



THE REBEL ROUSER

December 2007

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COME TO OUR PARTY!

“THAT TIME OF THE YEAR” FOR THE DCV

Sorry, but we don't mean “HO, HO, HO”! DCV annual dues become payable on January 1. Members of the Dallas Chapter of the DCV are requested to send a check for **\$30**, payable to “**DCV**”, to Chapter Secretary Ralph Green at **530 Hackberry Drive, Fairview, TX 75069**.

GOOD NEWS FROM BEAUVOIR, 11/9/07

reported by Rick Forte, Director of Restoration, Beauvoir House and Grounds

The restoration is 60% completed. Funds from FEMA are responsible for the restoration, \$4 million for the house and grounds and outbuildings, and \$2 million for the Presidential Library. The main body of the house has been finished, support coming from the underlying columns which were replaced and strengthened with steel cores. The porch columns are in place. The steps have not been worked on yet.. The interiors are in the early stages of restoration, a considerable amount having escaped damage. Plaster work is commencing at this time. The Presidential Library was destroyed and will be rebuilt. It was not that old. Davis' personal Library, a structure separate from the main building will be reduplicated in time as well as some of the other outbuildings. The cemetery boundaries defused the storm surge so the cemetery was not damaged. The UDC Arch (1917) will be moved to the cemetery and the original arch at the street level will be reproduced. The circular drive will be restored. The restoration should be completed in time for a celebration the first week in June, 2008. Altogether a very successful undertaking in an astonishing time period.

IT DOES FIGURE!

The story is probably apocryphal that the creator of Murphy's Law lies under a headstone reading NURPHY.

Rather than a business meeting this month, our chapter will enjoy the hospitality of Chapter President Larry Johnson and his wife Sally who will host a Christmas Party at their home, **624 Green Canyon, Mesquite, TX 75150**. The date is **December 14**, and the starting time is **7PM**. This will be a splendid time to meet and chat with your fellow members. If you need transportation to the party, please call Ralph Green at **214/544-0750**. To help the Johnsons with the planning, or if you need directions, please call **972/226-8478**.

We look forward to being with you at the Johnson's. Please be with us!

P.S.: Ralph Green will have copies of his book *Sidelights and Lighter Sides of the War Between the States* if you wish to pick up your copy.

THE REAL FIRST THANKSGIVING

The first Thanksgiving actually happened in Virginia. Two years before the settlers landed on Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts, another group of settlers made their way across a grassy knoll to a place now known as Berkeley Plantation in Charles City, Virginia. Prior to their journey to the new land, the King of England told them “the day of the ship's arrival shall be yearly and perpetually kept as a day of thanksgiving.” The settlers arrived at the future site of Berkeley Plantation in Virginia on December 4, 1916. John Woodlief, their Captain, instructed them to drop to their knees in prayer, to thank God for their safe arrival to the new land, and in doing so, they celebrated the very first Thanksgiving. These settlers likely feasted on small meals of peas, cinnamon water, cornmeal cake, and ham.

**Comments of Colonel Risdén Tyler Bennett,
14th N C Infantry**

*Written 9 April 1900 for the official history of North
Carolina troops*

"There are days in the battle experience of courageous men when they are lifted up above their comrades and perform prodigies of valor -all authentic history contains such instances. Likewise battalions, regiments, and brigades now and then, accomplish feats of arms which surprise the very participants therein. When once a fighting force realizes that it is doing heroic work, the ordinary participant in it becomes heroic."

"While the corps of Lieutenant General Jackson was on the march from Fredericksburg to confront Hooker at Chancellorsville, General Jackson rode at full speed the entire length of his command, then at a rest with guns stacked in irregular order, without displacing a single piece. On that day and occasion his countenance beamed with transcendent force of expression. He looked the very incarnation of war. It may have been that God mercifully showed him to his command in the hour of his superlative greatness to comfort and inspire them. I remember, as if it were yesterday, the fierce gallop which brought him on, how his hat was carried in his right hand, his arm well extended, and how I said in thought it becomes me to maintain a reasonable gravity as this chieftain passes by; but as he burst with increasing swiftness through the head of the line my soul followed him in a very transport of applause. If I could then have felt as I feel now, looking back to the humiliations of defeat and the horrors of the peace that was to follow - if I could then have realized that old heroes have more cool determination than young ones; that old heroes are far removed from the early warmth of youth - they have more audacity because nearer death - what have they to lose? If I could then have realized all this and laid it to my heart, I might have lighted a spirit in my regiment which the blood of a dozen hostile battalions could not have put out. Alas! We cannot annihilate the past."

"The military history of civil wars is never an exhilarating study. Such wars necessarily begin in local struggles, determined by political or accidental circumstances, and regular campaigns, conforming to the higher principles of military arts, are possible only when the combatants have become organized and coherent bodies. The supreme issues raised in the tremendous conflict begun in 1861 are yet hotly debated."

"A great body of our citizens continues to resist the extravagant claim of power by the general government under color of the Constitution, born of the iron spirit of the war and nurtured by success in fighting it."

"I have always insisted that the troops from every state of the Confederacy were quite alike in courage and hardihood."

"Every officer evinced personal pride in the command and exerted a moral influence in its government, so that in the hour of battle they went forward conscious of dependence upon each other and with faith that the line would stand together as long as endurance was a duty."

"The orders of the commanding general for the government of the troops in the enemy's country, read at the dress parade of the regiments, are worthy of the best records and traditions of our race - in strong contrast with the orders of the Shermans, the Millroys, the Sheridans and other legalized brigands."

"No human intellect, no sterling, ardent soldier in our ranks or elsewhere will ever put on record an account of our men, their spirit, their temper, their deeds and their valor, which will equal in all respects the reality as it was."

"I record it with sore grief, little softened by the lapse of years, that Tisdale Stepp, of the Rough and Ready Guard, in the front rank, singing 'The Bonnie Blue Flag', was shot dead by an awkward soldier in our rear rank."

"When General Hunter threatened Lynchburg by his advance up the Valley, the Fourteenth Regiment was part of the troops detached to meet his incursion. The command made the campaign to Washington City under the astute, brave, capable, loyal and great Early. I was with him when fortune gave him victory, and with him when fortune betrayed his courage. I wish to show some measure of justice to this famous captain as I saw him and, as I remarked, his cunning as a strategist, his daring as a man, and his fortitude in defeat. No more faithful, greathearted, and unselfish citizen served our blessed cause in the four years spent in blood and agony in the honorable endeavors to preserve for, and transmit to, those who come after us the spirit of the Constitution of the United States in its integrity, unsoiled by greed or dishonoring circumstances, and to vouchsafe to mankind here

the inestimable liberty of local self-government. Maybe time and the spirit of philosophy, the sense of justice, and the progress of the human mind will bring thoughtful men to realize how true to constitutional principle the leaders in the Confederate movement were."

"The soldier who feels in his soul the presence of the Holy Spirit is not afraid of battle in its most hideous form."

"My memory connects the years before 1861 with those which have since elapsed, fraught with a succession of sorrow and joy. The noblest inheritance the South can cherish is the unmeasured nobility and unselfishness of those who led and those who fought the good fight for local self government. Though gods they were, as men they died.'

About Sheridan –

"I have seen the blood of old men upon their own doorways, murdered by the wretches he turned loose with the bridle off. Of these I carry in the folds of my memory the name and sad fate of an uncle above seventy years old, a Union man whom Sherman's followers shot to death on his own front steps without provocation.."

"I believe in my soul and upon my conscience that the crime of subjugating the people of the South and the enormous wrongs committed upon them in its consummation is the greatest crime of the last three centuries.

AT WARTIME CHATTANOOGA HOTEL

From 1862 *Chattanooga Rebel*

(Time, midnight.)

First Traveller, just arrived, to lucky traveller snugly ensconced in bed and not anxious for company. "Is this bed you're in occupied, stranger?"

Voice from beneath the quilts, "Yes, sir."

First Traveller--"How many in it?"

Second Traveller--"About 15,000, I reckon, from the way they "crawl!"

Exit first traveller with baggage.

UP TO THE JOB

On the eve of the Civil War, there were only about 20 female telegraphers in the US. By the end of the war, hundreds were serving on both sides.

FIGHTING FOR THE UNION

On Saturday, February 1, 1862, a Federal brought to Richmond as a prisoner, was interviewed through an interpreter because he didn't speak English. Wilhelm Earnest of the 45th Pennsylvania had been taken prisoner on the Potomac. Earnest said he had only been in the US for five months and had been deceived into joining the Federal Army.

NOT QUITE CORRECT LANGUAGE

Union General. McDowell gave his report on a battle by submitting Caesar's "Veni, Vidi, Vici" ("I came, I saw, I conquered"). Since Confederates had actually won the battle, a Southern editor suggested that McDowell should have reported "Veni, Vidi, Fugit." ("I came, I saw, I fled.")

SACRIFICED HIMSELF

C.H. Bennet, Adjutant of the Fifth Missouri, CSA, was captured by Captain Clayton of the First Kansas, USA. Captain Clayton told Bennet to order his men not to fire or he was a dead man", and commenced moving backward with his company, holding the Adjutant between himself and the Confederates. Instead of the expected command, Bennet ordered his men to open fire. They did so, and the Captain shot the Adjutant with his pistol. At the same moment a Sergeant of Capt. Clayton's company thrust his bayonet through the body of the Adjutant, pinning him to the ground and leaving his gun sticking in his body. The Captain then ordered his men to run for their lives, which they did.

AN UNUSUAL INFUSION OF TROOPS

In December of 1861 an entire Maryland regiment deserted the Union army; bringing with them their arms and equipments. The regiment was sent out on picket from Alexandria, and when they reached the front lines they hoisted the Confederate flag and marched into Centreville, Virginia.

DIFFERENT PROBLEM

Capt. Lynch, at Fort Pillow, exclaimed to an Irishman who was lifting a stick of timber rather slowly, "Up with it man, why, I could swallow it." The Irishman replied, "Well, cap'n, you could, but if you haven't a circular saw in your ___ it wouldn't pass."

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Dallas Chapter

Descendants of Confederate Veterans

530 Hackberry Drive, Fairview TX 75069

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	Marshall Surratt
Doug Guthrie	Vin Vinson
Evetts Haley, Jr.	Charles Walker
Carlos Hedstrom, Jr.	David Whitaker
John Wilson	

HAD HIS ATTENTION

The telegraph line between Memphis and Corinth was very important to the Federals. General Halleck's messages all passed over it. Although little of the line was guarded, for a brief period in 1862 the rebels refrained from cutting the wires. Their unusual amiability was finally explained; they found a better use for it! Ed Saville, a young Confederate, had cut the wire and inserted a piece of his own. By a pocket instrument he then read the Federal official dispatches. Some had been of the utmost importance, giving the very information most desired by the rebels. One from General Hovey in reply to a question from General Halleck, stated the precise number of available men in Memphis and their exact location.

HAD THEY BUT KNOWN

A grizzled veteran brushed aside compliments on the bravery of his unit for their valiant advance into extremely heavy enemy fire. He said that if they had known what they were walking into they would have turned around.

CHANGES AT HILL COLLEGE

Over thirty years ago ardent Confederate History author and historian Colonel Harold B. Simpson founded the Confederate Research Center at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas. The Research Center became well known even outside the US and grew into the Harold B. Simpson History Complex. Its original museum expanded into the current Texas Heritage Museum. One of Simpson's proudest achievements was the establishment of the annual Confederate History Symposium. The Symposium drew speakers and attendees from all over the country. Recently, director John Versluis has terminated the annual Confederate History Symposium, the Confederate Research Center, and the Board of Advisers for the Center. Despite no mention of Confederate references in the accreditation requirements for the Texas Heritage Museum, such requirements were given as the basis for his actions. Will the Blue and Gray Gallery be next to go?

UNCHANGING

Asked by Indiana troops as to whether she was "Secesh" or "Union", an old mountain woman replied, "Baptist, and always have been."

MEN OF THEIR WORD?

Four companies of Yankee prisoners who had taken the oath and entered Confederate service were sent into action in December, 1864. For some time after going to the front, the conduct of the command was generally good. They were several times under fire and were generally steady on duty. On or about December 15th they were encamped within about seven hundred yards of the enemy's outposts. Sherman sent a secret emissary, promising amnesty if they immediately joined him and great severity if they did not and fell into his hands. The battalion with a few exceptions immediately decided upon going over to the enemy.

LIMITED HIS GENEROSITY

When lecturing in New York on "Life among the Mormons." Artemus Ward sent complimentary tickets to newspaper editors, inviting them to come to his show and bring one wife.