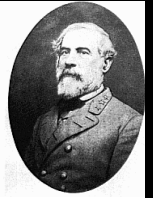




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Sons of Confederate Veterans
Jefferson Davis Camp No. 635

* Volume XXXVIII * War Memorial Building, Jackson, MS 39201 * December 2009 * Number 12 *



December Meeting Christmas Celebration & Short Program on WBTS-era Southern Christmases

The December meeting will be **one week earlier than usual** to avoid Christmas week. Although some of you may have heard that we would not meet at the Municipal Art Gallery as we normally do, be advised that **the meeting will be at the usual place.**

Members are encouraged to bring suitable "finger food" to add a more festive air to our Christmas get-together.

In addition to the usual music we try to have each December, Jim Woodrick has consented to reprise his presentation on how Christmas was celebrated back in the mid-nineteenth century in the South.

Everyone come and bring guests, especially new recruits!

When: December 15, 2009. 5:00 pm.
Where: Municipal Art Gallery, State St., Jackson.

See you there!



And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:9-14
(KJV)

November Meeting Report

Grady Howell: Thanksgiving in the South in the WBTS era

The meeting program for November was presented by Grady Howell on the custom of Thanksgiving in the South.. This editor was unfortunately unable to attend so no other aspects of the meeting can be reported. (Yes, that's an old picture of Grady, the only one I could easily find.)



Welcome New Member

The camp welcomes the membership of **James T. White** who joins on the service of his ancestor Thomas Jefferson Oliver who was a private in Company K of the 24th Mississippi Infantry Regiment.

Welcome Compatriot White!

Rebel Ramblings

by Robert Murphree

As we approach this holiday season, with its excitement, good cheer, plenty, and family, it occurred to me to go back and take a bit of a peek at how some of our Confederate ancestors spent their Christmas time in the army. (I wonder if either Confederate or Yank ever envisioned a time when the display of Christian Christmas symbols would be banned in public places and buildings?)

Henry Kyd Douglas spent Christmas of 1862 in Jackson's camp at Corbin Hall, an enormous mansion near Fredericksburg. (Incidentally, the wealthy owner of this fine residence, Richard Corbin, was then a private in a Virginia regiment.) Douglas describes how Jackson insisted on staying in tents, but used the plantation library, an outbuilding, as his headquarters. Jackson invited Lee and Stuart to dine with him, and Lee chaffed Jackson for the luxury of having a real servant to serve the dinner. Stuart discovered the image of a fighting cock stamped on a slab of butter someone had sent Jackson and bemoaned the "moral degeneracy" of the austere Jackson.

Contrast this festive dinner with the account that David Holt, of Wilkinson County, Mississippi, a private in the 16th Mississippi, gave of that same Christmas near Fredericksburg. He called it a "poverty-stricken camp" noting that a "little brown sugar and a little fresh meat" were all the Christmas they got. The men provided a substitute Christmas dinner by relating tales of the wonderful Christmas dinners they had enjoyed before the war.

Mosby spent that same Christmas getting ready for the great raid Stuart launched about that time to Dumfries. Routing a Yankee cavalry regiment, Mosby supplied his Christmas with the belongings of the enemy. This is the incident that gave birth to the famous telegram from a Union operator saying, "The 17th Penn. cavalry just passed here, furiously charging to the rear."

One common theme in the Confederate memoirs I love to read is that our men missed their family and loved ones dearly around Christmas time, but took comfort from the feeling they felt they were doing their duty for their country. As long as America has brave men with stout hearts who--like our Confederate ancestors--will risk all for our country I have to believe this country will remain great.

At the same time, I am reminded how today, just like back in 1861-1865, we have men in uniform fighting our country's battles in far away places, separated from family and friends, who deserve all our support and encouragement. There are a number of organizations, such as the USO, who assist our military in ways that individuals cannot, and I encourage all of us to lend such support to those groups as we can.

Merry Christmas to all of you and a happy, healthy New Year.

Send address corrections to:
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Visit the camp web site at: <http://www.scvcamp635.org>



Calendar

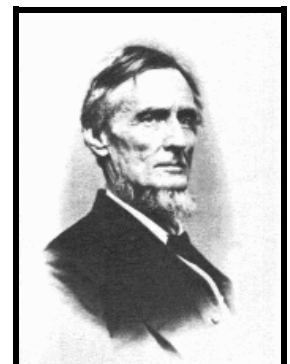
December 15, 2009
 Annual Camp Christmas Party.

January 26, 2010
 Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

February 23, 2010
 Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

March 23, 2010
 Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

April 27, 2010
 Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery



Chaplain's Dispatch

Dear Friends and Compatriots:

Many Christians around the world will be celebrating the birthday of Jesus Christ later this month. For many others who celebrate this holiday, the day will hold no religious significance. One unknown writer described the life of Jesus Christ in a story entitled "ONE SOLITARY LIFE."

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college.

He never traveled 200 miles from the place he was born.

He did none of these things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

When he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together,

(Continued from page 4)

this Christmas, and throughout the coming year.

Remember the words of Bro. Dave Gardner, "Beloved, the South might not always be right, but we ain't never wrong."

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, Dec. 15, at 6:00 p. m. for a joyous time together of snacks and fellowship, and an abbreviated Christmas program.

And bring a recruit.

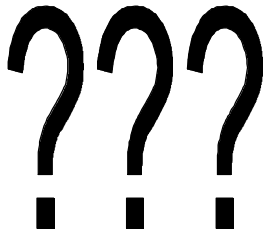
Deo Vindice
Randy Rogers,
Camp Commander



have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that "One Solitary Life."

My Christmas wish is that you and yours will have a blessed and safe Christmas, centered around the ONE whose birth we celebrate.

Sincerely,
Hubert W. Miazza
Chaplain



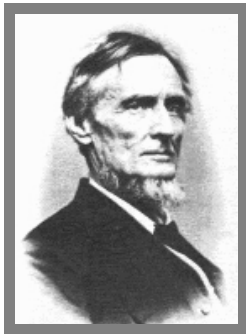
Trivia Question:

This month's question asks:

Who once said, "He looks so cold and quiet and grand." Name the speaker and the subject?

October's question asked: What happened 5/26/1863 that aided the Federal government's finances (and assured that Native Americans would all ultimately be hounded onto reservations)?

The answer: Gold was discovered in the Montana territory.



Commander's Column

TO MY FELLOW COMPATRIOTS:

Compatriots, I trust we all had a good Thanksgiving as we now turn the corner going into Christmas. This is a wonderful time of year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God sent His son to live among us and to show us the way to everlasting life, and it is my hope and prayer that we all will accept this gift from Him.

Most, if not all of our forefathers that fought bravely and courageously in the War of northern Aggression, accepted this gift from God above, and I believe if they were here today, they would tell us that this was the greatest gift ever given to man.

When you gather with friends and family this year for your Christmas celebration, I ask that you not only remember the real reason for the season, but also convey this to the others around you, and take a moment to share the Christmas story with the younger ones.

Also, think back to what it must have been like for our forefathers away from home and family, fighting to maintain the states rights expressed by the Founders of our country back in 1776, foraging for food to merely survive on, seeking warmth from ragged, torn and tattered clothing, and wondering how the family was back at Home. Thank God for the courage, stamina, character, values and integrity they maintained while away from loved ones. And even if only for just a moment, observe a moment of silence in their honor. If it were not for them, gentlemen, we would not be here today.

May God richly bless all the descendents of Confederate Soldiers during

(Continued on page 3)

**Jefferson Davis Camp #635
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