



TRAVELLER



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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

Deo Vindici

January, 2013

CAMP MEETING

January 14, 2013

**Speaker: Donald Harrison, R.E. Lee Camp
Color Sergeant**

**Topic: Women Who Fought For the
Confederacy**

**7:00 p.m. at the Germantown Regional History
and Genealogy Center**

Don't miss our next camp meeting.

About the same time in late 1862, Major General John B. Magruder was named Confederate commander of the District of Texas. Upon arriving in Houston, Magruder immediately began making plans to recapture Galveston. For a naval attack he placed artillery and dismounted cavalry from Sibley's brigade, led by Colonel Thomas Green aboard two river steamers, the *Bayou City* and the *Neptune*, commanded by Capt. Leon Smith. Magruder outfitted the decks of two river steamers, the *Bayou City* and the *Neptune*, with bales of cotton. The compressed cotton would be used to protect an on-board attack force to challenge the Federal fleet in Galveston harbor.

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Galveston January 1, 1863

As part of the Union blockade of the Texas coast, Commander William B. Renshaw led his squadron of eight ships into Galveston harbor to demand surrender of the most important Texas port on October 4, 1862. Brig. General Paul O. Hébert, commanding the Confederate District of Texas, had removed most of the heavy artillery from Galveston Island, which he believed to be indefensible. The Fort Point garrison fired on the federal ships, which responded by dismounting the Confederate cannon with return shots.

Colonel Joseph J. Cook, in command on the island, arranged a four-day truce while he evacuated his men to the mainland. The Union ships held the harbor, but 264 men of the Forty-second Massachusetts Infantry, led by Colonel I. S. Burrell, did not arrive until December 25 to occupy Kuhn's Wharf and patrol the town.



**Confederate Major General
John Bankhead Magruder**

Magruder gathered infantry and cavalry, led by Brig. General William R. Scurry and supported by twenty light and heavy cannons, to cross the railroad bridge onto the island in a joint land-sea attack to capture the federal forces ashore.

To meet the attack Renshaw had six ships that mounted twenty-nine pieces of heavy artillery.

On New Year's Eve, the Confederate Cottonclads, as the curious looking vessels were called, threaded their way from Harrisburg, through Galveston Bay, and toward the western entrance to Galveston harbor.

About dawn on New Year's Day, 1863, the Confederate Cottonclads entered the west end of Galveston harbor. Their nearest and first target was the Union's *Harriet Lane*.

After a brief encounter and some maneuvering, the tide of battle foretold an almost certain Union victory. The Confederate ground forces had been

outgunned and effectively held in check by the Federal warships. After only a brief contest at sea, one-half of the two-vessel Texas fleet was lying on the bottom of the harbor. Further, the lone surviving Confederate Cottonclad, the *Bayou City*, was outnumbered six-to-one among the armed vessels in the harbor.

After recovering from its first encounter, however, the *Bayou City* circled around and made a second desperate run on the *Lane*. This time, the Confederates hit their target with remarkable precision. In short order, the crew of the *Bayou City* succeeded in storming and overpowering the crew of the *Lane*.

Meanwhile, across the harbor, the Federal Flagship *Westfield*, with Commodore Renshaw on board, had become hopelessly grounded in shallow water. The crew tried furiously to dislodge her, but she would not budge. At that point, a temporary truce was negotiated as both sides considered their positions.



Battle of Galveston

During the truce, Renshaw decided to destroy the still immobilized *Westfield* and attempt a Federal escape from the harbor. Even this plan went terribly awry. As Renshaw and his crew fused the gunpowder on the flagship and quickly rowed away, nothing happened. They returned for another attempt. But as they debarked the second time, the gunpowder prematurely exploded, rocking the entire harbor. The explosion killed Renshaw and thirteen of his crew.

With flags of truce still flying, the remaining Federal vessels stoked their boilers, and quietly began heading for the open sea. In this endeavor they were successful, for the Confederates had little means to pursue.

Thus, the island of Galveston was recaptured. Twenty-six Confederates had been killed and 117 wounded. About twice that many Federals died in the conflict. The Union's showcase vessel and nearly 400

men were captured. More importantly for the Texans, however, was that their victory restored control of Galveston to the Confederacy, where it would remain for the balance of the war.

Notes from the Field

Third Sergeant John Garibaldi wrote his fiancé December 28th 1861”

“I received yours of the 24 instant just yesterday evening from which I understand with the greatest pleasure that you was well and also the whole of the family, with the whole of the neighbors around you. This leaves me enjoying a perfect good health as it has been the case always. We have had right merry Christmas, we had plenty to eat such as it was and plenty to drink, pretty near the whole of Holloway's company was drunk.....”

At this time the regiment was destroying dams to prevent provisions reaching Washington City.

“.....There was a constant shooting from each side of the river from morning till night, it was no regular battle only for those that wanted to fight could go and take up a position on this side of the river and fire away as much as they wanted. The general came by one evening and looked very much pleased at the boys and said pitch in boys it is a free fight. We killed a good many Yankees and they only killed one of us. After we succeeded in breaking the dam, we came back to our old camp where we now are. It is believed that we shall leave here and go to Romney to have a fight with the Yankees. This is the general belief, that we will march in a day or two and if we go to Romney we shall have a hard fight in driving away the enemy from behind their fortifications. They are just now taking a list of all the cartridges we have in order to give us a full supply and march us off to Romney. I have a heap more to tell you but I haven't time to do it for we have to go out on a general review. So goodbye. I send you my likeness also.

So Goodbye.

John Garibaldi

To Miss Sarah A.V. Poor

Write to me as soon as you get this.”

John was from Genoa, Italy. He served through the war in the 27th Va, Stonewall Brigade, fought the Valley Campaign, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, captured twice and paroled from Ft Delaware. He survived the war and became a farmer and teacher in Virginia. Not sure if he made Sarah his bride.

- Lt Commander Mark Buchanan

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,

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed the celebration of Christ's birth.

Christmas Celebration and potluck dinner was held at our last meeting and it was delicious with lots of ham, turkey, veggies, salads, and tons of, calorie free of course, deserts. Attendance was lighter than usual though there were 26 of us there and we had a new member join us.

New Member Jeremy Elkins is welcomed to the Lee Camp and was voted into membership. We were graced with the presence of Mrs. Elkins for the occasion as well and appreciate her attendance. We look forward to having both of them actively involved with us and Bankhead's Battery.

Germantown Historic Tour - We are looking for a great and prosperous year for the Camp as we prepare for the Germantown Historic Tour May 18th and 19th. Are you involved yet? Volunteer and come to the Committee meeting on January 10th and 24th at Wang's Restaurant on Park Ave at Ridgeway at 11:30. There you can volunteer to help at any of the various stops of in any capacity that you would like. We do need you.

Annual Awards Recognition will be announced and the awards given at the January meeting. Those being recognized for their service to the Camp will also be recognized at the Lee Jackson Banquet on the 19th so they should plan on attending both events.

MOSB - The Military Order of the Stars and Bars will have applications for membership at the Camp meeting for those interested in joining the Order. To qualify you must have an ancestor who served as an officer for the Confederacy or an elected official. See Tarry Beasley after the Camp meeting for an application and further information if you are interested or go on line to:

www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org.

Reminder, there are several of the Camp photo Composites available less than ten I believe. The cost is only 5.00 so be sure to get yours from Arthur Oliver or me before they are gone.

Lee Jackson Chalmers Banquet January 19th at the Ridgeway Country Club beginning at 6:00 pm - There will be a silent auction if you wish to bring something to donate. It makes a great place to pick

up an item you have always wanted and at the same time the sale contributes to the Forrest Boyhood Home that the Tennessee Division owns. This year we are especially proud to have Ronald Kennedy as our speaker. He is from Louisiana and is the author of many books all pro Southern, States rights, and the ten amendments to the Constitution. You will truly kick yourself if you do not come to this outstanding event. Tickets are 30.00 for the first one and 25.00 for the second, in other words 55.00 for a pair and the Camp meeting will be that last chance to purchase them as last year we sold out but for 4 tickets. Don't wait till the day of the Banquet and hope to get a ticket as there probably won't be any left.

Meeting Date - January 14th across the patio for the Pickering Center at the Tennessee Genealogical Society's building. It is really nice and I know you will like the new more comfortable surroundings and hospitality of the TenGen library and research center.

American by Birth
Southern by the Grace of God

Tarry Beasley, Commander

Black Eyed Peas and New Years – A Confederate Tradition

Eating Black Eyed Peas, also called Cow Peas, on New Year's Day is a fine Southern tradition that started in the 1860's during the War Between the States. The story goes that during The War, Yankee invaders raided the food supply of a small band of Confederate soldier's one New Year's Eve and only left behind Black Eyed Peas. One version of the story says that the Northern soldiers burned all the crops in the fields except Black Eyed Peas because they did not recognize the Southern crop and thought it was just weeds.

Whatever the case, the brave Confederate volunteers awoke on New Year's morning and feasted on Black Eyed Peas in preparation for battle. That day, the out-numbered band of Southern boys fought with unusual vigor - pushing the Yankees out of the region.

Later, townsfolk asked the Confederate soldiers what was the key of their success. The grateful Confederates unanimously agreed it wouldn't have been possible without the lucky Black Eyed Peas. The story spread and with it the Southern tradition of eating Black Eyed Peas on New Year's Day for luck and prosperity.

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.

A few camp composites are available for \$5.00 each - get them while they last.

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 ** January 14, 2013
Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN