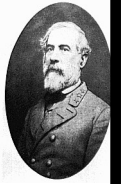




Rebelle



Sons of Confederate Veterans
Jefferson Davis Camp No. 635

* Volume XC * War Memorial Building, Jackson, MS 39201 * April 2011 * Number 4*



April Meeting Civil War Research Holdings at MDAH

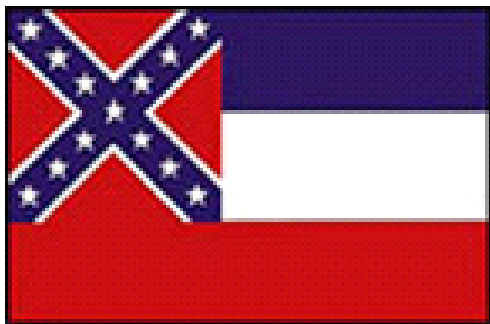
This month's program will be given by Jim Pitts of the MS Dept. of Archives and History who will explain the Civil War Research Holdings in MDAH.

Everyone come and bring guests, especially new recruits!

When: April 26, 2010. 5:00 pm.

Where: Municipal Art Gallery, State St., Jackson.

See you there!



Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

*Luke 24:1-7
(KJV)*

March Meeting Report

A Confederate Unit & Its Flag

The March program was presented by Leww White who told about how he came to acquire an authentic Confederate battle flag once carried by the 31st Tennessee Infantry. After describing the flag's history, he showed it to the camp. For preservation it is mounted in a sealed plastic and metal frame Wallace also briefly covered the new efforts to place a marker on the Sharpsburg Battlefield.

Dan Duggan brought his "this day in the WBTS" (March 22).

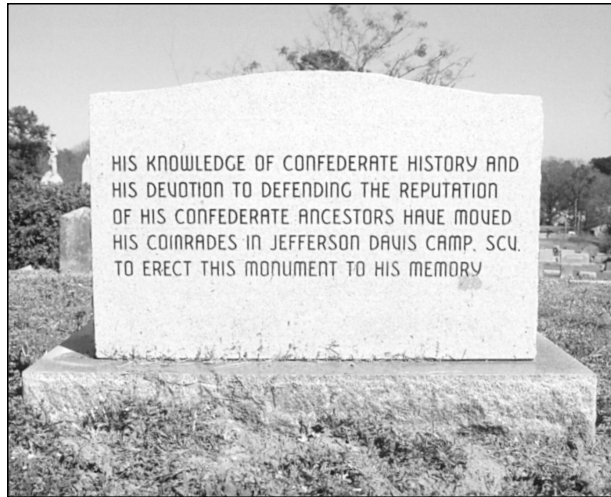
Our flock of Dixie Hummingbirds, Joe Tubb and Murry Stewart, presented several songs for the camp's enjoyment.

Headstone for James West Thompson Installed

Thanks to Robert Murphree, Mr. James West Thompson's grave is now well marked with a beautiful headstone. Robert has provided the pictures at the top of page 2 and will have others at the next meeting.



Note the Confederate Monument in the background of this shot.



Rebel Ramblings

by Robert Murphree

Life really is not fair. A brave man and military genius like Nathan Bedford Forrest is vilified these days, while a war criminal and virulent racist like Sherman has a statue not a stone's throw from the White House. One of the accusations that has been thrown around recently about Forrest is the old tired canard that Forrest was responsible for a "massacre" at Fort Pillow.

In April, 1864 Fort Pillow, 40 miles north of Memphis on the banks of the Miss. River, was occupied by a Union garrison of some 550 white and black soldiers. It had no strategic signifi-

(Continued on page 3)

Send address corrections to:
Wayne B. Anderson, Mailing Coordinator
Jefferson Davis Camp #635, SCV
1737 Bridgers Drive
Raymond, MS 39154

Visit the camp web site at: <http://www.scvcamp635.org>
A new web design program has been obtained that will run on newer computers so the web site has recently been updated for the first time in about a year.



Calendar

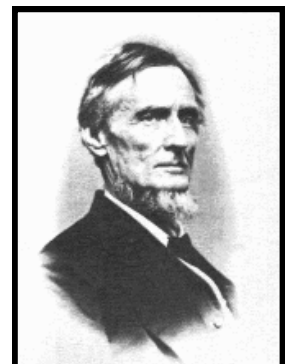
April 26, 2011
Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

April 30, 2011
Cleanup day at Greenwood Cemetery

May 1, 2011
Confederate Memorial Day Observance, Greenwood Cemetery

May 23, 2011
Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

June 28, 2011
Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery



Chaplain's Dispatch

Dear Friends and Compatriots:

Christians around the world will celebrate Easter on the 24th of this month. There are many in this world who doubt the resurrection of Jesus Christ. To those who doubt the resurrection, consider what one writer said about the resurrection.

"There are many historical facts in the world that were not attended by one-tenth as many witnesses as was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As examples I might speak of the birth of a princess, the signing of treaties, the remarks of cabinet officers and the deeds of assassins. I say these great events that men receive upon testimony and accept as fact, these have not had one-tenth the number of witnesses as had the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore I need not beg anybody's pardon for what I believe. I believe with all my heart that Jesus, the Christ, is risen indeed. I believe that he was seen after His resurrection by 641 eye witnesses. During those forty days, Jesus appeared to different men under different circumstances at various places. He ate with them, walked with them, and talked with them. They could not have been possibly deceived. Such deception would be without parallel in history and without an analogy in the annals of men. Christ's enemies became the charter members of His church in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Account for that fact if you deny the resurrection."

His virgin birth, his death on the cross and his resurrection are the foundation of the Christian faith. I believe them. Do you? Have a blessed Easter.

Sincerely,
Hubert W. Miazza
Chaplain

(Continued from page 2)

cance and Forrest's chief interest in reducing the fort was to relieve the surrounding civilians from the Yankee's plundering. Forrest's force numbered some 1,600 of his veteran soldiers.

The fort was poorly designed and Forrest's men were able to invest the fort to a close range with little exposure. Forrest sent a note to the Union commander asking for surrender, offering to treat all--both black and white--captured soldiers as "prisoners of war."

The Union commander decided the best way to encourage his troops was to open the liquor stores of the fort to them. Eight hours passed between the time the Confederates appeared and the assault on the fort and in this time the Yankees took full advantage of the whiskey. One can well imagine the truth of one Union writer who wrote the Yankees were "liberally

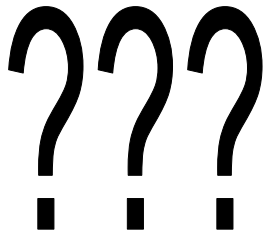
dosed with liquor." Thus fortified, the Union troops used the truce period established to consider the surrender demand to mount the fort's walls and hurl "epithets of the most obscene and abusive terms."

The surrender demand was rejected and Forrest ordered an assault, observing the action from a hilltop 400 yards away. His troops immediately gained the fort's walls and as they were then firing down into the fort, the Yankees sustained heavy losses. A Union gunboat was on the river and the fort's men had been instructed that if the Confederates gained the wall the defenders were to run down below the high river bank to gain support from the gunboat. Forrest had anticipated such a move and had posted men to cover this escape route. When the Yankees came streaming out of the fort they ran into a wall of gunfire.

As soon as Forrest saw his men gain the fort's walls he rode up and ordered a cease fire. Contemporaneously one of Forrest's men cut the fort's flag down, the general sign of surrender. Forrest's officers immediately began to enforce the cease fire order. When the firing stopped the Confederates treated the wounded of both sides. Forrest sent a flag of truce to the gunboat asking it to take on the federal wounded but got no answer. Similar efforts with another boat the next day were more successful and the commander took off some 60 wounded, white and black. Some 226 Yankees were marched south with Forrest as prisoners.

The "massacre" story had its genesis in the heavy casualties the Union soldiers suffered, which were seized upon by the Radical Republicans as a propaganda tool to whip up the flagging Northern war spirit. The presidential election was about to heat up and the Republicans were desperate for any story, true or not, to bolster Lincoln's re-election bid. Northern newspapermen immediately began to publish the most wildly inconsistent and improbable accounts of the action, and a Congressional committee did its best to give credence to the story. Union authorities later privately agreed the casualty figures were a product of the criminally poor discipline of the troops, the incompetence of the officers, and "the fatal error of giving the men free access to the liquor supply of the fort."

In the course of the war many thousands of Union prisoners, white and black, came into General Forrest's hands and this was the only time such a slander was even attempted. We all know that the death rate among Southern prisoners in Northern camps was higher than in Southern camps. Many Southern soldiers died in Northern prison camps from exposure and lack of food, when their captors had plenty of both but you won't hear anything about this sad fact.



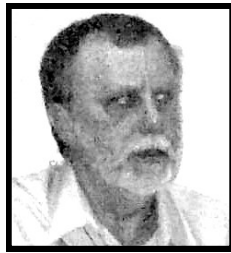
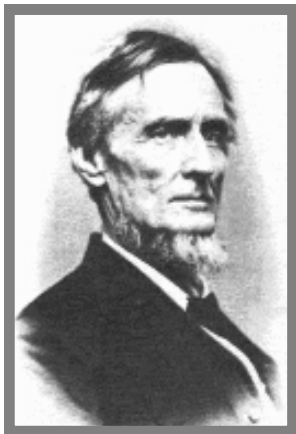
Trivia Question:

This month's question asks:

Who was the last Confederate veteran to pass away, in what year, and what was his age at death?

March's question asked: What Confederate General was called "Stonewall of the West:?"

The answer:
Patrick Cleburne



Commander's Column

TO MY FELLOW COMPATRIOTS:

It is with great pleasure I sit down to write a few lines conveying my appreciation for your support of our beloved Jefferson Davis Camp # 635. We are honored and blessed to have members such as you to grace our meetings and participate in the undertakings of our Camp. Numerous good deeds for others and honoring our Confederate Ancestors have taken place in between and during our Camp meetings. I believe God has shined on our Camp, and we give Him the glory and honor for the things He has done through us in honoring and upholding the good name, character and integrity of our Confederate Ancestors.

As we move forward to the paramount event of our Camp, the Confederate Memorial Service, at Greenwood Cemetery, on May 3, 2011, I trust we will support it not only with our presence, in person or spirit, but with dignity, honor, and perseverance. I don't know of a finer group of gentlemen than Camp #635 to honor our ancestors and the stand they took in defending Dixie and their families 150 years ago. In the words of D. Gardner, "Beloved, the South may not always be right, but we ain't never wrong."

I submit to you my resignation as Commander of Camp # 635. As you know, my work has required me to serve a stint in New York, and our Camp deserves officers that can be at the meetings and attend to other duties of our Camp. I thank each and every one of you for your support during my time as your commander. A special "Thank you" to Mike Rodgers for carrying the torch in my absence. Thanks to Phil Kelly for editing these columns I have strung together monthly, to Robert Murphree for his inspiring "Rebel Ramblings" column, to Wayne Anderson for his faithful and undying devotion to getting this newsletter out every month and to all the others who have filled in and helped during my term as Commander.

Compatriots, I leave you with a quote by E. W. Carmack that, to me, represents the membership of our Camp 635; "To that land every drop of my blood, every fiber of my being, every pulsation of my heart, is consecrated forever". Long live Jefferson Davis Camp # 635 and may we never waver from honoring our Confederate Soldiers and being faithful to the Charge to the S. C. V. by General S. D. Lee, in 1906.

Deo Vindice

Randy Rogers,
Past Camp Commander

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