



Nov. _____ 2013

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE

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THE CHARGE GIVEN BY GENERAL STEPHEN D. LEE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations"

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!



Remember that this month we will be at Landrum Homestead on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. They have gone back to having it on Sunday afternoon. So, after church be ready to be in the encampment because it will still be as it was the day before. On Saturday night we probably will hopefully be feeding some reinforcements that will be needed for the

skirmishes on Saturday and one on Sunday afternoon. We are not sure at this time when they begin on Sunday, but we do know they will have some gospel groups lined up. For our new members, our encampment is in the first grove of trees behind the homestead. You do not have to be wearing a uniform to get in. Just follow the driveway that is behind the homestead with a small pond to the left. If anyone should ask, just tell them your with the SCV or show them your membership card if needed.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SCOTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL

These games are being are being moved to Long Beach, MS., and they will be held on Sat. April 5th 2014.

This will be one day before Tartan Day. Our camp has been invited to set up an encampment for that day and as of this writing, we pretty much have an open itinerary in that we can have firing demonstrations, show infantry or dismounted maneuvers and tactics or whatever we can do within the area we are given. This place where we will be was where an elementary school set until Katrina, and now it is an empty city block of space. Of course there will be your various clans, vendors and Scottish entertainment. We have been given permission to ask other folks to join us.

POWDER & CAPS

Mr. CoCo says we have plenty of powder and caps for the moment. Although, we have enough to buy another case immediately, if not sooner. Also, CoCo has sheets of paper which are good stock for making your own cartridges. He has even drawn the template on each sheet of paper so you can make a cardboard piece and it will make it easier for you to duplicate. Each sheet is \$1. **Also for \$1 he has a template (tube) to roll the paper on to make cartridges.** Remember, the one pound cans of powder are \$15 & the tins of caps are \$10 each while they last. Get'em while they're hot. Well, maybe that's not the best way to say that, especially when you're talking about black powder. Just buy them, that's enough.

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECUPERATING AT HOME

Lets keep our camp member, Duane Bryant, from Smith county in our prayers. He had planed on being at our last camp meeting. We were informed that he just needs rest at this moment. So, don't forget about him, even though he is home, that he still does not need prayer.

Miss Nancy is back on the dole. . .uh, work, yeah, that's it, work. She is doing fine and just loving be a federal beaurecrat.

ANOTHER CAMP MEMBER RECOVERING

Compatriot Dennis Avera recently had a stint inserted. He attended our last camp meeting and was going back to



work. He works for MDOT. So if you pass a crew on the road somewhere, just look for a big bearded fellow leaning on a shovel.

A CAMP MEMBER AWOL FOR A WHILE

Mike Merritt, is having to spend maybe the next year in GA. going through various medical tests and exams in order to determine if he will be able to continue his duty in the MS. National Guard, until he has his allotted time in to receive his military benefits. He is able to come home at certain times and stay for a few days. So, lets keep he and Miss Jody in our prayers. Here is his contact info.

gaineswarrior@aol.com and his phone no. is 601-323-6765. Either way he would enjoy hearing from any of us

ONE MORE CAMP MEMBER AILING

CoCo "Powder Man" Roberts has just been diagnosed with Bells Palsy. It affects one side of your face. The one side of your face that it affects also does not allow the eye on that side to completely close. It also affects you if drink something, because you may drool. He is being treated for this, and he still has feeling in his face and it should not last but a few weeks. This happened overnight, which is not unusual with this type of nerve condition. This condition, has not stopped CoCo from cussin and fussin, however, lets keep him in our prayers.

A THANK YOU

George Jaynes thanks the few that knew he was in the hospital lately for their visits or calls and for their concern. He believes that the chopped steak at Western Sizzlin when we had our Sept. meeting gave him the pneumonia he woke up with the next morning. So just be careful what you eat there. You might do like Joe Cosper and bring some sardines and crackers. Then you'll be like him. Oh boy.

NOTIFICATION OF FAMILY OR FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Just because we are not each a member of the same church or family, it is no reason that each of us in the camp cannot share a need for prayer about anyone or anything. God instructs us do so for one another. So if an occasion arises then either call or email George Jaynes so he can include it in the newsletter. There is no requirement to give a name or explain a situation in detail when asking for prayer. You may call during the day at 649-1867 or at night 428-5570. His email is georgejaynes1953@yahoo.com



LAUREL SERTOMA CHRISTMAS PARADE

The parade will be on December 7th this year. Better known to many as Pearl Harbor Day, when the Japanese bombed the military installations at Pearl Harbor and drew America into WWII. So, that day we need to keep this in mind. As for the routine, it will be as usual. We will meet at Mr. Carl Ford's office with doors open to drink that last sip of coffee, go to the facilities, or go to the back office to change into super Confederate. Sorry, we don't have any phone booths for that. Lets try and involve some of our ladies. We like to have as many rifles as we can have, however, we need at least a couple of folks to carry one of our signs or new banner (which are not heavy at all) to let everyone know who we are, other than just a bunch of guys that get together and march. It's called publicity. Of course maybe a couple of the new members, such as grandsons would also come in handy for the job. We still need the ladies though. Of course afterwards we will have the annual Christmas dinner at the Mauldin Community Center, with everyone bringing some of their favorite dishes. This is the favorite time for some of our guys. They almost get a free meal. They just have to march for it. It is a lot of fun, so don't forget that part of the festivities. For you new fellers to the camp, just because you may not march doesn't matter, this is for all the camp members and their families. **Except Joe Cosper.**

PETAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

For the last three years some of us from our camp have driven down to Petal for their Christmas parade. We meet in the parking lot area of Hudson's and find our place in line about 4:14 - 4:30. The parade begins at 5 PM. It is about the same length as Laurel's parade. It of course becomes darker this time of year, so when we fire the flames can readily be seen. We have always gotten a favorable reception, and the attendees are standing only a few feet away from us, and there has always been a large crowd of folks. So, don't think you're completely exhausted after dinner. You've got another parade in you and you will like it, guaranteed.

RECRUITING/MENTORING

Everyone has different interests in life. Unfortunately, our society has gotten totally overly indulged in sports. Now, don't get angry. You most likely have family members and friends who play a sport or a variety of them. There is nothing wrong with that, until it becomes all consuming. Now with that said, anything in life can become all consuming. It's just that people don't seem to care as much anymore about from whom they have descended. No, we can't do anything about that, especially if find out one of them was a horse thief or a gambler that cheated and etc. However, as an old saying goes, if you don't

know where you come from then how do you know where you're going. We can and must learn from the past. This serves in not only helping us to take certain actions that were wrong or just bad choices. It also helps us to follow the many good and courageous actions of our people who were very wise, patient, knowledgeable, and most importantly Godly. They were not by any means perfect but, at times they sure were in the ballpark. As many of you may already realize if you study history you will be hung with at least one kind of title by friends and or family. However, you just keep on keeping on with what you are doing.

It has been that half the current population in America was not even born when the hostages held in Iran for a year were released when President Ronald Reagan took office. There have been many years that the young people of this country have been taught lies and have fallen under the teachings of people who have spouted socialism, facism, and yes even communism. If only they had been encouraged and shown that this nation was not founded on these principles. We need to not only recruit but, mentor young people whenever the opportunity arises.

SHILOH MONUMENT FUND

Many of you know this, however, there are most likely even more that do not realize that there is no monument to the Mississippi troops that fought at Shiloh, or what the Confederates referred to as Pittsburg Landing. This is one of those items that is long over due. So as we set up booths for recruiting and handing out information lets be aware to have a notification explaining the situation and a container for folks to drop in a couple of dollars or hopefully more. Remember, every penny counts.

DUES

Please check with Cotton Norris about this situation. Even if you are behind and past the grace date which is sometime in Nov. you will only be charged a late fee of \$5.00. So, stay current so you can at least receive the information from our camp, division newsletter and the national magazine.

LANDRUM CHRISTMAS TOUR

We have received a request from the Landrum family concerning our participation in the Christmas tour just after Thanksgiving. We are going to participate on Sunday afternoon with our encampment remaining in place. Also there will be one skirmish. There will be some gospel groups participating also. So, if any of your friends or family or church member missed Saturday's activities they may desire to tour Sunday afternoon. So, we need to be letting anybody wishing to participate in camping and being a part of the skirmish on Saturday and or Sunday as soon as possible. The ones that are going to be union soldiers could set up their own camp area along with their regimental colors. This way they would be a part of the overall event in

which we host. The visitors could talk with them and ask questions about their equipment and uniforms and etc. **Remember, this is Saturday Nov. 30th & Sunday Dec. 1st.** If you are available to help on Friday call Mr. Billy Langley, he sets the time to meet. Sat. begins at 9 AM - 8 PM. Sunday will be after church.

Mississippi Division Heritage Education and Defense Fund

*Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written our enemy, that our youth will be trained by northern school teachers; learn from northern school books, **THEIR** version of the war, and taught to regard our gallant dead as traitors and our maim veterans as fit subjects of derision. . . "*

General Patrick Cleburne, CSA

Gen. Cleburne was right then and is right today!

**Our youth should have the opportunity to learn
the truth**

Invest today in our youth, their education, and the truth

FAMILY HISTORIES

If would be nice if any of you would submit a portion of your family history. Your Confederate ancestors which would include the one on whom you joined the SCV. We always talk to each other about each others family but, it would be good to share these stories of your folks with others that read this newsletter. Just get them to George Jaynes and he will include them in one of the newsletters. This would really be a great addition to any of the newsletters.

NEWS FROM DON

This information comes from the illustrious MR. DON GREEN. He wanted his name in capital letters so no one would mix him up with any other Don Green. Yeah right! Anywho, he reports that Fall Muster went very well. It rained some on Saturday morning but, it stopped for the afternoon. Sunday was bright and sunny so the crowd was much larger. Also the new camp at Pascagoula was chartered in the new library and museum. The memorial service at Raleigh went fine with the Rosin Heels camp color guard having nine of the eleven in the memorial service. Way to go guys!! Don's family was honoring some soldiers buried in Burnt Corn AL. Two of those men are his ancestors. Don had to stand his ground against political correctness from one of his cousins from Oregon. She did not want the battle flag flown or any guns fired. Thanks to another cousin from Texas things worked out fine. The attendees for the memorial said they liked it. So thank you Don for holding your ground. The Deason House tour had the largest crowd since they re-opened a few years ago when there was about 1500 folks that went through. We didn't stop until 3 AM Sunday morning. This year's crowd was not that large but, it doubled from last year. There will be a Living History at the Ford House on Dec. 14th. This



house was built ca. 1800, and is located south of Columbia in the Sandy Hook area on Hwy. 35. There will be a living history set up with a couple of cannons. Andrew Jackson stopped there with his troops on the way to New Orleans to fight the British. Unfortunately Gen. Davidson of the Union army also used it during the war. This event is being sponsored by the 5th Brigade. So take the family and check it out. It should be fun. The Robert E. Lee/Stonewall Jackson celebration will be Sat. 25th beginning promptly at 7 PM. More on the banquet to come

JONES TO DAVIS & BACK AGAIN

Compatriot John Cox (William D. McCain HQ Camp #582), has recently been looking into the precise details of the naming of Jones to Davis County and back again.

To that end he has been spending an inordinate amount of time among the dusty volumes and scratched microfilm both at the State Archives in Jackson and at the William D. McCain library on the campus of USM.

He has found some very interesting information which will be presented at a future date, but recently came across this gem of an item.

During the Constitutional Convention of 1868, (The "Black and tan Convention" as it is known) the Committee of three on the Bill of rights presented their draft.

During the debate that followed, a representative from Tippah County (That's upper Mississippi campers) seems to have proved that true Southern Partisan die hard.

It was later entered into the record thusly:

"Mr. Morgan of Yazoo offered the following:

Resolved: That W. T. Stricklin a member of this Convention from the County of Tippah, having on the 14th instant, in a preamble offered by him to the Bill of Rights, then under consideration for adoption as a part of the Constitution of the Staate, used the following language:

We, the carpet-baggist and scalawags from the States of Ohio, Vermont, Connecticut, Maine, and Africa, do ordain and proclaim this to be the document upon which we predicate all our hopes for the success of the Radical party, deserves the censure of this Convention. . . "

Having been thus chastised, accordingly the next day Mr. Stricklin; stating "I used inappropriate and non-parliamentary language" apologized to the Convention and was forgiven.

He was right of course.

POSSUM SAYS

Even a smelly old dog won't roll in what comes out of Washington D. C. these days.

"Dixie," also known as "I Wish I Was in Dixie," "Dixie's Land," and other titles, is a popular American song and one of the most distinctively American musical products of the 19th century. It is the best-known song to come out of the "blackface minstrelsy," and most likely cemented the word "Dixie" in the American vocabulary as a synonym for the Southern United States. Written by Ohio-born Daniel Decatur Emmett, "Dixie" in New York City on 4 April 1959 as part of their blackface minstrel show. It appeared second to last on the bill, perhaps an indication of the Bryants' lack of faith that the song could carry the minstrel show's entire finale. The walkaround was billed as a "plantation song and dance".

It was a runaway success, and the Bryants quickly made it their standard closing number. "Dixie" quickly gained wide recognition and status as a minstrel standard, and it helped rekindle interest in plantation material from other troupes, particularly in the third act. It became a favorite of Abraham Lincoln's and was played during his campaign in 1860. The *New York Clipper* wrote that it was "one of the most popular compositions ever produced" and that it had "been sung, whistled, and played in every quarter of the globe." Buckley's *Serenaders* performed the song in London in late 1860, and by the end of the decade, it had found its way into the repertoire of British sailors. Several theories exist regarding the origin of the term "Dixie." According to Robert LeRoy Ripley, (founder and originator of 'Ripley's Believe It or Not') "Dixie" has nothing to do with the South. "Dixieland" was originally located on a farm in Long Island New York. This farm was owned by a man named John Dixie. He befriended so many slaves before the War, his place, "Dixie's Land," became a sort of a paradise to them. The term "Dixie" may also make reference to the Mason-Dixon line, separating free and slave states. Others maintain that the term's origins lie in "Dix notes," then a common name for \$10 bills in Louisiana. At one time, extending into the modern era, "Dixie" has been played generation after generation at most any civic function in the South. Practically every college band in the South had in on their selection list, and it was always played a part of the program of Patriotic music both by them military and private organizations. It was the Song of the South and cherished piece of American musical history.

All that began to change in the early 1990's as a wave of what was called "political correctness" swept over the land. During this it was stated that a performance of "dixie" at any function was an act of racism. While this was not true, it nonetheless resulted in the removal of "Dixie" from the National song book.

"Dixie" is not racist, no other tune speaks more eloquently to the honorable history of the South. Nothing proclaims the heritage and honor of the South

like our sacred banner floating on a warm Southern breeze and the strains off "Dixie,"

It is time to take a stand for "Dixie!" If you do not know it, learn it. Teach it to you children, school groups, church groups, and make certain it is performed. And always remember to Stand for "Dixie!"

The Unitarian / Socialist
Foundations Of Public Education
By Mr. Al Benson Jr.

Public (government) Schools Move South

Public education, as described up to this point, did not exist in the Southern states prior to the War for Southern Independence.

The Southern states had intuitively realized that the education of children was an area not in the government's domain, but was, rather, the responsibility of parents, and so they wisely kept their hands off.

With the advent of the War and the "Reconstruction" all that changed. Author John Chodes noted that quick change. He observed that, as early as 1862, the "Army of Northern Aggression" had suffered several military setbacks. Lee had invaded the North and fought a battle near Sharpsburg, Maryland, and some in the North were not entirely sure the North could win the war. In this charged atmosphere, Congress passed the Morrill Act. Chodes has written: "The (the Morrill Act) was the closest Washington had ever come to direct aid to education. Its stated purpose was to fund colleges that teach agriculture and mechanic arts, via federal money raised through federal land-grant sales. The true purpose was to bring the Northern perspective to the reconquered areas of the South, to teach the rebels' children 'respect for national authority'—to break their rebellious spirit forever. . ."

Senator Justin Morrill, the author of this infamous bill, said: "The role of the National government is to mold the character of the American people."

In relation to the Morrill Act, Chodes also noted: "The land-grants had hidden strings: Washington controlled curriculum. To insure a uniformly nationalized, anti-Southern slant, land and money could be taken from one state and given to another."

As the war ended, the Freedmen's Bureau was instituted. Whatever else you may have heard about this organization, you have probably not been told that it had a big education budget and that "re-education" of the South was a major priority. Regarding the real intent of the bureau. Chodes noted: "This was the first direct federal aid to schooling. The need to create school buildings first, without wasting time and money to build them, led to another round of mass confiscation of property. . .In three years the bureau built 630 school houses and placed hundreds more in seized buildings." Truly, there is nothing new under the sun. Noting that the Freedmen's Bureau had become, in effect, a "shadow government" in the South, Chodes observed how the bureau ran its public schools. He has written: "The three R's took a backseat, destruction of the Democratic Party was the highest objective. New textbooks were created and all

students taught from this perspective. . . . The bureau's mandate was only to teach blacks, but it was imperative to change the values of the Southern whites. There was less concern for their racism than for their ability to make war again. Thus, contrary to the law, classes were forcibly integrated, not to promote healthy race relations, but to have captive whites to brainwash into being 'loyal' to authority."

Thus was the dubious foundation of public education in the South. This foundation was equally as questionable in character, intent, and sincerity as was its Northern counterpart.

President Ulysses S. Grant, during his tenure in office sent a message to Congress in which he said: "I recommend a constitutional amendment, , making it the duty off the several states to establish and forever maintain free public schools. . ." Look at some of your state constitutions today and see what they say regarding public education.

Also worth noting is the fact that, in the late 1870's or thereabouts, a "low-profile" Bureau of Education was created within the Interior Department. This had one main purpose—to keep statistics on Southern public education and so guarantee a Federal presence in the South.

To subscribe to Mr. Benson's publication *The Copperhead Chronicles* you may contact him at P.O. Box 55, Sterlington, LA. 71280. For \$10 you will receive 4 copies per year. It is very informative and will introduce the reader to areas of our country's history of which they may not be aware. It is worth the few dollars for what you will receive from it.

Confederate American Pride's Humor Page

Southern-fried Humor

<http://www.confederateamericanpride.com/humor.html>

Black Boxes in 4-Wheel Drives

The National Transportation Safety Board recently divulged they had covertly funded a project with the US auto makers for the past five years, whereby the auto makers were installing black boxes in four-wheel drive pickup trucks in an effort to determine, in fatal accidents, the circumstances in the last 15 seconds before the crash.

They were surprised to find in 40 of the 50 states the last words of drivers in 61.2 percent of fatal crashes were, "Oh, S***!"

Only the states of Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Virginia, Arkansas, Alabama, Texas and Tennessee were different, where over 89,3 percent of the final words were: "Hold my beer and watch this."

Thinks He Knows Her

An elderly couple were driving across the country. The woman was driving when she got pulled over by the highway patrol. The officer said, "Ma'am did you know were speeding?"

The woman turns to her husband and asked, "What did he say?" The old man yelled, "He says you were speeding!"

The patrolman said, "May I see your license?" The woman turned to her husband and asked, "What did he say?" The old man yelled, "He wants to see your license!" The woman gave him her license.

The patrolman said, "I see you are from Arkansas. I spent some time there once and went on a blind date with the ugliest woman I've ever seen.

The woman turned to her husband and asked, "What did he say?"

The old man yelled, "He thinks he knows you!"

CONFEDERATE AMERICAN PRIDE: **QUOTATIONS**

Southern Heritage Quotations

"We could have pursued no other course without dishonor. And sad as the results have been, if it had all to be done again, we should be compelled to act in precisely the same manner." — Robert E. Lee

"...THE CONTEST IS NOT OVER, THE STRIFE IS NOT ENDED. It has only entered upon a new and enlarged arena." — President Jefferson Davis, C.S.A., address to the Mississippi legislature in 1881.

"The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert it's self, though it may be at another time and in another form." — President Jefferson Davis.

"Duty is ours: consequences are God's" — General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

"To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

—Thomas Jefferson

JUST THINK ABOUT OBAMA CARE, AND THAT'S NOT COUNTING ALL THE OTHER UN-CONSTITUTIONAL THINGS THAT HAVE OCCURED IN THE LAST 4 -5 YEARS.

YOU MIGHT BE A REDNECK IF...

YOU'VE EVER USED JUMPER CABLES TO START YOUR WASHING MACHINE.

STORY OF JAMES EDWARD COSPER

I was born in Randolph County, Alabama, December 2, 1852. Nine years before the Civil War.

I well remember the first soldiers that left our country. (He lived in Randolph County, AL. on the GA./AL. line.) There were two companies: the captain of one of company was a Methodist preacher named Smith, and the captain of the other company was a Baptist preacher named Robison. I have often wondered just what kind of soldiers they made;

they should have been good soldiers, for both were very fine men. Two hundred fine young men went from our county, but very few of the ever returned.

My brother George Cospers, who was just seventeen at the time he enlisted, marched in Captain (Preacher) Smith's Company. He was one of the few who were lucky enough to go all through that war without a scratch. He had only two furloughs during the entire war. (He joined in Selma, AL., on May 16, 1862 with the 44th AL. Infantry Regiment. He was originally in Anderson's Division, then they were transferred to Hood's Division, in Longstreet's Corp. His cousins originally fought at Shiloh or as the Confederates called it, Pittsburg Landing and both were killed. George fought at Gettysburg in the area known as Devils Den then they fought at Chickamauga, then they went back to Virginia and fought in the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, a place named Pittsburg in 64 or 65, and they finished at Appomattox. Of course these are just the larger engagements in which they participated. Out of the 44th 200 were killed and 147 came home.) George Cospers died in the year 1920, at the age of 77, and is buried at Duncan, Arizona.

My cousin, Willie Cospers, a Confederate Soldier, was killed in the battle of Gettysburg, and cousins, Buck and Frances Cospers, brothers and Confederates, were both killed in the battle of Shiloh.

My son, James E. Cospers, Jr., was a Spanish-American War Veteran. He died in 1923, and is buried at Duncan, Arizona.

"Lady Luck" seemed to ride with members of the Cospers family in the World War. I had three grandsons, and numerous nephews and second cousins, who crossed the "Big Pond" in 1917, and all came home safe and sound.

General Grant, leader of the Federal Army, may never have become President of the United States had General Lee been able to foresee his chance in the battle of Shiloh.

Brother George told me that the battle took place at daybreak, in a big bend on the banks of the Tennessee River; the fighting continued all day, all night and into the next morning. The Confederates were being slaughtered by the hundreds, but they were getting a little the best of it at that. Then General Albert Sidney Johnson fell under the Federal's mighty gunfire and General Grant ordered his men to "stack arms."

The Federal had just stacked their arms when 40,000 reinforcements began swarming across the river. It took them all the rest of that day and night to get that great army of reinforcements across the river. And eight years later, General Grant became President of the United States.

The year I was seventeen (1869), my father decided to move west, so we started, in covered wagons pulled by

oxen. These oxen were short horned, short bodied and very strong. They could out-pull and out-last any I ever saw. I remember well my mother's iron kettle, a 30 gallon iron pot that had been in our family since it was bought in 1820, in Charleston, South Carolina. Naturally, Mother had to bring that pot along; we had to unload the blamed thing every time we camped—there just wasn't any place we could put that pesky thing so it wouldn't be in the way—we couldn't pack it full of stuff and leave it that way, for Mother had to use it; finally we put the supply of fresh meat in it and that worked fine! So it wasn't so much bother after that.

My brother Toles, still has that pot, at his ranch up on Blue River. Some trip for an iron pot. All the way from South Carolina, to Alabama, Texas and Arizona. That pot is now 118 years old and as good and useful as it ever was, and about as much trouble to the family too, I allow. The older members still prize it and the younger ones hate it as much as I did when I was a kid.

We stopped in Rusk County, Texas, and made a crop. There I met Miss Azzlee Carmichael, and we were married April 27, 1871.

On the first day of May, we left for further west, stopping in the southwestern part of Bosque County; which was new country then, and out on the extreme frontier.

We had to go into the timber and cut post oak logs for material to build our cabin. Fourteen feet was about as long as we could get a log; then the logs had to be sawed down with a broad-ax to prepare them for the walls; we cut the best looking trees for boards for the roof, and dressed them down; we had dirt floors.

Our first two children were born in that cabin with the dirt floors. It was 150 miles to the nearest sawmill, and we didn't have money to buy lumber for floors—or for any other purpose, as to that matter. We had to do with what we had at hand.

The two children I speak of being born in that cabin now have good homes of their own with every modern convenience; victrolas, radios, fridges, fine oil burning cook stoves, fine automobiles to ride in, and they are not rich either. The very poorest have these things nowadays. Back in the frontier days, we didn't have cook stoves of any kind. Cooking was done over an open fire over an open fireplace, and the grub was awfully good. Beef, corn pone, strong coffee, and plenty of milk and fresh butter, and eggs and fried chicken, with now and then a venison roast, bear steak or wild turkey, or maybe a big mess of brook perch or catfish, thrown in for good measure.

We settled close to the cattle trail, when the big herds were being driven to Kansas City and other markets. For two months in the spring, every day, from 3,000 to 4,000 cattle to the herd could be seen passing our place.

In ten years, from 1867 to 1877, fully 10,000,000 cattle were driven north out of Texas, and the drivers brought back over one hundred million dollars in gold to Texas.

As soon as the country began to settle up, and we began

to feel cramped, we went still further west, and settled in Taylor County, close to Buffalo Gap, which was the county seat then – that was three years before the railroad came through and the town of Abilene was built.

And by-the-way Buffalo Gap is where our present beloved Governor, R. C. Stanford, (of Arizona) was born. I knew his father well. I went to see our Governor last spring, and told him how he had grown since I saw him last.

Fifty-one years ago we came to Arizona four brothers of us, with our families. My youngest brother was still single, and my next youngest brother had just married. Now there are over 200 descendants, nearly all of them live in Arizona. I told Governor Stanford that as far as I knew they all voted for him, for as you know, where we come from, Democrats, they say, grow on trees; anyway, I think we have a fine Governor.

When we came here in 1887, there wasn't much of Duncan. There was one store, a saloon, one blacksmith shop, and maybe half a dozen resident houses. I visited the Duncan School in 1893, and there were only five pupils; a Miss Olney was the teacher. Now the Duncan School has two big fine buildings which cost from 40,000 to 50,000 each, with school buses to bring the some 600 to 700 pupils in from the out-lying country districts over fine paved roads everywhere. At first our roads were very poor; mere cattle trails. When we went to Solomonville or Stafford it took three to five days to make the trip, if the Indians didn't get us. Now we make that trip in less than half-a-day and have plenty of time for shopping and visiting.

My wife and I were coming from Solomonville, in November, 1894, and we camped for the night about six miles west of Ash Peak; the very next day, between sundown and dark, a Mr. Merrill and his daughter were killed at that spot by Indians who were lying in ambush.

Mr. J. L. T. Waters, who still lives in Duncan, came along shortly after tragedy and found that Mr. Merrill had been killed outright, but his girl was still alive. He put a quilt under her and over her and hurried on to Duncan to give the alarm. There was a big dance going on in Duncan that night when Mr. Waters gave the alarm, and soon a large part of men were on the trail of the Indians, but did not overtake them. It was supposed to have been the Apache king, a half-breed and his renegades, who had killed another man and woman near the same spot two years before.

I had a cousin killed by Indians near Globe, Arizona, in February 1889. I have been lucky myself, living all down through the frontier of Texas and in the early days of Arizona, and somehow I have missed the Indians, or they have missed me. But I have been in some mighty tight places where I didn't know what might happen next. But I have been spared.

I am now eighty-five years old. I am hale and hearty; I never used tobacco, never used profane language, never gambled, don't drink, and never danced a set in my life.

I don't know what I am good for.

I lost my companion almost two years ago. We had been together sixty five years and five months, and raised a family of eleven children to manhood and womanhood; eight are still living. I have been a member of the Methodist Church sixty-four years. I have crossed the plains of Texas five times when it was one hundred miles to water. There are only three people now living in Duncan who were here when we came here.

Respectfully yours,

Uncle Ed Cospier

Now we might be able to understand why Joe Cospier acts the way he does. Then again, we just might never really know at all. Kinda of scary.

Well, everyone, have a safe, fun, and restful Thanksgiving.

Just remember, when things aren't exactly going your way and you've got your lip so pooched out that someone could ride to town and back on it. Remember to do this, just turn to the back of **THE BOOK**, WE WIN!!!

Thanks be to GOD
AMEN.

