



David's Dispatch

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



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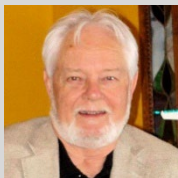
October 2023

WINNER OF THE TEXAS DIVISION BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD, 2017, 2018, 2020 & 2021

WINNER OF THE SCV NATIONAL BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD, 2016, 2017 & 2018

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Steven Weldon Austin



Compatriots,

Contact your Congressional Representatives and Senators to continue the fight to save our heritage... It is now time, once again, to ask the people who cherish our great and shared history to stand up and be counted. This time concerning HR4365 (NDAA FY 2024) and specifically Amendment No. 174 that prevents memorials to our Nation's War Dead from being removed from Arlington National Cemetery ("ANC"), and Amendment No. 238 that cuts spending to enforce section 370 of Public Law 116-283, meaning that service members recognized by Congress as American Veterans will not have their names, likenesses, and artifacts purged from the inventory of our military. Taken together, these amendments along with HR4365, must become the law of the land.

From: Sam Daggett; Texas Division Adjutant; Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Due to an error in the mailing of dues for 2023-2024 to our membership, I was happy to announce that both National SCV and Texas Division SCV have waived the late fees for compatriots in Texas. This waiver of late fees extended to September 30, 2023. This allowed 30 extra days to get your dues into the Texas Division Adjutant. All dues must have been paid by the end of September or you will be subject to the last fees once again.

For Heritage and History

Deo Vindice

Steve W. Austin; Cmdr. #2270, SCV

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*

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 9th, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

**Texas Division SCV
Division Executive Council Meeting**
January 6th, 2024
Papa Rollo's Pizza
703 N Valley Mills Dr
Waco, TX 76710

Texas Division Heritage Defense Training
Saturday, February 10th, 2024
Baylor Club located at McLane Stadium
1001 S. Martin Luther King Blvd

Waco, TX 76704

2024 Texas Division Reunion

June 7th – 9th, 2024

Doubletree by Hilton

611 NW Loop 410

San Antonio, TX 78218

2024 National SCV Reunion

July 16th – 21st, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton

5055 International Blvd

North Charleston, SC 29418-5963



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

*(Taken from the October 1923 Edition of the
Confederate Veteran - 100 Years Ago)*

LONGSTREET BEFORE KNOXVILLE.

BY J. A. H. CRANBERRY, WAVERLY HALL, GA.

In the latter part of the summer 1863 two divisions of the Army of Northern Virginia, Hood's and McLaws's, were detached and sent to reenforce the Western Army near Chattanooga. Being on the sick list, I was left at the Henningston Hospital at Richmond, but was able to rejoin my command as the two divisions were crossing the Tennessee River en route for Knoxville.

We crossed the river on a pontoon bridge on or about the 12th of November.

Here we encountered a force of the enemy, its strength unknown, but upon our forming in line of battle, it gave way. The retreat of the enemy toward Knoxville was rapid and the pursuit equally so. On the entire route the enemy made two stands, but in each instance, when we got in position to advance the Federals retreated without a fight. As we were attended by a large cavalry force, I have often wondered why this force of the enemy could not have been flanked, if not surrounded and captured, for it was not large.

We followed the retreating enemy to within a mile or so of Knoxville. On the way we came upon a collection of about a hundred wagons, from which our teamsters selected the best in exchange for their own. What became of the remainder I do not know, but suppose they were burned.

If our army had followed the enemy right into the city without giving him time to fortify, it was believed by many that the city, with the force that held it, would have been taken, but our gradual approaches, occupying so many days, gave the enemy ample time to build new works and strengthen those already built.

On the night before the assault on Fort Sanders was made, my regiment, the 20th Georgia, was detailed to drive or capture the picket force between us and the fort. Some were captured, but most of them escaped into the fort. The cannon on the fort opened continuously upon us, but the missiles hurt no one, for they flew far above our heads. There was a peculiarity about the shells fired from the fort that night such as I never observed elsewhere; there were three separate and distinct explosions from each shell. Doubtless there were shells within a shell. The exterior shell exploding first, the two remaining ones would go something near a hundred yards more, the outer one then exploding, while farther on the last one would explode.

As our men advanced to the fort they encountered a ditch around it several feet in depth and too wide to be crossed. We fell back something near a hundred yards from the fort and dug pits which would protect the men next morning. Other troops on our right did the same. The assault on the fort was to be made at daylight the next morning, which was on the 29th. The picket force was instructed to open fire on the embrasures in the fort when the assault was made to prevent the enemy from using their cannon. The firing of the picket force was the first intimation I had that the assault was being made. Not a cannon was fired. Three brigades constituted the assaulting force—a Mississippi brigade of McLaws's Division, Wofford's, and Anderson's brigades, the former of

McLaws's Division, and the latter of Hood's. In his account of the affair, Longstreet mentions Bryan's Brigade, but we knew of no such brigade. He does not mention Anderson's Brigade, but I saw General Anderson himself with his brigade; he passed near me. My position was on the left of my regiment and the assaulting troops passed over it. Not being able to cross the ditch, the men were massed around the fort. Lieutenant Bostick, of Company "C", 20th Georgia, did succeed in getting over the ditch, and stood on the parapet of the fort. He afterwards said the occupants were lying down, and the fort could have been taken easily if the ditch could have been crossed. In a short time afterwards the force within began throwing hand grenades over the walls among our men. This created a panic, and our men made a hurried retreat down the long slope that extended to the fort. Then the enemy in the fort fired a volley into the masses of our retreating troops, and this volley caused the only loss of killed and wounded our army suffered that day.

In less than an hour after the assault was made, a flag of truce was raised from the fort and remained till late in the afternoon. A long ditch was dug on the hillside, and our dead were buried therein. I counted them: there were just ninety-seven buried in that long ditch.

General Burnside, commanding the Federals, sent a tele-gram to President Lincoln in these words; "Two thousand rebels assaulted Fort Sanders this morning. Not a score of the gallant stormers escaped." His estimate of the size of the Confederate force attacking the fort was probably near the truth, but as to the number who escaped, he was far off. There were no prisoners captured, and the dead were buried in the ditch. Of course, a few died afterwards of their wounds. Burnside's report would mean the annihilation of the three brigades making the charge, but those three brigades afterwards took a prominent part in checking and driving back Grant's tremendous force at the battle of the Wilderness on the second day of the battle, the 6th of May following.

The assault on Fort Sanders was made near sunrise on Sunday morning and probably would not have been made at that time, but our army had suffered a reverse at Missionary Ridge and a force under Sherman was sent in our rear to relieve the Federal force at Knoxville. General Longstreet, in his book, "From Manassas to Appomattox," states that we remained several days around Knoxville after the attack on Sanders. I know my immediate command left Knoxville that night about nine o'clock, marching all night till ten o'clock next day before making any stop. We crossed a stream by wading it, the water coming well up on our bodies. Our clothing froze upon us, but I do not remember that we suffered much from cold, as constant marching kept us warm. We went in a northeasterly direction, making a permanent halt in the vicinity of Rogersville. The weather was extremely cold.

As the campaign was a failure and worth little or nothing to the Confederate cause, General Longstreet saddled much of the blame upon some of his subordinates. He demanded the removal of General McLaws, and his demand was complied with by the Richmond authorities. General Law resigned. No more capable officer could be found in the Confederate ranks. He carried a company into the service raised in Tuskegee, Ala. He was first made lieutenant colonel, afterwards colonel of the 4th Alabama Regiment. Later he was promoted to brigadier, and then to major general. He died some years ago in Florida.

I was sergeant major of the 20th Georgia Regiment, Benning's Brigade, Hood's Division.



BATTLES FOUGHT DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



Battle of Corinth - Corinth Mississippi

3-4 October 1862 - General Earl Van Dorn verses General William S. Rosecrans. Casualties: 4233 Confederate, 2520 Union!

Battle of Allattoona - Allatoona Georgia

5 October 1864 - General Samuel Gibbs French verses General John Murry Corse. Casualties: 799 Confederates, 707 Union!

Battle of Perryville - Perryville Kentucky

8 October 1862 - General Braxton Bragg verses General Don Carlos Buell. Casualties: 3396 Confederate, 4211 Union!

Battle of Cedar Creek - Cedar Creek Virginia

19 October 1864 - General Jubal A. Early verses General Philip H. Sheridan. Casualties: 2910 Confederates, 5665 Union!

Battle of Ball's Bluff - Ball's Bluff Virginia

21 October 1861 - Colonel Nathan G. Evans verses Colonel Edward D. Baker. Casualties: 149 Confederate, 921 Union!

October 17th – David R. Reynolds Birth and Death Date (1838 – 1901)

October 12th – This day in 1870 General Robert E. Lee died. He is buried in Lexington Virginia.



Unchangeable Convictions

*Mark W. Evans
Past Chaplain-in-Chief*

At the beginning of the War Against Northern Invasion, one hundred ministers from various denominations throughout the Southland signed a document titled an "Address to Christians Throughout the World." They stated: "The war is forced upon us. We have always desired peace. After a conflict of opinions between the North and the South, in Church and State, of more than thirty years, growing more bitter and painful daily, we withdraw from them to secure peace -- they send troops to compel us into re-union! Our proposition was peaceable separation, saying, 'We are actually divided, our nominal union is only a platform of strife.' The answer is a call for troops to force submission to a government whose character, in the judgment of the South, has been sacrificed to sectionalism." [W. W. Bennett, *The Great Revival in the Southern Armies*, p. 88]

The North had a standing army and navy, with all the weapons and means to crush an enemy. The Confederacy began with no navy and its armies were formed from mostly untrained warriors, whose unrelenting resolve and trust in the Lord brought admiration throughout the world. The ministers said: "While Northern Christians are so piously trusting in superior numbers, we arm, and fast, and pray, and our cry is, 'O, Lord of Hosts, we trust in thee!' While they are making every effort to get up and keep at fever heat the Northern war spirit, we need no

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

October 10th – Carole McGee

October 12th – Martha Austin

appeals beyond their own ferocious and boastful cries to keep us ready for their coming. And while they claim to have God's blessing, we are content -- if God bless them with success, be it so -- he is the Lord, let Him do what he will. We know 'in whom' we 'have believed.' We seek no man's blood, and we are not afraid while the Lord reigneth." [Ibid., pp. 91, 92.]

Confederate Chaplain W. W. Bennett observed an essential ingredient upholding Confederate warriors: "But there is one aspect of the war, on the Southern side, which has been almost wholly overlooked by statesmen and politicians. We mean its religious aspect. Whatever may be the judgment of the world as to the principles on which the Southern people entered into the strife, it must be admitted that they brought with them into it, and carried with them through it, a deep and strong religious element. Their convictions of right in what they did were second only to their convictions of the truth of the Christian religion. Nor has the stern logic of events eradicated this conviction from the Southern mind." [Ibid., 9.]

The Sons of Confederate Veterans have maintained a continuing respect for their heritage of courage, moral character, and patriotism. Because of the inroads of perverted thinking and hellish tyranny, our country's once treasured freedoms are being offered on the altar of Communism, atheism, and political corruption. There is comfort in knowing that the Christian beliefs, principles and moral values that steeled our Confederate ancestors will also sustain us in this struggle against the kingdom of darkness.

Our relatives shared the same Christian convictions possessed by their fathers of the Revolutionary War. Today, we also need these unchangeable convictions sealed to our hearts. Looking to the past, Journalist and author, Hank Messick, in his book, *King's Mountain*, quoted an historian who gave tribute to Southern "rednecks": "There is no shortage of rednecks in the neat, quiet American military cemeteries which now dot the globe. However rejected in normal times, the redneck has always been welcomed when the nation went to war." [p.10]. Messick wrote: "Peace is the dream today, and the redneck shares that dream. For him it was often a 'rich man's war and a poor man's fight.' He never started a war, but he was always ready when his home and personal liberty were threatened. And

because of the readiness to do his duty as he saw it, this nation was found and kept alive." [Ibid.]

Following the war, Robert L. Dabney, former Chief of Staff for General Stonewall Jackson, addressed students at a commencement service held at Davidson College. He stated: "We are a beaten, conquered people, gentlemen, and yet if we are true to ourselves, we have no cause for humiliation, however much for deep sorrow. It is only the atheist who adopts success as the criterion of right. It is not a new thing in the history of men that God appoints to the brave and true the stern task of contending and falling in a righteous quarrel. Would you find the grandest of all names upon the roll of time? You must seek them among this 'noble army of martyrs,' whose faith in God and the right was stronger than death and defeat."



MARIA ISABELLA "BELLE" BOYD HARDINGE HAMMOND HIGH

By Tom Todd

It would take a lot of nerve, a deep-seated belief in the cause she was fighting for, and a tragic incident to turn a teen-aged, well-bred Southern girl into one of the Confederacy's most notorious spies. Belle was born in May of 1844 and, according to the New York Times, she was in Bunker Hill, Virginia, at the time and the family moved to Martinsburg, Virginia, when she was ten years old. The two towns are very near to each other and are both now in West Virginia. According to the Civil War Trust, she was born in Martinsburg. Her parents, Benjamin Reed Boyd and Mary Rebecca Glenn Boyd, named her "Isabella," but she shortened her name to "Belle." Her family was prosperous, owners of six slaves and staunch believers in the Southern cause. In the War for Southern Independence, her father would become a member of the Stonewall Brigade and three other members of the family would be convicted of spying for the cause. One of the family slaves, Eliza Corsey, became a close companion of Belle and was reported to be an accomplice in her espionage adventures. It was against the law to teach slaves to read and write,

so Belle defied the law and spent hours at night by candlelight teaching Eliza. "Slavery, like all other imperfect forms of society, will have its day," Belle wrote, "but the time for its final extinction in the Confederate States of America has not yet arrived."



A family legend says that at eleven years old she was not allowed to join an adult dinner party. She protested by riding her horse into the dining room and proclaiming that the horse was old enough. At the age of twelve she was sent to school at the prestigious Mount Washington Female College of Baltimore. She graduated at sixteen and returned to Martinsburg just after the fall of Fort Sumter.

On July 2, 1861, Union forces occupied Martinsburg. On July 4, a drunken Union soldier, 25-year-old Frederick Martin of the Seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, who, as she wrote in her post-war memoirs, "addressed my mother and myself in language as offensive as it is possible to conceive. I could stand it no longer...we ladies were obliged to

go armed in order to protect ourselves as best we might from insult and outrage." Belle pulled a Colt 1849 pocket pistol and shot him dead. She reported in her memoirs that Martin's commanding officer investigated "all the circumstances with strict impartiality, and finally said I had 'done perfectly right.'" Her career as a Confederate spy had just begun at the age of seventeen.

It is known that her memoirs, like so many other memoirs, were exaggerated. She wrote that in May of 1862 she managed to eavesdrop through a peephole on a Council of War while visiting relatives whose home in Front Royal, Virginia, was being used as a Union headquarters. She learned that Union Major General Nathaniel Banks' forces had been ordered to march and she rode fifteen miles to inform Stonewall Jackson who was nearby in the Shenandoah Valley.

Early in the next year, 1862, her spying activities had become well known to the Union Army and the northern press was now referring to her as "La Belle Rebelle," "the Siren of the Shenandoah," "the Rebel Joan of Arc," "Secesh Cleopatra," "Pet of the Confederacy" and "Amazon of Secessia."



A New York Times editorial reported. "It was an oddly conspicuous act for a girl purporting to be a spy: On May 23, 1862, Belle Boyd, newly 18 and possessed of a "little rebel heart," sprinted across the battlefield in Front Royal, Va., crinoline swinging, bullets plowing up the earth around her. She waved

her white bonnet in grandiose loops, a signal for Confederate troops to advance, and caught the attention of staff officer Lieutenant Henry Kyd Douglas.”



Douglas wrote, “It took only a few minutes for my horse to carry me to meet the romantic maiden whose tall, supple, and graceful figure struck me as soon as I came in sight of her.” Speaking in gasps, Belle said she had vital intelligence for General Stonewall Jackson: the Union had only 1,000 men at Front Royal under Colonel John Kenly, but forces in the adjacent towns of Strasburg, Winchester and Harpers Ferry could easily unite and set a trap. If Jackson charged down quickly, he could catch them all. “I must hurry back,” Belle said, and blew Douglas a kiss. “Goodbye. My love to all the dear boys.” Belle described in her version, “the Federal pickets... immediately fired up-on me...my escape was most providential...rifle-balls flew thick and fast about me...so near my feet as to throw dust in my eyes ...numerous bullets whistled by my ears, several actually pierced different parts of my clothing.”

James I. Robertson, Jr. in his biography Stonewall Jackson, says that she informed Stonewall that the only force in the town was the 1st Maryland and two companies of a Pennsylvania regiment. Robertson then says that Stonewall “reacted with typical Old Testament anger. If Maryland infidels were going to invade Virginia, Maryland faithful would smite

them. He promptly ordered the Confederate 1st Maryland to the front.”

Stonewall’s victory at Front Royal was of minor importance in the overall success of the legendary campaign he led through the Shenandoah Valley, but it made the teenaged girl who ran onto a battlefield instantly famous nation-wide.

In July of 1862 Secretary of War Edwin Stanton had personally issued a warrant for her arrest and on July 29, 1862, Belle was arrested by Union forces and detained at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC. According to the Civil War Trust, she was anything but a model prisoner. She waved the Confederate flag from her window, sang Dixie and devised a way of communication where her contact would use a bow and arrow to shoot a rubber ball into her cell. She would then sew messages inside the ball and send it back. After a month in prison she was part of a prisoner exchange program. She was arrested again in July of 1863 and held until December of that year when she was released and banished to the South. On May 8, 1864, she sailed for England and was arrested once again, this time as a Confederate courier. With the help of Lieutenant Sam Hardinge, a Union naval officer, she escaped to Canada. Hardinge would be dropped from the Navy for his role in her escape. From Canada she went to England and there she and Hardinge were married on August 25, 1863. But she would become a widow in 1866 when Hardinge died at the age of 30.

Belle stayed on in England for two years while she wrote her memoirs, Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison and garnered considerable success as a stage actress. She re-turned to America in 1866 as a widow and the mother of a child, probably named Grace. She continued to act on stage and gave lectures on her spying activities during the war. She called her show “The Perils of a Spy” and called herself the “Cleopatra of the Secession.”

In 1869 she married an Englishman and former Union officer, John Swainston Hammond. The two would re-main married for 16 years and have four children and three would live to maturity; Byrd

Swainston Hammond, Marie Isabelle Boyd Hammond and John Edmund Swainston Hammond. The fourth child's history is unknown. In November, 1884, the couple divorced and two months later she married Nathaniel High, Jr., an actor seventeen years younger than she. This marriage also ended in divorce at some time before 1900.

The Encyclopedia Virginia says that she died on June 11, 1900, while on a tour in Kilbourn, Wisconsin, (now known as Wisconsin Dells). She had been lecturing on her career as a spy before an audience of members of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans association. She suffered a heart attack and died in poverty. Others reported that the GAR members performed as pallbearers for her funeral. She is buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery in Wisconsin Dells.

On January 12th, the General Executive Council Sons of Confederate Veterans voted to enter into a lawsuit to fight the removal of the Reconciliation Memorial located in the Confederate Section of Arlington National Cemetery. SCV National has been working with an attorney and actions will be forthcoming.

The lawsuit will take funding. To contribute to help the SCV fight this travesty, please send your donations to:

Online: <https://scv.org/paypal-donations/> and click on the Donate button under Heritage Operations (Defense).

Phone: call 931-380-1844, ext.209

Check: Make the check payable to SCV National, write Arlington in the subject line and mail to:

SCV
P. O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

R.S. Jason Boshers
Commander-in-Chief

Walter Donald Kennedy
Lt. Commander-in-Chief

RECONCILIATION MEMORIAL ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE ONCOMING WAR

*John M. Taylor, September 4, 2023,
blueandgrayeducation.org*

In March 1861, Virginia, which had not yet seceded, became concerned after the Abraham Lincoln Administration rejected peace overtures.

In his First Inaugural Address on Monday, March 4, 1861, Lincoln spelled out his only reason for war: "The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government and to collect the duties and imposts; but beyond what may be necessary for

these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere.”



The Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., was the site of the unsuccessful 1861 Peace Conference.

Through Virginia’s persistence and its concern, Lincoln finally agreed to meet with Southern peace representatives.

First Meeting: On April 4, 1861, Virginia Unionist John Brown Baldwin met Lincoln in Washington, D.C., to offer a compromise. As their dialogue progressed, Lincoln asked, “Well ... what about the revenue? What would I do about the collection of duties?” Baldwin asked how much revenue would be lost per year. Lincoln responded “50 or 60 million.” Baldwin said \$250 (based on a four-year presidential term) would be “a drop in the bucket” compared to the cost of war, and Virginia’s compromise plan would ameliorate the situation. Lincoln added, “And open Charleston, etc., as ports of entry, with their 10 percent tariff. What, then, would become of my tariff?”

Second Meeting: A.H.H. Stuart, William B. Preston, and George W. Randolph, all prominent Virginians, spoke with Lincoln on April 12-13, 1861, and received a similar response. “I remember,” says Mr. Stuart, “that he used this homely expression: ‘If I do that, what will become of my revenue? I might as well shut up housekeeping at once.’”

Third Meeting: Another attempt at compromise was detailed in the April 23, 1861, edition of the

Baltimore Exchange and reprinted in the May 8, 1861, edition of the Memphis Daily Avalanche. This meeting was led by Dr. Richard Fuller, a preacher from the Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore. The article states:

“We learned that a delegation from five of the Young Men’s Christian Associations of Baltimore, consisting of six members each, yesterday [April 22, 1861] proceeded to Washington for an interview with the President, the purpose being to intercede with him in behalf a peaceful policy.”

Fuller made a plea for peace and recognition of Southern rights. Lincoln responded, “But what am I to do? ... what shall become of the revenue? I shall have no government? No resources?”

Lyon Gardiner Tyler, a Virginian, and son of former President John Tyler, wrote:

“The deciding factor with him [Lincoln] was the tariff question. In three separate interviews, he asked what would become of his revenue if he allowed the government at Montgomery to go on with their ten percent tariff....”

All of the April 1861 peace efforts were rejected.



LET'S ZOOM!

Compatriots, I’m asking, as a personal favor, that you try your best to attend our Zoom meeting for our Scheduled Monthly Meeting on October 9th at 6:00 p.m. I’m going to ask our Brigade Commander, Bill Elliott, to invite all members of the 5th Brigade who are not able to attend their camp’s monthly meeting to join us on our Zoom meeting each month. This will enable the 5th Brigade to offer something that no other Brigade currently has. I’m also going to invite some other high ranking officials and want to make sure that the camp has a good showing.

If anyone wants to “Practice” ahead of time, just email or call me and we can set up a private meeting to make sure it goes smoothly for you.

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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.

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