



David's Dispatch

1ST LT. DAVID RICHARD REYNOLDS

HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER #1

SOCIETY OF CONFEDERATE DESCENDANTS



Vol. 2 No. 8

Copyright 2026

August 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Greetings Compatriots,

Well another month goes by without any volunteers for any of our vacant Officer's position. I am going to start emailing and/or calling members, asking them to take a position that I will they would excel in.

This was another month that went by that we did not have any new member. We have only had 4 new members since January 1st, which isn't good. I hate being negative, especially in our newsletter, however there comes a time where you have to ask yourself, is it worth it?

Attendance has also dropped off at our Monthly Stated Zoom Meeting, so everyone please try to attend our next meeting on August 10th, 7:00 p.m. Central Time. I'll be sending out the Link next Monday! If you know of anyone who may be interested in our Society, please ask them to join us there.

Joe Reynolds
President General

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 10th, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Civil War Symposium
Saturday, August 8th, 9:00 a.m.
305 East Austin Street
Jefferson, TX

Our Mission

To fulfill the Charge handed down to us and to perpetuate the legacy of our ancestors by proudly preserving our heritage and faithfully promoting goodwill in our community.

Our Vision

We dare to envision a culture that values its history and honors those who helped make it.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 08 Samuel Coles Bennett, M.D.
Aug 19 Marla Sue Carroll
Aug 20 Harold Odell Cardwell, Jr.
Aug 21 William Thomas Wilcoxson
Aug 27 Michael Anthony Birrenbach-Lytle
Aug 20 Carter & Tonya Marie Campbell
August 21st – This day in 1821 General William Barksdale was born.
August 21, 2025 – Society of Confederate Descendants Founded

BATTLES FOUGHT DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST



Battle of Cedar Mountain - Cedar Mountain Virginia

9 August 1862 - General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson verses General Nathaniel P. Banks. Casualties: 1338 Confederate, 2353 Union!

Battle of Wilson's Creek - Battle of Wilson's Creek Missouri

10 August 1861 - General Benjamin McCulloch verses General Nathaniel Lyon. Casualties: 1184 Confederate, 1235 Union!

Battle of Deep Bottom Run or Strawberry Plains - Deep Bottom Run Virginia

13-20 August 1864 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 1000 Confederates, 2899 Union!

Battle of Globe Tavern or Weldon Rail Road - Globe Tavern Virginia

18-21 August 1864 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 1619 Confederates, 4445 Union!

Battle of Reams Station - Reams Station Virginia

25 August 1864 - General Ambrose P. Hill verses General Winfred S. Hancock. Casualties: 800 Confederate, 2742 Union!

Battle of Richmond Kentucky - Richmond Kentucky

29-30 August 1862 - General Edmund Kirby Smith verses General William Nelson. Casualties: 459 Confederate, 5353 Union!

Second Battle of Manassas - Manassas Virginia

29-30 August 1862 - General Robert E. Lee verses General John Pope. Casualties: 8397 Confederate, 14,754 Union!

Battle of Jonesboro - Jonesboro Georgia

31 August - 1 September 1864 - General William J. Hardee verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 2636 Confederates, 1453 Union!

CHAPTER MINUTES 13 JULY 2026

The meeting was called to order by President General Joe Reynolds at 7:04 pm.

Invocation was given by Chaplain General Eve Holder.

Pledges to the United States, Headquarters Chapter and Confederate Flag were led by President General Joe Reynolds.

President General Joe Reynolds presented the SCD's Mission and Vision Statement.

Present for the meeting were:

Members

Joe Reynolds, President General.....Pittsburg, TX
Rex McGee, Secretary General. Mount Pleasant, TX
Bill Wilcoxson, Historian General.....Pueblo, CO
Dave AdcoxMorton, MS
Hal Cardwell Glendora, CA
David RouthRockwall, TX
Sara Sams.....Columbia, SC
Jola West.....Dumfries, VA

Guests

None

The minutes of the June meeting were emailed to all members one day prior to the meeting. There being

no additions or corrections, they were approved as received.

The Treasurer Report was read with the following noted: For the month of June 2026, we started the month with a balance of \$851.29, we had no income and no expenses for the month. This left a balance of \$851.29.

There was no Old Business to Discuss.

Under New Business we discussed the following:

- There were no new members last month.
- There were no officers to swear in.
- We discussed the status of our Society, the need to recruit new members and to elect officers for our vacant positions

Tonight's Program was "Historic Last Civil War Funeral of Confederate Lt. Andrew Jackson Buttram, Part II" Part I was shown at our May Meeting.

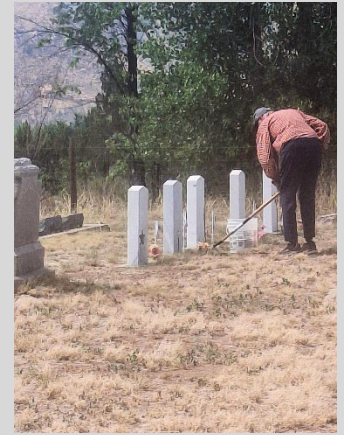
The Benediction was given by Chaplain General Eve Holder.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:53.

GUARDIAN NEWS



Compatriot Bill Willcoxson, performing part of his Guardian duties of tending to the graves of his patriots at the Greenwood Cemetery in Canon City, Colorado on July 4, 2026.



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?"

NEW THEORY - WHERE IS THE CONFEDERATE GOLD?

by Dixie Heritage

The whereabouts of the Confederate treasury have been a mystery since the end of the War, but two West Michigan men believe they've solved it. They are putting forward their own theory, one that feels like a real life "National Treasure" movie in which many seemingly unrelated events are brought together into one narrative. At the center of it is Muskegon, Michigan's most generous philanthropist.

Charles H. Hackley, a lumber baron, is arguably the Lake Michigan community's most influential historical figure. Although he has been dead for more than 100 years, his name lives on through his many gifts to the community, including Hackley Park, Hackley Public Library, Hackley Hospital and the Hackley Administration Building.

Yet, Hackley's legacy contains a mystery of its own. When he died in 1905, his net worth was about \$10 million, or \$261 million in today's dollars, according to the Hackley and Hume papers at Michigan State University.

But a biography Hackley authorized in 1899, in which he gave notes to author Lois Haight, says that he earned \$3 million in his lifetime. What accounts for the gap?

The difference is found in Confederate Gold, say Kevin Dykstra and Brad Richards. And they say they've done the research to prove it.

"We really think this is breaking news in history," Richards said.

Michigan historian Larry Massie said there were rumors that President Jefferson Davis had the entire Confederate treasury with him while fleeing the Union Army but they've been "pretty well proven" not to be true. Dykstra and Richards' theory starts with the assumption that the treasury, in gold and silver, was with Davis.

Massie lives in Allegan County, the home of Lt. Col. Benjamin Pritchard, the man who led the Michigan 4th Cavalry that captured Davis.

The Confederate Gold in West Michigan theory is 150 years in the making

Some key dates involving the Confederate Gold and Charles Hackley are listed.

So who is right? Did the Confederate Gold end up into the hands of Charles H. Hackley?

"In a project like this, the research always is paramount," Dykstra said. "If it's not documented, it's just two crazy guys talking. I've always told people, if it's easier to believe that we're just crazy, then believe that. If you believe that the research ... is strong, then we have totally solved it. And that's where we're at."

Davis is captured

The story begins with the capture of Jefferson Davis on May 10, 1865, in Irwinville, Ga., officially ending the War.

Twenty-three hours prior to the capture, the U.S. War Department recorded that the Davis party was traveling with \$10 million in gold, valued at \$142 million today's dollars.

When Pritchard and his men arrived, there was no gold. No one has been able to say for sure what happened to it - but Dykstra and Richards are convinced the gold was nearby.

Michigan cavalry captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis this week in 1865

It was May 10, 1865 when the unit commanded by the Allegan native captured the he fugitive Jefferson Davis

Davis was captured with eight wagons and 25 to 30 mules, Dykstra said he found in War Department records.

Sixteen mules would have been needed to pull eight wagons, he said. Twenty-eight mules would have been sufficient for 14 wagons.

"Everybody has overlooked that for years," Dykstra said. "I worked with mules, they're not fun - you don't take any extra."

Dykstra says that is proof that six wagons were missing, and located nearby. He believes they were full of gold, and hidden in the woods.

Scott Kuykendall, president of the Allegan County Historical Society, acknowledged it's an intriguing detail but "we need to see more proof."

The society has high interest in Davis' capture - it maintains the revolver Pritchard pointed at the Confederate president. The society allowed Dykstra and Richards to use its archives for their research and Kuykendall has seen them present their theory.

He called it "fascinating" and "possible," but added, "We're going to need a little bit more before we jump on the bandwagon."

'WikiLeaks of the day'

Dykstra and Richards say their evidence goes beyond a few extra mules.

"Out of the 128,000 pages of the war records, I found one sentence when I was looking to see who buried the gold," Dykstra said.

A telegram from Pritchard to T.A. Scott shortly after Davis was captured said: "I returned to the site last night."

Dykstra and Richards believe the correspondence was meant for T.W. Scott, who worked for Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. They theorize that Pritchard was relaying that he had returned to Irwinville and buried the gold.

It's clear that many telegrams were deleted since there are numerous cases in which a reply can be found, but not the original thought or question, Richards said.

"The ones that were actually left in there are like the WikiLeaks of the day," he said.

'Two points on a map'

Richards is a history teacher at Ravenna High School and a board member of Calvary Christian Schools in the Muskegon County community of Fruitport. Dykstra is the facilities director at Calvary Christian Schools and he brought Richards into the project about two years ago.

In 1973, a relative of a Union Army officer supposedly claimed in a deathbed confession that a box car full of \$2 million worth of Confederate gold was at the bottom of Lake Michigan.

Confederate treasure in Lake Michigan? Despite skeptics, divers pursue fantastic story

A boxcar full of Confederate gold is supposedly sunken off Frankfort. As far as treasure stories go, it's a doozy. But is it credible?

Dykstra said that tip was eventually passed to him and seven years ago he started searching for the gold, and researching how it got there - if it is there at all.

His search for large caches of missing gold led him to the theory of the Confederate Gold.

Dykstra then looked for large expenditures in Michigan around that time period, which led him to Hackley.

"I was given a unique opportunity that no one else in the country has ever been given," Dykstra said of the information about the confession. "The advantage I had was, I had a cache of gold that I was trying to find a source. It gave me two points on a map."

Those two points were Irwinville, Georgia, and Muskegon, Michigan. The communities were connected by railroad in 1869, four years after Davis' capture.

A family connection

Railroad development boomed following the War.

By 1869, the Albany and Brunswick Railroad was close enough to Irwinville to transport the gold via wagon under the cover of night, Dykstra said.

The railroad was south of Irwinville, and ran through Tifton, Ga., about 17 miles away. That's where the Confederate Gold could have been loaded onto rail cars over several trips from 1870-76, Dykstra said.

Gen. Robert H.G. Minty worked on the Albany and Brunswick Railroad, Dykstra says employment records show. Minty was Pritchard's commanding officer during the War when Davis was captured.

Minty was married to the sister of George Alexander Abbott, a friend and employee of Hackley's - so Minty and Hackley also would have known each other, Richards said.

Also in 1869, a railroad line was under construction from Ferrysburg to Muskegon, which Dykstra and Richards say was funded by Hackley and went directly to his office. William M. Ferry Jr., who

platted Ferrysburg, was also involved in that railroad connection, they said.

However, Meredith Slover, curator at Tri-Cities Historical Museum, did not find records of Ferry being involved in any railroads.

Michigan Lake Shore Rail Road Ferrysburg-Muskegon line was opened during December 1869.

The first railcar arrived in Muskegon - at Hackley's office backdoor - during December 1869, in what Dykstra believes was an initial test run.

Railcars would have also stopped in Allegan to deliver gold to Pritchard before reaching Muskegon, he said.

Dykstra and Richards believe Hackley orchestrated the transport and cover up of the gold, which is why he would have received a share.

Laundering the gold

What would they have done with the gold once it arrived?

"The Confederate Gold ... would have went to the national banking system, and laundered into currency," Dykstra said.

Pritchard, Hackley and William M. Ferry's brother Edward P. Ferry were involved in or founded banks during 1870 and 1871 and those banks and others would have been used to launder the gold, he said.

Around 1874-75, a new building was completed for Muskegon National Bank, of which Hackley was a director. It was re-chartered as Hackley National Bank in 1890. Multiple publications and advertisements say the bank had five vaults.

Dykstra said he believes the vaults were needed to store the Confederate Gold treasure.

First National Bank of Allegan was founded by Pritchard in 1871.

At that time, banks would ship gold bullion to the U.S. Treasury Department, and receive paper currency with the bank name in return, Dykstra said.

"Most national banks, during their lifetime, would print less than \$250,000 worth of currency. If a national bank got to \$500,000 worth of currency, that was considered excessive," he said.

Muskegon National Bank printed \$295,000 from 1870-1890, according to Antique Money. Hackley National Bank printed \$4,666,000 from 1890-1935. First National Bank of Allegan printed \$797,000 from 1871-1927.

By comparison, First National Bank of Grand Rapids printed \$516,000 from 1864-1883 while First National Bank of Ann Arbor printed \$367,000 from 1863-1882.

According to advertisements found by Dykstra, Hackley was a stockholder in 14 banks, which he says could have also been used to launder the treasure.

"They were in the banks because that's how they laundered the gold, but they felt that their duty as citizens of the United States was to promote in a positive way," Dykstra said.

Tribute to the Confederacy?

The intersection of West Webster Avenue and Third Street downtown Muskegon is a gathering of Hackley gifts: Hackley Park, Hackley Administration Building and Hackley Public Library. Other large donations include Hackley Hospital and the former Hackley Art Gallery, now Muskegon Museum of Art. Hackley and his wife Julia Hackley also donated multiple endowment funds.

Dykstra and Richards believe there's proof hiding in plain sight that Hackley Park was made possible by Confederate money. They also point to clues in a speech Hackley wrote for the park statues' dedication in 1900.

Looking back at Hackley Park, a gift to the city in the late 1800s

Hackley Park was gifted to Muskegon by Charles H. Hackley in 1890.

(Continued next Month)



THE FORGOTTEN 11TH AMENDMENT

*by Walter Donald Kennedy
www.kennedytwins.com*

Few Americans will dispute the suggestion that as a general rule, Americans are woefully ignorant regarding the United States Constitution. Yet, there are many professionals who study and cite the Constitution. Professionals such as attorneys, journalists, politicians, educators, and media talking heads appear to have a much greater grasp upon the particulars of the Constitution than the general public. This does not mean that each individual holds a correct view of the Constitution nor do they agree with each other on Constitutional issues. While this group of enlightened Constitutional commentators will talk or write enthusiastically on the Constitution and especially on the First, Second, Fourth, and Tenth Amendments, the Eleventh Amendment is generally ignored.

To the reader of this article, let me ask this question: When was the last time you considered or read the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution? Don't be embarrassed to say never or very seldom, after all, that would be the answer provided by the vast majority of even the "enlighten" Constitutional commentators.

Why is very little information written or spoken about the Eleventh Amendment? The Eleventh Amendment was adopted in 1798, a mere seven years after the adoption of the Bill of Rights. Is this amendment just an old antiquated addition to the Constitution and therefore of no modern value? Or is there something about this amendment that is so dangerous to today's power elites that Americans must be kept in the dark about its history? No part of the Constitution, including any amendment, is time limited, otherwise freedom of speech, religion, and association can be said to "old fashioned" and therefore of no value. But there is a very good reason

why the Eleventh Amendment is little studied and discussed today. More than any other portion of the Constitution, the Eleventh Amendment completely invalidates and repudiates Lincoln and the Republican Party's reason for waging war upon the Confederate States of America.

In February of 1793, a mere five years after the adoption of the Constitution, the Federal Supreme Court handed down a decision in *Chisholm v. Georgia*.¹ This decision set the new nation in an uproar. A British creditor enlisted the aid of two South Carolina citizens to sue the State of Georgia to recover money owed to a British company. It must be noted that this was not a case where one State is suing another State but private citizens attempting to sue a State. The case went directly to the Supreme Court which, according to the Constitution, has original jurisdiction.² The State of Georgia refused to appear before the Court maintaining that a sovereign state cannot be compelled to appear anywhere it does not choose. The State of Georgia then nullified the Supreme Court decision and stated that any Federal agent that entered Georgia and attempted to enforce any portion of the Supreme Court decision, "shall be...declared to be guilty of felony, and shall suffer death, without benefit of clergy, by being hanged."³ Constitutional scholar, Dr. Forrest McDonald, noted that when the Supreme Court announced the *Chisholm* decision, "Waves of protest swept the country."⁴ At that time in American history, Americans understood that each State in the Union was a sovereign State and could not be compelled to act against its will. The key to understanding this conflict is understanding the nature of the term "sovereign."

A noted nineteenth century legal scholar, Francis Lieber, defines sovereignty thusly, "Sovereignty is the ability to execute any thought or idea without limitation."⁵ From a theological viewpoint we can be assured that only God is Sovereign but from a political viewpoint sovereignty resides in the agency of government. The 16th century French political

scholar, Jean Bodin (1530-1596), explains sovereignty as the “absolute and perpetual power of the state, that is, the greatest power to command.”⁶ Bodin recognizes sovereignty as something that resides with a state due to its independent nature. According to Bodin, the state and the government are not the same. The government exists because a sovereign state calls it into existence. In America’s original Union, “we the people” created our state government. “We the people” compose a sovereign community (State) and the people of that community create their State government. Therefore, it is the people, en masse, of that community who are sovereign, not the State government. Sovereignty is the ability to exercise supreme political power over a particular territory (State).

The Swiss political philosopher and diplomat, Emmerich de Vattel, asserted that regardless of the form of government, “Every nation that governs itself...without any dependence on foreign powers, is a sovereign State. Its rights are naturally the same as those of any other State.”⁷ When looking at the history of the representation in the Continental Congress and the act of voting for independence it is obvious that each State, regardless of size, population, or wealth, is treated with absolute equality. Every State had one vote, as Vattel notes, “Its rights are naturally the same as those of any other State.” This is reflected in the Constitution’s equal representation for each State in the Senate. When called upon to elect the president, the House of Representatives will vote by State, each State having only one vote. This equality of the States is a reflection of the sovereign nature of the States as recognized by America’s Founding Fathers.

So now we come to the question of where does sovereignty reside in these United States? Does sovereignty reside with the politicians and judges of the Federal government, i.e., the Union, or does it reside with “we the people” of each sovereign State?

If Americans are allowed to have a correct understanding of the history of the Eleventh Amendment, they may begin to question Lincoln and

the Republican Party’s destruction of the original Union and therefore, the Constitution. Lincoln’s war upon the seceding Southern States was based upon two major points he announced in his March 1861 inaugural address and his July 4, 1861 message to Congress. It is important to remember that the death of almost one million Americans, soldiers and civilians and the intentional impoverishment of the formerly prosperous South was based upon Lincoln and the Republican Party’s allegation that: (1) The States of the Union were never sovereign and therefore sovereignty resides with the Federal government; (2) the Union is older than the Constitution and the Union created the States and therefore was older than the States.

If sovereignty resides with the Union, i.e., the Federal government, then secession is illegal and tantamount to treason. But if sovereignty resides with “we the people” of each sovereign State, then secession is legal and the natural and logical pursuit of the American principle of “government by the consent of the governed.” The political upheaval caused by the *Chislm* case demonstrates that Americans believed that the right of self-government, consent of the governed, and other attributes of sovereignty resided with “we the people” within their respective states. Alexander Hamilton in *The Federalist* No. 81, proclaimed, “It is inherent in the nature of sovereignty, not to be amenable to the suit of an individual without its consent...as one of the attributes of sovereignty, is now enjoyed by the government of every state in the union.” The uproar caused by the Supreme Court’s attack upon State sovereignty in 1793, crossed all geographic lines. The day after the *Chislm v. Georgia* decision was announced, Massachusetts Representative, Theodore Sedgwick, introduced a resolution to amend the Constitution. His proposed amendment would prevent a sovereign state from being compelled against its will to appear before a Federal Court.

On the floor of the House of Representatives, Rep. Sedgwick stated: “Mr. Speaker. But yesterday a majority decision of a most alarming nature was

handed down by the Supreme Court. Sir, I rise to protest in the name of Massachusetts against this decision. It gives a new and wrong construction of the character of this Government. It reduces free and independent sovereignties to the rank of mere provinces. It contradicts the Declaration of Independence, which solemnly declares, 'That these united Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.' Nor can the United States lawfully rob them of their rights as sovereign States until the Tenth Amendment...is repealed."9 Sedgwick's resolution passed In the House of Representatives by a vote of 81 yes and 9 no votes (90%). In the Senate this resolution passed by 23 yes and 2 no votes (92%). For a Constitutional Amendment to pass Congress and be submitted to the States requires a 2/3s or 66% affirmative vote of both houses. As demonstrated, the Eleventh Amendment greatly surpassed that threshold. When submitted to the States, there being fifteen States in the Union at that time, thirteen States voted for the Amendment with no dissenting votes. "This amendment was designed to silence forever all doubts as to the sovereignty of the States."10 Unfortunately for America, Lincoln and the Republicans were either ignorant of this history or willfully ignored this bold announcement of State sovereignty.

What then was Lincoln's "enlightened" view of State or Federal sovereignty? Let us look at Lincoln's own words as it relates to State and Federal sovereignty. In his July 4, 1861 address to Congress, Lincoln boldly proclaimed, "Much is said about the 'sovereignty' of the states, but the word even is not in the National Constitution, nor, as is believed, in any of the State constitutions." Lincoln declares that since the word "sovereignty" cannot be found in the National Constitution, no State can be sovereign. Keeping with Lincoln's logic, we are compelled to ask: "Since the National Constitution of the United States does not have the word "sovereignty" in it, does this mean that the United States is not a sovereign nation?" Lincoln's own words demonstrates his sophomoric understanding of the Constitution! The Constitution is not a cookbook of

rights that the Federal government grants to Americans. The Constitution is a document from "we the people" of the States that delegates power from each State in order to create a Federal government and therefore, the Union. As is noted in the Tenth Amendment, "The powers not delegated...are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Also, as noted in the Ninth Amendment, "The enumeration...of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." These two amendments speak with an honest and forceful voice that just because something is not in the Constitution that does not mean that "we the people" do not hold that right or power. For example, the word "marriage" does not occur in the Constitution but as we fully understand, Americans have the right to marry.

(Continued next Month)



**1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds
Headquarters Chapter #1
Society of Confederate Descendants**

Chapter Leadership

President

Joe Reynolds
(903) 717-1009
Joe.Reynolds@DavidRReynolds.org

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer

Alvin "Rex" McGee
(903) 577-3233
AlvinRexMcGee@hotmail.com

Chaplain

Eve Holder
(615) 347-8230
evholder1862@gmail.com

Genealogist

Benjamin Carter Campbell
(706) 498-0490
johndeere-reb@hotmail.com

Historian

William Thomas Wilcoxson
(719) 821-9480
bwilcoxson@wilcoxsonauto.com

Communications Officer

Joe Reynolds
(903) 717-1009
Joe.Reynolds@DavidRReynolds.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Larry "Joe" Reynolds
310 Kent Drive
Pittsburg, TX 75686-2131
(903) 717-1009
Joe.Reynolds@DavidRReynolds.org



Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the 1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Headquarters Chapter #1. Letters and articles may be submitted to: Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org (Cutoff for articles is 20th of the month)

