



# TRAVELLER

A Publication of the General Robert E. Lee Camp, #1640  
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN  
Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry  
DEO VINDICE!  
**March, 2015**



## CAMP MEETING March 9, 2015

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

**Don't miss the party!**

### PRISON LIFE OF A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

MILES O. SHERRILL, Catawba County, North Carolina, joined the "Catawba Rifles" on April 27, 1861, and served as a Corporal in Company A, 12th N.C. Troops (2nd Regiment N.C. Volunteers). At the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House on May 10, 1864 he was severely wounded and captured. His right leg was amputated and he was confined at various Federal hospitals until being transferred to the prison at Elmira. In December of



1864 he was paroled, and was exchanged in February of 1865. Below is his story.

I was shot in the first charge that was made at Spotsylvania Court-House, Virginia, early on the morning of the 9th day of May, 1864. The charge was made by our brigade, composed of the Fifth, Twelfth, Twentieth and Twenty-third N. C. Regiments, led by General E. D. Johnston. The charge was a success so far as the enemy in our front were concerned, but our lines were overlapped by Burnside's troops. Our regiment (the Twelfth) and our company (A), being on the extreme right, were exposed to an enfilading fire clear across an open field ; so we were exposed to a fire from front and from the right. The enemy had torn down a rail fence and made temporary breast-works in our front, from which our men drove them, but could not hold the position because

Burnside's whole army corps was on hand, and could easily have cut off our little brigade ; so General Johnston gave the command to fall back. As our troops fell back, Sergeant Silas Smyre (now county commissioner of Catawba) and Corporal E. G. Bost endeavored to carry me from the battlefield. They were so exhausted from marching and fighting that they could not hold me up so as to prevent the crushed leg from dragging on the ground. To prevent their being captured, I begged them to leave me to my fate. (May I never forget this act of kindness by these brave men, who risked so much for me.) I was in the broiling hot sun, without water, my canteen having been shot in the fight, and the water all run out.

I was concealed from the enemy by some shrubbery. Late in the afternoon I realized that I could not live without water. The loss of blood, together with the burning rays of the sun, made me feel that life was about to ebb out ; so I called to the enemy and surrendered. Here I commenced the life of a prisoner, which lasted ten months. Besides the suffering from wounds, the humility, the loss of liberty, the absence of all friends and loved ones, no face but that of enemies, was just about as much as I could bear up under in my condition. In that hour home and friends would have been "a haven of rest" sure enough.

The day following, when I was laid on the slaughter table, my eyes caught the sight of arms and legs piled on the ground — an indication of what I might expect. Dr. Cox, of Ohio, examined my leg. The only conversation that passed between us was this : I said, "Doctor, can you save my leg?" He replied, "I fear not, Johnny." Chloroform was applied, and when restored to consciousness I was minus one limb. I lay there in what was designated "a field hospital" for two or three days without any further attention to the wound, and the result was the flies "blowed" the amputated limb, and when I reached Alexandria City, some days later, the nurse who dressed the wound found that I was being eat up by the vermin. Just here I will state that on the last day spent at the field

hospital there was a great rush in gathering us up in ambulances. Under great excitement, I said to the doctor who was supervising the movement : "Doctor, what is the matter ?" He replied that "Burnside was falling back to get a better position." I had been in the army long enough to know that was an evasive answer. The fact was that our troops were driving Burnside back, and the Federals were not willing to lose any of their prisoners though maimed for life.

The roads from this place were cut to pieces by the artillery and wagon trains of the Union army going to the front. Those of us who were badly wounded cried for mercy. Kb mercy came until we reached the boat landing, where we (those living) were transferred from ambulance to the boat. I do not know how many died en route from the battlefield to the boat landing. I do know that Charles P. Powell, Adjutant of the Twenty-third North Carolina Regiment, who had lost his leg just as I had, died on this trip, and they stopped on the roadside and covered him up. This young man Powell was from Richmond County, NC. He was a private soldier at Malvern Hill, July, 1862. When in line of battle, in front of the artillery, a shell fell in the ranks. The men could not leave the line of battle. There lay the shell, sputtering, ready to explode. Young Powell sprang up, grappled the shell and "soused" it into a pool of water near by. What a risk was that ! Yet that heroic act may have saved the lives of several men. Later that day he was wounded, and again at the battle of Gettysburg in July, 1863, and died as above stated. On page 189 of Volume II, North Carolina Regimental Histories, it is stated that C. P. Powell, Adjutant, was killed on the 9th of May, 1864, whereas the truth is- he was shot on the 9th and his leg was amputated, and about the 11th or 12th of May he was jolted to death between Spottsylvania Court-House and Bell Plains.

I venture the assertion that he was not buried two and a half feet deep ; and the place is unknown to his people, who think he was buried on the battlefield. We were shipped to Alexandria City, where I spent three months in the "Marshall House," where the proprietor, Jackson, shot and killed Colonel Ellsworth, who tore down his Confederate flag in April, 1861, and Jackson was killed by Frank Brownwell, of Colonel Ellsworth's regiment. This hotel was used as a prison hospital for those who were permanently disabled. For awhile the patriotic women of Alexandria were permitted to visit us, and often when they would bid us good-bye a "green-back" bill or something else was left in our hand. However, before we were removed from there the good women were prohibited from coming to see us.

While a prisoner here our troops, under General Early came down near Washington City, and there was great excitement in Washington and Alexandria, for it did seem that the Confederates were going into Washington. We prisoners were expecting to be released and get home, but our expectations were soon blasted by the Confederates having to retreat back to the south side of the Potomac, and did not come via Alexandria. My next move was to the Lincoln Hospital in Washington City. Here I spent about two months. After I could walk with crutches I



was transferred to the old Capitol Prison. I was honored with a seat in the old Capitol, but bad to look through iron bars. While here I was guilty of

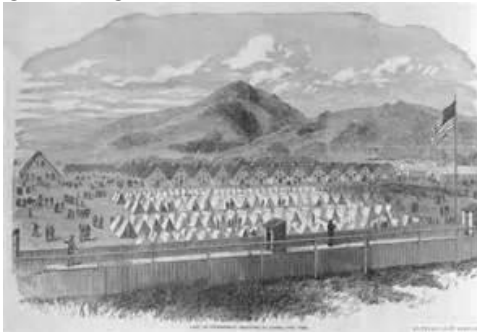
"cruelty to bugs," if not to animals, in the common acceptation of that term. I know how to appreciate the traveling man's experience given by "Red Buck," in Charlotte Observer, of September 11, 1903. Night after night I suffered from the onslaughts of those "bugs" — no telling how much I endured. "Weeping endureth for the night, but joy cometh in the morning." They had all the "innings" at night, but in the morning I would take my turn at the bat. As soon as it was light enough to see I would sit upon my humble couch (I was myself a picture of humility) and commence a war of revenge. As they would take to the wall I would go for them, and before I left that prison many, many "bugs" were slaughtered, as the blood-stained wall bore testimony. Yes, that wall was well striped with Confederate blood. The loss of blood in that way, if not with as much pain, was attended with much more genuine disgust. How much I would have liked to "express myself," but my lips were hermetically sealed.

In November, 1864, I (with others) was shipped off to Elmyra, NY. Leaving the old Capitol Prison, I got away at least from the multitude of B. B.'s, but I ran into the B. L.'s — army body lice, or what the soldiers call "grey backs." Later on I may speak of my experience with this pest while in the small-pox camp. We reached Elmyra, 1ST. Y., on Sunday morning. Being in the mountains, the ground was covered with snow. Arriving at the barracks, we were lined up- (I was on my crutches, and had to stand there on one foot for what seemed to me a very long time) just inside the gate, negro soldiers on guard. The commanding officer, Major Beal, greeted

us with the most bitter oaths that I ever heard. He swore that he was going to send us out and have us shot ; said he had no room for us, and that we (meaning the Confederate soldiers) had no mercy on their colored soldiers or prisoners. He was half drunk, and I was not sure but that we might be dealt with then and there.

Then we were searched and robbed of knives, cash, etc., and sent into various wards. While we were standing in the snow, hearing the abuse of Major Beal, some poor ragged Confederate prisoners were marched by with what was designated as barrel shirts, with the word "thief" written in large letters pasted on the back of each barrel, and a squad of little drummer boys following beating the drums. The mode of

wearing the barrel shirts was to take an ordinary flour barrel, cut a hole through the bottom large enough for



the head to go through, with arm-holes on the right and left, through which the arms were to be placed. This was put on the poor fellow, resting on his shoulders, his head and arms coming through as indicated above ; thus they were made to march around for so many hours and so many days. What do you suppose they had stolen ? Why, something to eat. Yes, they had stolen cabbage leaves and other things from slop barrels, which was a violation of the rules of the prison.

One large, robust prisoner from Virginia was brought into the surgical ward where I was, having been seriously wounded by one of the guards. On inquiry, I learned that the poor fellow was caught fishing out scraps from a slop barrel and was shot for it. A small, very thin piece of light-bread with a tin pint cup full of what purported to be soup twice a day was the rations for the prisoners. I heard the men say : "My soup has only three eyes on it" — meaning there was no grease in it — only hot water. This fare was not enough to sustain life in healthy, able-bodied men. The result was that where they could not make something — make rings, etc. — and thus secure something from the sutlers, many, yea hundreds of the poor fellows would be attacked with dysentery — so common and often so fatal in camp, and especially in prison life. The food they had seemed to be only enough to feed the disease; the result was that scores

and hundreds died.

Speaking of the light-bread, the Confederates would sometimes hold it up and declare "that it was so thin that they could read the Neiv York Herald through it" ; then they would grab it and squeeze it up in one hand till it looked about like a small biscuit. Men died there for the want of food. I do not know, it may be that the Government issued enough rations, but it had to pass through too many hands before reaching the soldiers. The truth is that there was a great deal of speculation and swindling carried on in the prisons ; and I am ashamed to say it, yet it is true that sometimes some of our own men were engaged in the conspiracy to cheat and defraud their fellow-prisoners. It was in this way those in charge of the prison would take Confederates and make ward-masters, etc., of them (like in prisons now a few are made "trusties" ) ; and a little authority, even of that kind, would ruin some men. Some prisoners, like Jeshrun, grew fat, but others starved for want of suitable food and enough of it.

Well, to go back a little, while standing there, receiving the profane blessing from Major Beal, I saw drawing near as he dared to venture an old fellow-prisoner that I had met in Washington, who had preceded me to this place. I do not remember his name. I had at Washington nicknamed him "Softy." He recognized me, and as Beal closed his eloquent abuse, and we were ordered to march into the barracks, "Softy" ventured in a low tone to speak to me. His greeting was : "Sherrill, you have come to hell at last. Did you see those four-horse wagons going out ? They were full of dead men, who died last night. They are dying by hundreds here with small-pox and other diseases." He was discovered by one of the guards (standing too near us). He hollered at him: "Get away from there." He got away immediately, if not sooner. When I reflected on the situation — the cursing major, the colored guards, the robbing us of our little stock of valuables, the barrel shirts, the wagons with the dead, the appearance of some of the living, the earth covered with snow — I thought, "Well, 'Softy' has given a true bill."

When I was located, I found I had kinsfolk there: J. U. Long (now chairman of the board of county commissioners), Nicholas Sherrill and W. P. Sherrill. There may have been others, but I do not recall them now. My haversack had been supplied with rations on leaving Washington. When I was located in the ward, "Nick" Sherrill came to see me. Of course we were glad to see each other, for it had been many moons since we had met. We were not in the same command in the army. "Nick" asked me if I had anything to eat.

I replied, "Yes." He said: "I want to trade you a cup, spoon, etc., for some bread ; I am about perished." Poor fellow, he looked the picture of despair. I said : "Nick, I do not want your cup and spoons, but you are welcome to what I have." He devoured in short order all that I had, and wanted more. Poor fellow, he soon died, as did W. P. Sherrill ; died away from home and loved ones, buried by their enemies.

I had to spend several days in the barracks before I was transferred to the surgical or hospital ward. I was there long enough to know why Cousin Nicholas was so anxious for my bread. After I was placed in the surgical ward of the hospital I fared fairly well — a great improvement over the fare out in the wards of the regular prison. After a few weeks I was taken with small-pox, and of course was transferred over S. Creek to the small-pox camp. I was carried over on a cot, or "stretcher," with blanket thrown over my face. When I reached the place, and the blanket was removed, I found myself in a large "wall tent," with several cots, or "bunks," about two and a half feet wide, with two Confederates on each "bunk," in reverse order, A.'s head at one end and B's at the other — so your bed-fellow's feet were in very close proximity to your face. They were all sandwiched in this way, because the bed was too narrow to admit of the two to lay shoulder to shoulder. On waking up on a morning one of these poor fellows would be dead and the other alive ; this, of course, occurred day after day, and night after night. Well might those poor fellows, who had spent at least a part of the night with a corpse for a bed-fellow, have exclaimed with St. Paul, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

When I took in the situation, I told the man who was going to place me on a bunk by the side of a poor fellow bad off with that awful disease (and who finally died) "that he could not put me on there." He replied "that he would show me whether he could or not." I stuck to it that I would not be put there. The fellow went and brought in the wardmaster, and when he appeared it was Jack Redman, from Cleveland County, Company E, my regiment, Redman said, "Why, hello, Sherrill, was it you that was raising such a racket ?" I told him it was. He- wanted to know what was the matter. I explained that with my amputated limb it would never do to put me on a bunk with another fellow, and he finally consented to arrange for me to have one to myself. I said : "Redman, you must grant me another favor." He wished to know what it was. I replied : "I want you to let me keep my blanket that came over from the surgical ward." "Why so, Sherrill?" I said: "Jack, you

see those blankets that you fellows have been using on these men — there are five 'army lice' to every hair on the blanket." Redman took a hearty laugh. He knew there was more truth in it than poetry, so he granted my request.

Redman had had small-pox and was an "immune," hence was made a ward-master. He was especially kind and considerate towards me. When I got well and was carried away, I never knew what became of him. Some of our men who felt that the thing was gone, and that we could not succeed, never came back South. I am inclined to think that Redman did that thing. After the doctor had declared me well, and directed that I should be removed back to the hospital ward from whence I came, this was indeed glorious news ; for of all the diseases that flesh is heir to, small-pox is the filthiest. The small-pox such as we had there was "sure enough" small-pox. Such as we have in North Carolina these days, in comparison with that, is only make-believe. I don't think it an exaggeration to say that seven out of ten who had it died.

I was carried over into what was called a bathhouse, where I was placed in a large bath-tub of water, almost too hot to bear. The Yankee soldier who had charge went out to look after something else or to loiter around, and I waited and waited for his return (the water was beginning to get cold) so I could get out and get clothing to put on. The atmosphere of the room was colder, if anything, than the water. I was in great distress, and it seemed that I could make no one hear me ; so I had to wait the return of the villain, who finally came when the water in the bath-tub seemed to me to be nearly to the freezing point. He came, bringing a full Yankee suit, and when I gave him a piece of my mind he apologized and begged me not to speak of it — said he had actually forgotten me. When I reached the hospital ward I was a blue man in feelings and in appearance. I was dressed in a Yankee suit, even to a cap. I felt humiliated, and my skin was blue from cold. But for the kindness of my comrades there, giving me of their allowance of spirits that night, I don't know but what I would have gone hence.

Along toward the close of February, 1865, I with others, was marched to the train and shipped to Richmond. I think that was the happiest day that I ever experienced in my life. To get out of that death hole was enough to make one happy; and to add to it the prospect of getting home to friends and loved ones, from whom I had been so long separated, not having heard from them in ten months, was indeed a treat. Many and great changes had taken place since I

had left Dixie. I never did doubt that we would eventually succeed. I presume I was cheered up and was kept optimistic from the many rumors all the time in circulation that France and England would soon recognize our independence; which, of course, never took place. The air was filled with that and other rumors, not only in the Confederate army, but even in prison.

Such rumors of great victories for the Confederate army were all the time circulating among the poor fellows. As I came on from New York it looked to me as if the whole world was being uniformed in blue and moving toward General Grant's army. As we came up the James River, both sides were lined with soldiers dressed in blue. When we came to the Confederate lines, seeing such few ragged men confronting all that blue host, my courage came near failing me. In fact, I could not see how this little thin line of Confederates could hold at bay such a multitude of well-fed, well-equipped men. The patriotic women of Richmond tried to be cheerful, but I could see plainly enough that they were depressed. While they were just as kind in their attention to the returning soldiers as in former days, yet it was evident that the cheerful hope of former days was gone. When I reached home I soon learned that many who were living on the 9th of May, 1864, when we made that charge, had been numbered with the dead. Among others was my nephew, James Ferdinand Robinson, a young man a few months younger than myself, a great favorite in the company, full of humor and wit. He was a sharp-shooter, and was found dead on the 12th of May, 1861, by Frank Turbyfield, of the Twenty-third Regiment. After the fighting on the morning of the 9th, he wrote a letter in pencil to his father, Marion Robinson, in which he stated : "My Uncle Miles was killed in the charge made early this morning." Two days later he was killed. I got home to read his letter relative to my death ; but he, poor fellow, was gone. I have not seen the letter since 1865; so I only quote from memory what I remember.

There are many humorous, ludicrous, laughable things that occurred in prison life, connected with the negro soldiers (sparring between the colored guard and the Confederate prisoners) that will not do to publish; so I forbear to give any of them.

## CIVIL WAR TRUST SAVING BATTLEFIELD PARKS DAY



March 28, please put this on your calendars and plan to attend. This is an event sponsored by the Civil War Trust, where we all go out en masse and clean up our historic parks and battlefields. For our purposes, I would like to take a two pronged approach whereby we have one group working at Ft. Germantown and another crew comprised of our members who live more to the Northern part of town working at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, getting the area around the Unknown CSA soldiers cleaned up and maintained, new flags put out, etc. This is part of historical preservation, and that is what we do, so I would like



to see 100% participation in this event. I have also put down a challenge to the other area Camp Commanders to take one in their area - Forrest Park for example could work on Confederate Park and Forrest Park easily, the Wigfall Grays could handle the Square and the Stockade area, etc. Our friends in the Chalmers Camp would be welcome to join us at either Germantown area location. We'll be inviting the local media as well, as this is good PR for our Camp and for the SCV. The Camp will provide materials and cold drinks. I'll see you all there.



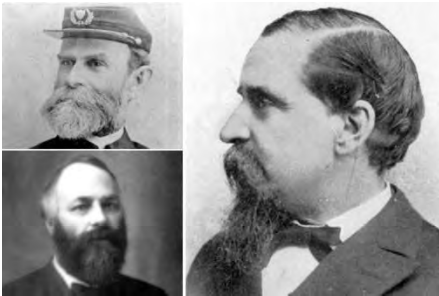
## SCV FUNDRAISERS

Please remember to utilize where possible, the Kroger Card program, SCV License plates, and Amazon Smile. As we discussed at last month's meeting, these are all very important to the Tennessee Division and therefore ultimately to the Camp, and we all need your support. If you need the instructions again, please let me know. Also, don't forget to support financially Citizens to Save our Parks. We will ultimately win this fight, but it isn't going to be for free. See Mark if you have questions about that and he will fill you in.

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## HERITAGE ATTACK OF THE MONTH

It was a toss-up this month, and since I couldn't bring myself to pick on a 13-year old from Texas (then on the other hand, maybe I will), I chose the NAACP. In Florida, it seems, they don't seem to recognize that Confederate Veterans ARE American Veterans by Federal Law and are actively working to keep 3 prominent Confederates out of the Veterans' Hall of Fame. Yep, you can't make this stuff up. The link is [here](#), and the story is below. Read on, compatriots. This is old and it must stop.



The Florida State NAACP State Conference has launched an online petition drive to ensure the governor,

Cabinet and legislature do not allow prominent Confederate soldiers to be honored in the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame memorial. A group called the Sons of Confederate Veterans is pressing for the inclusion of three prominent figures in Florida history - former Gov. Edward A Perry III, U.S. Sen. Samuel Pasco, and Florida National Guard creator David Lang - who so far have been barred because they did not serve in the U.S. military.

President of NAACP Florida Adora Obi Nweze:

“While these three Confederate soldiers went on to distinguished achievements after the South lost in the Civil War, they do not meet the basic criteria of having served, and been honorably discharged, from the United States military.

“The Confederacy fought to tear apart our country, in support of savage slavery, in a misguided, hateful attempt to uphold that abomination. The dark stain of

slavery is undeniably a part of American and Florida history that should be remembered and studied. But to have these men honored in a memorial at the state Capitol for their service on the wrong side of history would be an injustice to the descendants of enslaved Americans and an insult to all Americans who have bravely served our country with honor. Honoring the Confederacy does nothing but reopen the scars of racism and division that, a century and half later, are still not healed. Including Confederates in the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame would be like a modern declaration of civil war by the State of Florida. It would be akin to flying the Confederate Flag over the state Capitol again.”

Hmm. I would submit that maybe it's the folks at the NAACP that are picking at the scab and continually reopening the wound so it can't heal. If they don't do that, they're out of business. OK, I know I said I wouldn't pick on a 13-year old from Texas, but yeah, I'm going to because he needs to be turned around in the right direction. This particular [piece](#) of sadness by a young Austin resident named Jacob Hale submitted to multiple Texas papers points out the work we have to do to re-educate and un-brainwash future



generations. Plant the seeds with your children and grandchildren today if you aren't already. In the meantime, please read below from potentially a future "journalist":

When you're 13 years old, a lot of things don't make sense. That's especially true of history and politics.

Last year, I closely followed the legal battle over the Sons of Confederate Veterans' specialty license plates here in Texas. I've always been disturbed by the Confederate flag and what it represents to many people. The state fought vigorously against issuing these license plates, and I was extremely supportive of that effort. I was disappointed when the circuit court ruled against the state and decided that the license plates must be allowed based on the First Amendment. While following the case, I learned that Texas has a holiday called Confederate Heroes Day.

This really confused me. Our state had just made a big effort to fight the image of the Confederate flag, but at the same time, we endorse Confederate soldiers as “heroes” with their very own state holiday.

In arguing against allowing the plates, then-Attorney General Greg Abbott presented several arguments that made a lot of sense to me. In those arguments, Abbott kept coming back to the fact that the state chose not to promote the Confederate flag because it is offensive. He also argued that it is totally expected for a state to change its view over time.

These arguments inspired me to try to change the Confederate hero’s holiday in Texas. Why should we call a flag offensive but honor the people fighting under it as heroes?

To do that, I needed to talk to some legislators to get the ball rolling. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend The Texas Tribune Festival in September (which I really loved). I got to talk with many legislators, including state Sens. Rodney Ellis and Kirk Watson and state Reps. Dawnna Dukes, Molly White, Susan King and Donna Howard. I asked if I could have a more in-depth meeting with Howard, who is my representative.

When I met with Howard, I brought her a draft of a bill changing Confederate Heroes Day to Civil War Remembrance Day and moving it away from Jan. 19, which sometimes coincides with Martin Luther King Jr. Day (another huge part of what motivated me). She told me that she was very excited to carry this legislation. Since then, I’ve been working with her office on this effort.

A state senator’s office encouraged me to write an op-ed to gain support for my idea. I submitted my article to four newspapers across Texas, and though I never heard back from them, writing the piece gave me a clear outline for my ideas. This was important when the Fort Worth Star-Telegram interviewed me at a moment’s notice earlier this month.

At the suggestion of Howard’s office, I attended the opening of the Austin History Center’s exhibit on the Civil War. While there, my feelings about this bill were only strengthened. The exhibit clearly shows that the Confederate cause was only a part of Texas history during the Civil War. There were hundreds of thousands of slaves in Texas at that time, clearly overwhelming the 70,000 Confederate soldiers from Texas. Also, pro-Union Texans were killed in mass hangings in Houston and Gainesville.

Why should we only recognize one side of such a huge conflict in which there were many aspects to

Texas at that time? As a proud Texan and descendant of Confederate and Union soldiers, I think it is finally time to recognize and remember the full scope of our Civil War story.

Considering it’s been 150 years this May since the Civil War ended, changing Confederate Heroes Day to Civil War Remembrance Day and moving the date makes complete sense to me.

Then it will be a holiday for all Texans.

## **HERITAGE COUNTERATTACK OF THE MONTH**

From the Great State of North Carolina (this one is awesome):

Monday, February 16, 2015



### ***Complaint About SCV Sign in NC Leads To Battle Flag Installation***

Some of you may recall the news story a few weeks ago, about the SCV Roadside sign that was removed in North Carolina once it was found to be in the DOT Right of Way - the story is here:

<http://beforeitsnews.com/alternative/2015/01/nc-scv-group-agrees-to-remove-sign-3097884.html>.

All I have to say is, to whoever raised a stink about it... THANK YOU...not only has the sign been re-installed...there is now a Battle Flag flying, too!

From Billy Starnes, Major Charles Q. Petty Camp #872: "The sign is now out of the DOT right of way. Although a little farther off the road, we decided to add a 52' x 52" Battle Flag so it is now more eye

catching than ever."

HUZZAH! God bless the men of the Old North State!

*Credit: Virginia Flaggers*

Other than that, I haven't seen many this month. Very odd, considering the heritage attacks nationwide, but I guess everybody needs a break every now and then. However, I would point out a letter from prolific letter-to-the-editor writer John Wayne Dobson of Macon, GA., who has apparently been "suspended" from writing letters to the editorial staff at the Macon Telegraph because he failed to properly mark a quote. So naturally, they accused him of plagiarism and told him they would no longer print his letters. This is one of the reasons correct grammar and spelling is important, but more importantly accentuates my point that with all of the heritage attacks going on around us that I see very few letters denouncing this behavior. We have to keep the pressure on. I know it gets tiresome, but YOU are also entitled to YOUR opinion. Be factual, brief, and well spoken. We need more Dobsons writing on local AND national issues. See his letter below, and copy me on anything you send. I'd like to post some of OUR members' letters here this year:

As we see the approach of the 150th anniversary of Lee's surrender at Appomattox, I, ironically face a type of finality myself. I have written about this before but, now, have a bit more to say about it.

Since 1973 I have submitted Letters-to-the-Editor to the Macon Telegraph and various other publications. Most editors were fair-minded people even though they heartily disagreed with most of the views I expressed. Others used their authority to support their own ideology. Earlier this year, in a sloppy piece of writing, I failed to note the direct words of source and place the proper quotation marks - see the Letters-to-the-Editor at Macon.com for January 7. I make no excuse, it was my poor work and I am guilty of that. What I am not guilty of is the bogus charge of plagiarism. Although I am ashamed of my workmanship, in this instance, I have no need to copy words and represent them as my own. In fact the strength of my writings is often the foundation laid through eloquent words of past voices. In better words, what I say, or what I think is not important - historical quotes are - and that is what I often used. Without attributing them to their rightful author they do not carry much weight. It seems, therefore, that I now am totally barred from expressing opinions in the Macon Telegraph. A slanderous enemy seems to have won.

I, had a voice, one voice, in this community to present historical observations without a coating of political white wash. Naturally, these were opposed but often people graciously told me how much they supported the sentiments of my writings which mirrored opinions that they also held. As much as I appreciated these kind words, I always wondered, "if you feel that way, why did you not write as letter as well?" Sometimes I actually asked them this question, to which they replied "well, you know I can't write and express things like that" ... and so on - others just shrugged. Most of us were taught to read and write in school and I was amazed that illiteracy was yet so prevalent. Can you imagine someone with a high school diploma (and in many cases a college degree) telling me they can't write a letter expressing their opinion - what they mean is they won't! I know, they say that the art of letter writing has been lost but I get emails folks all the time saying what they think. And don't tell me people are incompetent nor shy about giving you a piece of their mind - look at FACEBOOK! However, in newsprint, well they seem to reluctant to write what they think and sign their name to it - why is that? Do they fear repercussions from their peers or a reprimand at work? I have actually received work place promotions and opportunities related to writing letters to the newspaper - true story! Come on folks, I understand fully how the politically correct of this world can give you a hard time but we are SOUTHERN PEOPLE - of all humanity we should be unaffected by fear or laziness. Is our heritage worth it or not? If not, find the channel changer and nod off in an easy chair.

We may be able to affect little change by voicing our opinions and being a reminder of true historical facts but we can sure make them know we are not asleep. For much of the opposition this is all just a game played with a deck of cards called "sheer willful ignorance." Those who wrote rebuttals to my work had little more to say than to call me names and skew a few facts - real scholars they are! I never minded what they said about me, it was often amusing; nor did I waste my time contending with them. However, do you feel okay about their defamations of Lee, Jackson, the Cause of Southern Independence and in some cases even the Lord Jesus Christ?

Apparently, I am out of that game - my weapon taken. If I could find any way to continue the fight, I would, and there may be another avenue of approach but I will need some courageous wiliness from you - not interested, okay, I expected such. But, there may be one or two out there who still have a taste for the



fray - contact me if you care about carrying the fight to the face of the enemy. I really do not expect many emails nor for my phone to ring in acceptance of this challenge. It you're up to it, it would be encouraging.

"..... a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come....." - Proverbs 24:33-34

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### BLUFF CITY GRAYS UPDATE

We are on the march to Okolona, MS March 7 where we hope to meet a Yankee horde and stop them in their tracks. As I understand it, from there we will go on to take some fort in Helena, AR on the 14th. More reports and dates of future action to follow. If you have interest in having some fun and killing lots of Yankee invaders, we'd love to have you. Below is the tentative schedule, dates and places are subject to change based on Yankees moving around:

#### 2015 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Mar. 7-8 - Battle of Okolona, MS  
[www.battleofokolona.com](http://www.battleofokolona.com)
- Mar. 14-15 - Battle of Helena, AR
- Apr. 18-19 - Battle of Ft. Pillow
- Apr. 23-26 - 150th Anniversary of Sinking of the Sultana, Marion AR
- May 9 - Battle of Linden, TN
- May 15-17 - Battle of Sacramento, Sacramento, KY
- Oct. 10-12 - Battle of Columbus-Belmont
- Oct. 24-25 - Battle of Trenton, Medina TN

Look us up on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/BluffCityGraysMemphis>

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### WEAPONS OF THE WAR

#### *Regulation US Model 1855 Rifle Musket: An Overview*

Ken Chrestman

In 1855 then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis was concerned that the present arms in the US Arsenals were becoming obsolete due to recent war demands brought on by the conflict in the Crimea between Great Britain and Russia. Developments propelled European nations to adopt rifles to replace decade's long use of smoothbores as line weapons for infantry. This created what we would call an "Arms Race" by modern standards. The British Pattern 1853 rifle musket was born out of this period; it would play a significant role during the War Between the States, both north and south. Its development would impact the arms development in US Arsenals.

The US Ordnance Department was headed by Major Alfred Mordecai. Mordecai was born in 1804 son of a revolution war veteran. Alfred was appointed to West Point in 1819, graduating head of his class in 1823, promoted to Major in 1854 while head of Washington Arsenal and appointed head of the US Ordnance Department the same year. He would later be known as the "Wizard of Weaponry" and develop a new class of infantry arm for the US, the "Rifle Musket".

At the direction of Jefferson Davis Major Mordecai appointed a commission to study the state of arms development in use by European armies, the commission left Boston April 11, 1855 to return almost a year later. This commission consisted of Major Dalafield and Captain George B. McClellan, future Union general. They traveled to London, Constantinople, Berlin, Austria, Prussia, Poland and France. They compiled their individual reports on systems in use at the time to include the Dryse needle gun the Norwegian "chamber loader" and the Adams double action revolver.

Major Mordecai issued his report April 1858; his "Military Commission to Europe" would become a landmark in military literature. He carefully weighed the pros and cons of each system, compiled intricate charts to demonstrate the differences and similarities in bullet weights and design, barrel length and angles of elevation and ranges. He concluded that even though many nations were developing numerous advanced designs the vast majority still used the smoothbore musket. Davis was surprised to learn that Mordecai's design was ahead of the Europeans and not merely what the commission had learned about untried breechloader systems being considered abroad.

He adopted the French design Minnie' bullet combined with the advanced British Pattern 1853 Rifle Musket with long range 900 yard sight currently in use with devastating effect against the Russian Infantry in the Crimea. Both sides imported hundreds of thousands of these beloved "Enfield" during the war.

Production of the Model 1855 was put in full production in 1857 at Springfield Arsenal, in 1859 Harpers Ferry began production with Springfield staying in production until early 1861. Two types were produced, Type I with 900 yard long range sight Maynard tape primer mechanism, brass nose cap and swell ramrod, it was very similar to the P 1853 Enfield minus the Maynard pellet priming mechanism. Type II had an iron nose cap and three leaf 600 yard sight, there was also a variant Type II with the addition of an iron patchbox in the butt stock. All were iron mounted with 40-inch rifled .58 caliber barrel.



Total production from 1857-1861 was 59,273 with the most at Springfield Armory. In 1861 Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson captured the Harpers Ferry Arsenal with all of the current production 1855's, machinery and 250,000 black walnut stocks, of which only 100,000 were able to be transported to Richmond the rest were lost when the arsenal was burned, this was unfortunate because the Confederacy suffered from a severe stock shortage through out the war, which it never overcame. The machinery and war material would become the backbone of musket production for the Confederacy at both Richmond VA producing the CS Richmond and at Fayetteville NC producing the Fayetteville musket.

All told an estimated 1,496,146 .58 rifle muskets were produced for the US Government between 1857 and 1864. Of these only 59,273 were Model 1855's. The rest consisted of 756,567 Springfield Model 1861's, 152,001 Special Contract Model 1861's, 273,265 Springfield Model 1863's and 255,040 Springfield Model 1864's. Civil War Guns by Edwards states that by war's end Springfield Armory was producing 1,100 muskets daily with a work force over 5,000.

As the Model 1855 only accounts for 4% of total war

production it can be seen that the 1855 was hardly a typical weapon of the Civil War. Despite being almost insignificant by numbers production figures it became the prototype of all .58 caliber rifle muskets manufactured by both Union and the Confederacy.

The Model 1855 has similar properties as the British Pattern 1853 which was imported by both sides during the war and was used interchangeable in some regiments. The 1855-56 Field trials that led to the development and adoption of the US Mini'e system by Captain Burton of Harper's Ferry Arsenal. Subsequent field trials of the new Mini'e rifle Musket (Model 1855) demonstrated Major Mordecai's assertion that accuracy and marksmanship would rule supreme over the battlefield and post Napoleonic tactics were murderously obsolete. The new rifle musket was capable of 10 consecutive shots through a 4-in. bull's-eye at 100 yards, 9-inch at 200 yards, 11-inch at 333 yards, 18-inch at 400 yards and 27-inch at 500 yards.

While these results pale by today's standards we must remember that compared to the smoothbore musket of the time the US Model 1855 rifle musket was revolutionary for its day and it was the most highly developed muzzleloader ever developed by the US.

Suggested reading:

- Civil War Guns by Edwards
- CS Richmond by Paul Davies
- The Rifled Musket by Claude Fuller
- Firepower from Abroad by Wiley Sword
- Small Arms 1856 by Dean Thomas

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Below are not listed on the Confederate Calendar attached. Please put these on your calendars and plan to attend.

- March 28 - Civil War Trust Park Cleanup Day (time TBD)
- April 11 - Tennessee Division Reunion, Greeneville, TN
- April 25 - 2:00 PM Division Confederate Memorial Day, Confederate Cemetery, Oxford MS (on Ole Miss campus)
- May 30 - 10:00 AM Confederate Memorial Service, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Bartlett

# GET A TAG ...

# ... SAVE A FLAG



18th Tennessee Infantry Regiment



14th Tennessee Infantry

The Tennessee Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans generously donates a portion of the tag sales to the Tennessee State Museum to be solely used for the museum's flag conservation program. If you do not have a SCV tag, you need to get one to help preserve your history.



This plate is available to any Tennessee resident who is registering a private passenger motor vehicle.



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# CITIZENS TO SAVE OUR PARKS

*Dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our historic parks.*

## Fight City Hall ? We ARE !!!

Help us to save our historic parks: Forrest Park, Confederate Park, and Jefferson Davis Park.

I wish to join CTSOP. Please sign me up as a member. No membership fee.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_ State: TN Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please donate to our cause: Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check number \_\_\_\_\_

Citizens to Save Our Parks [www.citizensetosaveourparks.org](http://www.citizensetosaveourparks.org)  
PO Box 241875 Memphis, TN 38124



# The Confederate Calendar

## 2015 Event Schedule

A listing of events of interest for Southern Heritage organizations.

### March

- 9 Germantown -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, Old Poplar Pike, 7pm
- 10 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 12 Memphis -- Forrest Camp meeting, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm
- 14 Helena, AR -- reenactment
- 18 Memphis -- Gen'l Forrest Chapter UDC meeting/lunch, Chickasaw Cntry Club, 1100
- 19 Memphis -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm
- ??? 28 West Tenn -- UDC District meeting, Chick CC, 900am
- 29 Cordova -- Shelby County History Festival, Davies Plantation, 12-4

### April

- 9 Memphis -- Forrest Camp meeting, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm
- 10-12 Greeneville, TN -- SCV Tenn Div convention**
- 13 Germantown -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, Old Poplar Pike, 7pm
- 14 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 15 Memphis -- Gen'l Forrest Chapter UDC meeting/lunch, Chickasaw Cntry Club, 1100
- 16 Germantown -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm,
- 18 Ft. Pillow -- 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary living history
- 17 Memphis -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm

### May

- 11 Germantown -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, Old Poplar Pike, 7pm
- 12 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 14 Memphis -- Forrest Camp meeting, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm
- 20 Memphis -- Gen'l Forrest Chapter UDC meeting/lunch, Chickasaw Cntry Club, 1100
- 21 Germantown -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm
- 25 Shiloh NMP -- Memorial Day & Family picnic, CS Burial Trench (Tour Stop #13), 11 am**

### June

- 6 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys SCV Confederate Pancake Breakfast, 7am**
- 7 Memphis -- Elmwood Cemetery, CS Decoration Day, 2:30 pm**
- 8 Germantown, TN -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, 7pm
- 9 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 11 Memphis -- Tenn. Secession Day Oratorical debate, Forrest Camp meeting,**  
Scottish Rite Auditorium, 825 Union Ave (across from Forrest Park), 7pm
- 18 Germantown -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm
- 20 Chapel Hill, TN -- Forrest Boyhood Home, homecoming BBQ, living history (optional)

### July

- 9 Memphis -- Forrest Camp meeting, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm
- 11 Memphis -- UDC Forrest Luncheon, Chickasaw CC, 1100
- 12 Memphis -- Forrest Birthday Celebration, 2:00 pm**
- 13 Memphis -- Birthday of General N. B. Forrest
- 13 Germantown, TN -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, 7pm
- 14 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 15-19 Richmond, VA -- SCV national Reunion**
- 16 Memphis -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm

## Aug

- 5 Cordova -- Shelby County History Dinner, Davies Plantation, 630pm
- 10 Germantown, TN -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, 7pm
- 11 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 13 Memphis -- Forrest Camp meeting, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm
- 19 Memphis -- Gen'l Forrest Chapter UDC business meeting/lunch, Chickasaw CC, 1100
- 20 Germantown -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm
- 22 Jackson, TN -- Symphony and family picnic, Civil War cannons in 1812 Overture, 500pm

## Sept.

### **5 Memphis -- UDC Founders' Day luncheon, Racquet Club 1130am**

- 8 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 10 Memphis -- Forrest Camp meeting, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm
- 14 Germantown, TN -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, 7pm
- 16 Memphis -- Gen'l Forrest Chapter UDC meeting/lunch, Chickasaw Cntry Club, 1100
- 17 Germantown -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm

## Oct.

### **2 Collierville -- annual Civil War School Day, Hinton Park, 8-2**

### **3-4 Collierville -- bi-annual Battle of Collierville reenactment, Hinton Park, 1pm**

- 8 Memphis -- Forrest Camp meeting, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm
- 9 Collierville -- memorial flags placed on CS graves, Wigfall Greys, Magnolia Cemetery
- 9-11 Columbus, Ky -- reenactment & dance (one of the very best events of the year, recommended)
- 9-11 ??? -- UDC Tenn Div convention
- 12 Germantown, TN -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, 7pm
- 13 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 15 Germantown -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm
- 21 Memphis -- Gen'l Forrest Chapter UDC meeting/lunch, Chickasaw Cntry Club, 1100
- 29 Memphis -- Forrest Passing ceremony, Forrest Park, 715pm**

## Nov.

- 6-10 ??? -- UDC national convention
- 6 Collierville -- memorial flags placed on CS graves, Wigfall Greys, Magnolia Cemetery
- 9 Germantown, TN -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, 7pm
- 11 Memphis -- Veterans' Day
- 10 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 12 Memphis -- Forrest Camp meeting, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm
- 18 Memphis -- Gen'l Forrest Chapter UDC meeting/lunch, Chickasaw Cntry Club, 1100
- 19 Germantown -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm
- 27 Memphis -- Thanksgiving

## Dec.

### **4 Collierville -- Christmas parade, 6pm**

- 5 Columbia, TN -- Athenaeum Confederate Christmas Ball
- 8 Collierville -- Wigfall Greys meeting, VFW, 347 Center St, 7pm
- 10 Memphis -- Confederate Christmas party, Jason's Deli, Poplar @ Highland, 7pm**
- 14 Germantown, TN -- Lee Camp meeting, TnGen Center, 7pm
- 16 Memphis -- Gen'l Forrest UDC Christmas luncheon, Chickasaw Cntry Club, 1100
- 17 Germantown -- Chalmers Camp meeting, 7pm

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Gentlemen, as another month passes and a new one begins, I hope that this finds you all well.

We have had several really great meetings in a row, with excellent presentations. We're off to a great start to the year with several new members in process and two new that joined in February. Welcome Terry Pickett and Bill Singleton to the camp and to the SCV. We're looking forward to having you both on board.



There's a lot to cover, as always it seems. We just wrapped up the Civil War Show, which was a successful undertaking and a new learning experience since it was in a new location. We had more dealers signed up than we have seen in a long time, unfortunately we were hampered by the weather, which prevented some dealers from showing up and probably some people who would otherwise have attended as well. Plans are going into place for next year's event, which we hope will be bigger and better. Thanks very much to Arthur Oliver, Gary Douglas, Tarry Beasley, Don Harrison, Don Barnes, Terry Pickett, and Bill Singleton for coming out to help with setup and with manning the table, and to Bankhead's Battery for providing cannon fire on the hour.

Park Cleanup Day, as mentioned earlier, is March 28, we hope you will all be able to participate. We will be working in two locations - Fort Germantown and Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Tarry has an idea of what he wants to do at Ft. Germantown, so I'll place him in charge of that effort, and Ken Chrestman in charge of Mt. Pleasant. I'll be inviting the media, and it would be good if we had a large turnout at both. Not only that, but we really, really need your help, so please attend if possible.

I've heard many very positive comments from you about the presentation I gave at last month's meeting. If we are to reach our goal of being recognized as an organization of southern men that knows itself to be, and is widely seen

by others as the pre-eminent authority on Southern heritage and American liberty, we have to get out in the community and proclaim the truth regarding the truth about the Southern Confederacy. This involves letter-writing, making phone calls, challenging detractors and educating those who listen to them if there is no dissenting voice. We need your letters to the editor, to those in charge where our heritage is being attacked and violated. Brief, to the point and grammatically and historically correct are the keys here. But they need to hear from more of us. You can swat a gnat, but not so much a swarm of them. If writing is not your talent, there are many places you can help. The Flaggers need people, Citizens to Save our Parks can use your help, community events such as Park Cleanup Day, reenactment groups, School Days, others are available - there are plenty of places to serve, and we want to hear from you. I was encouraged to see that more than half of our camp members that turned out to help with the show were new within a year and two of them less than a month, and that was a big help too. Anywhere you can help, we'll be happy to have you. For some events, just showing up is all we need.

If you read your Jan/Feb "Confederate Veteran", go back and re-read the Report of the Commander-In-Chief. I found it to be inspiring, and he is going to be an exceptional leader of our organization. He is on OFFENSE, and sees four main fronts: Danville VA (already a victory), Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Oxford, MS, and MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. But he also pointed out that the prepared soldier is one whose mind and heart is full of the truth and knowledge. This comes from 5 essential components:

- You must acknowledge that there is a war (not the war your ancestors fought but the ongoing culture war we've been fighting)
- You must know your enemy (anyone or anything that hates all things Confederate and wants YOU to compromise your beliefs and ideals)
- You must undergo training (read, talk to like minded friends, anything that makes you more knowledgeable)
- You must know how to use your weapon (TRUTH and primary sources, all available since 1860)
- You must resist propaganda (we're good at that, no further explanation needed)

Aside from that, we have more great programs in store for you going forward and we invite you all to participate as we go forward. Look at the Confederate Calendar that's enclosed. Join one of our committees. We will need you and your input as we grow and the future of our camp and the SCV at large depends on each one of us stepping up and filling in the lines. Get with the following committee chairs to see how you can help:

Programs Committee - Brad Waters  
Membership Committee - Mark Buchanan  
Scrapbook Committee - Jeremy Elkins  
Newsletter Committee - Mike Daugherty  
Genealogical Committee - Joe Burns  
Public Relations Committee - Bruce Lynch  
Monuments/Headstones Committee - Ken Chrestman

All will welcome your assistance. It's going to take all of us, every man at his post to accomplish the mission. To quote our namesake, "Our country demands all our strength, all our energies. To resist the powerful combination now forming against us will require every man at his place. If victorious, we will have everything to hope for in the future. If defeated, nothing will be left for us to live for."

That said, let's go out and be the knowledgeable gentlemen that we are and can be. Let's enlighten the public and enhance our place in history and in the community and grow. Let's get some good PR though whatever means we can, and let's work in the community and the area we serve to preserve and protect the good name of the Confederate soldier and the true history of the Confederate States of America by continuing to make the Sons of Confederate Veterans and in particular the Robert E. Lee Camp the well known and respected organization that it can



and should be.

I am, and shall continue to be, your humble and obedient servant,

Mike Daugherty, Commander  
Robert E. Lee Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Deo Vindice!!

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

by Beecher Smith

### **LINCOLN'S LOOKS: THE UNATTRACTIVENESS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Respected British journalist William H. Russell was assigned by THE LONDON TIMES to cover the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. In his verbal portrait to his readers, he describes Lincoln as: "... dressed in an ill-fitting wrinkled suit of black, which put one in mind of an undertaker's uniform at a funeral; round his neck a rope of black silks was knotted in a large flying ends projecting

beyond the collar of his coat." A colleague of Russell's whose name has been lost to history goes into much more graphic detail:

"To say that he is ugly is nothing; to add that his figure is grotesque is to convey no adequate impression. Fancy a man about six feet high, and thin in proportion. With long bony arms and legs, which somehow, seem always to be in the way; with great rugged furrowed hands, which grasp you like a vice when shaking yours; with a long scraggy neck and a chest too narrow for the great arms at his side. Add to this figure a head, coconut shaped and somewhat too small for such a stature a stature, covered with rough, uncombed hair, that stands out in every direction at once; a face furrowed, wrinkled, and indented as though it has been scarred by vitriol; a high narrow forehead, sunk beneath bushy eyebrows, too bright, somewhat dreamy eyes that seem to gaze at you without looking at you; a few irregular blotches of black bristly, hair, in the place where beard and whiskers ought to grow; a close-set thin-lipped, stern mouth, with two rows of large white teeth, and a nose and ears which have been taken by mistake from a head twice the size. Clothe this figure then in a long, tight, badly-fitting suit of black, creased, soiled, and puckered at every salient point, put on large ill-fitting boots, gloves too long for the long bony fingers, and a hat covered to the top with dusty puffy crepe, and then add to all this an air of strength, physical as well as moral, and a strange look of dignity coupled with grotesqueness, and you will have the impression left upon me by Abraham Lincoln."

But the ultimate contemporary putdown as to Lincoln's unattractiveness was communicated directly to him by a letter from one of his disgruntled constituents: "Deformed Sir: The Ugly Club in full meeting have elected you an Honorary Member of the Hood-Favored Fraternity. Prince Harry was lean, Falstaff was fat, Thirsites was hunchbacked, and Slowkenlergus (Cyrano de Bergerac) was renowned for the eminent miscalculation which Nature had made in the length of the nose; but it remained for you to unite all species of deformity and stand forth the Prince of Ugly Fellows."

Sources:

Carroll, Donald. Dear Sir, Drop Dead / Hate Mail Through the Ages. New York: Collier Books, 1979.

Garrison, Web. Civil War Curiosities, Chapter 22: "No One Called Lincoln Handsome." Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1994.

End

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

Or visit our Facebook pages at:

<http://www.facebook.com/RELeeCamp1640>

<https://www.facebook.com/BluffCityGraysMemphis>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SCV-Memphis-Brigade-Color-Guard/268457703293353>



## UNDERSTANDING YANKEE LOGIC...

After the war in 1867 (during reconstruction), the Federal Government removed the Southern states from the Union.

This is the same Union that refused to allow the South to secede from it 1861.

However, to get back into the Union that the South didn't want to be a part of in the first place, it was required to perform the function of a state in the Union, (while officially no longer part of the Union); by ratifying an amendment (14th) that previously, as states in the Union, they had legally rejected!

Wow, that's deep...

### 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 Reason	Larry J. Spiller, Jr.
Larry J. Spiller, Sr.	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 \*\* March 9, 2015**  
**The Pickering Center, 7771 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN**