



February _____ 2010

1st Lt. Commander
Ed Allegetti

2nd Lt. Commander
Coco Roberts

Commander - Billy Langley - 601-425-4845

Adjutant
Cotton Norris
sheltonnorris@yahoo.com

Historian
Don Green - 601-270-5316
Dgreen_1865@yahoo.com

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!



A new year is upon us and beginning this month we will be back at good ol' Western Sizzlin on 16th Ave. The time to start will be 7:00 PM, or as close to it as we can. This month's speaker is well known and loved by many. He personally supports many people in their individual causes. He is quite a humanitarian, especially in and around the Jones County area. He is also known for his impeccable taste in fashion and manners. Some would say that he is a bit of a throwback to another time and era. Always the outdoors man, he hunts, fishes and travels extensively. He possesses a tremendous knowledge of finance and building wealth. He is literally the patriarch of his family and many of them come to him for answers to various questions they have concerning many areas of life. He is also known for his great leadership skills and quick decisions made in a time of crisis. Few know that he actually has earned a Ph D. From TCU many years ago. Hopefully, he will explain how he came through the process of acquiring this particular degree. He will be speaking on certain portions of the Confederate Constitution and how that document has been misrepresented by supposed scholars and experts. It will be good to return to a regular schedule for a while. So, please bring someone with you that has never been and if needed, pick them up and maybe, just maybe, buy them supper for being your guest. Our speaker will be first and then there will be some announcements and any business that we may need to discuss. It will be good to see some of you and as for the others just try to behave and not say a lot. Remember, we may have first time visitors and we would like for them to return. As always come early to eat and fellowship and buy the commander's supper. At least make the offer. It will make him feel better.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 20th, MS. Division Executive Council Meeting; 10 AM; War Memorial Bldg., Jackson, MS. This is an open meeting. No restrictions on who attends. Just behave!

February 27th, Draughn Memorial; New Augusta, MS. Hosted by the Augusta Greys Camp. Contact Don Heiden - DWHH6039@aol.com We need to be a part of this for their camp, as they have supported us in several events.

March 5 -7 On the Road to Vicksburg re-enactment; Lucedale, MS.; tdunsford2@msn.com. We have attended this event for several years. It is held in the city park in Lucedale. The Lucedale camp feeds us before the battle and there is a good turnout of folks to watch the event. We always have a good time while in attendance. The time for the battles will be announced at our February meeting.

March 13th - Natchez, MS. Spring Pilgrimage Tour. 9 AM - 12:30 PM. Once again we will gather our forces and meet at the home of the Ratcliffe family, Routhland. Everyone is on notice, no excuses for not attending, except death, namely your own. And even in that situation you are required to send a substitute. We need to know who will be needing a hotel room for Friday 12th. As always, we get the senior discount. Not just because the camp as a whole is getting older, but because of one in particular. That's right, the General, Carl D. Ford. You will be called in the near future about this. Remember, a room can always be cancelled almost until the time of arrival. So, go ahead and reserve a room. Also, Mrs. Ratcliffe, has said that anyone wanting to camp out on Friday night in the back yard may do so. If you tent camp and need a camp fire you may do so near the tree line. If you have a pull camper or motor home you also may park in the back on Friday. We just need to let her know if anyone is going to do this. No surprises!

The crowds seem to be increasing each year since Katrina and there are more bus tours stopping in Natchez for pilgrimage since that storm. A good time is had by all who attend and we get a chance to put forth a positive image for the SCV. Please plan to attend this year.

March 20th - Camp Dantzer Grill & Drill - 8 AM; Purvis, MS. Camp Dantzer Community Center. Call Mike Merritt 601-323-6765 or Don Green 601-270-5316 for more info.

March 20th Sat. - Ceili - An Irish Dance Party -

5:00 - 7:00 PM at the YWCO. Admission \$5.00
Featuring: Dance Lessons by - The Jackson Irish Dancers. Music by - Emerald Accent. Come try a step or two or just sit back and enjoy the music. No partner or experience needed.

March 26-28 – Grand Gulf Living History & Encampment; Grand Gulf Military Park; Port Gibson, MS. Hosted by SCV Crystal Springs Camp. Contact Mike Webb – webbyjoe@aol.com. They have helped us at Routhland in recent years, and are a fun group of people who just want to inform people about our ancestors struggles and causes. Just ask Don Green about attending their last Grand Gulf Living History.

April – Marion Memorial, usually the first Sunday.
Time to be announced.

April 10th Sat. – Cattle Mens Auction — Laurel, MS. Behind the Magnolia Center. The Rosin Heels have been asked to set up a recruitment table and provide a color guard for the opening of the actual auction. Along with our camp, they plan to have a blacksmith, someone who works with leather items and other folks having demonstrations of various kinds from times past. The intent of the head organizer is to show the cattle association folks in attendance how their livelihood ties in with past and in particular our Southern history. More info as we near the event.

April 17th Sat. – Pinefest – Landrum Country Homestead. This is their second annual event. Our camp participated last year and have been requested to be there again. This is a scaled down version of what we do in November during the Christmas tour. Last year we displayed rifles and other reproduction items as well as helping some “children” young and not so young shoot the rifles. Reese Patrick was the culprit behind all this. He’s a gun - o’maniac! It was a lot of fun and should be again this year. Remember, this is another opportunity to be able to tell the facts about our Southern people and their lives, especially, in our area. Lets have a good turn out since this is on our home turf.

April — Clinton Memorial tba

April — Newton Memorial tba

April 23rd Friday – Hattiesburg - 5:30 Confederate Memorial, downtown next to Courthouse.

April 24th Sat. – Beauvoir - MS. Division Memorial

April 25th Sunday – Lauderdale Springs Memorial

April 26th Monday – Meridian, downtown - 1 PM

April 26th “ ” Ellisville, MS. 4:15 PM

April 26th “ ” Laurel, MS. 5:15 PM

MORE INFO ON TIMES & DATES LATER

CONDOLENCES

Prayers and condolences are extended to the Courtney family, of whom Mary Heiden is a member. Mary's mother, Mary Arline Courtney of New Augusta went home to be with her Lord on January 30th. Mary Heiden is the wife of Bro. Don Heiden of the Augusta Greys camp. Both Mary and Don are a vital part of our Southern Heritage Defense. They attend as many events as possible throughout each year, such as marching in the Laurel Christmas Parade with us. Her mother had eight children, nineteen grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren. Her memory and legacy will live on through her family forever. Again, let's be in prayer for Mary and Don as well as the rest of the Courtney family at this time.

BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES

A belated birthday wish goes out to Mrs. Harold Walters of Hattiesburg, better known as Miss Jackie. Her husband was a fine Christian gentleman and a member of the Rosin Heels camp. Her birthday was in early December, but you know how communications are while the state is under federal occupation. Miss Jackie was born and raised in the Delta, Belzoni to be exact. Her Confederate ancestors hailed from Leake County, MS. Now, it ain't polite to ask a lady her age and make no mistake, Miss Jackie is definitely a true Southern lady. So, let's just say thirty nine and holding.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MISS JACKIE !!!!

PAYMENT DUE

As a reminder, to anyone that said to count them on the meal list for the Lee/Jackson banquet on Jan. 30th and did not call ahead of time to cancel, you need to pay for your meal. The camp does not make a profit on this event and simply tries to break even. So, if someone does not attend that has been listed to eat, then the money must come from the camp's general fund in order to pay the caterers, in this case, the youth group of Bethlehem Baptist Church. So, please remit your payment ASAP to Camp 227 SCV and send it to P. O. Box 52, Laurel, MS. 39441. Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank You.

CAMP OFFICERS MEETING

A meeting of the camp officers was held earlier this month to discuss upcoming events for not only this year but, for 2011 which will be the sesquicentennial of the beginning of hostilities between the yankees and the Americans. Also, 2012 will be the centennial of the two Confederate monuments in Jones County.

Both were dedicated in 1912. Other items discussed were, having the camp donate funds on an annual basis to help support some things that are of importance in the realm of history, heritage and preservation.

These are the areas of interest and the suggested amount that the camp would give.

1. Laurel - Jones County Library - Genealogy room \$100.00 annually
2. MS. Division - Flag preservation fund. Average cost is between \$10 & \$15,000 per flag. Our Division raises the money for this, not the MS. Archives and History. \$100.00 annually.
3. CWPT - Civil War Preservation Trust - They have to date saved 28,000 acres of land on which includes areas that were Confederate victories. This organization does not have ties to the National Park Service. They buy the battlefields from private donations. \$100.00 annually.
4. Charity of our choosing - We have given \$100.00 to the Salvation Army for the last 3 or 4 years, but it was discussed that maybe this could be put on a rotation basis from year to year with different charities in our area, such as the Food Mission. We have purposely stayed away from giving to individual churches and denominations due to the fact that most of us belong to different congregations. \$100.00 annually.
5. Jeff Davis Presidential Library - The projected cost is \$10.5 million. Yes there are probably several million in federal assistance, but we need to be giving on a regular basis. The camp gave hundreds to help buy equipment for the clean up after Katrina. We have not given a penny for the new library and it's time to step up and do our part. An amount will be discussed.

Aside from the camp giving to some areas of concern. It was once again discussed about a service project. George Jaynes had asked Billy Langley to call the MDOT and inquire as to how an organization would be allowed to have a section of highway to keep clean and maintained. Mr. Billy called several times and left messages but, no call was returned. So, this time George is going to call and see if he can solicit a response. This would be a chance for the camp to help in our county and also be recognized that we are doing something positive. Perception goes a long long way in the public arena. Besides it couldn't hurt some of us to get a little exercise every now and then.

There was a discussion as to how the camp would go about paying for the donations listed above. Actually, the discussion was how to garner some more funds into the camp treasury, period. A couple of years back George asked that each member commit \$5.00 a month for six months. If forty members did this it would total

\$1200.00, and nobody had to sell or build or cook anything to raise this amount. This was also discussed. The Lee/Jackson banquet is not a fund raiser and the Heritage Conference was not formed to be that either, even though money from the conference has been used for various projects. In addition to giving five dollars a month, the idea of returning to the downtown festival with a food booth was also suggested. The festival is now under the guidance of the Laurel Express, an organization that is leading the way for downtown revitalization.

Bottom line is gentlemen, if we are to be a vital organization, not only in the SCV, but, in our county, then we must increase our activity a bit. We must increase our giving. It's good that we have the Lee/Jackson banquet and the Southern Heritage Conference, and that we have had a camp color guard for many years and have been able to support other camps in their memorial services and headstone dedications, as well as being pallbearers and honor guard for our camp members as well as for compatriots from other camps. All this is good, however, we can accomplish more, and all it will take is raising a few bucks however we decide to do it. We are not going to vote on this agenda at the February meeting, although it will be discussed. You will have until the March meeting to pray and think about the items mentioned and as to the direction our camp is to take

SOMETHING ENCOURAGING

At the last Tea Party rally in Laurel the Rosin Heels were well represented. Before the rally had ended, two ladies had asked Carl Ford where he got the extension type flagpoles. He said he had some at his office. After the rally he had Donna Knezvich and her husband follow him to the office. George brought the other lady, who is Miss Jo Ford's daughter and her husband later. Carl talked to Mr. & Mrs. Knezvich about the Laurel rally and found out she was organizing a rally in Jackson on Wed. 10th on the Capitol steps, while the legislature was in session. In Carl's discussion with her he suggested that instead of pledging the U. S. flag that we pledge the U. S. Constitution. After all, the main contention for many months concerning activities at the federal level has been whether or not things have been constitutionally correct. So, to begin the rally she pointed out that a wise man had suggested doing this and she read and had the attendees repeat each section she had just read. Now we all know what a humble and quiet man Carl is but, don't let him fool you, he gloated all the way back to Laurel. Besides Mr. Carl's definite influence on the proceedings there was something that was not just being talked about among the folks attending, but that was being shouted by several of them. Hold on, cause you ain't hardly going to believe this. **STATE SOVEREIGNTY!!!!**

STATE SOVEREIGNTY

State of Independence by Paula Bradley

At some point, American school children are all taught about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. They are drilled on the First Amendment. They may have seen Schoolhouse Rock, with fun animation, catchy tunes, and lyrics from the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution: "We the People..."

Sadly, by the time we are adults, much of this is forgotten. Many Americans can name Freedom of Speech, and perhaps freedom of Religion; some remember the right to bear arms even amid gun control measures. And thanks to television crime dramas, most can spout "I plead the fifth!" Or "I want a lawyer!"

What about the Tenth Amendment? How many Americans can remember what that one says, let alone what it means? The Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads: "The power not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

That Amendment is making news because, according to the website "Tenth Amendment Center," as of May 1, 2009, 35 states have proposed resolutions or similar bills in their state legislatures affirming their rights of State Sovereignty un the Tenth Amendment. The website included links to state legislature websites for bill status and updates.

All the resolutions have a common theme: the states are demanding that the federal government cease mandates that are beyond the scope of constitutionally delegated power. In other words, if it is not enumerated in the U.S. Constitution, then Congress should leave it up to the individual states. It's essentially a line in the sand, "Your power ends here, and the rest is up to us." The Founding Fathers understood this age-old struggle, and included the Tenth Amendment in the Bill of Rights to address it.

To understand the intent of the Founders and the historical precedent regarding state sovereignty, you can look at several historical documents, beginning with the Declaration of Independence. The last paragraph of the Declaration says: ". . . That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES."

The Articles of Confederation, drafted in 1777, preserved the independent sovereignty of each state. Article II reads: "Each State retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power,

jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.”

By 1787, state delegates attempted to correct some problems with the Articles of Confederation, yet ultimately they were abandoned in favor of a brand new Constitution. The state delegates at the constitutional convention granted specific and limited powers to each branch of the central government. Several delegates, wary of a too-powerful central government, felt it did not reserve enough power for the individual states. Consequently, only 39 of the 55 delegates who participated in the convention actually signed the finished document.

During the ratification process, the Anti-Federalists published letters raising concerns about the rights of states under the new Constitution. One letter says: . . .as to powers, the general government will possess all essential ones, at least on paper, and those of the states a mere shadow of power. And therefore, unless the people shall make some great exertions to restore to the state governments their powers...the balance cannot possibly continue long, but the state governments must be annihilated, or continue to exist for no purpose.”

So, the Bill of Rights was added as a way to satisfy the Anti-Federalists who felt the rights of the individual States, and citizens of the States, needed specific protection.

In 1798, The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, drafted by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison respectively, again re-affirmed state sovereignty. The Kentucky Resolution reads:”...the several States...are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their general government; but...delegated to that government certain definite powers, reserving each State to itself, the residuary mass of right to their own self-government and that whensoever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force.”

In 2009, state legislators are tired of what they feel has been a subtle encroachment of their state sovereignty, and the resolutions are intended to send a strong message to the federal government. For example, in Alaska, HJR 27 passed Alaska’s House and Senate unopposed. Alaska does not require the governor to sign resolutions.

In Oklahoma, a joint resolution (HJR 1003) passed both the house and the senate, yet it was vetoed by Democratic Governor Brad Henry. Part of Gov. Henry’s veto message reads: “HJR 1003 also implies that the state should reject federal tax dollars paid to Washington, DC, by Oklahoma citizens, an act that would prevent our tax dollars from being used in

Oklahoma to address critical needs in transportation, education, health care, law enforcement, veteran programs, and many other vital services beneficial to our state.”

While the highest law of our land clearly defines the right of states to retain sovereignty on issues not delegated to the federal government, many states have been reluctant to bite the hand that feeds them. Claiming sovereignty for your state may mean a reduction in federal dollars for your state, and that doesn’t go over well with voters. Until now, state legislators have been willing to overlook, to some degree, the violation of their state’s sovereignty in exchange for federal dollars. Yet states may have reached the tipping point.

Pennsylvania State Rep. Sam Rohrer (R-128th Dist.) Said in a video statement: “Before there was ever a federal government, there were sovereign, individual states. Over time... the federal government, seeking to grow, as most governments tend to grow, (sic) have become increasingly involved in activities that have been reserved to the states, being involved in such things as education, health care...And now, in these times of economic distress, many states, including Pennsylvania, do not have the money to pay the cost of all the programs that are in place.”

Pennsylvania’s SR 51 and HR 95 are both in committee as of May 3. Michigan State Sen. Jud Gilbert (R- 25th Dist.), supports the sovereignty resolution in Michigan, SCR 4, which has bi-partisan sponsorship. “There are a lot of strings attached to stimulus money that would require changes in policy for the future,” he said in a telephone interview. One example, according to Sen. Gilbert, is the stimulus money that would pay for expanded unemployment benefits for two years, yet would require the state to continue paying for those benefits from its own budget beyond that time. Other issues that the resolutions are designed to address are Real I.D., or enhanced drivers’ licenses, health freedom, educational freedom, and gun ownership.

Organizations that support strict constitutional government, like the nonpartisan Campaign for Liberty, are encouraged by the state sovereignty resolutions. Tony DeMott, Campaign for Liberty’s Interim State Coordinator for Michigan, used this analogy to explain the problem: the states are like parents who agree to let their children use the family car, as long as the children meet certain conditions. If they do not, the responsible parents take away the keys. The federal government has not upheld its end of the bargain, and we must take back the keys.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, ignited controversy in April when he spoke at an anti-tax “Tea Party” rally. He said that officials in Washington have

abandoned the country's founding principles of limited government, the federal government is strangling Americans with taxation, spending, and debt, and suggested Texans might at some point get so fed up that they would want to secede from the union.

One of the ultimate rights of a Sovereign State, albeit an extreme one, is the right of secession. But thanks to president Lincoln, the Civil War, and the Pledge of Allegiance, most people think that secession from the Union is unthinkable.

U.S. Congressman Ron Paul (R-Texas), in his 04-27-09 column "Texas Straight Talk," reminds us that "America was born from an act of secession." Dr. Paul feels the possibility of states seceding from the Union would act as a deterrent to the federal government against violating states' rights. "Secession is the last resort of states whose sovereignty is over-ridden by an overreaching federal government," he said.

Paula Bradley lives in Michigan, where she is active in Campaign for Liberty of Saint Clair County.

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RON PAUL ON SECESSION

By Michael Nystrom

The very foundation of freedom is voluntary association. This fact seems to have been lost on the corporate media land the American people themselves when Texas Governor Perry suggested that Texas reserves the right to secede from the Union. Perry was not, mind you, calling for secession. He merely stated that Texans might, one day, get so fed up with Washington's meddling that it would want to secede. This started a corporate media frenzy, denouncing the idea of secession as un-American, even calling it treasonous to suggest such a thing. So much for the land of the free and voluntary association.

In a You Tube video addressing the issue, Ron Paul defended secession as a fundamental American issue, noting that this is how our great country came into being. Have we forgotten that it was the original 13 American colonies that seceded from the most powerful empire on Earth, the once mighty British Empire, to form the United States of America? Dr. Paul's position is that secession is a legitimate issue that should remain open for debate, noting that all of the states that came into the Union prior to the Civil War believed that they had the right to secede. In the

early 19th Century, New England openly considered it, and no one questioned their right to do so. In the early 29th Century, President Wilson drove America to war with the claim that every nation has the right to self determination. In the late 29th Century, when nations began declaring their sovereignty from the former USSR, Americans were delighted by the act of free people around the world exercising their right of self determination.

So why do so many Americans react negatively to the idea of secession? Dr. Paul points out that for as long as he can remember, school children (including himself) have been compelled from a very early age to recite daily the Pledge of Allegiance by the public school system. The Pledge preaches the idea of an indivisible nation. Having so been indoctrinated, there is little chance that Americans would ever think to question it. What many people don't know is that the Pledge came into existence over 100 years after the founding of the Republic, in 1892. It was written by Francis Bellamy, an avowed socialist, who wanted to solidify the principle of indivisibility into the minds of Americans. Apparently, he succeeded.

However, the possibility of secession remains important as it acts as a counterweight to excessive powers of the federal government. "We came together voluntarily," says Paul. "A free society means you can dissolve it voluntarily." In the absence of that threat, our central government has grown larger and more intrusive, overburdening states with excessive rules and regulations. We have all suffered the consequences as a result. While secession might not be seriously considered today, one day in the not too distant future it will likely become very serious. When the dollar collapses and the federal government is no longer able to fulfill its myriad obligations, the issue of the states' right to secede will resurface with a vengeance. Now is the time to begin thinking about it and discussion it. "It doesn't mean that you're un-American to even contemplate what might have to be done once the crashes," says Dr. Paul.

Michail Nystrom is the editor of the Daily Paul (www.dailypaul.com)

THE UNION: UNDISSOLVABLE

Was Lincoln's View Correct — What about the Union?

Was the Union an undissolvable entity as Lincoln claimed — "One nation indivisible," as it were — or is there another view, one more accurate and in keeping with the true history and founding of this country?

Raoul Berger, a respected legal scholar and constitutional historian of renown, in his, *Federalism: The Founder's Design*, discuss the nature of the Union in some depth. He traced the independent actions of

each of the colonies at every one of the Continental Congresses, including the debates resulting in the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. He showed the painfully slow process the stated too in ratifying the Articles of Confederation and described key clauses in that document which demonstrated the sovereign independence of each state. From there he went on to describe the fierce debates over the U.S. Constitution in the states' ratifying conventions, in which the anti-Federalists argued that the Constitution, if adopted, would create a consolidated government. To objections such as these, Federalists such as founding father James Wilson, in the Pennsylvania Ratification Convention, replies that if that meant system that "puts a thirteen United States into one, that the general government will destroy the government of the States, I will admit that such a government would not suit the people of America.."

As if to contradict Lincoln's mystical view of "Union," Berger points out to what lengths the founding fathers went in order to protect the independence and sovereignty of their respective states. This careful regard for state sovereignty is clearly seen in the Articles of Confederation, the calling forth and action of the Constitutional Convention and the writings of both the Federalist and Anti-Federalist arguments during the ratification process.

Point by point, Berger refuted Lincoln's mystical view of the Union. Although that was not his intention when writing his book, his thorough study of the intent of the founders quite simply gave the lie to Lincoln's viewpoint of a mythical UNION. Berger stated that when the Continental Congress agreed, in November of 1777, to recommend the Articles of Confederation to the several states, a "[I]t made the independent sovereignty of the States emphatically plain...Berger points out that in Article II of the Articles of Confederation each state "retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence." Obviously, Americans in 1778 (the date the Articles were submitted to the states) understood that each state was indeed a sovereign state, something Lincoln did not recognize.

Berger and many other historians have pointed out that the independence and sovereignty of each state was clearly recognized in Article II of the Articles of Confederation and plainly stated in the Treaty of Paris of 1783. In that treaty His Britannic Majesty, the King of Great Britain, "acknowledges that said United States, viz (herein is named each of the thirteen states) to be sovereign and independent States." We see here that the very treaty that ended the War for American Independence acknowledged that each state was indeed a sovereign state. Lincoln's mystical Union was not even mentioned. Add to this the words of a founding father of these United States, Luther Martin: "At the separation from

the British Empire, the people of America preferred the Establishment of themselves into thirteen separate sovereignties instead of incorporating themselves into one."

Even that arch-nationalist, Alexander Hamilton, had to admit to preexisting state sovereignty. In No. 15 of the Federalist Papers Hamilton wrote: "In our case the concurrence of thirteen sovereign wills is requisite under the Confederation to the complete execution or every important measure that proceeds from the Union." All of these men recognized that the United States was, in fact, not one unitary nation, but rather a republic of separate republics, or as William Rawle of Pennsylvania referred to it, a republic of republics.

James Ostrowski in *Secession, State, and Liberty* also duly noted Lincoln's fundamental error in his concept of "Union." Ostrowski noted that Lincoln challenged the assertion by the seceding states that one of the reserved rights of a state was the right to judge how long it would remain in the Union. According to Lincoln, no state other than Texas had ever "been a State out of the Union." As has been pointed out previously, Ostrowski also noted that Lincoln maintained the view that the states "passed into the Union" even before July 4, 1776. By some mystical maneuver, a benevolent, all-wise, and unseen Union acted the part of a foster parent to the thirteen colonies from somewhere around 1774 through the writing and adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the adoption of the first government under the Articles of Confederation, and ultimately shepherded the states into the adoption of the government under the present Constitution in 1788. According to Lincoln, all of this was done by an unseen, all-powerful, and everlasting Union. Lincoln's description of the actions of his mystical Union sounds more like the attributes of a god and not an agent of the people.

In discussing the Declaration of Independence Ostrowski observed: "It was adopted by representatives of the thirteen colonies, and declared that those colonies had become 'Free and Independent States.'... The next union cited by Lincoln is the government established by the Articles of Confederation ... Perhaps the most significant fact about the Articles is that they specify, both in the preamble and in the body, that the union thus created is 'perpetual.'... In contrast, however, Article 2 makes it clear that 'Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence and every Power, Jurisdiction and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

The Union of the states under the Articles of Confederation was denoted as a perpetual Union; nevertheless, that Union ended by the secession of its member states as they acceded to the Union under the

Constitution. It should be noted that the one thing that was missing in the new Constitution in contrast to the Union under the Constitution would become a reality when adopted by nine states, and the new Union would be enforceable only on those states so ratifying the Constitution. In other words, those states not ratifying the Constitution would not be in the Union—so much for Lincoln’s statement that no state ever existed outside of the Union. Two states, North Carolina and Rhode Island, did not accede to the new Union for more than a year and a half after it was the “law of the land” in the other states. As clearly demonstrated by the act of acceding to the new Union under the Constitution, it was the act of the people of each state that was forming the new government and not the people of America in general (see Article VII, United States Constitution). As has been pointed out Lincoln believed that the term “more perfect Union” in the preamble of the Constitution meant “perpetual Union.” Yet, there is nothing in the Constitution to indicate that this view is correct. We do know that Patrick Henry believed that a more perfect Union is that Union that more perfect protects American liberty and not American government: Henry stated, “The first thing I have at heart is American liberty, the second thing is American union.” Nothing could be further from true American freedom than a state of perpetual force, which is what Lincoln was advocating in defense of his mystical union.

It would seem, all things considered, that Lincoln had a view of the Union that was totally at odds with the sentiments of its founders. Where they saw the individual states as sovereign, except in certain specific areas where power was delegated (not surrendered) to the Federal government, Lincoln seemed to take the view that the Union was an “eternal” Union, that it had always existed, and that nothing or no one could dissolve it, and that anyone attempting to do so would be dealt with by force. We might well wonder, how much different was Lincoln’s opinion from that of communist dictators during the twentieth century? Indeed, the centralizing tendencies of Lincoln were apparent even in his earlier years, if we make the effort to go back and look.

From the 5th Chapter of Red Republicans and Lincoln’s Marxists - by Donnie Kennedy & Al Benson Jr.

COMMANDER’S COMMENTS

The lee/Jackson banquet was a success in the program that was presented. Those in attendance enjoyed another great meal and fellowship. It’s good to have this kind of camaraderie with our own camp members and the guest from other camps. This meeting brings recognition to two great men

Generals lee and Jackson. Their religious background was an important asset to them in their leadership of men during the War of Northern Aggression . The accolades of their lives is still living today as men of God.

What this country needs today are men of the same caliber to help lead us out of the morass of governmental failing that is present in today’s leadership in this country.

The month of February brought us opportunities to recognize some of our past heroes. A memorial service in AL. For a veteran that is kin to Don Green and Mr. Dudley Clark. He was Cpl. Willoughby W. Gibson - Co. F. 16th AL. Inf. The service was held on Feb. 6th in Choctaw County AL. Thanks to Mr. Dudley’s hospitality and a good hot dinner before heading over to the memorial service. Camp 227’s members certainly enjoyed it. The Rosin Heels contributed eight members, the August Greys had five present, the AL. fellows brought two cannons. Jim Huffman from Picayune was there also. Lucedale re-enactment will be held on March 5-7. This is a good event and as many as possible need to participate. We always enjoy this event and it is good to support it.

Your Commander

Billy Langley

