



TRAVELLER



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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

Deo Vindici

December, 2012

CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 10, 2012

**6:30 p.m. at the Germantown Regional History
and Genealogy Center**

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Death of Jefferson Davis

The Christmas Season of 1889 was a time of sadness in Dixie. Hundreds of thousands of people came to remember and pay their last respects to Jefferson Davis in the crescent city of New Orleans.



Jefferson Davis at Beauvoir in 1885

Jefferson Davis, and wife Varina, found great contentment and peace at "Beauvoir" their beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast Home. This is where he wished to die when his time came but it was not to be.

Davis completed his book *A Short History of the Confederate States of America* in October 1889. On November 6 Varina attended to their home as Davis left for Brierfield Plantation to take care of family

business. As he traveled through New Orleans Davis was exposed to a cold-rain that caused him a severe cold and bronchitis that was further complicated by Malaria. On the 13th he left Brierfield to return to New Orleans. Varina Davis, who had taken another boat to Brierfield, met him on the river, and he finally received some medical care. They arrived in New Orleans on the 16th, and Davis was taken to the home of a friend, Charles Erasmus Fenner, an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Davis remained in bed but was stable for the next two weeks; however, he took a turn for the worse in early December.

Milo Copper, a former servant of the Davis family, upon hearing of Davis' illness, made the long trip from Florida to New Orleans to be near Davis' side. As Cooper entered Davis' sick room, he burst into tears and fell on his knees and prayed that God would spare the life of Jefferson Davis and bless the family.

Just when Davis appeared to be improving, he lost consciousness on the evening of the 5th and died at age 81 at 12:45 a.m. on Friday, December 6, 1889, in the presence of several friends and with his hand in Varina's.



Mourners outside the New Orleans City Hall where Davis' body laid in state

The news of his death hit the front page of many Southern newspapers. The praises and tributes read similar to that of a New Orleans paper:

"Throughout the South are Lamentations and tears; in every country on the globe where there are lovers of liberty there is mourning; wherever there are men who love heroic patriotism, dauntless resolution, fortitude or intellectual power, there is an sincere sorrowing. The beloved of our land, the unfaltering upholder of constitutional liberty, the typical hero and sage, is no more; the fearless heart that beats with sympathy for all mankind is stilled forever, a great light is gone----Jefferson Davis is dead!"

The body of Jefferson Davis laid in state at the city hall of New Orleans, Louisiana from midnight, December 6, 1889, to December 11th. The United States and Confederate flags hung from above and in the city hall that was covered with many flowers.



Jefferson Davis New Orleans Funeral Procession

The church bells tolled as over 80,000 people lined the streets of New Orleans to pay their respects to a Southern legend. All schools and businesses were closed that day.

Those men who comprised the honor Guard for the procession to Metairie Cemetery included: the Army of Northern Virginia Association, the Army of Tennessee and the Washington Artillery. Metairie Cemetery would be a temporary burial place for Davis as he was moved in 1893, by funeral train to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.

Making the story sadder, the United States War Department did not recognize Davis and the US flag was not flown at half-mast. The US flag was flown at half mast in the South. Jefferson Davis was the only former Secretary of War that was not given the respect and honor by the United States Government.

Eighteen months after his death and temporary burial

in New Orleans Metairie Cemetery, Davis' widow, Varina, decided the final burial place was to be Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery, considered the National Cemetery of the Confederacy. His remains were removed from the vault in New Orleans and placed on a flag-draped caisson escorted by honor guards composed of his old soldiers to Memorial Hall, where he lay in state. The next day, as thousands of people silently watched from the sidewalks and balconies, the caisson bore his body to a waiting funeral train. On the way, bonfires beside the tracks lit up ranks of Davis' old soldiers standing at attention beside stacked arms. In Richmond, gray haired veterans escorted him to the Virginia statehouse, where thousands filed past in respect before interment.



Procession to Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond Virginia for Jefferson Davis' re-interment

On October 17, 1978 President Jimmy Carter posthumously restored of citizenship rights to Jefferson F. Davis by signing S. J. Res. 16 into law and made the following statement: *In posthumously restoring the full rights of citizenship to Jefferson Davis, the Congress officially completes the long process of reconciliation that has reunited our people following the tragic conflict between the States. Earlier, he was specifically exempted from resolutions restoring the rights of other officials in the Confederacy. He had served the United States long and honorably as a soldier, Member of the U.S. House and Senate, and as Secretary of War. General Robert E. Lee's citizenship was restored in 1976. It is fitting that Jefferson Davis should no longer be singled out for punishment.*



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 Christian 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

Commander's Corner

Gentlemen,

The NOVEMBER MEETING was downright exciting as our speaker gave an outstanding lecture complete with sound effects! Mr. Bill Strong spoke on the Memphis Charleston Railroad and at an inappropriate time the successor to the Memphis Charleston railroad blew its horn and passed the meeting hall with its usual defining roar. We had 7 visitors at the meeting with a total of 32 members and guest attending.

NEW MEMBERS Warren Travis and Joe Burns were recognized and a membership certificate was given to Joe and we await the delivery of Travis' certificate. (See Photo)

COMPOSITES only a few are left. If you want one they are 5.00 and you should purchase it at the December 8th meeting from Arthur Oliver before they are all gone.

CAMP's CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION is December 8th our usual camp meeting night but we will advance the time to 6:30 p.m. since we are celebrating Christ birth with a pot luck dinner. This is an event to bring a guest to meet and greet the other members and a time for all of us to socialize with some of the other members that you may not know as well as you would like. Bring your wife or girl friend as well.

PICKERING CENTER's last meeting in this facility for a while as our new meeting place in January will be the Ten-Gen building next door. I believe that you will be interested in joining the Tennessee Genealogical Society after seeing their facility and all the resources that they have available to the members.

DUES are past due and we still have 5 or 6 that have not gotten them in. If you have not paid please do so NOW by remitting them to the R E Lee Camp PO Box 171251 Memphis, TN 38187.

You have by now received 1 billing form the Tennessee Division and several notices such as this and a letter email to you from the Camp. Honor your ancestor by keeping your membership current.

KROGER cards that are currently in use no longer produce money for the Tennessee Division and when you clear any remaining fund from them

should be destroyed and you should get a new one from Arthur Oliver to keep the funds rolling in to our organization. We receive 5% of all the funds you run thru that card even though you get to spend 100% of the funds you put on it. It is a win - win situation for us.

GERMANTOWN HISTORIC TOUR is developing well and the camp members are making sure all the ideas are being explored. Thanks to Clark Doan, Mike Daugherty, Karl Amelang, Huber Dellinger, Don Harrison, the Hoods, Margie Potts, Warner Swett, Charles Munns, The Wernes, Sid Witherington and Larry Tolbert. I hope that you will join this list and offer your expertise and areas of interest for the Camps use on this project. The committee meets each Thursday at Wings restaurant about 11:30 to receive progress reports and discuss ideas. You are welcome to join us.

LEE-JACKSON-CHALMERS BANQUET is January and the tickets will be available Dec 8th at our meeting. We will sell out this year so bring your check for 30.00 for a single ticket or 55.00 for a couple to the meeting or you will probably not get in the door.

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 pm December 8th, 2012 at the Pickering Center for a Pot Luck Dinner bring a guest and a dish.

Tarry Beasley, Commander
American by Birth
Southern by the Grace of God.



Commander Tarry Beasley welcomed two new members at the November 12, 2012, camp meeting - Warren Travis (left) and Joe Burns

Upcoming Camp Events & Notices:

ATTENTION CAMP MEMBERS: The Tennessee Division of the SCV is no longer receiving credit for purchases members are making on their old Kroger cards. All RE Lee camp members needs new Kroger cards in order for the Division to receive credit. Contact Arthur Oliver to obtain new Kroger cards. Be sure to use up any money on the old cards before you throw them away.

The Lee Jackson Chalmers Banquet is scheduled for January 19, 2013 at Ridgeway Country Club and it will be a sellout. Tickets will be available at the camp meeting - \$30.00 for the first and \$25.00 for the second or more tickets.

The Camp composites are available for \$5.00 each with only 14 or so available for sale - get them while they last.

December Camp meeting will be Dec 10th and it will be a pot luck dinner. Members are asked to bring drinks, deserts, salads etc.

SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
Winston Blackley	Eugene Callaway
John Cole	W. Kent Daniel Jr.
James Anthony Davis	Hubert Dellinger Jr.,
MD H. Clark Doan	Eugene Forrester
Robert Freeman	Donald Harrison
Frederick Harrison	Frank Holeman
M. Gary Hood	William P Hunter, Jr.
Bobby Lessel	Jerry C. Lunsford
Frank M. McCroskey	Steve McIntyre
Arthur Oliver	Charles Wendell Park
Steve Reasons	Bill Simmons
Larry J. Spiller, Sr.	Larry J. Spiller, Sr.
Osborn Turner, IV	Charles L Vernon
William C. Wilson	

41 % of active members

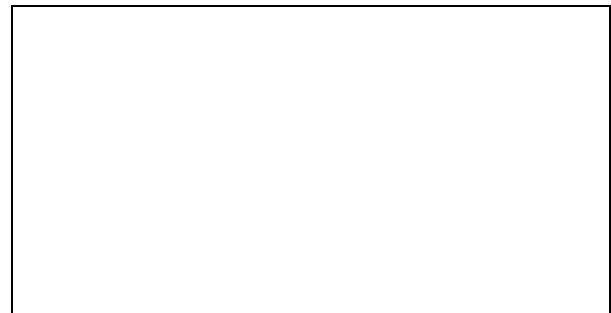


Traveller is the monthly newsletter of:

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 ** December 10, 2012

Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN