



CAMPTALK

The monthly Newsletter of the Capt. J.J. Dickison Camp 1387, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 10th Brigade, Florida Division, Army of Tennessee, Melbourne Florida

Vol. 25 No. 01 January 2010

Editor Don Young

January 2010 MEETING

MEMAW's BBQ 600 East Eau Gallie Blvd. Indian Harbour Beach, FL

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Order from the menu

7:00 – 8:00 Program

8:00 – 8:45 Business Meeting

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COMMANDERS CORNER

In December, 23 compatriots and guests enjoyed Christmas cheer and Southern fellowship at our annual social. We had gifts for everyone, interesting and educational trivia and great homemade holiday treats for our Southern sweet tooth. Our thanks to Miss Lee, Miss Beth, Miss Janice and everyone who brought the gifts and food to make our Christmas gathering so enjoyable.

We look forward to a new year filled with activities, programs and educational opportunities that will help us preserve and present our Southern Heritage in a positive light to the US public.

Re-enacting season has started. These events are great ways to experience the atmosphere of a battleground and witness conditions that our ancestors lived. Central Florida offers access to several excellent re-enactments, if you are interested in re-enacting contact our resident re-enactor Color Sgt. Evan Phillips. The next event is the largest, the Battle of Olustee in Lake City, we will be participating in the parade this year 13 February.

The City of Melbourne is cutting back financial support for traditional parades. The Fourth of July and Veteran's Day are included. We will be offering our support and assistance to the Honor America organization that sponsors the parades to help our community maintain these important events.

For several years we have made a Thanksgiving and a Christmas donation to the Melbourne based CITA organization. The church based group assists families, particularly veterans, who have fallen on hard times. Please bring canned goods donations to our meetings throughout the year, we will get these delivered. The needs of this excellent group like all charities now, are large. The executive board has recommended we change our support to a quarterly donation. We will discuss this at our January business meeting.

We will start the year off at our January meeting in one of our favorite ways, by swearing in a new compatriot. Denley D. Daw will be inducted into the SCV with our traditional ceremony. Uniforms gentlemen, please. If you have it, wear it, for this occasion

In Service of The South, Don C. Young Commander Camp 1387

EVENTS

28 Jan	Camp Meeting
29-31 Jan	Road to Olustee Living History Weekend
11 Feb	E-Board Meeting
12-14 Feb	Battle of Olustee
25 Feb	Camp Meeting Lee, Jackson
26-28 Mar	Battle of Narcoosee Mill
25 Apr	Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony

PROGRAM

Battle of Olustee

The Florida Confederate History series continues with an in-depth review of the Battle of Olustee. Florida's largest battle will be presented by Bob Flaniken of the Third Florida, Company A. Bob has walked and reenacted on the fields of Olustee for many years, few know it better than he and he always delivers outstanding programs.

PRAYER LIST

Past Camp compatriot James Donald Leggett of Melbourne Beach crossed over the river just before our Christmas Social following several years of declining health. Please remember his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Olustee Battle Festival Parade

The annual Olustee Battle Festival in Lake City will be held 12-14 February with the battle reenactment activities the same days. We will be marching in the parade to provide a Color Guard for the Division Commander's carriage. If you will be available to participate in the parade please contact Commander Young.

Lee Jackson Celebration

We will celebrate the birthdays of Robert Edward Lee and Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson at our regular meeting 25 February. We will order from the menu and have a special speaker on Lee and Jackson. We all need to be reminded of the true history of our Southern icons. Ya'll come!

Battle at Narcoossee Mill

The 17th annual Battle at Narcoossee Mill will be held 26-28 March. We will be participating with reenactors on the field and a recruiting table in the sutler's area. Contact Lt. Cmdr Carson or Cmdr Young.

SECESSION: WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

As we ring out the old year and bring in the new, I would like to write about a topic that I have only tangentially touched upon in the previous four plus years of this column. That topic is the secession of the Southern states and the desire of the several states to be free and independent of what they perceived as an undesirable union and a tyrannical federal government. It is not possible to completely cover a topic as broad as Southern secession in one short article so I will visit some aspects of the event and, in the future, revisit the topic with other areas of discussion.

I think it is altogether proper to begin 2010 this way as the 150th anniversary of the secession of South Carolina, the first Southern state to secede, will be celebrated during the year. The other seceding states all adopted their various ordinances of secession during 1861 so 2011 will also be a year with much meaning to Southerners and, especially, Southern patriots. In fact, the Sons of Confederate Veterans will be celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Cause for Southern Independence during the period from 2010 through 2015.

I do not think that it is by coincidence that the 2010 National Reunion of the SCV will be held in South Carolina (Anderson, to be exact) and the 2011 reunion will be held in Montgomery, Alabama. It was in Montgomery in 1861 that the Confederate government was formed, Jefferson Davis was elected president and the First National Flag of the

Confederate States of America, the Stars and Bars, was initially flown.

I am extremely excited about this upcoming sesquicentennial event as are thousands and thousands of other Southerners.

Now, to begin any discussion about the secession of the Southern states, I think it is essential to begin with the Declaration of Independence, that wonderful document penned by the brilliant Southerner, Thomas Jefferson. (As a side note here, let me mention that one grandson of the immortal Jefferson, George Wythe Randolph, was a Confederate general and is buried near TJ at Monticello and a great-grandson, Nicholas Ware Eppes, was a Confederate officer and is buried just north of Tallahassee only a few miles from my house.) The Declaration of Independence begins:

" When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them..."

and later continues

"... Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Jefferson was wise enough, and had viewed the events in Europe long enough, to realize that there was a tendency of centralized governments to become despotic in nature and that there would always be a desire on the part of freedom-loving people to throw off the bonds of a tyrannical government. I believe strongly that Jefferson wrote this immortal document as he did to leave open the avenue of secession to later generations of Americans.

The history of secession goes back to the earliest times. From the ancient Greeks through the period of the Roman Empire there were numerous attempted secessions by people seeking freedom from tyrannical governments. In modern times, secession continues to be common. For instance, the secession of Norway from Sweden, the secession of Belgium and Luxembourg from The Netherlands, the secession of Ireland from Britain and the secession of Portugal from Spain just to name a few and this does not even include all the secessions from the Soviet empire during the last twenty years.

Whenever I am challenged by a thick-brained South-hater that Southern secession was an attempt to destroy the United States, I enjoy reminding them that it certainly did not have that affect on Sweden, Spain, Britain or so many other countries from which freedom-seeking entities have seceded.

There is also the continuing attempt at secession by the people of Quebec who have, for years, desired to split from the central government of Canada. The last referendum in this continuing saga indicated that more than 48% of the Quebecois were in favor of independence from Canada. The motto of Quebec, by the way, is ' Je me souviens' which means " I remember". This motto has been displayed on license plates in Quebec. How I wish we could have this same motto, " I remember", on the license plates of all Southern states.

Other than the secession of the Southern states in the 1860's, the best known secessions to most of us are the secession of the American colonies (states) from England in the 1770's (you likely know this as The American Revolution), the secession of Texas from Mexico in the 1840's and the almost 500 year struggle by Scotland which ended in the early 1700's to be free and independent from the English and British empire. Sadly for the Scots, this attempt at self-sovereignty ended unsuccessfully.

Interestingly, the Southern secession was not the first assertion of the right of a state to secede in this country. Massachusetts, in fact, threatened secession on four different occasions. The first time occurred in the early days of this country and the issue was the adjustment of state debts, the second time was in opposition to the Louisiana Purchase by President Jefferson, the third time was during the War of 1812 and the fourth time was because of opposition to the annexation of Texas. The threatened secession during the War of 1812 involved not only Massachusetts but also Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire as delegates from these states met at the Hartford Convention in 1814 in opposition to the war and issues concerning trade that they opposed. How interesting (and also hypocritical) that these Yankee states considered secession from the Union as a possible solution for them but just a few decades later were completely opposed to the Southern states having the same right and remedy. Instead they labeled the Southern effort as treasonous and unconstitutional.

The sentiment toward secession from the early 1800's through the 1840's was not just restricted to New England. The sentiment was especially strong in South Carolina. During the early part of that period, Thomas Cooper, president of South Carolina College, said, " We shall ere long be forced to calculate the value of our Union, to ask of what use is an unequal alliance by which the South has always been the loser and the North always the winner." And, of course, the reaction in South Carolina to the Tariff of 1828, called the "Tariff of Abomination", is well known. In 1832 the South Carolina legislature in special session declared the federal tariff "null and void" and threatened to leave the Union. President Andrew Jackson actually sent federal troops to the state's border but the issue was settled through compromise and South Carolina remained in the Union (at least until 1860).

As to the question of the constitutionality of secession, when there was talk following the Louisiana Purchase of the newly-formed territories withdrawing from the Union, President Jefferson clearly acknowledged the right of secession and indicated that if this did occur he hoped the relationship of the various involved parties would be compatible. Why do I think that Thomas Jefferson understood a bit more about the Constitution than did Abraham Lincoln some five decades later?

Another voice who spoke clearly on the issue of state sovereignty and secession was William Rawle, a wealthy Philadelphian, whose book VIEWS OF THE CONSTITUTION was used as a textbook at the United States Military Academy at West Point as early as 1825. Concerning state sovereignty and secession, Rawle wrote:

" It depends on the state itself to retain or abolish the principle of representation, because it depends on itself whether it will continue a member of the Union. To deny this right would be inconsistent with the principle of which all our political systems are founded, which is, that the people have in all cases, a right to determine how they will be governed."

and he continues:

" The secession of a state from the Union depends on the will of the people of such state. The people alone as we have already seen, hold the power to alter their Constitution."

" But in any manner in which a secession is to take place, nothing is more certain than that act should be deliberate, clear and unequivocal."

As I mentioned, Rawle's book was used as a text at the Academy as early as 1825 and continued to be used as a reference for many years afterward. Rawle confirmed that secession was a legal and constitutional right for all the states of the Union. This was important because this right to secede could be used as a check and balance on any potential abuse of federal power.

It was also apparent that Europeans understood this constitutional right of secession even if Abraham Lincoln did not. The British, especially, were confused by the reaction of Lincoln and the North to the South's desire to opt out. In an editorial in the English publication QUARTERLY REVIEW in late 1861 it was written: " It does seem the most monstrous of anomalies that a government founded on the 'sacred right of insurrection' should pretend to treat as traitors and rebels six or seven million people who withdraw from the Union, and merely asked to be let alone."

And a hundred years later British scholar J.K.C. Wheare was expressing similar sentiments. He wrote in 1961:

" It is startling to realize that Lincoln did not believe in the principle of self-determination of peoples... To those who associate the principle of self-determination with the United States it comes as something of a shock to find that Abraham Lincoln, associated in one's mind with liberty and democracy, should argue so firmly against it. Yet the fact is unavoidable."

It is always gratifying to discover that others realize what so many of us, especially in the South, have known for years - those high-sounding words of Lincoln about government "of the people, by the people and for the people" were nothing more than meaningless rhetoric.

So in concluding, I return to the title of this column and ask "What was the problem with the South's secession"? There was historical precedent by the bundle, Jefferson had confirmed its constitutionality, scholars of other countries recognized it as a right of states of the Union and it was even taught as a states' right at the military academy of the United States. Perhaps the truth is that it was Lincoln and the North who committed illegal and unconstitutional acts against the South. Imagine that. I shall revisit this issue again in a later column and deal with other thorny questions such as "Why did the South really secede?" (Here's a hint: it wasn't slavery.)

I remember.

DEO VINDICE

Bob Hurst is a Southern Patriot who belongs to a number of historical, heritage and ideological organizations. He also is Commander of Col. David Lang Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Tallahassee and 2nd Lt. Commander of the Florida Division, SCV. He can be contacted at confederatedad1@yahoo.com or 850-878-7010.

Army of Tennessee Meeting

9am Sat, February 13, 2010
Birmingham, Ala.

AOT Commander Kelly Barrow is pleased to invite you to the 2010 meeting of the Army of Tennessee. This meeting will provide National SCV Speakers, good food, and good camaraderie with other AOT members.

Tentative Agenda:

8 am Registration

9 am Opening

9:20 Membership/GHQ

Ben Sewell

10:00 Importance of the Adjutant

Mark Simpson

10:40 SCV 101

Scott Gilbert

11:20 The Role of the Chaplain

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard

12:00 BBQ Dinner

1:00 Recruitment and Retention

Michael Givens

1:40 Sesquicentennial

Tom Strain

2:20 C.A.M.P.

Gene Hogan

3:00 Jefferson Davis Presidential

Library Larry McCluney

3:40 Benediction/Adjourn

Registration \$14 (includes dinner, program, etc.). Must pre-register by February 6. 80 seat limit. Send checks payable to Camp 1372 to: Camp 1372, PO Box 43362, Vestavia, Ala. 35243.

The meeting will be hosted by Camp Fighting Joe Wheeler #1372 at their meeting place, "The New Merkle House" in Cahaba Hts near the intersection of I-459 (exit 19) and US-280. Take 280 West, through the light at the Summit Shopping Center, turn right at the next light onto Dolly Ridge Rd. Take the third driveway to the right after the first light on Dolly Ridge Rd. Park in the lower or upper parking lot, or park around the Cahaba Heights Elementary School next door.

For a map and detail directions see FJW camp website (<http://www.fightingjoewheeler.net/>) on the "Map to Camp Meetings" listing. The map also shows (5) hotels (with phone numbers) on Hwy 280 that are in easy access to the meeting place.

1. La Quinta Inn \$59 single, \$65 double
2. Drury Inn \$79.99 King
3. Best Western \$82 (ask for corporate rate)
4. Birmingham Marriott \$110
5. Fairfield Inn \$84

For men whose wives would like to come, the Summit Shopping Center should offer ample diversion and entertainment during the meeting. Other activities may be planned. The ladies are welcome to join us for the meeting or just for Dinner at the New Merkle House for a \$10 registration fee.

Blockade Runner

The latest issue of the Florida Division newsletter "Blockade Runner" is available on line at the Division website. If you prefer to have a black and white paper copy mailed to you please let adjutant Kevin Atchison know.



SLRC ISSUES URGENT APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

This year the country's in the midst of the worst economic downturn in decades, when a lot of folks have shelved the whole idea of taking a vacation and are just trying to make ends meet. Consequently the SLRC's income has suffered. So, in this time of prioritizing personal expenditures, we offer a humble plea for you to prioritize the SLRC. Remember: there is no such thing, to us, as a small contribution; anything you can afford will help us live to fight another day. Editor: The Southern Legal Resource Center is the only group of dedicated Southern Culture lawyers in the country. The SCV is their primary support. Donations may be sent to: SLRC, PO Box 1235, Black Mountain NC 28711-1235.

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