



David's Dispatch

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



Vol. 4 No. 5

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May 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



April has been unusually cold and gave the members who attended the Grave Dedication ceremonies at Edwards Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant quite a surprise with not only the cool temperatures, but the high winds and dampness in the air. Despite these surprises we had an excellent turn out of SCV members, friends of the SCV, speakers and family of the soldiers being honored. After the ceremony we all retired to the Camp Headquarters for a meal furnished by the Camp.

It is incumbent upon every member to attend the Division and National Convention and help the camp to meet the qualifications for specific Awards. The member should attend, regardless of awards, so they can participate in the governing of the organization, learn about current critical issues, and meet new people with a common bond.

This month our program was presented by Compatriot Terry Smith from Longview. The program was entitled "Stories from the Soil". It was an interesting and thought-provoking program about the War of Northern Aggression.

We had a discussion about having a program at each meeting. We will attempt to get outside speakers and speakers from other Camps as much as possible. In the event the scheduled speaker is not able to attend, or we cannot locate a speaker we will have an ad hoc program by members of the camp who keep a program in their "back pocket" for such occasions.

We have been having a lot of the Compatriots Ladies attending the meetings. I find this very refreshing as it seems to bolster more interest in member attendance when their better halves attend with them. So, by all means, encourage your wife or a friend to attend. We have some degree of success in our recruiting efforts when members bring guests with them. A number of our new members joined as a result of being invited to a meeting or actually coming with a member.

We have several activities coming up in the next few months. You will find these activities chronicled in an article for upcoming activities. All of these activities tie in with the reputation of the Camp being an active and working camp, our ability to recruit, and our overall influence on the governing of the SCV through the voting process. If each member would simply attend one activity we would greatly enhance our exposure to the community and to the other members of the SCV. If you like to participate in some of these activities, we will find you a place that will earn you a degree of self-satisfaction.

We will begin having regularly scheduled committee meetings to develop plans and goals and get input for putting those plans into action.

I am Looking forward to seeing each of you, your ladies and guests at future meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 21st, 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.
Old Union Community Center
Hwy 67E, Mount Pleasant, Texas

CIVIL WAR WEEKEND

May 4th – 6th, 2018

Jefferson, Texas

Friday – Living History

Saturday – Parade & Re-enactment

Sunday – Presentation of Colors

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've updated the Guardian page to include our latest Guardians.

- I've updated the Membership Roster to show our newest editions

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.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

April 3rd – Get Well Card sent to Margaret McKee, wife of Compatriot John McKee or Weatherford, Margaret is scheduled for Surgery today.

April 11th – Get Well Card sent to Camp Adjutant and Compatriot Rickie Gipson of the Upshur County Patriots who was admitted to the hospital recently with some ongoing health problems. Rickie has now been moved to the Acute Care ward.

April 12th – Sympathy Card sent to the family of Compatriot Rickie Gipson of the Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109 who passed away on April 11, 2018.

EISENHOWER – LEE

In the summer of 1960, Mr. Eisenhower received a letter from a man who objected to the president's expression of admiration for the great Civil War general. This was his response:

August 9, 1960

Dear Dr. Scott:

Respecting your August 1 inquiry calling attention to my often expressed admiration for General Robert E. Lee, I would say, first, that we need to understand

that at the time of the War between the States the issue of secession had remained unresolved for more than 70 years. Men of probity, character, public standing and unquestioned loyalty, both North and South, had disagreed over this issue as a matter of principle from the day our Constitution was adopted.

General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by our Nation. He believed unswervingly in the Constitutional validity of his cause which until 1865 was still an arguable question in America; he was a poised and inspiring leader, true to the high trust reposed in him by millions of his fellow citizens; he was thoughtful yet demanding of his officers and men, forbearing with captured enemies but ingenious, unrelenting and personally courageous in battle, and never disheartened by a reverse or obstacle. Through all his many trials, he remained selfless almost to a fault and unfailing in his faith in God. Taken altogether, he was noble as a leader and as a man, and unsullied as I read the pages of our history.

From deep conviction, I simply say this: a nation of men of Lee's caliber would be unconquerable in spirit and soul. Indeed, to the degree that present-day American youth will strive to emulate his rare qualities, including his devotion to this land as revealed in his painstaking efforts to help heal the Nation's wounds once the bitter struggle was over, we, in our own time of danger in a divided world, will be strengthened and our love of freedom sustained. Such are the reasons that I proudly display the picture of this great American on my office wall.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

May 19th – Rex McGee

May 29th – Kenny Phillips

May 5th – Patricia Guy

May 20th – Donna King



BROTHERHOOD AMONG SOLDIERS

A Brother in Savannah, Georgia reported this story of Civil War soldiers from his Masonic lodge records.

It was a time not long after Fort Sumter, and the War of Northern Aggression was well under way. The Yankees, as they are still wont to do, had promptly flocked to Hilton Head and Tybee Islands, the barrier islands on opposite sides of the mouth of the Savannah River. The Savannah folks didn't mind much that the Yankees had stolen the good beaches, for the water was still a bit cool for Southern preferences and, besides, they knew the gnats and mosquitoes would teach the Yankees a lesson they'd never forget. So, the Southerners, as Southerners are wont to do sometimes, just waited.

They didn't have to wait very long before the Yankees on Hilton Head sent out a messenger under a white flag. It seemed that the Yankees had among them a young fellow who had passed through the Fellow Craft Degree before shipping out. The Yanks were just sitting around slapping gnats when it occurred to one of them that, just maybe, there was a nearby lodge that could test him in the Fellow Craft Degree, and raise him to that of a Master Mason.

As luck would have it, there was indeed a lodge in Savannah that would soon be having a Masters Degree. One morning, not too many days later, a detail of Confederate Cavalry slipped across the Savannah River into South Carolina and traveled through Bluffton to the shore opposite Hilton Head island.

From there they escorted one Fellow Craft Mason and, I believe, a number of Master Masons of the

Northern Persuasion, safely through the Confederate Lines, and back through about 35 miles of Confederate defenses to Savannah, where the candidate and his witnesses were delivered into the lodge.

The records note that this Brother was indeed proficient in the Fellow Craft Degree, and he was raised to the Degree of a Master Mason. That night another detail of Confederate Cavalry, no doubt Brothers to a man, slipped back across the Savannah River and safely escorted their Brothers back to Hilton Head.

Anyway, I have loved this story since the first time I heard it. It clearly demonstrates that, at the darkest period in our Nation's history, when brothers were killing brothers, Brothers could still be Brothers.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

*(Taken from the May 1918 Edition of the
Confederate Veteran)*

KING COTTON.

BY JOHN C. STILES, BRUNSWICK, GA.

A gentleman from the South wrote the Confederate Secretary of War in June, 1861, that with the king in our hands who could shake the jewels in the crown of Queen Victoria success, victory, and peace were certain, and he prophesied with honor only on the peace part, which came after four years, but not as wanted or expected.

This gentleman's idea, shared in by all but a few deep-thinking Southerners, was one of the fallacies with which we started the war, as they all thought surely that when cotton was cut off from the English mills John Bull would lose no time in recognizing us as a nation and breaking the blockade to get the "fleecy staple." History shows us, however, that, instead of being a help to our cause, the "king" was a curse in so far as being a means of corruption was

concerned. But "His Royal Highness" was bowed down to and worshiped impartially by both sides in a manner which I shall endeavor to set before you.

In January, 1862, C. A. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War, wrote that every United States officer in Memphis, Tenn., was in secret partnership with some cotton speculator and that every soldier dreamed of adding a bale of cotton to his monthly pay.

In December, 1863, General Chalmers, C. S. A., said he could have corrupted the entire Yankee army and have fed and clothed his own by a judicious use of cotton, adding that Yankees were born traders and, if necessary, would build boats to run on spring branches to go after that article.

In March, 1864, Col. C. A. Gilbert, "Corps d'Afrique," U. S. A., who had been sent out on a plundering expedition, reported that his command had "marched, bogged, swum, and domed" two hundred and fifty miles, had injured his transportation, exposed his men's lives, and as far as hastening the end of the war was concerned did nothing at all, but. If anything, served to prolong it by assisting a lot of rebels and thieves to sell and market about fifteen hundred bales of cotton and a lot of speculators whose loyalty to the United States was certainly not like Caesar's wife in making their fortunes and not putting one penny into the United States treasury. Gen. Dick Taylor, of the Confederate army, said in February, 1864, that the possession of cotton would destroy the patriotism of our best citizens as surely as water would wear away a stone.

In May, 1864, Gen. David Hunter wrote that cotton engrossed the entire Department of the Gulf, and the lives of Union soldiers were sacrificed in the interest of speculators.

In the same month General (Bishop) Polk, C. S. A., said that he had sent parties to Vicksburg to negotiate with the enemy for cotton and suggested that this means for controlling the enemy's movements and keeping him quiet be adopted, but to insist that supplies for the Southern armies sent in exchange must be passed through their lines without hindrance.

In June, 1864, General Shelby, C. S. A., said that the cotton speculations had been carried on with marked fraud and that Confederate officers were directly implicated, and added (hat unless these affairs were promptly put a stop to cotton would soon be the only crop raised.

In November of the same year a Confederate officer wrote the War Department that the demoralization existing everywhere in regard to trading in cotton was inconceivable; that he had somewhat put a stop to the nefarious business and was in consequence looked upon as the common enemy of every age, sex, and condition in the country.

In January, 1865, another Confederate officer said that the soldiers were deserting and going home to farm in consequence of cotton speculations ; and unless a stop was put to the latter, he gravely feared the consequences. In April General Brent, C. S. A., told his officers not to allow any pickets to remain long on a post, as the cotton speculators would corrupt them, and suggested that the guards be not only changed often, but to consist of men from different commands. And as he told General Wheeler, of the Confederate army (who had written Sherman that if the Northern army would stop burning houses in South Carolina he would do the same with cotton), to go ahead and destroy all he could lay his hands on, as it had proved a common curse to both sides, I judge that cotton instead of being a king turned out a "kaiser," certainly as far as the South was concerned.

The following communication from Major Burton, chief purchasing officer, C. S., District of Arkansas, to General Holmes, commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department, in January, 1864, will give an idea how these speculators worked and what enormous profits were made on the transaction. The Major said:

"I have examined a number of contracts made in Richmond; and almost invariably, if the contract is carried out, the contractor makes fabulous sums, while the Confederacy parts with a large quantity of cotton, its sole wealth, receiving in return only a few

army supplies. For instance, I have received a proposal for a contract, favorably indorsed by my superior officer, for me to make a bargain if I deem it advisable; but I have declined same on the grounds that the government would not get the equivalent for the privilege granted. The paper reads as follows:

" The contractor proposes to buy two thousand bales of cotton if the Confederacy will allow him to export same beyond its limits, this privilege being granted "to give him a capital on which to operate. For these two thousand bales he will pay \$200,000 in Confederate money. This done, he proposes to invest in army supplies, to be delivered within the Confederate lines in the Trans-Mississippi Department upon condition of his receiving a profit of sixty-five per cent on the amount expended. Thus he expends for supplies the money received from the sale of cotton, say \$800,000, which, with his sixty-five per cent profit, would make due him from the Confederate States \$1,320,000, to be paid not in Confederate States currency, but cotton, at the rate of twenty-five cents per pound, which would require of the government 13,200 bales to be delivered at some navigable point; and this large amount of cotton he receives for an investment of only \$200,000 in Confederate money."

Let us now see what would be the profit of the contractor. He first takes out two thousand bales of cotton worth \$800,000 and receives in payment for army supplies 13,200 bales, worth \$5,280,000, showing total worth of cotton, \$6,080,000. Deducting expense, which was cost of original cotton, \$200,000, transporting both lots to market, \$152,000, and cost of army supplies, \$800,000, it gives him a profit of \$4,928,000 on an investment of \$200,000 of currency that "represented nothing on God's earth." If the contractor had \$40,000 in United States currency or \$20,000 in gold, he could purchase with it the requisite \$200,000 in Confederate money and make a profit of over five million dollars, which is going some for such a small investment.

Now, I am not prepared to say that any such projects were carried out; but from what I have shown coming

from both sides in regard to cotton, I judge that it was feasible, and possibly some patriots laid up something which "moth and rust could corrupt" rather than seek the "treasures of heaven." And that was about all that the reigning "sovereign" did for the South; but as I am personally interested in a cotton plantation in Georgia, I can only add: "Long live the king!"



LAST CAMP MEETING

Our April meeting was a success in every way you can count. We had a wonderful program, Tales from the Soil, presented by Compatriot Terry Smith from Longview.



Compatriots Bill Guy and Dave Davey were presented with their Full Guardian Medals and Certificates.



We swore in two new members, brothers, Compatriot Hal and Tim Fletcher.



BATTLES FOUGHT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY



Battle of Fort Gibson - Fort Gibson Mississippi

1 May 1863 - General John C. Pemberton verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 1650 Confederate, 1863 Union!

Battle of Chancellorsville - Chancellorsville Virginia

1-5 May 1863 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Joseph Hooker. Casualties: 12,754 Confederate, 16,792 Union!

Battle of Williamsburg - Williamsburg Virginia

5 May 1862 - General Joseph E. Johnston verses General George B. McClellan. Casualties: 1603 Confederate, 2239 Union!

Battle of The Wilderness - The Wildereness Virginia

5-7 May 1864 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant, General George G. Meade. Casualties: 7750 Confederate, 17,666 Union!

Battle of McDowell - McDowell Virginia

May 1862 - General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson verses General Robert C. Schenck. Casualties: 498 Confederate, 256 Union!

Battle of Spotsylvania Court House - Spotsylvania Court House Virginia

8-20 May 1864 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 9500 Confederate, 18,399 Union!

Battle of Drewry's Bluff - Drewry's Bluff Virginia

12-16 May 1864 - General P.G.T. Beauregard verses General Benjamin F. Butler. Casualties: 2506 Confederate, 4160 Union!

Battle of Resaca - Resaca Georgia

13-15 May 1864 - General Joseph E. Johnston verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 3800 Confederate, 2747 Union!

Battle of Jackson - Jackson Mississippi

14 May 1863 - General Joseph E. Johnston verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 1339 Confederate, 1000 Union!

Battle of New Market - New Market Virginia

15 May 1864 - General John C. Breckinridge verses General Franz Sigel. Casualties: 577 Confederate, 831 Union!

Battle of Chamberlin Hill - Edward's Station Mississippi

16-17 May 1863 - General John C. Pemberton verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 3851 Confederate, 2441 Union!

Siege of Vicksburg - Vicksburg Mississippi

18 May - 4 July 1863 - General John C. Pemberton verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 39,491 Confederate, 8,873 Union!

Battle of Front Royal - Front Royal Virginia

23 May 1862 - General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson verses Colonel J. R. Kenly. Casualties: 50 Confederate, 904 Union!

First Battle of Winchester - Winchester Virginia

23-25 May 1862 - General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson verses General Nathaniel P. Banks. Casualties: 400 Confederate, 2769 Union!

Battle of North Anna River - North Anna River Virginia

23-26 May 1864 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 2000 Confederate, 1973 Union!

Battle of New Hope Church - New Hope Church Georgia

25-29 May 1864 - General Joseph E. Johnston verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 3000 Confederate, 2400 Union!

Siege of Port Hudson - Port Hudson Louisiana

26 May - 9 July 1863 - General Franklin Gardner verses General Nathaniel P. Banks. Casualties: 7200 Confederate, 3600 Union!

Battle of Seven Pines - Seven Pines Virginia

31 May - 1 June 1862 - General Joseph E. Johnston verses General George B. McClellan. Casualties: 6134 Confederate, 5031 Union!



LARDER

(A larder is a cool area for storing food prior to use. Larders were commonplace in houses before the widespread use of the refrigerator.)

Confederate Johnny Cake



Johnny cakes worked on the same principle as hardtack: simple, easy to make food that could be easily stored and transported. They were also called "journey cakes" as they could be taken on a long journey. The recipe for Johnny Cakes consisted

mainly of cornmeal, hot water, milk, salt, and, if you were lucky, a little bit of sugar. These were also easy to cook over a campfire as they were fried in a pan over an open fire with the bacon drippings from an earlier meal. Here's how to try some for yourself:

Ingredients:

- 1 cup cornmeal
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup milk
- Bacon drippings

Combine the cornmeal, salt, and sugar in a bowl. Boil the water and then add slowly as you stir the dry ingredients. Add the milk a little at a time to make sure the batter is not too runny. Heat the bacon grease in a cast iron skillet and drop in the batter by the spoonful. Brown on both sides and serve while hot.



GUARDIAN NEWS

By Commander Rex McGee



As we find ourselves moving quickly through spring we need to make sure that we have checked our Heroes graves and insured that they are well cared and attended. Most of our cemeteries now mow and weed the cemeteries and there is very little to do with the exception of checking flags, where applicable,

and checking the markers to ensure that they are in the best possible condition. Talk with some of your compatriots about your experience taking care of these graves and ask them to step forward and be counted among those who are putting forth efforts to ensure that history willing remember our ancestors and the struggles they encountered attempting to preserve their way of life.

This month we had the honor of presenting Compatriots Bill Guy and David Davey their certificates as Full Guardians. Next month we will have two more Compatriots receiving their Full Guardian certificate.

Step up and be a part of preserving history.

**ILT David Richard Reynolds Camp # 2270
Effective April 30, 2018**

Name	County	Cemeteries	Graves
Adams, O.M.*	Titus	1	14
Davey, David*	Titus	1	6
Gunn, Dennis	Bowie	1	1
Guy, (Bill)*	Titus	1	3
Jones, Robert	Titus	1	11
Love, Rodney	Cass	6	18
Mars, John Michael	Titus	4	12
McGee, Rex*	Titus	4	50
Reynolds, James Robert	Titus	3	13
Reynolds, Jerry	Titus	1	7
Reynolds, Larry Joe*	Titus & Morris	6	36
Reynolds, Tommy	Titus	1	15
Talks With White Buffalo	Titus & Morris	1	23
TOTALS			
Guardians (13)	(4)	(32)	(209)

* Full Guardians

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?”

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."

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

Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations!



MEMORIAL SERVICE UNIT

I am in the process of forming the Brigade's first **Memorial Service Unit**. This Unit will not be performing at a Funeral Home or Graveside, this unit will be doing a memorial service for a passing compatriot at their regular monthly meeting. At this time, I am looking for volunteers to serve as officers on this team.

I need four men and would like to invite those from our camp before I reach out to the other camps in the Brigade. There will be no cost involved in the purchase of Uniforms or Equipment. Everything you will need will be furnished by the Unit.

There is no lengthy speeches or parts to learn, most if anything is simple reading. I will be performing the first of its kind in this Brigade on May 1st in Gilmer, Texas. We will be doing a Memorial Service for Compatriot Rickie Gipson, the Adjutant of the Upshur County Patriots.



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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)