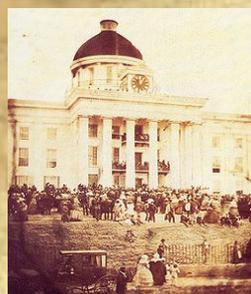
Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us the undeniable birthright of our Southern Heritage and the vision, desire, and courage to see it perpetuated.

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

We are not fighting for slavery. We are fighting for Independence."
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