



David's Dispatch

1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp #2270
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Mount Pleasant, Texas



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April 2018

WINNER OF THE BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD, NATIONAL, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, 2016 & 2017

WINNER OF THE BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD, TEXAS DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, 2017

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Alvin "Rex" McGee



March has proven to be an eventful month for the Camp. Saturday, March 03, 2018 Past Commander Reynolds, 2nd LT CDR & Ms. Davey, and I attended the events at Camp Ford in Tyler for Confederate Flag Day. We had a large number of people from several Camps and Brigades to attend and participate in the programs and festivities. We had two Cannon companies, a rifle company, and the 5th Brigade Honor Guard to participate. The activities concluded with a flag parade around the Camp Ford grounds.

Past Commander Reynolds and I attended the Division Executive Committee meeting on March 17, 2018 in Waco. The meeting was informative and discussed numerous pertinent issues relating to current SCV objectives and the Division Reunion to be held in Nacogdoches on June 8 – 10, 2018. The Commander encouraged everyone that could to attend the Reunion in order for the Camp to take advantage of all the votes it has coming in the elections and other business. YOU must be present in order to vote and the Camp Commander must have put you on the Camp list of approved Representatives for you to vote. We need to capitalize on every vote so that we can have an impact on important decisions coming before the Division at this meeting. Voting occurs on SATURDAY of the meeting.

The 2018 National Reunion will be held on July 18-21, 2018. It will be held in Franklin, Tennessee. We encourage everyone to attend that possibly can.

ILT David Richard Reynolds Camp will be having a Graveside Memorial Service on Saturday April 7, 2018 at the Edwards Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Come out and support your camp in this endeavor.

In our regular monthly meeting I awarded the prestigious "Guardian Award" to Quartermaster O.M. Adams for the sixteen Confederate Heroes graves he attends in Edwards Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. I also swore in Austin Gregory Young into the Sons of Confederate Veterans. In addition, I awarded Compatriot Jerry Lester his Commission as Camp Surgeon.

We reminded everyone to remember the Camp Ford Living History Day to be held on March 31, 2018.

Mark Vogl brought our program this month on the Confederate Blockade Runners. It was outstanding as all of his programs have been. The members look forward to future Mark Vogl presentations.

The Camp continues to grow, and we look forward to the many opportunities we have to impact and reflect upon actual Southern history and events. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at this month's meeting. Bring a friend or your spouse and enjoy some good fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 15th, 7:00 p.m.
Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.
Old Union Community Center
Hwy 67E, Mount Pleasant, Texas

GRAVESIDE MEMORIAL SERVICE

April 7th, 11:00 a.m.
Edwards Cemetery
North Edwards & First Street
Mount Pleasant, Texas

GRAVESIDE MEMORIAL SERVICE

April 28th, 11:00 a.m.
Ridge Cemetery
Wood County, TX

2018 TEXAS DIVISION REUNION

June 8th – 10th, 2018
Fredonia Hotel
200 North Fredonia.
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961
See www.txdivreunion.com for full details.

2018 NATIONAL REUNION

July 18th – 21st, 2016
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs
700 Cool Springs Blvd.
Franklin, TN 37067
See www.scv.org/new/reunion2018 for full details.

DAVIDRREYNOLDS.ORG

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds

This month the following changes have been made to our web site: <http://www.davidrreynolds.org>

- I've updated our Events page to include all known events by the Camp and its members. Please let me know when you do anything for the SCV, this includes attending other camp

meeting, public speaking, or even putting flags on graves.

- I've updated our Calendar of Events.
- I've updated our Camp Roster to show our new enlistees.

I'm still looking for biographies of your Confederate Ancestor. Please try to come up with a short bio that we can put on-line.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments you can send me an email to: Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org and I promise to give it my full consideration.

WHO WAS THE MAN?

Mr. F. G. Connellee writes from Bertrand, Va.
This article came from the April 1918 Confederate Veteran Magazine – 100 years ago.

"One of the most daring incidents I ever witnessed was at Point Lookout. I don't know who the soldier was nor even his command, but he was a fellow prisoner there with me. The weather was very cold, and the Potomac River was frozen hard 'way out. The Yankee officers were having a good time skating, while our poor boys were looking on. "My fellow prisoner pretended that he had never seen any skating in the South, but said it looked easy, and if he had a pair of skates he believed he could do it. Thinking to have some fun, one of the officers took off his skates and offered them to him. The prisoner put them on very awkwardly, slipped and slid, and fell dozens of times, greatly to the amusement of the officer and guard. After a little he improved. They remarked on it and followed him out farther and farther, saying he would 'soon learn.'

"Suddenly he straightened up and went off like a streak of lightning straight up the Maryland shore. The guards and officers followed him in hot chase, but none could keep up. He skated toward an open tract in the ice—a tract said to be about thirty feet wide—that was kept open by the ferryboat to the

opposite side of the river. Aided by his tremendous speed, he rose in the air and went with ease over that awful gap. Landing on his feet, he waved farewell and dashed away to his own, the Southland, once more. Not one man dared try to make that terrible jump. Before the guard could get back ashore and get around the open tract of the ferryboat, our hero (let us say that he was) was out of sight and miles away. When next heard from, he was at the front fighting.

"Can any of the readers of the Veteran tell me who this brave boy was? The story was told me by an old soldier whose word is never questioned. I shall be glad to hear from anyone who can give me any information on the subject."



SICKNESS & DISTRESS

March 1st – Get Well Card sent to Bentley Simpson, infant son of Michael and Tara Ashley Simpson. Bentley has some major medical issues and has just been released, after several weeks, from the hospital in Dallas.

March 8th – Get Well Card sent to Compatriot Tommy Lee Reynolds who underwent minor surgery.

March 9th – Sympathy Card sent to Compatriot Norman and his wife Sharon Beckett of the Red Diamond Camp. Sharon has been admitted to hospice care.



Our Honored Ancestors

BRIG GEN WILLIAM READ SCURRY

Born - February 10, 1821 Gallatin, Tennessee
Citizen of the Republic of Texas

Died - April 30, 1864 (aged 43) Grant County, Arkansas - (KIA Battle of Jenkins' Ferry on April 30, 1864)

Burial - Texas State Cemetery, Austin, Texas

BATTLES & WARS

MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

'WAR OF NORTHERN AGGRESSION'

- New Mexico Campaign
- Battle of Valverde
- Battle of Glorieta Pass
- Battle of Mansfield
- Battle of Jenkins' Ferry
- Was a general in the Confederate States Army in the 'WAR OF NORTHERN AGGRESSION'.

William Scurry was born on February 10, 1821 in Gallatin, Tennessee, spending his youth working on his father's estate and studying law. He traveled to the Republic of Texas in June 1839 and was issued a land grant in the San Augustine area the following year. By 1841 he was so respected for his legal writings that he was appointed the district attorney of the fifth judicial district; three years later he was elected to the Texas Congress, serving from 1844 to 1845.

When the Mexican War broke out, he enlisted as a private in George Wood's Second Regiment of the Texas Mounted Volunteers. He was so impressive during this time that he was promoted to major in July of 1846. After the war, he married Janette Sutton, practiced law in Clinton, Texas, and was co-owner and editor of the Austin State Gazette until 1854. In 1856 Scurry became a delegate to the state Democratic nominating convention, and in 1861 he was a delegate to the Secession Convention

After Texas had decided to side with the Confederate cause during the Civil War, Scurry enlisted as a lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Texas Cavalry, part of the Sibley Brigade which launched the New Mexico Campaign at the outset of 1862. His military skills had not diminished since his time in the Mexican War. He distinguished himself as an officer at the Battle of Valverde, February 21–22, 1862, and

as well by commanding the Confederate forces in the Battle of Glorieta Pass, March 26–28, 1862. He was promoted to full colonel on March 28, 1862, and subsequently played a key role in leading the Confederate retreat from New Mexico. He was promoted to brigadier general on September 12, 1862. Along with fellow New Mexico Campaign veterans, he helped recapture Galveston, Texas on January 1, 1863.

He was assigned to command the Third Brigade of Walker's Texas Division in October 1863 and led his men at the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in early April 1864, then was given orders to repel the Union soldiers marching towards northeast Texas. The Third Brigade then transferred to Arkansas to fight against Gen. Frederick Steele, who was about to invade Texas. Met them he did, on April 30, 1864, at the Battle of Jenkins Ferry. He was wounded in the leg during the battle, but refused to be carried to the rear, fearing that to do so would cause his troops to lose the morale needed to turn the enemy. When the Union soldiers overwhelmed the Confederates, his injury was forgotten for over two hours while the battle was fought around him; by the time his men had pushed them back, he was near death. After he was found, he asked "Have we whipped them?" Once he was assured that his men had been victorious, he asked to be moved to a house so that he could "be made comfortable and die easy." He died on April 30, 1864.

General William Read Scurry was buried with full military honors in the Texas State Cemetery at Austin, Texas in May 1864. Within a few years, Texas erected a thirteen-foot-high white marble shaft over his grave and Scurry County, Texas was named for him. (The City of Snyder, TX is in Scurry County)

April 18th – Randy Vance Brock

April 29th – Michael Hayden Simpson

April 6th – William Harold & Patricia Guy



LAST CAMP MEETING

Our March Stated Meeting was a huge success, Mark Vogl gave an outstanding program on the Confederate Nave and the Blockades.



Commander McGee presents Quartermaster O. M. Adams With Full Guardian Medals



Commander McGee presents Chaplain Mars with his Commission Certificate



**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES
& OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**



Commander Rex McGee Swears in our newest member
Compatriot Austin Gregory Young



Commander McGee presents the Camp Handbook to
Compatriots Young, Merka, and Russell



A Night with the Guerrillas

By Dr. John Cunningham, Ravenna, Texas

“What fates impose that men must needs abide,
It boots not to resist both wind and tide”

One cold and wintry, capped off with a howling Northern blizzard, during the latter part of the great war, a comrade and I were crossing the Volunteer State on furlough on the way to our mother home, in Trigg County, Ky. As the shades of the dismal day were closing in, with our boots frozen and icicles

pending from our4 bridle bits, we halted in front of an old colonial home, the yard filled with majestic oaks and many snug cabins in the background and hailed a courtly old gentleman who came out. We made known our wants; and after scrutinizing us for a moment, he invited us in, at the same time ordering a servant to care for our horses. He ushered us into a family room with a blazing fire and introduced a grand old mother. We soon became acquainted, and they diligently sought of us all the war news. The hospitable old Southern gentleman then brought out an old-fashioned decanter and a jar of honey, remarked that as we had been about freezing all day and now had the outside warmed up he would warm up the inner man. It thawed us out. A hot, steaming supper with Lincoln coffee was then announced, and at the table we were introduced to the two beautiful daughters of the house. They had brothers, sweethearts, and friends in the war, and they had piled us with many questions.

Supper over, we were taken into a comfortable parlor, and the young ladies at the piano made music that we thought vied with the angels. They gave us soul-thrilling war music. But the hearty welcome, the bountiful supper, peach and honey, angelic music made time fly like a May morning dream. The old clock on the mantel told of midnight. We timidly suggested to the good people that wearied nature demanded sleep. The host led us upstairs to a well-warmed bedroom. In a few seconds we lay between blankets on a feather bed, and sleep embraced us immediately, when we dreamed of heaven and angelic music. The grand old Southland was full of just such people and homes.

After one short hour in the land of dreams, there came a terrible rapping on the front door. The old gentleman responded, and inquiry was made if two confederate soldiers were lodging there. He told them they were, and the captain of the marauders then ordered us into his ranks. We demurred, but our host told us they were desperadoes, carried a black flag, and there was no telling what they might do if we resisted their demands. We thought discretion the better part of valor. We were soon dressed, our horses were at the door, and without a word we mounted and fell into ranks. We were marched over the frozen roads and ice for about five miles, when a

cabin in the woods was surrounded and the doors were profanely ordered opened. Immediately lights were struck and the door opened, revealing a Federal soldier, his three little girls in homespun, the wife and mother, a pleasant-faced, care-worn little woman. They all seemed to know the bloody character of the marauders into whose hands the husband and father had fallen, and their petitions and prayers made to the cruel and inhuman group and to God in heaven were heartrending. They knew the doom of their loved one.

We were deeply impressed and resolved that the black flag roughs should not kill the prisoner. The leader ordered us to mount and directed that someone carry him as a second rider. I saw my chance and remarked rather carelessly that I would take the prisoner, go spurred up close and he mounted. Order was given to forward the column, and we marched thus about four miles and halted in front of a prosperous-looking home. Most of the men went into the yard, and in a short time Tom Light returned and told me that that they had a rope around an old man's neck and were torturing him to make him surrender his money.

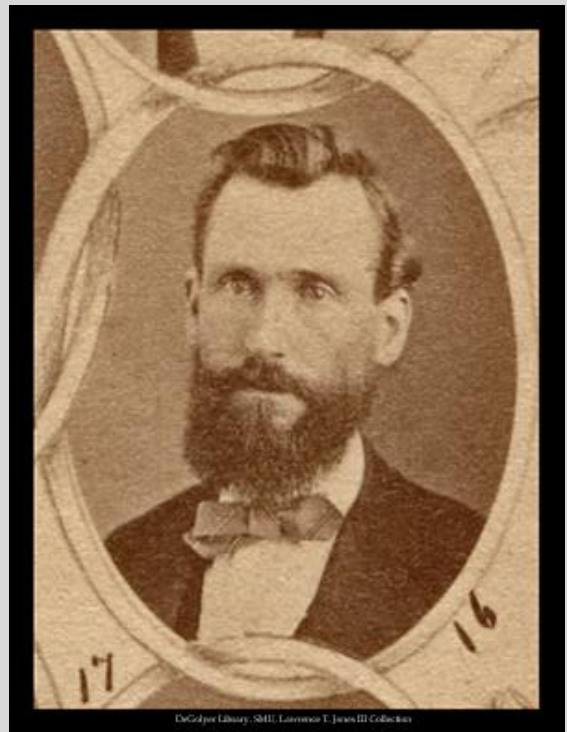
I thought now was my time to do two good deeds. I had been telling the prisoner of his doom, of which he was aware, as he knew the parties and their brutality, unless he could make his escape. He thought I would kill him if he ran, but I told him no, that I would shoot over his head and yell. I told him then was his time to go, and he leaped off and frazzled the wind to a blackjack thicket not fifty yards away. I immediately commenced firing and yelling and chasing him. The torturing crowd dropped the old gentleman and broke for their horses, thinking they were attacked and the command was ordered to march.

I knew the captain would have a reckoning with me, so I prepared my story and my navies. I wore a heavy-caped overcoat and drew the navy beneath my cape, one thumb on the hammer, one finger on the trigger, the muzzle bearing on his heart. He soon rode up and bluntly said: "You are the man who carried the prisoner." "Yes, sir." "Well, I want to know how he escaped." I told my tale, and he remarked; You tell a very plausible tale; but if I knew

you turned the prisoner loose, I would crash a bullet through your brain." I remarked, "And would be doing just right," lying like a dog, but I just had to do to save my bacon. Preventing a robbery and a murder, I felt justified in the eyes of man and God.

About four weeks after these occurrences a squadron of Confederate cavalry lat in ambush. The black flag desperadoes were marching by. A sheet of fie and lead saluted them—every saddle was emptied. Thus ended the wild and murderous career of this company of robbers and murderers.

We have ever believed that we were under the guidance and protection of the God of heaven that night, for why else should they have ordered in two strangers? Why should the prisoner have fallen into my care? Stopping to rob the old man played directly to my hands, aiding me to make good my mental oath. I should be glad to hear from any one conversant with these happenings.



Dr. John Cunningham 1873, Texas House, 13th Legislature

This article was written by Dr. John Cunningham, the ancestor of Compatriot and Camp Surgeon, Jerry D. Lester of Blossom, Texas and was published in the Confederate Veteran Magazine, Vol. XVIII, in 1910.



BATTLES FOUGHT DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL



Battle of Five Forks - Five Forks Virginia

1 April 1865 - General George E. Pickett verses General Philip H. Sheridan. Casualties: 5200 Confederate, 884 Union!

Final Assault on Petersburg - Petersburg Virginia

2 April 1865 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: {Unknown} Confederates, 4140 Union!

Battle of Shiloh - Shiloh Tennessee

6-7 April 1862 - General Albert Sidney Johnston, General P.G.T. Beauregard verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 10,694 Confederate, 13,047 Union!

Battle of Sabine Cross Roads - Sabine Cross Road Louisiana

8 April 1865 - General Richard Taylor verses General Nathaniel P. Banks. Casualties: 1000 Confederate, 2900 Union!

Battle of Pleasant Hill - Pleasant Hill Louisiana

9 April 1864 - General Richard Taylor verses General Nathaniel P. Banks. Casualties: 1500 Confederate, 1369 Union!

McLean House - Appomattox Courthouse - Appomattox Courthouse Virginia

9 April 1865 - Overwhelming firepower and numbers forced General Robert E. Lee left little choice but to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant, thus ending the Confederacy's chance of winning the War for Confederate States Independence. We today have the opportunity, if we dare to roll back that surrender, and reverse the results of that horrible war. And that by the Yankee Empire's own hand!

Battle of Fort Sumter - Fort Sumter South Carolina

12-14 April 1861 - General P.G.T. Beauregard verses Major Robert Anderson. Casualties: 0 Confederate, 3 Union!

Battle of Fort Pillow - Fort Pillow Tennessee

12 April 1864 - General James R. Chalmers, General Nathan B. Forrest. Casualties: 100 Confederate, 351 Union!

Battle of Jenkins Ferry - Jenkins Ferry Arkansas

30 April 1864 - General Edmund Kirby Smith verses General Frederick Steele. Casualties: 443 Confederate, 528 Union!

Our Charge...

"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!

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,
United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana April 25, 1906*



Night is Coming

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." - John 9:4

Easter week is referred to as "Holy Week." It is a time when Christian believers reflect on the sacrifice and atonement Jesus Christ made on the cross, and celebrate His victory over death by the Resurrection. It is a time of observing and reflecting on what matters most in the Christian faith and what sets believers apart from the non-believers and practitioners of other faiths. Easter gets to the core of God's Plan of Salvation. In his death and resurrection, Jesus prepared the way for believers to enter eternal life. So, when we read the Easter story, we see how Jesus finished his work in the world.

Earlier in his life, just before he gave sight to a blind man, Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:4-5) From the beginning to the end of his time on Earth, Jesus was fulfilling God's purpose for him. He was doing God's work as the light of the world. He also said believers are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14.) When Jesus ascended to the Father, he commissioned believers to carry on his work by his sovereign authority. (Matthew 28:18-20)

As believers we are called, commanded, and commissioned to do the work God has created us to do. By the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to do the

work. What is this work? It is sharing the Good News of Jesus, it is serving our neighbor, and it is standing up for what is true and right.

The time will come for each man when our time on Earth is over and so we have to do what we can, while we can. The time will also come when the freedom and liberty to worship and serve God that we currently enjoy will not exist in this country or in this world. Therefore, we must work while there is still light.

As believers, God has given us all the task of sharing the Gospel, and He has given us all different gifts, talents and personalities to accomplish the work. There is no greater purpose in the universe than to serve God and share the Gospel, and we have a responsibility to serve and share in every aspect of our lives, whether in church, at home or in our vocations. To some of us, He has given us a unique awareness of our history and heritage. He has instilled a special kind of devotion and an interest in preserving, protecting and promoting the truth about our history and the good names of our forefathers. Some people may think that what we stand for are trivial symbols, or dishonorable ideas, or that we promote hatred and discord. However, we know different. While we are still able to do what we know is right, let us do it.

We should be thankful for and not ashamed of what He has given us. We shouldn't be discouraged as we look to the future, but assured that God will keep the promises He made in Jesus Christ. Truth and justice will prevail!

Sincerely,

Michael Mars, Chaplain

GUARDIAN NEWS

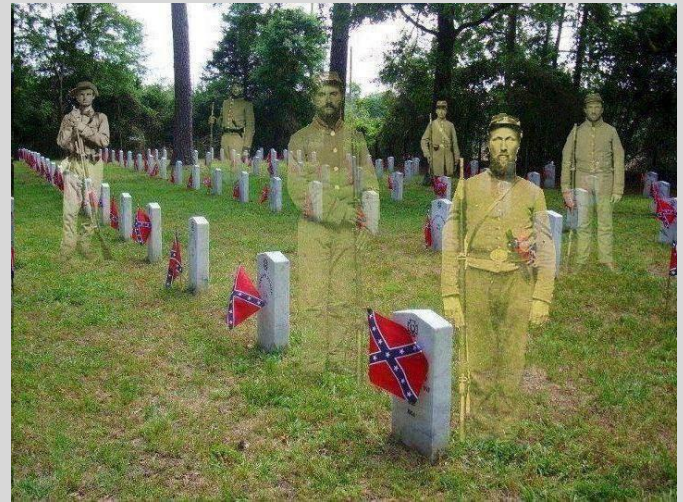
By Commander Rex McGee

The rural South has a long-standing tradition of "Decoration Day". At this time of the year families

gathered at the local cemeteries to clean up the graves and freshen up the cemetery as a whole. Decoration Day occurred in the rural South's calendar after spring planting, but before long summer days required extensive maintenance of the crops and livestock. Decoration Day has its origin in the South prior to the Civil War and is continued in many communities until this day. Tradition has it that the inspiration for "Memorial Day", a day of remembrance of fallen American Heroes and a National holiday came from the tradition in the South of "Decoration Day". The literal definition of Decoration Day or "Decoration," as it is sometimes called, taken from the Dictionary of Smoky Mountain English, is: "An occasion on which a family or a church congregation gathers to place flowers on the graves of loved ones and to hold a memorial service for them. Traditionally, this day, involved singing, dinner on the ground as well as a religious service." In our area "Decoration Day" is the month of May or a week or two on either side of this month. This is a wonderful time to visit your Confederate Heroes graves and get them spruced up. A good cleaning of the area, cleaning of the stone and a fresh flag, if needed, is a wonderful way to celebrate the life of your hero. Let us not forget the tradition of "Decoration" and honoring our fallen heroes.

Guardians, we have numerous cemeteries and individual graves that need a compatriot to step up and be counted. Many of you have cemeteries that are a stones throw from your front door. Two to three hours of your time per year will insure that the graves in these cemeteries will not be lost to history. Our Confederate Heroes gave up to four years of their lives and many made the ultimate sacrifice fighting a war while some paid the supreme sacrifice for us and our families. Show them that they did not serve in vain.

1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp # 2270 reports that, effective March 31, 2018, our Guardian numbers are 203 graves in 31 cemeteries in 4 counties attended to by 12 Compatriots.



As usual, I'll leave you with the question that Phil Davis, Upshur Patriots CDR and Chairman of both the National and Texas Division Guardian Program always asks,

"Are you a Guardian?"

If not, why not?"



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Commander McGee stated the importance about knowing your ancestors and what they believed in. Poet and philosopher George Santayana is credited with saying "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

As I stated before, this is your newsletter...Please contribute to it by telling us about your ancestor or any other information that you find informative. We have a new addition to the next edition of the Dispatch and it is called the LARDER. In it you fill find great recipes from the Civil War era.

This newsletter is meant so that we can remember the past, share information about the future and enjoy the present. If you can contribute in any way, my email address is Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org. Don't be a stranger!

Humbly Yours,

Larry "Joe" Reynolds

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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the 1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp #2270. Letters and articles may be submitted to: Joe.Reynolds@davidreynolds.org (Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)