



THE REBEL ROUSER

Newsletter for the DCV – Dallas Chapter

October 2007

21 SEPTEMBER 2007

The meeting opened with an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag, Salute to the Confederate Flag, and Pledge to the Texas Flag. Members and guests recognized the states their Confederate ancestors served from.

Ralph Green presented a reading of mostly amusing selections from his soon-to-be-released *Sidelights and Lighter Sides of the War Between the States*.

Door prizes were awarded.

The meeting ended with a benediction.

**SEE LIFE AS IT WAS DURING
THE SOUTHERN BID FOR INDEPENDENCE**

**BATTLE REENACTMENT
RAID ON CAMP FORD
OCTOBER 19-21, 2008**

Visit 1863 period Confederate and Federal military camps complete with infantry, artillery, and cavalry, as well as a period civilian camp. . Shop at period sutlers. Enjoy period music by the Heritage Brass Band. You'll enjoy your visit: PERIOD!

Modern food concessions. **Admission: FREE!**
Parking: \$5/car (\$10 valet parking), handicap parking available).

This reenactment will be held on a beautiful farm. From Dallas, drive east on I-20. Just west of Tyler turn south on Hwy 110 for 2 miles. There will be signs on the right. A portion of proceeds will benefit the preservation efforts for historic Camp Ford.

OUR NEXT MEETING JOINT DCV/MOS&B MEETING

West Point, the US Military Academy, provided many leaders to both sides during the War Between the States. How has the passage of almost 150 years affected the curriculum there? Come to our meeting on **Friday, October 19**, and find out! **Larry Johnson** will present "*Lessons Learned*", a discussion of what West Point teaches today concerning the War Between the States.

Larry, President of the Dallas DCV Chapter, has been so active that he needs no introduction to our members. A resident of Mesquite, he has long been interested in historical activities. One aspect of his interest is in musical history. He is the leader of the Heritage Brass Band. In addition to presenting period music he also appears with his band playing WW II music.

Our meeting will be called to order at 6:30 PM in the Highland Park Cafeteria in Casa Linda Shopping Center located at Buckner Blvd. and Garland Road. Visitors are always welcome, so come and bring some!

A LINCOLN QUOTE I CAN AGREE WITH

"Congressmen who willfully take actions during wartime that damage morale, and undermine the military are saboteurs and should be arrested, exiled or hanged."

- Abraham Lincoln

FRIENDS IN ILL HEALTH

Let's all take a moment to remember and pray for our fellows who are suffering ill health :

- Steve Price
- Ray Satterfield
- Vin Vinson

DIXIE BETRAYED: How the South Really Lost the Civil War, by David J. Eicher: University of Nebraska Press; 338 pages; \$17.95.

Rather than providing details of battles the author describes the power struggles and inner workings of the Confederacy and its leaders. His basic theme is that stubborn insistence on strong states' rights was the downfall of the Confederacy, i.e., it prevented establishment of a government strong enough to coordinate its assets and strengths to ensure its success. The central government could not effectively assert itself over the individual states. President Davis never had the authority he desired and in many cases needed. With many state governors opposing Davis on control of state militia and supplies, his authority only extended to the central government's military. The army was plagued with Davis' interference, including placing friends in powerful positions, ignoring any chain of command, and micromanaging military operations. In addition to problems with governors, Davis faced strong opposition within the Confederate Congress and even from his vice president. Confederate legislators not only fought Davis, they also fought each other, often physically. Political conspiracy, discord, and backstabbing were common, even among army officers. In short, disarray was rampant. This is clear and compelling, easy reading without romanticism. However, the reader should recognize that corresponding weaknesses, conditions, and actions were found in the North in the same period and the North still won. Whether or not one agrees with the author's conclusions, this is an engaging examination of the Southern nation and its problems. It's interesting, so read it for the facts!

HAD A TIGHT SCHEDULE

A party of Arkansas soldiers, after arriving at Liberty on the Tennessee Railroad, arrested the conductor and put him under guard. They swore most solemnly that if he failed to make the connection at Bristol, they would kill him and all connected with the train. The conductor was allowed to telegraph for an extra engine, by the aid of which he succeeded in making the connection, thereby releasing himself from custody.

PRETTY WOMAN

Hetty Cary was one of three cousins known as "the prettiest women in Virginia." Once as a Federal regiment marched past her Baltimore residence, she waved a Confederate flag from her window. The regiment's colonel declined to arrest her, saying, "She is beautiful enough to do as she damned pleases."

THE UNKNOWN U.S. "PRESIDENT"

Who was the President of the United States on March 4, 1849? James K. Polk left office on March 3, 1849. Zachary Taylor assumed office as President March 5, 1849. On a statue in Kansas City, Missouri, an inscription reads, "David Rice Atchison, 1807-1886, President of the U.S. [for] one day." The day of President Atchison's presumed presidency occurred on March 4, 1849. Until the 1930s, presidential and congressional terms began at noon on March 4. In 1849, that date fell on a Sunday, causing President Zachary Taylor to delay his inauguration until the next day. This raises the question of who was president from noon of March 4 to noon of March 5. In 1849, the Senate president pro tempore immediately followed the vice president in line of presidential succession. To ensure that there was a president pro tempore in office during adjournment periods, the vice president customarily left the Senate chamber in an annual session's final days so that the Senate could elect this constitutional officer. Accordingly, the Senate duly elected Atchison on March 2, 1849. The expiration of the outgoing president's and vice president's terms at noon on March 4 was the basis for Atchison's claim to a one-day presidency. For the rest of his life, Atchison enjoyed polishing this story, describing his "presidency" as "the honestest administration this country ever had."

GOOD BET

In 1864, after a lady in Berkshire, New York, presented her husband with their twenty-first child, the newspaper reporting the incident commented, "The babies are all living, but the father is almost caved in."

IF YOU PLEASE, KIND SIR

The following letter to a Confederate general accomplished its aim, a furlough for a soldier. (The newspaper reporting the letter changed the names but not the spelling.)

"August 31 1864.

to mr general W--.

kinde sir i want you if you Please to grant mr Private john Smith A thirty days furlow if you Please to do so Being that me And him is Promis to be married next month. i have no Mother for she is Dead my father dide in service And the yankees has taken All the brother i have got and I have got some bisness to sea to next month i will tell you what kind of bisness it is when my father dide he left me some things that he wanted me to have And i can git him to git them for me And being that me And Him is Promist to be married at that Present time it will sute me Better than enny other time. i want you if you Please to grant Him A thirty days furlow if you Please as soon As you Can he is station at--. if you will grant mr Private John Smith. A thirty days furlow you will oblige very much that is if you will grant him A thirty days furlow to go home to git married Very Respectful. jane A jones."

A DARING SPEAKER

In August, 1864, at Cooper Institute in New York City, Lindley Spring delivered an address on "Peace and Reconciliation" to a very small audience, including a sprinkling of ladies, and boys. The address consisted mainly of vituperation and personal abuse of the soldiers of the North fighting for the Union. Spring characterized the war as illegal, unjust and disgraceful. The South was held up as a much-abused people certain to secure their independence. In his coarser and more unfeeling allusions to the North he was loudly applauded.

BLACKS HONORED FORREST

During the last year of the War black members of the Methodist congregation at Uniontown, Alabama, contributed one thousand dollars to the Association for the Relief of Maimed Soldiers. When they were informed that the contribution of this amount entitled them to name a life director, they selected General Nathan Bedford Forrest for that honor.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE

In 1862, a man from East Point, Georgia, volunteered and went to Virginia in the army. About a year later, his wife was informed that her husband was killed. She proceeded to Virginia and brought home the remains and interred them in her garden. After a widowhood of seven or eight months, she married another man with whom she lived happily until the sudden arrival of her first husband. He had been taken prisoner instead of being killed. A few days after the man's singular reappearance, a lady arrived from Virginia and claimed the corpse buried in the garden as that of her husband, who bore the same name as the "resurrected" hero. It seems that both were in the same regiment, and instead of the one being killed and the other taken prisoner, it was just the opposite.

CHANGE OF HEART

The outrageous conduct of the Federal army converted many Unionists into Secessionists. Federals robbed Unionists and Secessionists indiscriminately, altering the political sentiments of the former and purged them of their Unionism.

A Presbyterian elder at Cleveland, Tennessee, noted for his disloyalty to the South, anticipated protection to his person and property from the Yankees and was elated by their coming. His joy was of short duration. In spite of his protestations of loyalty, the Yankee robbers impoverished him by stripping his dwelling, barns, etc. They laughed at his professions of Unionism and continued their plundering. He was so outraged that it is said he forgot his religion and heaped curses upon them, and became a good Southern man. Another Union man and his wife had been long remonstrating with a "rebel" son for joining the Confederate army. They had unsuccessfully attempted to persuade him to leave it. When their home was pillaged, they were cured of their devotion to "the glorious Union and the old flag," The old woman told her Yankee friends that she had been trying to get her son out of the "Rebel Army," but now she wanted him to stay in it and kill as many Yankees as he could.

The Rebel Rouser

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Dallas Chapter

Descendants of Confederate Veterans

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Editor – Ralph Green

OUR SOUTHRON SUPPORTERS

The following have donated \$10 or more to assist with the expenses of the Dallas Chapter, including printing and distribution of the newsletter:

Ron Aldis	Joseph D. Knight, Jr.
Mrs. D.Harold Byrd	Rodney G. Orr
George Church	George Pittard
Dan Coit	Bobby Rutherford
E.Murfee Gewin	Ed Smith
Ralph Green	Vin Vinson
Doug Guthrie	Charles Walker
Carlos Hedstrom	David Whitaker

A FAMILY TREASURE

While reading the *Rebel Rouser*, an Alabama man was reminded of a family treasure. A detachment foraging for Gen Wheeler's calvary came to his family's plantation in Montgomery County, AL, and confiscated feed for their horses. All the adult men were in the army but the women were given a document signed by a captain in Wheeler's Calvary stating they would be paid for the supplies. They never were paid, and probably never expected to be. In any case that document is an interesting tidbit kept all these years, a relic of the War of Northern Aggression.

A CLEAR VIEW FROM ABROAD

“The Northern onslaught upon slavery is no more than a piece of specious humbug designed to conceal its desire for economic control of the Southern States.”

- Charles Dickens, 1861

A PRAYER IN MEMPHIS

from the *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, July 30, 1862

Tom, the preacher at the African church in Memphis, delivered the following prayer in June, 1862. It is presumed the Yankee provost guard were not present.

O, Lord, hab mercy on us all ! Bless our land and country. Grants us rain, that we hab good crops, and blessed with plenty in this time of trouble. Children. They have been kind and good to us; bless them in these troublesome times. O, Lord, bless massa Jeff. Davis! O, Lord, bless our army and our brave soldiers, that are fighting the battle of our country against our enemies that are invading our happy country. O, Lord, give them success! O, Lord, bless our sick and wounded soldiers, and grant that they may be restored to health, and enabled to go and join their brothers in fighting the battles of our country against our enemies — Bless us all as thou seest we need, and take care of us, and save us, is my prayer. Amen.

RELATIVELY UNKNOWN

Union General Irvin McDowell had a sister residing in Memphis, Mrs. B.A. Massey. Both she and her husband were known as strong Southern supporters. McDowell wrote a letter to his sister sometime after the occupation of Memphis, and gave it to General Grant, with the request that he should deliver it in person. Accordingly, Grant visited the residence of Mrs. Massey on this mission. After introducing himself and conversing with her a few minutes, observing that no doubt his room was preferred to his company, he rose from his seat with the view of completing his mission and leaving. "I have, madam," he said, "a letter from your brother, General McDowell, which he requested me to hand you." He pulled the document from his pocket and proffered it to Mrs. Massey. "I beg your pardon, General," she coolly and dispassionately replied, "I once had a brother, Irvin McDowell, but I have never known the General." She then bowed rigidly polite to Grant. He returned the unaccepted epistle to his pocket, and soon found his way back to headquarters.