



THE REBEL ROUSER

February 2009

OUR NEXT PROGRAM



HE HAS EARNED OUR COMMENDATION

A black state senator in South Carolina has pushed a bill that would require South Carolina cities and counties to give their workers a paid day off for Confederate Memorial Day or lose millions in state funds. Democratic Sen. Robert Ford's bill won initial approval from a Senate subcommittee. It would force county and municipal governments to follow the schedule of holidays used by the state, which gives workers 12 paid days off, including May 10 to honor Confederate war dead. Years ago, Ford pushed a bill to make both that day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day paid holidays. He considered it an effort to help people understand the history of both the civil rights movement and the Confederacy. "Every municipality and every citizen of South Carolina, should be, well, forced to respect these two days and learn what they can about those two particular parts of our history," Ford said. Betraying his ignorance of history, Lonnie Randolph, president of the state conference of NAACP branches, objected to that reasoning, saying "Here Senator Ford is talking about the importance of race relations by forcing recognition of people who did everything they could to destroy another race — particularly those that look like I do." Before the subcommittee sent the bill forward to the full Senate Judiciary Committee for debate, Ford rebutted Randolph, saying "The good outweighs any kind of rationale you can come up with." To send your thanks/commendation to Senator Robert Ford for his stance you may contact him as follows:

P.O.Box 21302, Charleston, SC 29413
or 506 Gressette Bldg., Columbia, SC 29201
E-Mail: RIF@scsenate.org

HOLIDAY THOUGHT

Wasn't it thoughtful of the Federal government to observe Robert E. Lee's birthday, January 19, as a national holiday?

Field Music had a military purpose and it wasn't entertainment. In February members of the Heritage Brass Band, led by Dallas Chapter President Larry Johnson, will present a program on field music. They will play the various calls and beats that regulated the soldier's lives. This is a rare opportunity to hear the complete daily duty from Reveille to Tattoo performed live. The Heritage Brass Band is a volunteer reenactment band and plays period music dressed in authentic uniforms. Much in demand, the Band has performed for dances, ceremonies, reenactments, living histories, funerals, parades, and movie premiers. Appearances have included Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Livingston, Corsicana, Gainesville, Denison, Waco, Hillsboro, Old Fort Concho, and Old Fort Belknap. The Band regularly appears at the Texas State Railroad in Palestine, and often marches in the Fort Worth Stock Show Parade.

In addition to our program, the Chapter will elect and install officers for calendar year 2009.

Our meeting will be called to order at **6:30PM** on **Friday, 20 February 2009**, in the **Highland Park Cafeteria** in **Casa Linda Shopping Center** at **Garland Road and Buckner Blvd.** You don't want to miss this program. Be there and bring friends!

Some mornings your editor's wife wakes up Grumpy. Other mornings she lets him sleep!

16 JANUARY 2009

January was a bad month for our members, based on the number who did not attend due to sickness and accidents. Due to the lack of a quorum, the election of chapter officers for 2009 was delayed til February.

Our meeting opened with an invocation, Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag and the Texas Flag and the Salute to the Confederate Flag.

With no business to be transacted we went directly to our program. Tony Sinclair, assisted by his friend Robert Brazier, presented a program on the life and character of Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Following the program, there was a drawing for door prizes before the meeting ended with a benediction.

NOT FORGOTTEN, JUST UNMENTIONED

In November 1864 Union ships intercepted a cotton-laden ship off the coast of Texas. The ship had delivered guns to Texas in exchange for the cotton. One of the ship's owners was William Sprague, sitting US Senator from Rhode Island. A former governor of Rhode Island, Sprague was the son-in-law of Salmon Chase, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court. Chase urged Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to suppress news of the incident. Always willing to bend the rules of honesty and legality, Stanton "sanitized" the War Department files, leaving no official record that the cotton-carrying Yankee ship had ever existed. When a political rival of Sprague described the event in 1870, the major newspapers swept the scandal under the rug, telling their readers the focus should be on punishing the South, not impugning Northern heroes.

PRIOR TO PICKETT'S CHARGE

Longstreet's comment to Robert E. Lee :

"General Lee, I have been a soldier all my life. I have been with soldiers engaged in fights by couples, by squads, companies, regiments, divisions, and armies, and should know as well as anyone what soldiers can do. It is my opinion that no fifteen thousand men ever arrayed for battle can take that position."

WARRED ON CIVILIANS

The Union warred on the civilian population of every Southern state. The first Southern town burned to the ground by the invaders was Winton, North Carolina on February 19, 1862. One member of the 9th New York Zouaves, the culprits, wrote "court houses, churches, beautifully furnished dwellings with velvet carpets, pianos, etc., all sharing the same fate, and you may be sure that we gave it a pretty good ransacking while the flames were doing their work." On October 7, 1864, General Philip Sheridan reported, "I have destroyed over 2,000 barns.....over 70 mills, over 4,000 heas of stock and have killed and issued to the troops not less than 3,000 sheep. The destruction embraces the Luray Valley and Little Fort Valley." After reading the report Abraham Lincoln sent Sheridan a letter of commendation, "With good pleasure I tend to you and your brave army the thanks of the nation and my own personal admiration and gratitude for the month's operations in the Shenandoah Valley." At about the same time, General William T. Sherman began his campaign against the civilians of Georgia and South Carolina, including the burning of Atlanta and Columbia. One of Sherman's generals, Alpheus Williams protested the depravity of Sherman's actions, "The houses of this vicinity, of free negroes even, have been stripped of the necessary bedclothes and of family apparel. These infamous practices are disgraceful to our arms and shocking to humanity." Williams' protests fell on deaf ears. The Yankees continued their depredations to the end of the War. In April 1865, with the end of the War in sight, they burned the University of Alabama to the ground, including the thousands of books in the University's library.

GENERAL-LY POOR CHOICES

Nearly half the Union army were immigrants who were promised US citizenship for fighting Confederates: 216,000 Germans, 200,000 Irish, 90,000 Dutch, and 20,000 Scandinavians. Desperate for officers speaking the language of these foreigners Lincoln made that about the only requirement for high ranking commissions. On that basis he appointed as generals Prussians August von Willich (a Communist friend of Karl Marx) and Alexander Schimmelfennig and Germans Louis Blenker and Franz Sigel. Of these, none were competent leaders.

A REAL WILDERNESS

During Grant's Wilderness Campaign, the dreary and dismal woods, dense undergrowth, sluggish streams, and luxuriant and tangled vines made many places almost inaccessible. The troops on both sides were disgusted with their surroundings. A Union artillerist commented, "The fighting was simply bushwhacking on a grand scale, in brush where all formation was soon lost, and such a thing as a consistent line of battle on either side was impossible." Picket lines were unintentionally commingled. A captured member of the 5th Texas was asked what he thought of the battle. His reply was, "Battle be damned! It ain't no battle. It's a worse riot than Chickamauga was. At Chickamauga there was at least a rear, but here there ain't neither front nor rear. It's all a damned mess! And our two armies ain't nothing but howlin' mobs!" When the two armies finally worked their way through to the more open area around Spotsylvania, a Union band struck up a popular camp meeting air. When everyone began to laugh, US Grant asked what the joke was. An aide informed him, "They are playing '*Ain't I glad to get out ob de wilderness!*'" Grant commented, "Well with me a musical joke must always be explained. I only know two tunes. One is *Yankee Doodle* and the other ain't!"

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Van Perryman, recent transferee to our Dallas chapter, was called to active duty and sent on Operation Border Star. This was shortly after buying a new home. He expects to be on active duty until August, at which time he will return and take an active part in our organizations. His new address and telephone numbers are:

2013 Times Road 972/552-1808 (res)
Heartland, TX 75126 972/342-1164 (cell)

Our prayers and best wishes go to Compatriot Perryman and the soldiers with whom he serves.

CONFEDERATE CALENDAR

Some of our readers have inquired about 2009 Confederate Calendars. We regret to inform you that after thirty-plus years, Larry Jones, publisher and originator of the Confederate Calendar Works, has retired to work on a book about nineteenth century Texas photography. His calendars have always been informative and attractive and now they are history in more than one way. We certainly wish him well in his new endeavor.

THE REBEL ROUSER

Monthly Publication of

Descendants of Confederate Veterans

&

Lone Star Chapter, MOS&B

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Editor – Ralph Green

SHOWED GOOD MANNERS

On March 8, 1861, at Charleston, SC, a Confederate cannon was accidentally fired. As a result, a cannonball hit the wharf at Fort Sumter. The Confederate gun commander rowed out to the fort. There he profusely apologized to the US Army, explaining that he did not know the cannon was loaded.

FRONTLINE CO-OPERATION

With a battle anticipated in late 1863, pickets of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac kept watch on each other across the Potomac River, a mere creek at that point, ignoring each other to the best of their abilities. On one bitterly cold morning, a sheep strayed along the water on the Confederate side. Instantly a shot rang out, killing the animal, and the Southern shooter sprang forward to claim his prize. A Yankee called out, "Divide is the word, or you are a dead Johnnie." Seeing the logic in the words of the man aiming a rifle at him, the Rebel agreed and began to skin and clean the animal as pickets from both sides looked on. When finished, he took half the carcass and returned to his post. In an instant, his Yankee "partner" dropped his weapon, crossed the creek, claimed his portion, and retraced his steps to the cheers of his fellow Yankees. Everybody then resumed keeping an eye on each other, in case the higher authorities decided to resume the war.

CHANCELLORSVILLE

At Chancellorsville, Stonewall Jackson had surprised the enemy and driven them to entrench their position. After consulting with Lee, Jackson ordered his men forward. With a terrifying rebel yell, his men ripped into the Federals and sent them fleeing. When a Confederate officer commented to Jackson, "They are running too fast for us. We can't keep up with them!", Jackson replied, "They never run too fast for me. Press them, press them."

DCV CONVENTION

The 2009 Convention of the DCV will be held February 20-21, 2009, in the **Fredericksburg Inn and Hotel Suites** at Fredericksburg, TX.

The rate is **\$89** per night. The hotel has our listing as "Society of Descendants of Confederate Veterans." The hotel's location and telephone number:

201 S. WASHINGTON
FREDERICKSBURG, TX. 78624

1.830.997.0202

1.800.446.0202

Meetings will be held in the Nimitz Pacific Museum conference room.

REGISTRATION FOR CONVENTION

NAME _____

CHAPTER _____

GUESTS _____

GUESTS HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION _____

REGISTRATION FEE, \$5.00 (member only)

Mail Registration to Randy Jones or Terry Ayers
Randy Jones (804 Lakeway Dr., Ennis, Tx., 75119)
Terry Ayers (1016 Greenbrook Pkwy
Pflugerville, Tx. 78660)

A LONG MEMORY

On her first visit to the White House the former Martha Ellen Young exclaimed with wonder as she was escorted through the mansion. Guided to a bedroom, she was informed she would have the honor of sleeping in the bed Abraham Lincoln had slept in. She exploded, "No sir! Not on your life! I wouldn't be caught dead in that thing! Her son, President Harry S, Truman, then led her to another bedroom. At the age of twelve Truman's mother had been forced by Union troops to leave her Missouri home, an act she never forgot nor forgave.

LANDSLIDE LINCOLN

<u>1860 Candidate</u>	<u>%Popular Vote</u>
Abraham Lincoln	40
Stephen Douglas	30
John C. Breckinridge	18
John Bell	12

Lincoln carried no Southern state.

OUR SOUTHRON SUPPORTERS

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

David Allison
Owene Caruth
Dan Coit

Ralph Green
Carlos Hedstrom, Jr.
Houston DCV
Rodney G. Orr

Van Perryman
George Pittard
H.A. Prophet
Dan Shelby
Marshall Surratt
James A. Wild
John F. Wilson, Jr.

SO THAT'S WHERE.....

When a young woman and a male escort visited a military hospital, she asked a young patient where he was injured. "Sharpsburg." "Yes", she said, "but where were you injured?" "Sharpsburg." Still wondering as to his injury, the young lady turned to her escort for help. After consulting with the soldier, her escort told her, "My dear girl, the ball that hit him would have missed you."

WHAT THEY HEARD

Fearing the approach of General US Grant, some slaves in Vicksburg asked Union troops what they should do to appease him if he should approach them. They were told that if they would assemble and give him three cheers they would be safe. When Grant did appear, he found three of the best chairs available had been set out for him.

THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE!

Confederate cavalry leader Joseph Wheeler had 18 horses shot out from under him during the War.

SOUNDED REASONABLE

An officer spotted a private walking into camp with a large bulky object under his coat. In answer to the officer's questioning, the private said the object was a pig, acknowledged that while he knew it was illegal to take livestock from local farmers, he had killed one in self defense. He said he had been walking down the road when he found himself charged by a pig. With no other choice he had been forced to shoot it. The officer considered the matter, then dismissed the soldier after taking a portion of the pig as evidence to be examined later.