



# THE REBEL ROUSER

*Newsletter for the DCV – Dallas Chapter*

*November 2007*

**19 OCTOBER 2007**

Our meeting opened with an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag, the Salute to the Confederate Flag, and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. Everyone then took the opportunity to honor his/her Confederate ancestor.

Announcements were made about the archaeological discoveries at Fort Mifflin, PA, and the reenactment in Tyler October 19-21.

Larry Johnson discussed the manner in which West Point Military Academy studies the Civil War today. The battles and principles are studied rather than the causes. Consideration is given to each of the nine principles of war: Unity of command, objective, offensive, mass, economy of force, maneuver, security, surprise, simplicity.

The meeting ended with a benediction.

## **A GOOD BILL**

Currently up for approval in Congress is a bill that states it is now proper for military personnel out of uniform and veterans of the military to salute the flag with the military hand salute in lieu of the traditional hand over the heart salute. This has passed the Senate almost unanimously and soon will be presented to the House. This is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to other citizens.

## **R.I.P.**

When a soldier died and wood was scarce, a coffin would be made from whatever was available, often ammunition or ration boxes. This sometimes resulted in men, both officers and enlisted men, being laid to rest labeled as "US Army Commissary Department – 200 pounds Bacon."

## **OUR NEXT MEETING**

In wartime Richmond, Virginia, a large hill was given the name "Chimborazo" after Mount Chimborazo in Ecuador. In turn that hill gave its name to the very large Confederate military hospital established there. With 120 buildings and a normal occupancy of about 3,000, Chimborazo had its own ice house, soup house, bakery, soap factory, etc., and operated its own farms, beef and goat herds, and canal trading boat. **Dr. Douglas Guthrie** will bring us a program about this great hospital at our November meeting.

Our speaker had ancestors serving with Hood's Brigade, with Sul Ross, and with Bedford Forrest. A fifth generation Wacoan with a lifelong interest in history, he is a respected podiatrist with many years of service in private practice, Veterans Administration, and the University of Texas Medical School, now semi-retired but on the surgical staff of two rural hospitals. He has often been recognized for his leadership in both his profession and in civic organizations.

Our meeting will be called to order at **6:30 PM on Friday, November 16**, in the **Highland Park Cafeteria** in **Casa Linda Plaza** located at the corner of **Buckner Boulevard and Garland Road**. We always welcome visitors so we hope you will come and bring some!

## **LUCY HOLCOMBE PICKETT UDC CHAPTER BBQ**

The Lucy Holcombe Pickett Chapter of the UDC hosted an excellent gathering of Confederates on Saturday, October 20. A barbecue was held at the Valley View home of Gene and Natalie Massengale. Leaders of various Southern ancestral organizations present included national officers of the UDC, SCV, MOS&B, and DCV. It was an evening of good food, good times, and good fellowship. Our congratulations go to Chapter President Carolyn Orlebeke and the other UDC ladies for their success.

**LARRY JOHNSON  
AND  
THE HERITAGE BRASS BAND**

Our chapter President, Larry Johnson, started the Heritage Brass Band in 1994. Recently he and the Band were the subjects of a very nice article in the *Dallas Morning News*. The band is the largest historical reenactment in the Southwest. With its repertoire of music dating back beyond the Civil War, the Band ensures the sounds of America's history won't soon fade away. Depending on the occasion, the musicians wear uniforms of the Indian Wars, the Civil War, or World War II. Comprehensive historical and musical knowledge are demanded from all of the band musicians and membership in the band is by invitation only. The band has a busy schedule and demand for its talents outstrips its availability. The band's musical library is extensive and Larry is on an eternal hunt for more material. Our congratulations and best wishes to Larry and the members of the Band! For more information, or to order the Band's latest CD, go to [www.heritagebrassband.org](http://www.heritagebrassband.org).

**UNCLE ALECK AND HIS MULE**  
(from January 1909 *Confederate Veteran*)

Uncle Aleck, a venerable black man with an old gray mule, called upon a veterinary surgeon with the inquiry: "Is you er hoss doctor?" "Yes," said the surgeon. "Well, dis here old mule he's sick and I doan want er lose old Pete. Can't you gimme some medicine for him?" Writing a prescription, the doctor said, "Take this paper to the drug store and get fifty grams of calomel and a glass tube that opens on both ends. Put the calomel in the tube and run it down Pete's throat and blow." "Some days later, the veterinary meeting Uncle Aleck, much bedraggled and ashy, asked, "How's Pete?" "Pete, he's all right but I ain't." "What's the matter?" "It's disaway," said Aleck, "I tuck the calomel and de glass tube as you tole me, and stuck it down old Pete's throat, I did." "Did you blow?" asked the doctor. "No sir," said Uncle Aleck, "old Pete he dun blowed fust."

**YANKEE LOGIC**

The Cincinnati *Commercial* complained in an editorial that Southerners only burned their cotton when they knew it was about to be seized by Federal troops: Therefore, according to the newspaper's way of thinking, it was Northern cotton not Southern cotton that was being burned.

**SPIRITED TEXAN LADIES**

When the *Bell County Rebels* from Belton, Bell County, Texas, started for their rendezvous at Hempstead, one of their Lieutenants, James F. Hardin, deserted and returned to Belton. Several ladies of the place were incensed to see him strutting about the streets in his uniform. They got together and seized him in public, then stripped off his officer's bars and sent them to his company. The company rewarded them with a vote of thanks.

**GRANT CAPTURED! Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Commander in Chief, Armies of the United States, a Prisoner of War, by Walbrook D. Swank; Burd Street Press; \$9.95.**

This slim, well illustrated volume marries fact and fiction. The factual part is an account of the operation of the largest Civil War military supply base at City Point, Virginia. The fiction is a logical chronicle of what might have been Robert E. Lee's greatest gamble, the capture of the Union Army's commanding officer. This is an excellent study by a respected Virginian historian and author.

**WHAT A NICE MAN!**

A lady from Sweet Springs, Virginia, went to Major General David Hunter to ask him for a guard to protect her house. The scoundrel told her to go home, for he had determined to burn the house; that he intended to burn every house within five miles of any spot at which any of his men had been bushwhacked. She said, "Surely, General, you cannot be in earnest in saying that you intend that women and children are to suffer such a calamity in addition to all besides that is the natural consequence of war." He replied: "I do intend that the women shall suffer; I organized this raid for that especial purpose; the women of the South are the fiends that have kept up this war; they have thrust their fathers, sons and brothers into the rebel army, and have endured everything that could incite the men to go on with the war, and I intend to crush the proud, rebellious spirit of you Virginians. I am coming back to burn your grain fields, to make a desert of the pride of the earth, to desolate your country, and to starve women and children, but what they shall come back to their lawful Government — the best Government on the face of the earth!"

## A LETTER IN THE "AUSTRALIAN SHOOTER" MAGAZINE

If you consider that there has been an average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq Theater of Operations during the past 22 months, and a total of 2,112 deaths, that gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000 soldiers. The firearm death rate in Washington DC is 80.6 per 100,000 for the same period. That means you are about 25 per cent more likely to be shot and killed in the U.S. Capitol, which has some of the strictest gun control laws in the United States, than you are in Iraq.

Conclusion? The U.S. should pull out of Washington.

## LEGAL FEES PAID

The SCV recently saw the futility in any further appeal to the Tennessee Supreme Court and paid the legal fees of the so-called "coup conspirators" in full, close to \$50,000.00. This ends the bitter court battles begun two and one half years ago, and unequivocally identifies the party responsible for leading the SCV down the road that has cost them so much in members as well as financially. The court upheld the appropriateness of the General Executive Council (later referred to by Sweeney as the "coup conspirators") in taking action against Sweeney's illegal and dictatorial actions while SCV Commander in Chief.

## BET THAT WAS NO BED OF ROSES

Reported in the *Lagrange (Ga.) Democrat*

In August, 1861, a man left Lagrange as a volunteer. With his wife he left a pet cat of which he was very fond. He made his wife promise that whenever his favorite cat had kittens she would keep them until his return. Faithfully the woman kept her word. When the man returned in October, 1863, in and about the house and an adjoining shed were two hundred and nine cats.

## UNBEATABLE COMBINATION

General Dick Ewell was as noted for his swearing as Stonewall Jackson was for his praying. Ewell often said that Jackson could do the praying and he could do the swearing, and that the two together could whip the devil.

## THE FUTURE OF THE DCV

*An editorial*

There are two schools of thought on what type of organization the DCV is, or ought to be, and your editor has been unable to fully understand what one of them is.

The organization many of us envision is an alliance of everyone interested in the preservation and presentation of Confederate history and heritage. This membership range would include members whose interest runs no deeper than joining and paying dues, those who wish to attend lectures and learn more about their ancestors, on up to those willing to expend their time and effort on public activities in defense of the cause of their ancestors. Membership would be relatively open to all who are interested.

The other organization is more "exclusive". It seems to prefer an invitation-only type of membership open primarily to friends and associates of current members. They have no desire for members with less than a consuming interest. The faction that prefers this is sponsoring an amendment to the DCV Constitution calling for an applicant to write a one-page essay on why they wish to join the DCV, AND a requirement for a sponsor to write a similar one-page essay on why the applicant should be accepted.

Your editor does not presume to dictate the future of the DCV. He can state that if the amendment passes and the organization is to be the more exclusive type, he will not be a member of the DCV. Feel free to express your thoughts and help determine the future of the chapter.

## AN OHIO EXPERT IN SPELLING

Among the letters captured at Winchester was one from a Yankee girl at Somerville, Ohio, to her sweetheart in the army. The following is an extract:

"You ort to See Sum Rebs Letters that Tom bort hum With him Whar they bin Ritin to thar galls and if i cud get bolt of sum of them Secesh husses how i woud tar ther her for Em i am a gud union gal as ever you you ort to See how them Rebel busseys Spel you Kin hardly Reed it they Spel the Durndest Wurda you did ever Seen 1 sous Rieae nomor but Remain your ExPected Wif til Deth. "

## 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	David Whitaker
John Wilson	

## UNKNOWN HEROES

The Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Mercury wrote about the unknown heroes of the war:

"I have lately heard of three such heroes. At Cedar Bun a Colonel was seen leading his regiment in action supported by the arms of two of his men. Wounded in the breast, and bleeding, he refused to go to the rear. General Jackson made many efforts to find out the name of this Colonel, but failed. He tried also, but in vain, to ascertain the name of a color-bearer, who, during this same battle, when his regiment was retreating, stood alone upon a little hill, flaunting his flag at the enemy until the men of his regiment, for very shame, rallied around him and hold the ground. A third, here is a cavalryman, said to be from Texas, who, unable to walk a step, carried a pair of crutches on horseback, and with them continued to perform all the arduous service required of him. His name I could not learn. At Manassas I saw a cavalryman with a wooden leg."

## JACKSON AT FIRST MANASSAS

At First Manassas, while Stonewall Jackson's wound was being dressed, someone said "Here comes the President." Pushing aside the surgeons, Jackson rose suddenly to his feet, whirled his old cap around his head, and with the fire of battle in his eye, cried "Hurrah for the President! Give me ten thousand men and I'll be in Washington tonight!"

## JACKSON & LEE

Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee met at Cold Harbor for the first time in the war. They saw each other at work. There sprang up at once between the two eminent soldiers that profound respect, confidence, and regard, which thenceforth knew no diminution. Jackson said of Lee, "He is a phenomenon. I would follow him blindfolded." The regret of General Lee at the wounding of Jackson was indeed poignant. The soul of the great commander was moved to its depths. He who had so long learned to conceal emotion could not control his anguish. "Jackson will not, he cannot die!" General Lee exclaimed, in a broken voice, waving every one from him with his hand, "he cannot die!"

## NOT QUITE SAFE

At the first battle of Manassas, Captain Thomas E. King commanded a company in the 8th Georgia. He received a desperate wound and was invalided home. Unable to endure the enemy invading his native State while he sat at home he returned to the field and secured a position on the staff of General Preston Smith. During the desperate and continuous fighting at Chickamauga he escaped unhurt, up to 5 PM when the firing ceased, and it was generally believed that the strife was ended for that day. He had just taken out his note book, and had written under date of Saturday, 5 PM: *I thank my God that I have been spared through this day;* when an order came from General Polk to make another advance upon the enemy. General Smith advanced with his brigade, and by a splendid charge drove the enemy some distance. General Smith and his staff were riding in advance of the brigade, close upon the heels of the retreating enemy when a sudden volley cut down the general and three of his officers including Captain King. King lived only an hour and a half after receiving the fatal wound.

## JEFFERSON DAVIS ON DRAFT DODGERS

President Davis had a very low opinion of those who dodged military duty. He said "If I were a young girl and wanted to marry, I would rather lean upon the empty sleeve of the soldier who had lost an arm in battle than upon the muscular arm of him who stayed at home and grew fat."