



The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293

Sons of Confederate Veterans ** Brentwood, Tn ** March, 2012

Meanwhile, in East Tennessee...

The causes of the Civil War were more complex than most people realize, say four members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The four achieved membership through their lineage to soldiers of 150 years ago and have steeped themselves in information about their relatives and about the war.

Daryl Melear of Telford joined on the basis of his great-great-grandfather's service. Yancey Morelock was a private in Company G of the 31st (later 39th) Tennessee Infantry Regiment out of Hawkins County. He was captured at Vicksburg.

Joe Adkins of Jonesborough, who writes a monthly Heritage page column on the Civil War, joined through his great-great-uncle 1st Cpl. William L. Hilton of the 48th Virginia Infantry.

He later learned of another relative, Abram Fulkerson, about whom he learned more and composed a lengthy Wikipedia entry. Fulkerson entered the service as a captain in a unit from Hawkins County. He was promoted to major and was wounded at the Battle of Shiloh. He was later promoted to colonel. While with the 63rd Tennessee Infantry he was wounded twice more and was taken prisoner.

Fulkerson wrote of encountering Union General Ambrose Burnside in the prison camp. Burnside asked him where he was from and Fulkerson told him East Tennessee. "It is very strange that you should be fighting us

when three-fourths of the people of East Tennessee are on our side," Burnside said.

"I replied, with as much spirit as I dared manifest, 'Well, General, we have the satisfaction of knowing that if three-fourths of our people are on your side, that the respectable people are on our side.'" Burnside was said to have flown into a rage.

David Roberts of Bristol is the lieutenant commander of the Tennessee Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. His great-great-grandfather, Thomas Roberts of Mountain City, was a private in Company A of the 6th North Carolina Cavalry.

Mike Beck of Morristown is the Tennessee Division commander. His great-great-grandfather Andrew Cobb was a private in the 43rd Volunteer Tennessee Infantry and fought at Chattanooga.

Beck believes there are distortions in the commonly accepted history of the war. "The victors write the history," he said.

The Sons cited various points at which they became curious about Civil War history. Melear said it was when he started re-enacting. Adkins said he was in his late 30s when he learned of Cpl. James Hilton from his aunt's research. He learned that Hilton had five brothers in the Army of the Confederacy and a sixth who fought for the Union. "The family had covered that up," Adkins said.

Roberts remembered being fascinated by a Civil War-vintage hunting rifle in his grandfather's possession. Only later did he find out it was a Confederate rifle.

Beck remembered family stories, often about World War II,

but also stories from his grandfather, "who was a young man when one of our Union ancestors was still alive."

And of the causes of the war, Adkins said, "there were a lot of issues besides slavery."

He said many Southerners were in favor of freeing the slaves but were uncertain how to go about it "without creating other problems." There was a concern about what the Constitution said about rights to property, which the slaves, in one view, were. Adkins believes the threat of more severe taxes and tariffs imposed on the South had more to do with the outbreak of war. The motive of most Southern soldiers going to war, he said, was "defending their home."

Southerners "feared people from the North invading," Melear said. Adkins related an anecdote about a Union and a Confederate soldier meeting and the Northern soldier asking the Southerner why he was fighting. "We're fighting because you're down here," he said.

Beck said many have misconceptions about the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "They think we're re-enactors or the Klan," he said.

Asked why the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which originated in Richmond, Va., in 1896, seems to have more intense participation than corresponding groups in the North, Adkins said "Southerners have a unique sense of family." ~ article by Brad Jolly, *Johnson City Press*

Samuel Davis

Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, March 22nd Woodson Chapel Church of Christ, 7:00 p.m.

Confederate Calendar

March 22nd ~~ Sam Davis Camp meets at Woodson Chapel Church of Christ, 7:00 p.m. The Church is adjacent to the Oglesby Community Center on Edmondson Pike, 1/2 block South of the intersection of Edmondson Pike and Old Hickory Blvd.

April 20th - 22nd ~~ 2012 Tennessee Division Reunion at Dover, hosted by the Ft. Donelson Camp #249. See the latest *Forrest Escort* (our division newsletter) on next month's *Courier* for registration details.

April 26th ~~ Sam Davis Camp meets at Woodson Chapel, 7:00 p.m.



Future Camp Meeting Programs

Lt. Commander Ronnie Townes already has our meetings this year full of interesting speakers and informative programs. Here's the list, which is, of course, subject to change....

March 22nd - Rick Warwick: Confederate Reunions in Franklin

April 26th - Tim Prince: Confederate Rifles

May 24th - Camp Show And Tell

June - Camp Picnic at the residence of David and Vicki Watts. Date T.B.A.

July 26th - Randy Bishop: Tenn. Battlefields and Battlefield in Adjoining States

Aug. 23rd - Dr. Michael Bradley: Forrest's Fighting Preacher

Sept. 27th - Dennis Lampley: Baxter Artillery Company

Oct. 25th - Gene Andrews: Fort Pillow

November - No Meeting

Dec. 6th - Division Commander Mike Beck: Sub. To be announced

Israeli-American Joins the Ranks

Biloxi, Miss. -- Arieh O'Sullivan left South Mississippi in 1981 to join the Israeli army. He has made a life as a journalist and olive farmer in that country, but holds tight to his Southern heritage in ways that sometimes perplex his friends, co-workers and even his mother. On Wednesday, he further tightened his connection to the region of his birth by taking the oath of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at Beauvoir.

O'Sullivan, who holds dual American and Israeli citizenship, is proud of the service given by his great-great-grandfather, Alabama Calvary Lt. George A Johnson. In the oath administered by Wallace Mason of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, O'Sullivan pledged to uphold the traditions of faith in God; honor; chivalry and respect for womanhood; a passionate belief in freedom for the individual; and a military tradition of valor, patriotism, devotion to duty and a spirit of self-sacrifice.

O'Sullivan said there is an unconscious nationalistic soul many Jews carry with them that is similar to the camaraderie shared by Confederate descendants.

"I feel it flowing through me," he said. "If you have a sense of history that you carry with you, you are enriched by it."

O'Sullivan is the son of former Ocean Springs, Mississippi Police Chief Efraim O'Sullivan.

A self-proclaimed "Jewish redneck," O'Sullivan carried a Confederate flag with him into battle with his unit. He kept the flag, purchased at Gettysburg when he was 12, in the spare grenade pocket of his Israeli army uniform.

He named his jeep the General Lee and attached an image of the Confederate leader to the dashboard. The jeep has a battle flag for a spare tire cover. O'Sullivan said he gets bizarre looks from people sometimes because of his conspicuous affinity for the Confederacy.

"I try to educate them," he said. "It's about people who stood up for something they believed in."

O'Sullivan says he was told he is the first Israeli to become a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The organization's membership coordinator, Bryan Sharp, was unable to confirm that, but he noted that the organization has chapters in Brazil, Australia, England, Scotland and Germany.

O'Sullivan has worked as an Associated Press journalist and military correspondent for the Jerusalem Post. He is Mideast bureau chief for The Media Line, a news agency.

Scandal in Gettysburg? Oh, the Humanity!

Over at the Gettysburg National Military Park bookstore in Pennsylvania, they've decided that maybe it's not such a great idea to sell a bobblehead of John Wilkes Booth, the notorious Confederate sympathizer and assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

The Associated Press reports that the dolls were on sale for about a week, then pulled from the shelf after the park superintendent and other officials determined that a bobblehead of a guy who murdered one of the nation's most revered public figures was sort of inappropriate.

"On rare occasions, there's an item that might cause concern, and obviously the bobbleheads appeared to be doing that," said Dru Anne Neil, a spokeswoman for the Gettysburg Foundation, in an interview with the wire service Tuesday.

If the doll weren't brandishing a pistol -- and standing on a pedestal featuring his name -- it would be difficult for all but the most passionate Civil War buff to identify the thing as a likeness of Booth: With its unkempt coif and droopy, vintage mustache, the doll could just as well be some guy in

...continued next page....



... gettysburg, concluded....

Brooklyn who graduated from a second-tier indie rock band.

BobbleGate appears to have been sparked by a March 10 report in the Evening Sun newspaper of Hanover, Pennsylvania. Reporter Tim Prudente interviewed Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, who opined that the doll must have been the brainchild of "an awfully sick marketing person."



An employee for the manufacturer of the doll, BobbleHead LLC, told Prudente that it was meant to be a "gag gift." The company Wednesday continued to offer the "John Wilkes Booth Lincoln Assassination [sic] Bobblehead Doll" for \$19.95 on its website, along with bobbleheads of Kim Jong Il, Joe the Plumber, a chimpanzee, and a Marie Curie version that glows in the dark.~~ *Los Angeles Times* [**Editor's Note:** Awesome! I want one.]

The South Was His Passion

The South was his passion," Dr. James I. Vance said of Cunningham, "and he loved it passionately with every fiber of his being." The indomitable spirit of the editor to present the Confederate heritage in unmistakable terms led him to recognize the historical mission of his life's work, the Confederate Veteran .

While he was a man of no more than average intellect, the magazine he so zealously produced for twenty

years is an irreplaceable document in Southern historiography.

Cunningham's influence is still apparent. Distant relatives are accepted into organizations of Confederate descendants because of his participation in the Civil War. Beginning in 1921, the UDC sponsored the Cunningham Memorial Scholarship at Peabody College in Nashville. In the following decade, a syndicated radio broadcast, lauding the former editor, was heard throughout the South. In more recent times, the Encyclopedia of the Civil War (1986) includes an entry describing the Veteran along with a photograph of its founder. A complete bound set of the magazine is an expensive commodity among used and rare book dealers today. But, perhaps the greatest testimonial to the enduring power of Cunningham's message was the rebirth of the Confederate Veteran in Murfreesboro in 1985, and shortly thereafter the creation of the Journal of Confederate History at Middle Tennessee State University, also in Murfreesboro.

S. A. Cunningham spoke loudly to thousands of common Southern men and women who survived and adapted to the most cataclysmic event of nineteenth-century America. William Faulkner wrote with considerable feeling about Cunningham's generation in describing the lesson that all Southern men must come to grips with concerning their Confederate heritage.

"It's all now you see.... For every southern boy fourteen years old, not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it's still not yet two o'clock on that July afternoon in 1863, the brigades are in position behind the rail fence, the guns are laid and ready in the woods and the furled flags are already loosened to break out and Pickett himself ... looking up the hill waiting for Longstreet to give the word and it's all in the balance, it hasn't happened yet, it hasn't even begun yet, it not only hasn't begun yet but there is still time for it not to begin against that position and ... yet it's going to

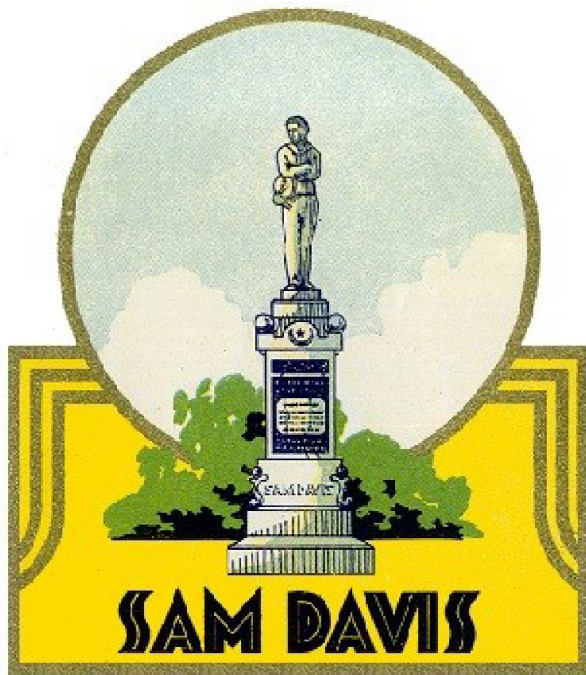
begin, we all know that, we have come too far with too much at stake and that moment doesn't need even a fourteen-year-old boy to think This time. Maybe this time ."

The Civil War made an indelible imprint on the character of S. A. Cunningham, and through his meticulous preservation of the Confederate heritage, Cunningham affected the way that war was remembered. The man and the heritage were inextricably bound together. ~~ **John A. Simpson** in *S. A. Cunningham and the Confederate Heritage*

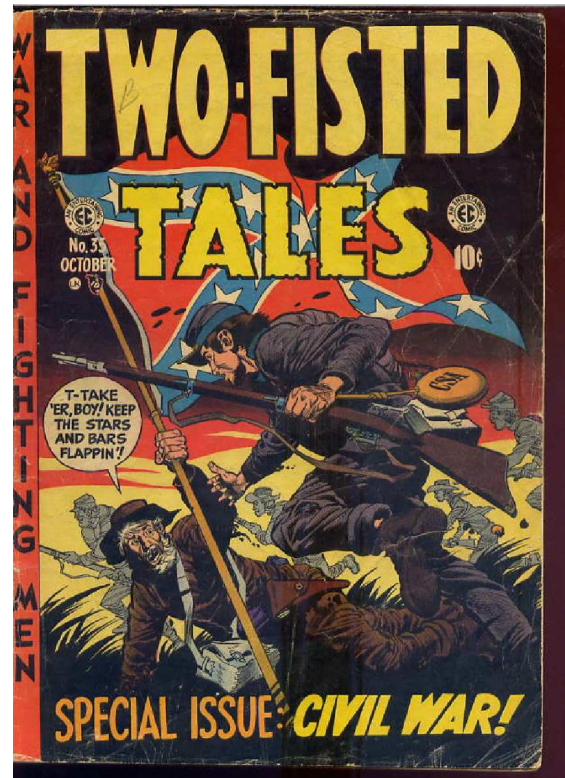
"The Veteran has had faults and made mistakes all the while, but its motives and loyalty to the highest principles of life have never varied. It has been courteous and heroic in vindication of truth, softened and strengthened by memories of the hundreds of thousands who went down to death with approving consciences. By these sacred memories, which are as hopes for the future, let us all press onward... until even our enemies will be convinced that our motives were, and are exactly such as make the Christian tread through fire, in the faith that across the river we all may indeed "rest under the shade of the tree." ~~ **S. A. Cunningham, 1895**

"He sees now that all who are human are destined to death ere long, and he realizes more vividly than before that the human race is on trial every hour. A Judge who cannot be deceived is in constant charge of his case, and he may be required to confess any day or hour. Let us have faith and hope, giving good cheer; but let us place charity before all other virtues after integrity-charity that is kind and that endures. Let us be active to help and elevate our fellow-man; then we shall have done what we could." ~~ **S. A. Cunningham, 1908**





Published by The Sam Davis Camp #1293, Sons of Confederate Veterans, P. O. Box 3448, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024
Commander ~ David Eagan 790-0162
1st Lt. Commander ~ Ronnie Townes
2d Lt. Commander ~ Nelson Boren
Adjutant ~ Chris Sollmann 453-6299
Treasurer ~ James Turner 335-6944
Chaplain ~ Tony Rocchietti 399-1606
Newsletter Editor ~ Allen Sullivant 373-0058
Web Address ~ <http://www.samdaisycamp.org>



The 2012 Tennessee Division Reunion will be held April 20th through the 22nd at Dover, hosted by the Ft. Donelson Camp #249. Registration forms and schedules can be found in the latest division newsletter!

The Courier

Sam Davis Camp #1293
Sons of Confederate Veterans
P. O. Box 3448
Brentwood, Tenn. 37024



First Class Mail
Dated Material