



April

2010

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ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!



On Thursday, April 29th, will be our camp meeting at Western Sizzlin at 7:00 P.M. on 16th Ave. in Laurel. Our speaker for this month will be compatriot "Beetle" Smith from Mobile, AL. He has been requested to speak on the person Captain Henry Wirz, who was the commandant of Andersonville prison located in GA. and who was unfairly charged as to the detriment and death of thousands of Union prisoners. He will show in contrast Point Lookout prison and just how badly our men were treated when the North had the availability to more supplies to treat the Southern POW's. He served in the U.S. Air Force, has been married for 30 years and has one son. He has been an SCV member for the last eight years and the South West Brigade Commander for AL. the past two. He does his reenacting with Fenner's Battery and the 6th AL. Cavalry. Mr. Beetle is a very accomplished speaker and knows his Southern history very well. His subject this month is very interesting and intriguing as you will hear.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

April 23rd - Hattiesburg - At Courthouse in downtown Hattiesburg at 5:15 PM

April 24th - Biloxi - At Beauvoir, 10 AM for dedication of Jefferson Davis & sons statue. Dinner on the grounds around noon, then 2:00 PM the memorial service next to the tomb of the unknown soldier.

April 25th - Lauderdale Springs - Sunday afternoon at 3:00 PM.

April 26th - Downtown Meridian - Courthouse at 12:00 PM. Joint service of both SCV camps and both UDC chapters.

April 26th - Ellisville - At courthouse, 4:15 PM

April 26th - Laurel - At courthouse, 5:15 PM

May 1st - Hattiesburg - Hartfield Memorial - For info call 601-758-4284

APRIL 26TH MEMORIALS

On Monday, April 26th we will have our two annual services at Ellisville and Laurel. Stop this very minute and mark your calendars to be at one or both of them. We have this one time of the year to make it known where we stand when it comes to our Confederate Heritage, especially here in Jones County. The times we are facing in our country hearken back to another time when our people had to make some tough choices. We are facing such times as these now. If you have not noticed, the rest of the country has begun to awaken to the fact, that all that takes place in Washington is not very good, to say the least. They are beginning to realize what we in the South have known for the last 150 years. No, it won't be the South against the North or any other section of the country. This time it will be America versus Washington. Remember that the "Spirit of 76" was also the "Spirit of 61". Different times and different tyrants but, the struggle to create and maintain a country where the power is not centered around a dictator and his henchmen. There are people speaking of secession seriously. There is one thing we all must do however, before that should ever be attempted again. We must first go through the voting process that our Constitution affords us. We must make an honest effort to see if our country can be steered back to its original status. Then and only then can we say to future generations that we gave it our all and we did our best to bring back what our creators of this Republic intended for us to have in perpetuity. So on April 26 at 4:15 PM and 5:15 PM lets stand united to show what our people tried so desperately to hang onto what they had inherited. Then if all fails and we have exhausted all means to correct the obamable situation we face from an over reaching, ever powerful, dictatorial and tyrannical government, then we may just have to do what our Southern people did in their time when faced with a very similar situation. This will be as a last resort but, if it comes, then we must be prepared. So bring your Battle flags and your Betsy Ross, your 76 flags, Don't Tread On Me banner and let people see the similarities between both time periods. Then maybe, just maybe, folks will start putting two and two together and realize after all that we are all on the same side, fighting for the same reason. **TO GET OUR COUNTRY BACK !!**

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION

The 2010 MS. Division Convention is being hosted by Major General E. C. Walthall camp 211, **June 4 -6**. If you are planning on attending, the price for **registration on or before May 1, is \$25.00, after that date it will be \$30.00**. For a **banquet registration it is \$20.00 per plate by May 25. No meal registration after the 25th. Make Checks Payable to: SCV camp 211 - Send checks to - Keith Spence - 2880 Mt. Carmel Rd., Grenada, MS. 38901. Hampton Inn in Grenada is the host hotel. Reservations must be made before May 15 for the convention discount, afterwards, it will revert back to the regular rate. If you must cancel, do so before the 25th. A complimentary breakfast will be offered each morning. For more information contact Reverend Cecil Fayard at 662 -417-6089 or email - cecilafayard@msn.com and Keith Spence 662-226-8797 or email - spencecsa1@aol.com. If you have never attended one of our state conventions, it would be worth your time to see first hand who and how our division operates. You also get to meet compatriots from other areas of the state.**

JULY - SUMMER COOKOUT

This is our annual get - together at Mauldin Community Center where we do, other than running our mouth, the best thing we do. That's EAT!! It should begin around 6:00 PM., and who knows, we may go until 6:30 or 7:00 before we have to go home. Gentlemen, and that term is used loosely, **PLEASE ! PLEASE ! PLEASE! Let your wives and or girlfriends read this so some food will actually make it to the event. Plan on being there Fri. July 30th.**

SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE

This year's conference will be Friday, 13th and Saturday 14th. It will be held once again at Bethlehem Baptist Church across the road from Walker's Dairy Bar. The doors will open on Friday at 6:00 PM. The evening program will begin at 7:00 PM with the first speaker starting at 7:15 PM. Our usual vendors will be back with lots of goodies for us to purchase. Stubborn Love, the gospel group, will hopefully be back with us, as well as some fiddle playing by Miss Bonnie McCoy, our piper Miss Zoe Brumfeld and possibly the Houston Road Boys who have sung for some of our events. The speakers are being lined up and you will not be disappointed. The youth of Bethlehem and their sponsors will once again prepare our meals. The cost of dinner will be \$10.00 and supper \$15.00 for each plate. Tickets for families in advance will be \$15.00 and individuals \$10.00. At the door \$25.00 & \$15.00 respectively.

A SOUTHERN VIEW OF THE INVASION OF THE SOUTHERN STATES AND WAR OF 1861 - 1865

By Captain S. A. Ashe

SECESSION OF THE COTTON STATES

In a general way, history speaks of the secession of the Southern States as being an incident of slavery. Seven States seceded in the winter of 1860, and on March 11, 1861, formed a new Confederacy with virtually the same Constitution. The other Southern States seceded later when called on to engage in a war against this new Confederacy. Why was that first secession? Had there been no Africans held in slavery, there might have been no secession. African slavery had existed in every colony and State, and was particularly recognized and cared for in the Constitution, every State agreeing to return to the owner any fugitive slave

In time, the Northern States abandoned slavery. Still every man who held office swore to support the Constitution for the general welfare of the United States, and had to make all laws necessary and proper.

At length the Abolition sentiment grew at the North, so much so that some persons there wished to abolish slavery in the Southern States; and, to bring that about, they promoted negro revolt and insurrections. Thus it came about that a joint committee of the two Houses of the legislature in North Carolina, in 1831, reported they were satisfied "that an extensive combination now exists to excite in the minds of the slaves and colored persons of this and other slave States feelings and opinions leading to insurrections." They also reported "the actual detection of the circulation of the incendiary publications and discovery of the designs," etc., "and we are led to fear the most ruinous consequences." (This was in 1831).

While Nat Turner's insurrection occurred in Virginia, a similar attempt was made near Wilmington, N. C. After that, year by year, abolition sentiment continued to grow at the North until, at length, a dozen Northern States nullified the declared that these States "have permitted the open establishment of societies whose avowed object is to disturb the peace of other States." "They have incited by emissaries, books, and pictures the negroes to servile insurrection."

In 1857, defamatory books were written, "The Impending Crisis," and at the election of 1858, it was endorsed by the Republican Congressmen and widely circulated throughout the North. Its effect was notable. That party increased its membership in Congress from sixty-seven to nearly double that number. In it the author said to the slaveholders: "Henceforth, Sirs, we are demandants—not suppliants. It is for you to decide whether we are to have justice peaceably or by violence. For what consequences -- we are determined to have it one way or another. Would you be instrumental in bringing upon yourselves, your wives, and your children a fate too terrific to contemplate? Shall history cease to cite as an instance of unexampled cruelty the massacre of St. Bartholomew because the World—the South—shall have furnished a more direful scene of atrocity and carnage?" Such was the picture of slaughter proposed by the fanatic abolitionists.

Then John Brown, after raising a considerable sum of money in Boston and elsewhere and obtaining a supply of arms, on Sunday, October 16, 1859, started on his mission. With a force of seventeen whites and five negroes, he captured the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, expecting the slaves to rise and begin the massacre of the white slave holders. The military was able to prevent that, and Brown was tried and executed. Then, throughout the North, John Brown was said to have gone straight to heaven---a saint !

In the Senate, Stephen A. Douglas, pursuant to the Constitution, introduced a bill to punish those people who seek to incite slave insurrections. "Abraham Lincoln, in his speech at New York, declared it was a seditious speech" — "His press and party hooted it." "It received their jeers and jibes."

When Congress met on the fifth day of December 1859, the Republicans proposed John Sherman for Speaker. Thereupon, some Democrats offered a resolution that no man who indorsed "Helper's Impending Crisis" was fit to be Speaker. That raised such a conflict that a riot ensued, the members carrying pistols; and it was not until February 22 that the House organized by electing as Speaker an old line Whig. The House would not approve negro insurrections after a conflict lasting more than two months.

Then came the election of President. The party of negro insurrections swept the Northern States. The people of the South had realized the possible results. With the people and the State Governments of the North making a saint out of a man who had planned and started to murder the slave holders — the whites of the South — and the Northern States all going in favor of that party which protected those engaged in such plans, naturally there were in every Southern State those who thought it best to guard against such massacres by separating from those States where John Brown was deified.

When the news came that Lincoln was elected, the South Carolina Legislature, being in session, called a State Convention. When the Convention met, it withdrew from the Union. In its declaration it said: "Those States have encouraged and assisted thousands of our slaves to leave their homes; and those who remain have been incited by emissaries, books, and pictures to servile insurrection. For twenty-five years this agitation has been steadily increasing, until it has now secured to its aid the power of the common government." So, to escape insurrections, South Carolina began the secession movement. And there was good cause to seek safety by withdrawing from Lincoln's Government. He was not opposed to the negro massacre of the Southern people.

At the last of August 1862, General Pope, who was in command of the army near Washington, was defeated, and, in September, President Lincoln thought that by threatening to free the negroes at the South he might help his prospects in the war. Delegations from the churches in Chicago also addressed him. He said he hesitated. It was to be a war measure. There were those who deemed it a barbarity to start an insurrection of the negroes. As to that, President Lincoln said: "*Nor do I urge objections of a moral nature in view of possible consequences of insurrection and massacre at the South.*"

The French newspaper at New York said: "Does the Government at Washington mean to say that, on January 1st, it will call for a servile war to aid in the conquest of the South? And after the negroes have killed the whites, the negroes themselves must be drowned in their own blood."

Many other newspapers asked the same question. But Mr. Lincoln contented himself with what he had said. Governor Morton of Indiana was for the insurrection! Charles Sumner in his Speech at Faneuil Hall said of the Southern slave holders: "When they rose against a paternal government, they set an example of insurrection. They cannot complain if their slaves, with better reason, follow it." And so the North was for the insurrection!

At length, in May 1863, it was arranged that there should be a general insurrection throughout the South, as the following discloses (Official Records — Series 1, Vol. LI, Part II, Supplemental, p. 736) :

This letter declaring this plan was sent to the military, but the copy sent to the Federal Governor or General at New Bern, falling in the hands of the Confederates, the plan miscarried. Such an insurrection, arranged for by the Government, was not exactly what the people of the South apprehended when they withdrew from the Union. The apprehension was that the John Browns would give trouble and inaugurate a race war. It was feared that the Government would not seek to prevent John Brown insurrections, and the better to guard against them, the cotton States withdrew from the Union. The proposed general uprising of the African slaves speaks for itself.

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THE STATES MADE THE UNION

By Capt. S. A. Ashe

In the October Veteran, I called attention to President Lincoln's disregard of historical facts when they stood in the way of his desire. It struck his fancy to assert that the Union made the States and not the States made the Union. It suited his purpose to declare that, and doubtless he considered that it would be an appealing idea and reach the hearts of the Northern people, for he was gifted with a certain sort of wisdom.

In his address at Gettysburg, a year after that memorable battle, he made a similar venture into the realms of fancy, doubtless being animated by the same sort of wisdom, closing his address with this appealing sentence: "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

It has been said that this address received but little attention throughout the Northern States at the time, but in later years, when the North found it interesting to magnify Mr. Lincoln, it has been regarded as of surpassing excellence.

The basis of all fine portrayal is accuracy of statement. The delineation should not be foreign to the subject. Mr. Lincoln paid slight attention to this rule when seeking to enlist the patriotic people of the North in his propaganda for a consolidated nation. It is apparent that this appealing thought – that "government by the people" "shall not perish" – is entirely at variance with the fundamentals of the tremendous conflict he was waging.

Moreover, President Lincoln's characterization as a nation, of the system under the Constitution he had sworn to observe and maintain, is erroneous. Though Jefferson did not write the Constitution, there was not a man concerned in writing it who had the purpose to create a nation in the legal meaning of that word. Indeed, although, when proposing to invest certain high powers in the government, they had freely used the "national" in the rough draft, when the Constitution was prepared for adoption, the word "nation" was entirely eliminated. The purpose was not to create a nation, but just as Jefferson and everybody else desired, to continue the confederation, making it a more perfect one, as the Constitution says, "between the States." A nation is responsive to the popular will; a majority of the people rule. In 1860, Mr. Lincoln was elected, but failed to get a majority of votes at the polls. His election was a striking denial of the idea that our government is that of a nation. So, likewise at the recent presidential election, although one candidate received more than seventeen million votes, being two million majority over his opponent, a change of only about 275,000 votes would have elected the defeated candidate in spite of the two million popular majority against him.

Our system is a Confederation of States, set up by the colonies after having freed themselves from a monarchy. Democracy is the fundamental basis of our State governments. We have forty-eight democracies. Regarding each State as a sovereignty, we present to the world an example of forty-eight sovereign democracies, each free from the control or interference of any other, but all subject to the joint control of the forty-eight in certain specified matters. This secures to each State the greatest freedom.

The separate entity of the several sovereign States is recognized in the Constitution from first to last. The Constitution was to go into effect "between any nine States adopting it," not over them.

As a sovereign State might in itself establish an aristocracy, or a limited monarchy, such as Hamilton and John Adams are said to favor to prevent that, the ratifying States agreed to guarantee to each other that no such fate should befall any. Now, suppose there had been no such guarantee, and that Massachusetts and New York had been persuaded to have a limited monarchy. Again, any State was liable to be invaded and conquered. So the ratifying States agreed to protect every State against an invasion. Certainly that would have been unnecessary had the States been consolidated into a single nation. Yet it is to be remembered that in 1814, Great Britain hoped and expected to acquire Massachusetts and other States bordering on Canada, and perhaps had not the war then ended she might have done so. Indeed when considering the new Constitution which for two years she rejected, Rhode Island threatened to connect herself with some European country. The Constitution throughout bears evidence that our Union as a federation of States, each State retaining every power and right of a sovereign State, not specified as delegated to the Union.

Now, what is the relation of the States to the government? Consider legislation by Congress. Legislation is by the States represented in the House according to their own importance, while in the Senate there is equality; but, for expediency's sake, there are two members, instead of a single member, to represent the State.

Thus, there can be no legislation except by the assent of a majority of the States; and it is expressly agreed that no State shall be deprived of her equal representation in the Senate without her consent.

Then consider the election of the Executive. Were this a nation, the President would be elected by a majority of the people; but it is not so. The States elect the President. Ordinarily, in this election, they have votes according to their importance. The legislature of each State is to appoint or provide for the appointment of a number of electors equal to its representation in Congress, and these Electors, acting for their States, select the President. In the event they fail, then the State delegation in the House of Representatives act as Electors, and, in the name of their State, give a single vote to some candidate. It requires a majority of the States to elect. So, in 1801, Jefferson, who received ten votes of sixteen, was elected; and, in 1825, John Quincy Adams got thirteen votes out of twenty-four and was elected. No matter how small or how great, each State has a single vote.

So we see that the government, legislative and executive, is by the States. Certainly the people of each State constitute that State. The sovereignty of the State resides in the people, and the Union is a confederation of forty-eight sovereignties. The Union is governed by the States. This government has been declared to be the achievement of the highest wisdom known to the human race. There have been doubtless a hundred conquerors who have created a hundred nations. And there have been some famous confederations in Europe, but our American system of a confederation of sovereign States, in a Union, under a Constitution, stands as a beacon light directing the people of the world into the path leading to pure democracy, and the greatest personal freedom, the greatest happiness and prosperity. It is the acme of wisdom in government. This system was not disturbed by the withdrawal of six States from the Union, and, although President Lincoln had sworn to support it, he announced a doctrine, not founded on any provision of the Constitution, that the Constitution created a nation' then he solemnly declared that by conquering the Southern States, bringing their unwilling people again into the Union was to give a new birth to freedom ! While at the time the Northern people did not make much of that sentiment, of late it is greatly admired.

Some persons erroneously suppose that Mr. Lincoln began the war with the purpose of abolishing slavery, freeing the negro slaves at the South. So England, when she established Colonies, forbade them to manufacture anything and required them to trade only with Great Britain. "To increase their products," she supplied them with African slaves and sold them her convicts. The war of 1775 was for economic purposes. So the war of 1861 was for economic purposes. Mr. Lincoln was urged on by the northwestern folks who did not wish to lose the trade of the Mississippi River, and by the financial and commercial people of the northeast, who could point to the ten percent tariff of the Southern Confederacy and to the cotton exports, which, in 1859 had been \$161,434,923 out of a total of \$278,302,080; while the South furnished perhaps the greater part of the residue !

So it came about on March 30, 1861, The New York Times, speaking *ex cathedra*, said: "It is no longer an abstract question, one of a constitutional construction, or reserved or delegated powers of the states to the Federal Government, but of material existence, and moral position both at home and abroad." The North had to have the South even by conquest ! And so Mr. Lincoln started the war. He had no purpose to interfere with slavery, but held that under the Constitution, neither he nor Congress could interfere with slavery. After four years of war, he said, in his second inaugural: "The progress of our arms on which all depends. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration it has already attained. Each looked for an easier triumph." Yes, he certainly looked for an easier triumph. We may well believe that had he fully realized what was to come, he would have listened to the pleadings of W. H. Seward, his Secretary of State, and have sought a peaceful restoration of the Union. Instead, he took his own course. And, after declining, in February 1865, at Hampton Roads, to consider anything but unconditional surrender, in his Inaugural of March 4, he declared: "Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, still it must be said, the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." And it was all his own doing—from start to finish. So he conquered the South for economic reasons, as most of the wars have been waged in Europe. And it brought him the fame of unnecessarily causing the deaths of more human beings and of destroying more wealth and prosperity, and of causing more sorrow, distress, and sectional hatred than attaches to the name of any other person that ever lived up to that time. And yet there are those who speak of him as a good, kindly man !

THE RIGHT OF SECESSION

By Capt. S. A. Ashe

Some time back there was an interesting incident in the United States Senate. Senator Walsh, of Montana—very naturally for him and very innocent of treading on anybody's toes—said that all the members of Congress who had served in the Confederate armies Senator Blease of South Carolina, jumped on him with both feet and declared that if anyone had said that outside of the chamber, the "Old Harry" would have been to pay. In the following I have taken occasion to write on the subject historically, examining Mr. Lincoln's premise that the Union began in 1774, and that no State could get out of that union then created, and then, passing on to the Union under the Constitution of 1789.

Our daily life of contentment and happiness has a tendency to obliterate the grounds on which the South thought the stated had a right to withdraw from the Union. It is the mere right that I wish to talk about.

The colonies, having joined in a Declaration of Independence, continued to cooperate, expecting to enter into a Confederacy. A plan of confederation was framed, but it was not agreed to until May 1781.

The second article of this Confederation is: "Each State retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right which is not expressly delegated to the Unite States in Congress assembled."

Third; “The said states hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other.”

Thirteenth: “And the articles of this confederation shall be inviolately observed by every State and the union be perpetual; in any of them unless such alteration is agreed to in a Congress of the United States and afterwards confirmed by the legislature of every State.”

After that, by treaty of peace with Great Britain, it was declared by the king of Great Britain that each State—naming each of them—was “a free, sovereign, and independent State.”

That confederation existed until 1787, when Virginia proposed to supplant it with a new one. This new one was to go into effect between any nine States that might ratify it. When the new Constitution was submitted to the States, eleven of them ratified it, and it went into operation between them in 1788. Under it a President was to be elected somehow, New York did not vote in that election; North Carolina and Rhode Island did not, for they had not ratified the Constitution; so, when Washington was elected President in February 1789, only ten states voted. Certainly, North Carolina and Rhode Island were no longer united to the other states. As to them, the Confederacy that was to be perpetual had been broken up by the other eleven states, and they were left alone.

When Virginia and New York ratified they said that “the states reserved the right to resume the powers delegated to the United States; so likewise did Rhode Island.

And that was the general understanding. Their ratification with that declaration in it was not objected to by anyone. The right to resume the powers delegated to the Congress was exercised by the states when they broke up the confederation; and when North Carolina and Rhode Island were out of the new union, they had full sovereign powers.

Although the first confederation was to be perpetual and not subject to change, except by unanimous consent, the states, by reason of their sovereign power, could withdraw from it—and did so.

Later, when a new union was made between the states, they retained the same sovereign powers, and some so declared in adopting the new agreement, without objection; and they omitted to say that the new union was to be perpetual; and having also omitted to say that the states retained all the powers not delegated, they at once put that in the constitution.

When the uninformed intelligence of the North ascribes to ministers of the gospel at the South, to our patriots who have been examples of high virtue and nobility of character, to the gentle ladies of the South, the spirit of “traitors” and cite Aaron Burr and John Brown on one hand, and George Washington and Benjamin Franklin on the other, the flag he had directed Betsy Ross to make—that flag bore the ensign of Great Britain along with the colors of the Washington coat-of-arms. It was as a subject of the king that he was claiming his rights as a British subject. The citizens of the seceded states were never subjects of any state but that of which they were citizens. They owed obedience and allegiance to their states and never to any other state. Whatever obedience they owed to the government of the United States was by virtue of the delegated authority of these several states which had now been withdrawn and had ended.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

“Beloved, the South might not always be right, but we ain’t never wrong !”

Brother Dave Gardner

A DECLARATION

“The whole of the Bill of Rights is a declaration of the right of the people at large or considered as individuals...It establishes some rights of the individual as unalienable and which consequently, no majority has a right.

- **Albert Gallatin**

THE PRAYER OF THE SOUTH

My brow is bent beneath a heavy rod !
My face is wan and white with many woes !
But I will lift my poor chained hands to God.
And for my children pray, and for my foes.
Beside the graves where thousands lowly lie
I kneel, and weeping for each slaughtered son,
I turn my gaze to my own sunny sky,
And pray, O Father, let They will be done !
My heart is filled with anguish, deep and vast !

My hopes are buried with my children's dust !
My joys have fled, my tears are flowing fast !
In whom, save Thee, our Father, shall I trust ?
Ah ! I forgot Thee, Father, long and oft,
When I was happy, rich, and proud, and free;
But conquered now, and crushed, I took aloft,
and sorrow leads me, Father, back to Thee.

Amid the wrecks that mark the foeman's path
I kneel, and wailing o'er my glories gone,
I still each thought of hate, each throb of wrath,
and whisper, Father, let Thy will be done !
Pity me, Father of the desolate !
Alas ! My burdens are so hard to bear;
Look down in mercy on me on my wretched fate,
And keep me, guard me, with Thy loving care.

Pity me, Father, for His holy sake,
Whose broken heart bled at the feet of grief,
That hearts of earth, whenever they shall break,
Might go to His and find sure relief.
Ah, me, how dark ! Is this a brief eclipse ?
Or is it night with no to-morrow's sun ?
O Father ! Father ! With my pale, sad lips,
And sadder heart, I pray Thy will be done.

My homes are joyless, and a million mourn
Where many met in joys forever flown ;
Whose hearts were light, are burdened now and torn ;
Where many smiled, but one is left to moan.
And ah ! The widow's wails, the orphan's cries,
Are morning hymn and vesper chant to me
And groans of men and sounds of women's sighs
Commingle, Father, with my prayer to Thee.

Beneath my feet ten thousand children dead —
Oh ! how I loved each known and nameless one !
Above their dust I bow my crownless head
And murmur ; Father, still Thy will be done.
Ah ! Father, Thou didst deck my own loved land
With all bright charms, and beautiful and fair
With all bright charms, and beautiful and fair !
But foeman came, and with a ruthless hand,
Spread ruin, wreck, and desolation there.

Girdled with gloom, of all my brightness shorn,
And garmented with grief, I kiss Thy rod
And turn my face, with tears all wet and worn,
To catch one smile of pity from my God.
Around me blight, where all before was bloom,
And so much lost, alas ! And nothing won
Save this — that I can lean on wreck and tomb
And weep, and weeping, pray Thy will be done.

And oh ! 'tis hard to say, but said, 'tis sweet ;
The words are bitter, but they hold a balm —
a balm that heals the wounds of my defeat,
And lulls my sorrows into holy calm.
It is the prayer of prayers, and how it brings,
When heard in heaven, peace and hope to me !

When Jesus prayed it did not angels' wings
Gleam 'mid the darkness of Gethsemane?
My children, Father, Thy forgiveness need ;
Alas ! Their hearts have only place for tears !
Forgive them, Father, ev'ry wrongful deed,
And every sin of those four bloody years ;
And give them strength to bear their boundless loss,
And from their hearts take every thought of hate ;
And while they climb their Calvary with their Cross,
Oh ! Help them, Father, to endure its weight.

And for my dead, my Father, may I pray ?
Ah ! sighs may soothe, but soothe, but prayer shall soothe me more !
I keep eternal watch above their clay ;
Oh ! Rest their souls, my Father, I implore ;
Forgive my foes — they know not what they do —
Forgive them all the tears they made me shed ;
Forgive them, though my noblest sons they slew,
And bless them, though they curse my poor, dear dead.

Oh ! May my woes be each a carrier dove,
With swift, white wings, that, bathing in my tears,
Will bear Ghee, Father, all my prayers of love,
And bring me peace in all my doubts and fears.
Father, I kneel, 'mid ruin, wreck, and grave —
A desert Waste, where all was erst so fair —
And for my children and my foes I craved
Pity and pardon. Father, hear my prayer !

Father Abram J. Ryan - "Poet of the Confederacy"

DO YOU KNOW ? THE CIVIL WAR

- 1. To which church did Lincoln belong ?**
A. Presbyterian C. Unitarian
B. Episcopal D. None
- 2. When it was clear that a war was underway, Lincoln called for Volunteers to fight the Southerners. At that stage, for how long Were men expected to sign up ?**
A. Three months C. Twenty-four months
B. Twelve months D. Thirty – six months
- 3. Who led the Union military at the start of the war, until he was replaced, in November 1861, by General B. McClellan**
- 4. In the North, the military draft aroused an opposition that set off significant mob riots in:**
A. Boston C. New York
B. Chicago D. Hartford
- 5. After a failed raid on Richmond, papers were found on the body of the Union colonel in charge of the foray, Ulric Dahlgren. The papers, whose authenticity is still questioned, outlined a plot to....**
A. ...break into the Confederate Treasury
B. ...kill President Davis and his cabinet
C. ...kidnap General Lee
D. ...kidnap John Wilkes Booth

THE ANSWERS ARE - 1. D 2. A 3. Gen. Winfield Scott 4. C 5. B

COMMANDER’S COMMENTS

Hello everyone. The month of April is a busy time with all the activities scheduled. Posters declaring April as Confederate History and Heritage Month, along with a proclamation by Gov. Barbour were delivered to schools in Jeff Davis county and Lawrence county by George Jaynes and myself. I delivered the Wayne county posters to the adjutant for the Wayne county camp to distribute. Due to time restraints Jones county posters may not all be delivered in time.

A good group went to Marion in Meridian for their memorial. Without the Rosin Heels there would not have been a dressed out soldier to post colors or fire a salute. Those camps need to get it together and do the right thing. It’s about honoring our ancestors and if they don’t do it, then shame on them.

Our color guard posted the colors at the Cattlemen’s Auction at the fair grounds. We were invited by Justin Pitts to have a recruitment table there also. To say the least it was interesting to see some wild live stock make those men climb the fence.

The memorials we will be doing at Ellisville, at 4:15 on the 26th of April then followed by a memorial at 5:15 in Laurel are extremely important this year. Folks, we need to show up as soldiers, family and friends to come and support our efforts in this endeavor. Hopefully some of the TEA Party folks will realize that what we have been telling people for years is true. I hope they will give us support as we have been giving them. We have been right all along now they are catching up. See at the memorials on the 26th and the camp meeting on the 29th.

Billy Langley
Your “Precious” Commander

LAST MINUTE PRAYER NOTICE

Karen Mulkey’s oldest daughter Laura was in a vehicle mishap near her home in Magee while traveling to William Carey Univ. on Tuesday 21st of this month. As of now she is in ICU at Forrest General awaiting the first of several surgeries. Put Karen and her family on your prayer lists once again. Lord only knows what she is going through again after losing Tiffany over a year ago. Their address is 96 Hines Rd., Laurel, MS. 39443.



