



# TRAVELLER



The official publication of the General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

*Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry*

*Deo Vindici*

**May 2012**

## R.E LEE CAMP MEETING

**Monday May 14, 2012**

**7:00 p.m. at the Pickering Center**

### The Confederate States Bible Society

*by Alan Farley*

This past March, 2012, marked the 150th anniversary of a little known event that affected tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers during the War Between the States. That event was the founding of the Confederate States Bible Society in Augusta, Georgia, by Revered Joseph Wilson.

Reverend Joseph Ruggles Wilson was a Scots-Irish immigrant who was raised in Ohio. His wife was Janet Woodrow, also an immigrant and the English born daughter of a Scotsman, also a well educated Presbyterian minister.

Joseph and Janet's third child was born December 28, 1856 in Staunton, Virginia. Their child was very much affected by the War. Four years of seeing his country being torn apart influenced not only his childhood; but the years later as President. His name was Thomas Woodrow Wilson.

In a speech delivered in 1909 about President Abraham Lincoln, he detailed an event he witnessed in November, 1860 just before his fourth birthday. *'My earliest recollection is of standing at my father's*

*gateway in Augusta, Georgia, when I was four years old,' he said, 'and hearing someone pass and say that Mr. Lincoln was elected and there would be war. Catching the intense tones of his excited voice, I remember running to ask my father what this meant?'*

The Wilson family would move to Augusta, Georgia, in 1857. Joseph was appointed pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Augusta and soon became the heart of events in his own national church. Joseph identified strongly with the southern cause. When the southern Presbyterian section withdrew from the national church to form a

Confederate based Presbyterian Church, it was Joseph Wilson who offered his church as a place of meeting for the new General Assembly. This newly created body elected him to its third highest position, permanent clerk.

In a sermon to his Augusta congregation in January, 1861 entitled, 'Mutual Relations of Master and Slave as Taught in the Bible', Pastor Wilson showed his full support for the southern cause. In his sermon, he said he felt, *'Secession and the creation of the Confederacy was inevitable. We should begin to meet the infidel fanaticism of our enemies on the elevated ground of a divine warrant for the institution we are resolved*

*to cherish.'* The sermon proved very popular and was published in newspapers across Georgia. In just three months, shots would be fired at Fort Sumter. The War Between the States had begun!

In March 1862, Reverend Wilson set up a separate



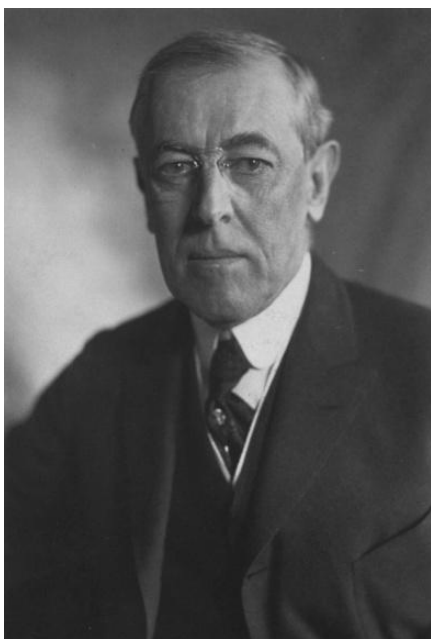
**Rev. Dr. Joseph Ruggles and Janet Woodrow Wilson**

Bible Society of the Confederate States. Its inaugural meeting was held on March 19 to 21st 1862, at the First Presbyterian Church in Augusta, pastored by Dr. Wilson.

The concerns of the ministers and Bible Societies of the South was there were no Bible printing houses in the South and they were dependant on The American Bible Society housed in New York.

Augusta was a logical choice for the home of the Confederate States Bible Society as it was the center of manufacturing and distribution for all war provisions for the Confederacy. It was also a major railroad point in the Southern rail system, with all lines leading to Savannah, Atlanta, Columbia and Charleston. Augusta was one of the few industrial centers in the south and enjoyed an unusually large amount of industry for a southern city. It housed several pistol factories, field artillery works by Colt, cotton textiles and the Confederate Army shoe factory, producing almost every shoe worn by southern soldiers.

The Confederate States Bible Society started with



**Thomas Woodrow Wilson**  
1919

nothing but a dream and prayers. They had no printing presses, type, paper or ink. With full knowledge of this, the American Bible Society broke federal law by smuggling a complete set of printing plates to the newly formed Confederate States Bible Society so they could print a New Testament when they had the means to do so. Later, they smuggled some 10,000 copies of already printed New Testaments for distribution to Confederate soldiers as

well as a huge amount of cash for supplies.

It is not known how many total copies of the New Testament were distributed by the fledgling new Bible Society. The New Testaments were never printed in Augusta but produced at the Southwest Publishing House in Nashville, Tennessee where the very first copy of the whole Bible was printed. This copy was used by President Jefferson Davis at his inauguration! Copies were also printed by the Franklin Steam Printing House in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Bible Society received many thousands of copies of the Oxford England edition of the New Testament for distribution. These had to be smuggled into the country. Again it is not known how many made it through the blockade for distribution to the Southern soldiers or were captured and distributed to Northern soldiers or were sunk.

Pastor Wilson would also take an active involvement in the field of battle during the war. In the spring of 1863, he was contacted by the Domestic Missions of the Southern Presbyterian Church to spend two months that summer as a missionary for the Confederate Army. He immediately volunteered and spent that summer preaching to the dying and wounded on the fields of battle.

In 1863, local fighting became especially fierce with battles nearby in Atlanta. Confederate forces took over the Presbyterian Church in Augusta and turned it into a hospital. The metal fence around the church was melted down to make bullets for the Confederacy. All the pews were removed to make room for the massive influx of wounded soldiers who desperately needed medical attention. Both Pastor Wilson and his wife worked tirelessly to help take care of the wounded and dying.

There have been various writings in multiple biographies on Woodrow Wilson detailing his mother caring for the sick and dying. The army used the church as a hospital for four months (October to January, 1864) and was damaged extensively during its conversion to a hospital. The church was repaired following its ceasing to be a hospital and the Confederate government was contacted to pay for all repairs as it had in other buildings requisitioned. There is no record of the bill for repairs ever being paid and seems the expensive repairs were paid for by the congregation itself.

Simultaneously as the church was trying to care for the sick and wounded, it bore the additional burden of becoming a prison camp. This was a temporary facility for captured Union troops. The churchyard

was made into a detention encampment until the prisoners could be sent off by rail to more permanent facilities. Young Woodrow would witness many of the brutal horrors of the war taking place just across the street from where his family lived. There is no mention whether Woodrow did or did not distribute any New Testament to the wounded or imprisoned soldiers.

Augusta, Georgia, was also scarred in other ways. As the fighting got closer to the city, the mood would change quite profoundly. Augusta was placed under martial law and was governed by a provost martial. No one was allowed on the streets without a pass at night. In 1864, Augusta was infested with marauders, robbers and thieves who plundered Dr. Wilson's church. This time they not only stole the furniture, they made off with portions of the fence which surrounded the church.

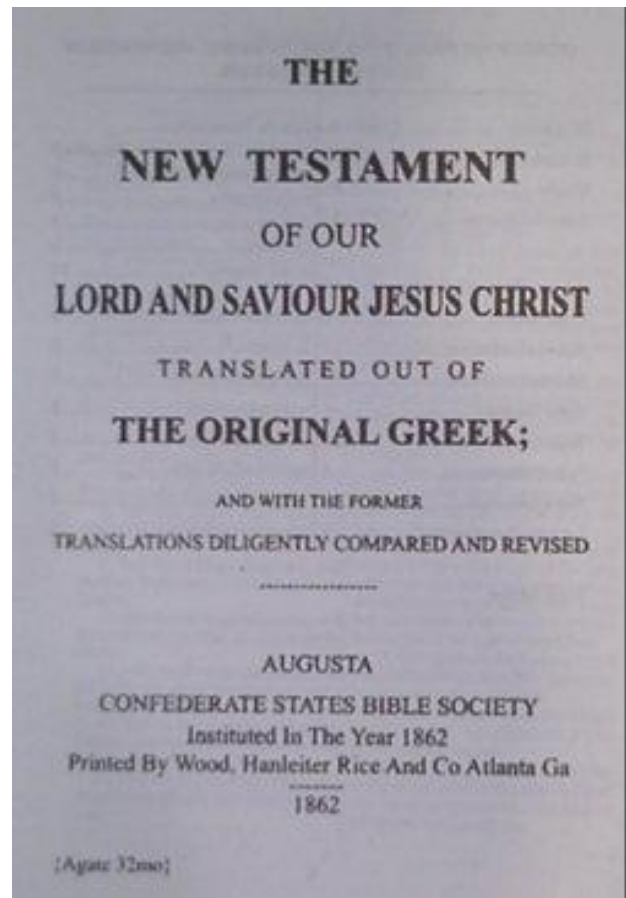
The financial situation of the Confederacy and Augusta in the 1864-1865 time-frame became desperate. Inflation was a severe problem. An example of this was the records of Reverend Wilson's compensation during the time he was pastor during the War. As of November 19, 1863, he was given a \$500.00 bonus to augment his regular pay. This happened again in October 1864, when he was given a \$1500.00 bonus, several times his yearly salary. In 1865 alone the Pastor was given payments of almost \$22,000, an amount which was considered a fortune during that period. This was however paid with almost worthless Confederate currency. The family would have to survive on very little actual money. The burdens for the Wilson family grew worse as the conflict continued.

In May of 1865 after the fall of the Confederacy President Jefferson Davis was brought by rail with his family and Confederate leaders to Augusta to be placed on a steamboat waiting at the Sand Bar Ferry. They were not allowed to leave the confines of the train until they arrived in Augusta. While they were in town, some prisoners were allowed to visit with family or friends. President Davis was only allowed off the train to have dinner with General Edward L. Molineux, the commanding officer of Union troops stationed in Augusta.

Davis and his guards would march past a young Woodrow Wilson home and church. Woodrow mentioned on several instances his memory of seeing President Jefferson Davis being led in shackles down the main street in Augusta after being captured by

Union forces on May 17, 1865. His home, the manse for the church his father pastured, was on the main street. Suffice it to say at a very young age he was a first hand spectator to these historical events and images forever etched in this future President's memory.

(Alan Farley is the founder and director of Re-enactor's Missions for Jesus Christ (RMJC, Inc.) a Christian outreach to the re-enacting community. You can find out more about their work at: [www.rmjc.org](http://www.rmjc.org).



**CONFEDERATE STATES BIBLE SOCIETY  
NEW TESTAMENT TITLE PAGE  
1862**

# Confederate Silver Dollar

*Coin in plastic sleeve \$65.00 ea.*

*Coin encased in plastic \$75.00 ea.*

*Add \$20.00 for shipping & handling*

*\*Price subject to change with market fluctuation.*

*Call for live quotes*



*The coin itself is one troy ounce of .999 fine silver. It was minted in Washington State by the Northwest Territorial Mint (NWTM).*

*One side of the coin features the Great Seal of the Confederacy, showing Colonial George Washington astride his horse. The other side of the coin was designed in 2002. The scripture "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" is from Psalm 33:12 and celebrates the strong Christain faith and tradition of the old South. The centerpiece is an eagle from a U.S. 1830s silver half-dollar, a coin in circulation during the war. The Breastplate or shield has the "Stars and Bars" of the battle flag with CSA (Confederate States of America) above.*

*Much history rests in this coin. It can be kept as a treasured keepsake or given as a gift.*

## **YOURS FREE**

*With a new member brought in by yourself*

*Lee Camp Members Only*

*See Camp Commander for more information  
Tarry Beasley*

Visit our website @ [www.atlanticbullionandcoin.com](http://www.atlanticbullionandcoin.com)

## Commander's Corner

Gentlemen,

The April meeting was well attended with 38 in attendance and 9 guest.

TIM KENT spoke on General Hood discussing the placement of troops and the failure of subordinates to follow orders thus allowing Scofield's troops to escape inhalation and go to Franklin and then to Nashville.

PHOTOs are complete for the Camp Composite. If you have a digital photo and did not get to the meeting for you photo send it Immediately to me ([Tarry@BeasleyLawFirm.org](mailto:Tarry@BeasleyLawFirm.org)) so that it can be included. It must be to me by May 15 or it you will be omitted.

TENNESSEE REUNION was held in Dover on the 20th and 21st. It was a good reunion and a lot of progress is being made on developing camp leadership, a State Color Guard, the Forrest boyhood home and many other projects around the state. Your own Lt. Commander Mark Buchanan was elected as the Brigade Commander for Shelby County. In that capacity he will assist and coordinate with the local camps in moving our joint efforts and events forward. Congratulations Mark.

HONOR GUARD The first event for the newly formed Honor Guard occurred with overwhelming success on April 21st at the dedication of the Jefferson Davis monument commemorating highway 51 in the Millington - Atoka area by the Forrest Chapter of the UDC. Congratulations men. If you are interested in joining in call or see Mike Daugherty 758-8514.

CALL COMMITTEE there are 4 on this committee and they would appreciate 4 more Volunteers to join them. They call or leave messages for the membership each month and if you don't get a call its because your number is wrong on our records and you need to email me or call me and give us an up date better still call our adjutant Arthur Oliver and advise him 754-7369. Contact Don Harrison 662/895-8064 or Bill Rivenbark 590-2188 or Randall Chandler 752-4517 or Eugene Forrester 755-2525 to volunteer.

KROGER CARDS are all gone form our last order but a new shipment will be in for our May meeting. Let Kroger buy you a life membership in National or the Division or our Camp at no cost to you after all

you have to eat and in using the card it also cuts your gasoline cost. What a deal!

MAY MEETING the second Monday ( 14th) bring a friend to the meeting and a prospective member too. The program has been set up by our Lt Comdr Mark Buchanan and it will be another great one that you will want to hear.

CONFEDERATE SEAL in sterling silver (.999 fine) is still available to any member of the Lee camp who recruits a new member this year. These coins are the size of a half dollar and are beautiful, They are also worth about 37.00 in silver alone and about 75.00 is the mark=et price. Share your love of the South and your Great Grandfather's valor with a friend and bring him to a meeting to enjoy with you.

NATIONAL REUNION MURFREESBORO is July 11 thru the 14th. We should have a good delegation there and it is close and it will be GREAT. There are battlefields to explore people to meet and thing to see and buy. Plan on going - share a room with someone and have a great week end to boot! See the Confederate Veteran for more details. Yes I am going and there are rooms available at less than the advertised price if you act now.

Sincerely,

Tarry Beasley, Commander



**Confederate Monument Augusta, Georgia unveiled on October 31, 1878. The 76-foot tall monument features a private at the top and generals at the bottom. The inscription reads in part: "No nation rose so white and fair, None fell so pure of crime"**

*Worthy to have lived and known our  
gratitude  
Worthy to be hallowed and held  
In tender remembrance  
Worthy the fadeless fame which  
Confederate soldiers won  
Who gave themselves in life  
And death for us  
For the honor of Georgia  
For the rights of the States  
For the liberties of the South  
For the principles of the Union, as these  
were handed down to them,  
By the fathers of our common Country.*

- Confederate Monument Augusta, Georgia

## Traveller - Now Online

Traveller, the R.E Lee Camp 1640 newsletter, has caught up with the 21<sup>st</sup> century and is now available on line. Find it monthly at:

<http://www.tennessee-scv.org/camp1640/>

### SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
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H. Clark Doan	Eugene Forrester
Robert Freeman	Donald Harrison
Frank Holeman	William P Hunter, Jr
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Larry J. Spiller, Sr.	Larry J. Spiller, Jr.
Osborn Turner, IV	Charles L Vernon
William C. Wilson	



**Traveller** is the monthly newsletter of:

The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
and

The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,  
Order of the Confederate Rose  
P.O. Box 171251  
Memphis, Tennessee 38187

Steve M. McIntyre, Editor



**Next Camp Meeting \*\* May 14, 2012  
Germantown Pickering Center, 7771 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN**