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Sons of Confederate Veterans
Jefferson Davis Camp No. 635

* Volume XXXVII * War Memorial Building, Jackson, MS 39201 * September 2008 * Number 9 *



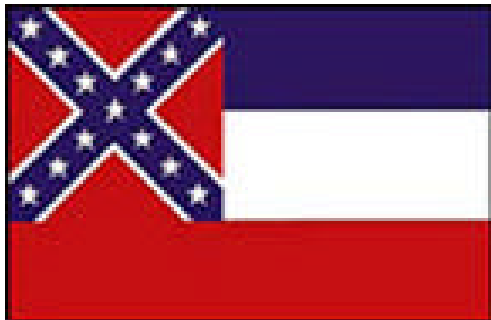
○ September Meeting ○ MDAH/Old Capitol Museum

First Lt. Commander Randy Rogers reports that the program in September will be presented by Clay Williams who works with the Old Capitol Museum

Everyone come and bring a recruit!

When: September 23, 2008. 6:00 pm.
Where: Municipal Art Gallery, State St., Jackson.

See you there!



I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:1-7
(KJV)

August Meeting Report

Rev. Glenn Shows



The August program was a discussion by Rev. Glenn Shows about the relationship between blacks and whites that has endured over the years in the

southern culture.

Compatriot Dan Duggan gave his "this date in the WBTS" (August 26) presentation.

Compatriots Joe Tubb and Murry Stewart provided the music for the meeting. Guest Mr. Garrett treated the group to "Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair" and "Dixie" on the piano.

It's Dues Time Again!

By now most members should have received their dues notice from Adjutant Ron Stowers. Dues are \$55 for full membership and \$15 for associate membership (no voting privileges). Please remit dues to Ron by the middle of October so he can meet the IHQ deadline.

Make check or money order payable to Jefferson Davis Camp 635, SCV and send to

Ron Stowers, Adjutant
P.O. Box 16945
Jackson, MS 39236

Dues may also be given to Ron at the next meeting.

Chaplain's Dispatch

There is a legend of a Roman citizen who willingly sacrificed his life for his country and his fellow citizens. The legend bears repeating as many of our fellow Americans have died in recent years serving our country.

In the year 362 B. C. Rome was shaken by an awful earthquake, and a huge chasm suddenly opened in the middle of the Forum, so deep that no one could see the bottom. The citizens brought stones and earth to fill it up, but no matter how much they threw in, the yawning gulf seemed as terrible as before.

The Senate then consulted the soothsayers, who announced that the crater could not be filled up until what was most valuable in Rome was cast into it.

"Heed this," said the augurs. "Your most sacred treasure must be dedicated to the gods in this place if Rome is to stand fast."

The horrified people rushed to the edge of the pit and began throwing in their most valuable possessions—gold and silver and jewelry—but still the hole was as deep as ever. As they stood agonizing over what to do next, a noble youth named Marcus Curtius rode forward armed as though for battle.

"What is more valuable to Rome than courage?" he cried. "What is more valuable than a citizen who is willing to give himself for his country?"

All the people stood silent. Curtius gazed at the temples of the immortal gods lining the Forum and stretched forth his arms to heaven above. Then sword in hand he spurred his horse and leapt into the great pit.

Immediately, the ground closed behind him, and neither he nor his horse was ever seen again. All was as it had been before the earthquake.

This legend brings to mind the words of Jesus Christ in John 15:12-13:

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Sincerely,
Hubert W. Miazza
Chaplain

Welcome New Members

In July, the camp welcomed new member **Leonard Ray Frederick, Jr.** who joins on the service of his ancestor James Sabrey Sledge, Sergeant, 9th Louisiana Infantry, paroled at Appomattox on April 10, 1865.

In August, the camp welcomed new member **Elmo Simpson Allen, Jr.**, who joins on the service of his Great Grandfather Charles Henry Hardy, Private, Co. C, 3rd Mississippi Infantry.

Welcome all!

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>



Calendar

September 23, 2008

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

October 28, 2008

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

November 25, 2008

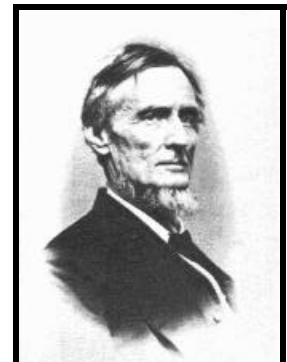
Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

December ??, 2008

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

January 27, 2009

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery



Reveille Dedication Confederate Veteran and Newspaperman

Dedication by Robert S. Murphree

As I write this dedication, I have before me the inaugural issue of the *Calhoun Monitor*, dated July 19, 1900, published in Pittsboro, Calhoun County, Mississippi. The editor of that paper was Thomas Martin Murphree, my great-grandfather, and his is the story I want to tell in this dedication.

Thomas Martin Murphree, of Calhoun County, Mississippi, served four years in the Confederate Army. He started out in 1861 at age 17 in the 2nd Mississippi but was shortly discharged from that unit for illness. Lucky for him he was, for the 2nd Miss. Served with General Lee in Virginia through all the hard campaigns and as a result only 4 of the original 115 in his company made it back to Calhoun.

My ancestor recovered from his illness and then enlisted in Company F, 4th Mississippi Infantry, in which unit he served out the rest of the war. He was attached to Baldwin's Brigade, French's Division, Polk's Corps, Army of Tennessee. He was captured three times: at Fort Donelson, at Vicksburg and in May, 1865 at Blakeney, Alabama.

But it isn't his Confederate service that moves me to make this dedication, it is the courage and resolution after the War that my great grandfather and so many former Confederates like him showed that honor today. These men came home to a devastated, impoverished country, but instead of whining and complaining they roiled up their sleeves and plunged into rebuilding – without FEMA, without a Marshall Plan, SBA, etc.

My relative farmed, was the circuit clerk, served in the legislature, but his first love was the newspaper business. He participated in several papers and finally started the *Calhoun Monitor*, a paper my family members operated until recently. He had very little formal education. According to the biographical sheet he filled out when serving in the legislature, he: *"Never went to school after I was nine years old except 4 and a half months in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama after the war. I 'worked' through my first arithmetic in a federal prison at Indianapolis, Indiana where I lay 8 months."* This last sentence is a reference to his time as a POW after Fort Donelson. He was offered his freedom if he would take a loyalty oath but he refused.

Despite the handicap of lack of education, I find some of his editorials to be most eloquent. For example, in this first issue discussing his motive for starting a paper, he says: *"Neither am I seeking fame, popularity nor honor through the channel of newspaperdom. At the age of 56 years, hope's silvery linings and beautiful hues are never seen as from youth's standpoint, but the sere and yellow leaf intrudes constantly in our aspirations and air castles for the future."*

Interestingly enough, this issue of the *Monitor* has some Confederate news. Under the headline *"Old Confederates: Quick Time March!"* there is a notice to *"lay aside your crutches, leave your liniments at home and repair to the Court-*

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sion Fort Sumter.

(Secretary Chase) then proceeded to declare that, if such a step would produce civil war, he could not advise in its favor, but that, in his opinion, such a result was highly improbable, especially if accompanied by a proclamation from the President, reiterating the sentiments of his inaugural address. "I, therefore," concluded Secretary Chase, "return an affirmative answer to the question submitted to me."

It will be seen...that five of the seven members of the Cabinet concurred in the opinion that no attempt should be made to provision or reinforce Fort Sumter, and that such an attempt would in all probability precipitate civil war. As Mr. Seward expressed it, "We will have inaugurated a civil war by our own act without an adequate object"; or, in the language of Secretary Welles, "By sending or attempting to send provisions into Fort Sumter, will not war be precipitated?"...I am not prepared to advise a course that would provoke hostilities."

Fourteen days later, the President made a verbal request to his Cabinet for an additional expression of their views on the same subject. Seward and Smith adhered to their former opinions. Chase and Blair were joined by Welles. Bates was noncommittal, and no reply was made by Cameron, so far as records show.

In the light of the facts and arguments presented by the members of the President's Cabinet, men, not a few, will conclude that, if the explosion occurred at Fort Sumter, the mine was laid at Washington."

Deo Vindice
Emmett Eaton,
Camp Commander

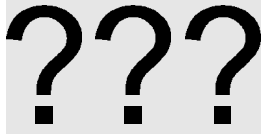
house in Pittsboro on the 27th day of July, 1900" for a reunion."

I also find this blurb: *"Elder G. W. Riley is carrying on a protracted meeting in Pittsboro this week. Bro. R. is an energetic and useful citizen and a deservedly popular minister, but our heart runs out after him the more because we boarded together once out on a little island in the Gulf of Mexico. Diet, or Menu, one pint of mush a day. My Brother, we are not afraid of starving during the hard times coming."*

This is a reference to the fact that after my great grandfather's unit surrendered at the end of the war, the Yankees imprisoned them on Ship Island. As you can see, despite the ample food supplies the Yanks always had, they fed their Confederate prisoners "one pin of mush a day." No doubt many Yankee prisoners in Confederate hands were ill fed and clothed, but so were the poor Confederates. But for the Confederate prisoners in Union hands to be starved and naked, as Confederates manifestly were, amid the plenty the Union gave its own soldiers, is a was atrocity of the most outrageous character, the more so for how the crime is ignored by history.

So I dedicate this issue to my relative and the many others like him who showed the same courage in defeat and poverty that they had on the battlefield. Surely whatever effort we can give to keeping their reputation untarnished is a worthwhile labor!

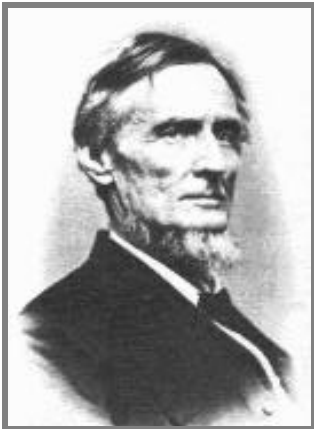
**DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR
DUES!**



Trivia Question:

This month's question asks: Who spent his first 13 months in Confederate uniform without coming under fire or taking part in a general engagement?

August's question asked: Approximately how far did the three-inch iron rifled ordnance gun throw its shell when elevated five degrees? The answer: 2000 yards



Commander's Column

TO MY FELLOW COMPATRIOTS:

Summer is ending and with it the end of the hurricane season. I waited to write this column until such time as our latest nemesis "Gustav" cleared the area. Below is an update on Beauvoir: "Security Chief Jay Peterson stayed on the grounds at Beauvoir the whole time the storm came in and watched the house and grounds. Report is that the Beauvoir House and all of the other buildings are ok. There are around 6 to 9 trees down and several limbs. MS Div. 2nd Lt. Commander Bill Atkinson and Latham Construction Supervisor Shawn Kelly are keeping an eye on Beauvoir too. They are at this time at Holiday Inn on Hwy 49 (Greg Stewart's) motel resting. Highway 90 in front of Beauvoir had water over it, but no water effecting Beauvoir. Again, the Beauvoir House and buildings are ok. Please keep praying for her. We are not out of the storm yet." Reported by: Rick Forte

"With the mansion significantly reinforced as a part of the restoration process, it was determined to leave the furniture in the home. It is now the most structurally sound building on the property. The glassware, paintings and other smaller items susceptible to damage were packed and moved to a secure climate controlled mini-storage out of harms way. Smaller trailers were moved to the rear of the property, and the large ones used for the office and gift shop were secured. All artifacts in danger were moved to the mini storage as well as important files, computers, and other hardware. The home was then boarded up." Ed Funchess

At present we are looking at 2 more storms making their way toward the US. Let us hope and pray that these storms do little damage to the US as a whole but in particular to those places we all hold so near and dear. Please pray for all to be looked after.

Our August meeting was well attended and we had several new and perspective members to show up. The "Humming Birds" played us some tunes and a guest, Mr. Jarrett, played a Stephen Foster tune as well as a great rendition of our anthem "Dixie". Our own Mr. Glenn Shows presented a thought provoking program on "How Slavery may have impacted our (southerner's) upbringing". It was an open discussion with many folks bringing up some of their memories of an earlier bygone era.

Did you know????

On the 15th of March, 1861, President Lincoln submitted the following request in writing to each member of his Cabinet:

"My Dear Sir, Assuming it to be possible to now provision Fort Sumter, under all the circumstances is it wise to attempt it? Please give your opinion in writing on this question."

Secretary Cameron wrote that he would advise such an attempt if he "did not believe the attempt to carry it into effect would initiate a bloody and protracted conflict."

Secretary Welles wrote: "By sending or attempting to send provisions into Fort Sumter, will not war be precipitated? It may well be impossible to escape it under any course of policy that may be pursued, but I am not prepared to advise a course that would provoke hostilities...I do not, therefore, under all the circumstances, think it wise to provision Fort Sumter."

Secretary Smith wrote: "The commencement of civil war would be a calamity greatly to be deplored and should be avoided if the just authority of the Government may be maintained without it. If such a conflict should become inevitable, it is much better that it should commence by the resistance of the authorities or people of South Carolina to the legal action of the Government in enforcing the laws of the United States....in my opinion it would not be wise, under all the circumstances, to attempt to provision Fort Sumter."

Attorney General Bates wrote: "I am unwilling, under all circumstances...to do any act which may have the semblance before the world of beginning a civil war, the terrible consequences of which would, I think, find no parallel in modern times...upon the whole I do not think it wise now to provision Fort Sumter."

Postmaster-General Blair and Secretary Chase united in the opinion that it would be wise to make the effort to provi-

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