

Reveille



Sons of Confederate Veterans
Jefferson Davis Camp No. 635

* Volume LI * * PO Box 16945, Jackson, MS 39236 * * December 2022 * * Number 12*



December Meeting Annual Christmas Social

As in the past, the December meeting will be a Christmas social and not a regular meeting. Note the earlier meeting date of Monday, December the 12th to avoid conflict with Christmas.

Spouses are welcome, and everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite holiday dish to celebrate. Hopefully, the Dixie Hummingbirds and perhaps other musicians will be available to brighten the holiday festivities.

Everyone come and bring guests, especially new recruits!

When: December 12, 2022, 6:00 pm.

Where: Masonic Lodge, 7454 Old Canton Road, Madison, MS.



And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

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.

Luke 2:4-11
(KJV)

November Report

Lee and Jackson

The program for the November meeting was presented by Grady Howell who spoke on Generals Lee and Jackson.

In other business, fifteen books were donated to be given away. Members in attendance selected which ones they wanted.

December 12th was set as the date for the next meeting, the annual Christmas social. Members are asked to bring food as in the past. The Dixie Hummingbirds will present music and will invite other musicians to join in.

The camp welcomed a recuperating Dan Duggan back after an absence due to physical injuries.



Always carry your Bible...might save your life someday.

See ya in church.

DTH

Rebel Ramblings

by Robert Murphree

I had intended this to be a column all about Christmas in the Confederate Army but in the interim I ran across a little narrative I couldn't resist putting in here. Robert Stiles book Four Years Under Marse Robert is about as good a read as I have found, and at one point he was talking about some of the good chaplains in the army. Stiles remarks, "Easily the most marked man among them was Rev. William Benton Owen," who was chaplain of the 17th Miss.

Stiles described how Rev. Owen would not carry a gun but was always on the front line, where he would take care of the wounded of both sides, and help bury the dead--again, the dead of both sides. Rev. Owen carried with him a memorandum book in which he would write down the names of the Union dead he had helped bury, along with any addresses he could find, so he could later write their friends and family to tell them where the man was buried. Owen was wounded in the Wilderness in summer of 1864 as he was engaged in his work of mercy, later being sent home to recover. Unfortunately, not being a very strong person, Rev. Owen did not live long after getting home. In concluding his description of the man, Stiles said, "Few servants of God and man as noble and consecrated, as useful and beloved, as William Owen have lived in this world or left it for Heaven."

What a wonderful epitaph for any man! Wouldn't we all wish that the same could be said about us after we have crossed the river?

Henry Kyd Douglas wrote about the Christmas of 1862, when the army was still camped around Fredericksburg. He figured that it was a good time to "call" upon General Jackson to wish him a merry Christmas, hoping, successfully, that he would be invited to remain for Christmas dinner. The word had gotten out of all the good food that was going to be served and Douglas said he knew the officer in charge of the feast was well qualified to hold that responsibility. Douglas is responsible for the story about Jeb Stuart discovering that the butter General Jackson was serving had the image of a fighting cock stamped on it, which moved Stuart to bemoan "such an indication of moral degeneracy."

Robert Masten Holmes, of Kemper County, remarked in his diary that Christmas 1862 in the army was "very dull" compared to what it was before the war. But

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Visit the camp web site at:

<http://www.scvcamp635.org>

**Send changes in e-mail addresses to: csa4ever@att.net
Include changes to physical (mail) addresses and telephone numbers as well.**

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January 23, 2023

Plans to be determined

February 27, 2023

Plans to be determined

March 27, 2023

Plans to be determined

April 24, 2023

Plans to be determined

May 22, 2023

Plans to be determined

June 26, 2023

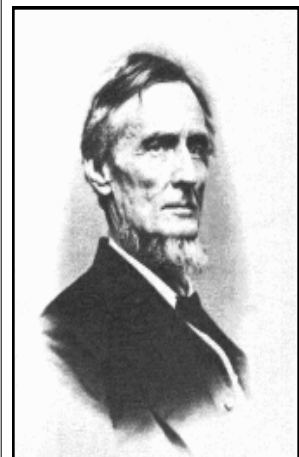
Plans to be determined

July 24, 2023

Plans to be determined

August 28, 2023

Plans to be determined



Chaplain's Dispatch

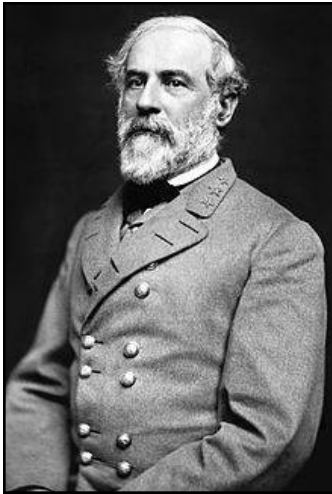
Dear Friends and Compatriots:

OPPORTUNITIES to Shine in 2023

Matthew 5:6 " let your light so shine before me , that they may see your good works (deeds , NIV) NKJV! In my younger years in ministry I heard someone stated about this verse; ' how do we make sure our achievements still point to Jesus? In John 3:21 was last thing Jesus told Nicodemus, " But he who does the truth comes to the light that his deeds be CLEARLY seen that they have been done IN God" NKJV!

Sincerely,

Rev. Glenn D. Shows
Chaplain



Strength of Character

Strength of character reinforced Lee's intelligence and bearing to give him a force of presence that enabled him to exert a remarkable influence on his soldiers and all others who came in contact with him. From a single conference with him during the war, the eminent British general Viscount Wolseyley wrote: "I have met many of the great men of my time, but Lee alone impressed me with the feeling that I was in the presence of a man of different and finer metal than all other men." -Charles P. Roland

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(Continued from page 2)

the high point for him was that some clothing was distributed to the soldiers by way of a Christmas present, though accompanied by the instruction that it would "be the last they will get for a good while." Poor man, he was captured before Atlanta and did not survive the comforts of Camp Douglas, another carefully ignored blot on the otherwise "pure" motives of the Federal authorities.

But it was the diary remarks of the father of Charles Blackford, a soldier in Lee's army, that makes my heart swell with pride. He thanks God for sparing his sons in the army, who "have been exposed to imminent dangers of many battlefields." He concludes his entry by saying, "May God grant that the many precious lives lost by us may not have been a vain sacrifice, but that peace and independence may reward the noble efforts our people have made for their liberty."

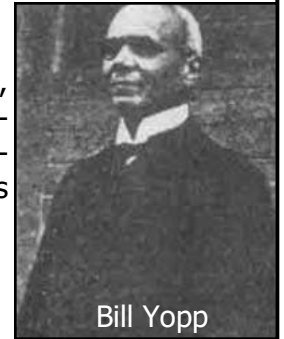
Let me echo this sentiment; let us redouble our efforts to keep the honor and reputation of the Confederate soldier alive so that all of our ancestors who made the ultimate sacrifice will not have done so in vain. Merry Christmas fellows, the opportunity to be with you men over the year is one of the high points of my experience.



Since this is a short month for the newsletter due to the early meeting date, I haven't had the usual time to find unique material so I'm "recycling" a couple of items (with Christmas connection) from several year ago.

A CHRISTMAS STORY: "Ten Cent Bill"

The year was 1919, one year after the end of World War I, and the people of Atlanta, Georgia were celebrating the Christmas Season. Many people attended Church or Synagogue and gave thanks to God for his many blessings. Folks, while shopping, were uplifted by sweet sounds of Christmas music played by the Salvation Army Band. There was a friendly and charitable atmosphere during this time of the year.



Bill Yopp

There were, however, some who were not as fortunate!

The aging veterans, in the Confederate Soldier's Home, were proud men who had braved many a battle in the 1860s. One of these men was former Captain Thomas Yopp who saw such battles as that of Fredericksburg where a cannon shell burst knocked him unconscious.

The man who stayed with him until he recovered was his servant who had also joined the 14th Georgia Regiment, Company H. Bill Yopp was more than a servant; he and Thomas Yopp were friends who hunted and fished together.

Bill Yopp, a Black Confederate, was sympathetic to the men of Atlanta's soldiers home who had been his compatriots in arms over fifty years earlier.

During the War Between the States, 1861-1865, Bill Yopp was nicknamed "Ten Cent Bill" because of the money he made shining shoes. He did this for the soldiers at a dime a shine and ended up with more money than most of his comrades. These men, also, cared for him when he was sick.

During the Christmas of 1919, Bill wanted to pay back the kindness that was shown to him. He caught a train from Atlanta to Macon, where he was offered help from the editor of a local newspaper [The Macon Telegraph]. He then caught a train to Savannah to raise Christmas money for the old veterans. Bill met many generous people on his trip.

Just weeks before the Christmas of 1919, he had raised the money and Georgia's Governor Hugh Dorsey helped him distribute envelopes of three dollars to each veteran. That was a lot of money in those days.

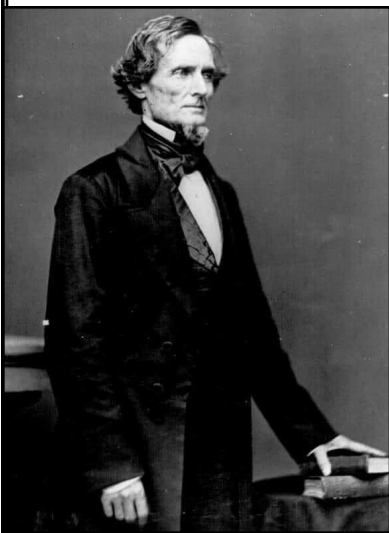
The old Confederates were speechless. Tears were shed because of Bill Yopp's good heart and kind deed. Many of these men had little or nothing. Bill was invited to come into the home's Chapel and say a few words.

Bill Yopp was later presented a medal of appreciation for his support of the old soldiers and also voted in as a resident of the Confederate Soldier's Home.

Bill died on June 3, 1936, the 128th birthday of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He was buried at Marietta, Georgia's Confederate Cemetery with his compatriots.

The Confederate Soldier's Home was located at 401 Confederate Ave., in Atlanta, Georgia.

The source of information for this story came from the book, entitled: Bill Yopp "Ten Cent Bill" Narrative of a Slave! This book was written in 1969 by Charles W. Hampton.



AS APPLICABLE TODAY AS IT WAS BACK THEN

"Again do I call the people of the Confederacy, a people who believe that the Lord reigneth and that His overruling Providence ordereth all things, to unite in prayer and humble submission under His chastening hand and to beseech His favor on our suffering country." President Jefferson Davis

Source: Christ in the Camp or Religion in the Confederate Army by Rev. J W. JONES, 1904

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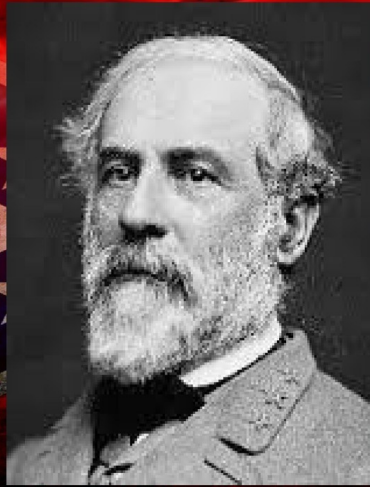
Our Old Heroes

Forrest's Cavalry on parade in Little Rock Ark May 18, 1911



It's a shame we can't get crowds like this today to honor our men in gray who endured so much.

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**"We had, I was satisfied, sacred principles to maintain,
and rights to defend,
for which we were in duty bound to do our best,
even if we perished in the endeavor...
If it were all to be done over again,
I would act in precisely the same manner."**



"The visions we have cherished of a free and independent country have vanished and that country is now the spoil of the conqueror." ~John Singleton Mosby from his farewell speech to his command April 21, 1865~

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LEE AND THE COURIER

Here's a short story about General Lee's humanity that supports the saying, "The best sermon is a life well lived."

In January 1864, Colonel Chapman went to Petersburg to see General Lee about moving a part of Mosby's command for the remainder of the winter near Kinsale on the Potomac River. While the Colonel was talking to General Lee, they were interrupted by the arrival of a special courier. The day was very cold. There had been rain for several days, but on this day the rain had fallen in torrents, evening was coming on. Rations and clothing were very scarce.

The courier was wretchedly clad. His uniform was very much worn and soaking wet, for he had written many miles that day in the drenching rain. General Lee drew a chair to a small wood fire and bade the man to take a seat. When he had concluded his errand and was thoroughly warmed, he rose to go.

General Lee glanced at him almost furtively, as if he felt that the soldier was ashamed to have his poor attire observed and inquired, "Are you returning at once to your General?"

"Yes, Sir, if my horse has finished feeding."

"It is still raining very hard," said General Lee. "Have you no rubber coat?"

"Oh... that don't matter General," was the evasive, but brave answer.

Then Col. Chapman watched General Lee remain silent for a moment. The General then walked to the wall where his rubber coat hung, took it down and gave it to the soldier, who protested in vain against General Lee depriving himself. As related to Alexander Hunter by Colonel Chapman.

Source: Civil War Treasury, by B.A. Botkin, pages 423-424

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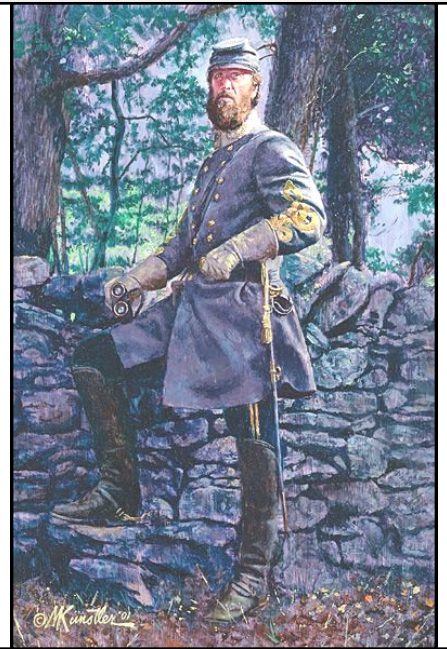
STONEWALL...

"No man ever lived who was further removed from egotism. Even his most intimate friend never heard him mention his own brilliant military career, of his own accord; nor did he ever speak of his family or kindred, many of whom, by their talents and social position, might have afforded topics for a boastful man." R.L. Dabney

Source: LIFE AND CAMPAIGNS OF LIEUT.-GEN. THOMAS J. JACKSON, (STONEWALL JACKSON.) BY R. L. DABNEY, 1866.

Photo: Artwork of Mort Kunstler

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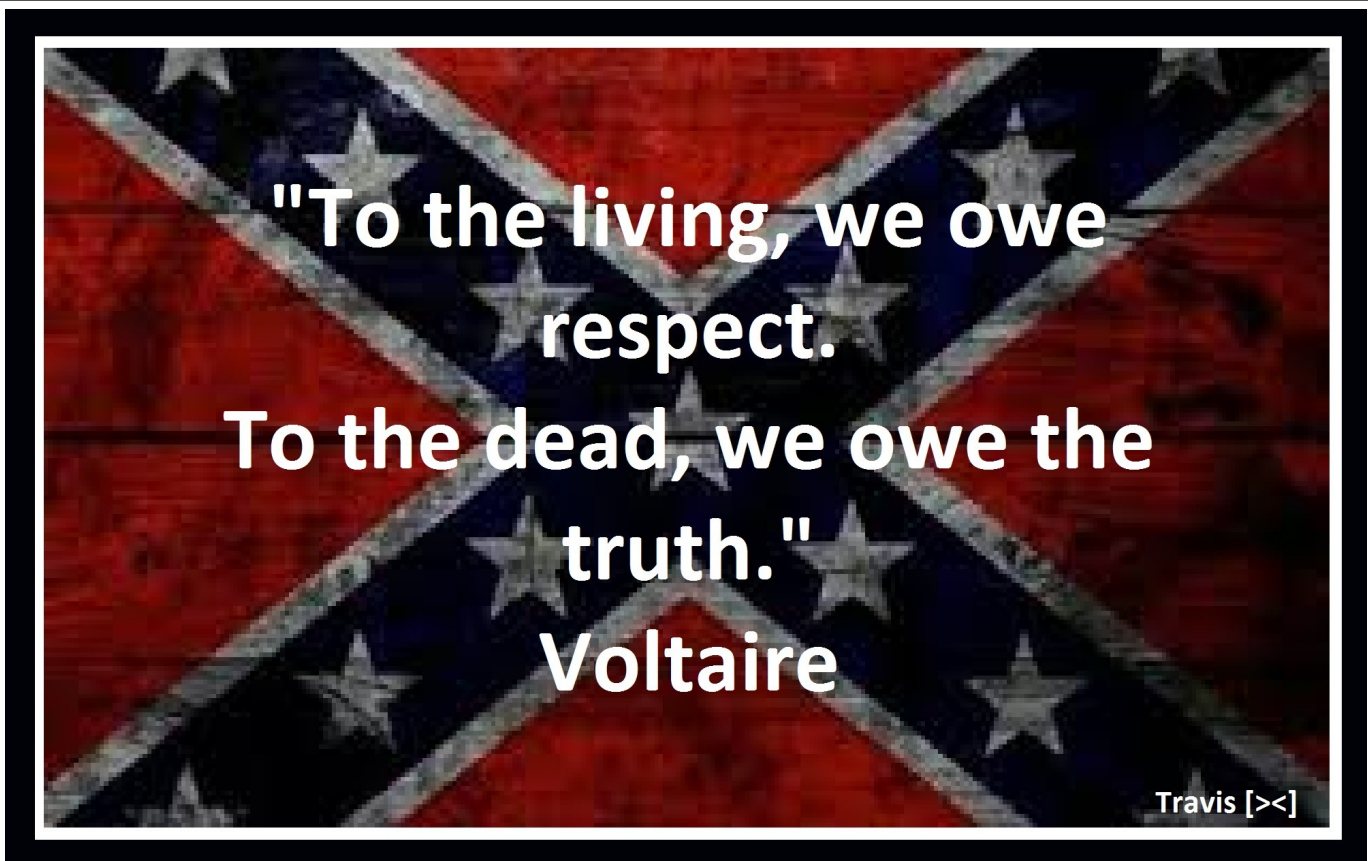
A COLD, WINTERY MARCH

In February 1863, General George E. Pickett wrote to his wife about the hardships his men bore. I can't even begin to imagine how these men endured.

"Why, my darling, during these continuous ten days' march, the ground snowy and sleety, the feet of many of these soldiers covered only with improvised moccasins of raw beef hide, and hundreds of them without shoes or blankets or overcoats, they have not uttered one word of complaint, nor one murmuring tone; but cheerfully, singing and telling stories, they have tramped – tramped - tramped."

Photo: Art work of John Paul Strain, "Return to Clark's Mountain"

DTH



TRUTH: THE COMPELLING EVIDENCE:

It appears from the statement found in Gardner's book, "Acts of the Republican Party as seen by History," that there was a time before revisionist got a hold of our educational system that some Northern men understood what really had transpired. Here is one Yankee's confession about his views on the war and its aftermath:

"The educated North has changed much in the last few years, and today looks upon the course of their section from '60 to '70 with much disapproval. A prominent Republican and an ex-Union soldier recently said to the writer: 'I look back upon my former sentiments on these questions with astonishment; I can't understand how I could ever have thought as I did.' Could any Southern man write more beautifully of our dead than a Northern Republican recently wrote?"

Source: Acts of the Republican Party as Seen by History, by Gardner, C, 1906.

Link to free e-book: <https://archive.org/details/actsofrepUBLICan00gard>

DTH

Merry Christmas

Remembering Confederates

**Colonel Santos Benavides**

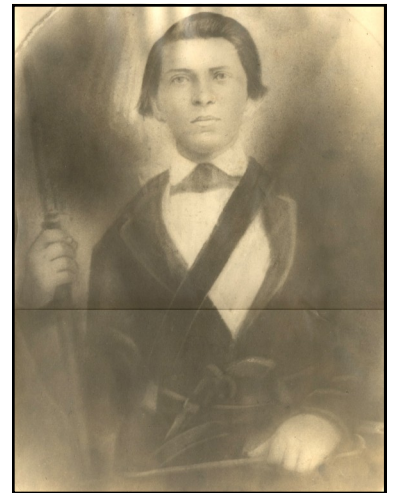
One of the most well-known Hispanic Confederates in the Civil War was Colonel Santos Benavides. Before the Civil War, Benavides was the Mayor of Laredo in Webb County, Texas, and was elected as County Judge for the area in 1859. Once Texas seceded from the Union, he became the commander of the 33rd Texas Cavalry Regiment and the highest-ranking Tejano in the Confederate army. In 1863, he helped secure passage of Confederate cotton to Matamoros, Mexico, to bypass the Union blockade of Southern ports. This operation allowed the South to export their goods and raise much-needed funds for the Confederate army. A year later, he played a crucial role in driving off Union forces from Brownsville, Texas, and stopped them from destroying cotton in the area. After the war, he remained active in local politics and served in the Texas State Legislature from 1879 to 1885.

Posted to the Facebook page of American Battlefield Trust

Sgt. Martin Ball Hill

Sgt. Martin Ball Hill, "Fredonia Hards", Company C, 27th Mississippi Infantry. Hill enlisted on 27 July 1861 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. He was present until 24 November 1863 when he was severely wounded and captured at Chattanooga, Tennessee. He survived his wound and the war. Hill died on 19 May 1882 and is buried in Plantersville, Lee County, Mississippi.

Posted to the Facebook page of Mississippi Confederate Images. Shared by H. Grady Howell, Jr., Historian and Author.



Pvt. Thomas Emmet Tucker

Pvt. Thomas Emmet Tucker, Company A, 11th Mississippi Infantry. Tucker enlisted at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia on 8 June 1861 according to his records. The rest of his records are a little confusing. But, it appears he was wounded on 21 July 1861 at the Battle of 1st Manassas. It appears he was then mortally wounded on 23 July 1861 near Manassas when a pistol fell from the belt of an officer who was beside Tucker. The pistol discharged, killing him.


Posted to the Facebook page of Mississippi Confederate Images.

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contribution to the orphan's tree, my little ones rushed over the great house looking up their treasure eyeless dolls, three-legged horses, tops with the upper peg broken off, rubber tops, monkeys with all the squeak gone silent and all the ruck of children's toys that gather in a nursery closet. Some small feathered chickens and parrots which nodded their heads in obedience to a weight beneath them were furnished with new tail feathers, lambs minus much of their wool were supplied with a cotton wool substitute, rag dolls were plumped out and recovered with clean cloth, and the young ladies painted their fat faces in bright colors and furnished them with beads for eyes."

When the orphans received their gifts, "the different gradations from joy to ecstasy which illuminated their faces was 'worth two years of peaceful life' to see."

Taken from the web page of the Civil War Trust, <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/on-the-homefront/culture/christmas-in-the-confederacy.html>



ONE BRIEF REMARK ILLUSTRATES WHAT JACKSON'S MEN THOUGHT OF HIM...

"Who is this Major Jackson?" it was asked.

"He is one," was the reply, "who, if you order him to hold a post, will never leave it alive to be occupied by the enemy."



"The Framers had a deathly fear of federal government abuse. They saw state sovereignty as a protection. That's why they gave us the Ninth and 10th Amendments. They saw secession as the ultimate protection against Washington tyranny." ~Walter Williams ~

Photo: Walter Williams

DTH

The British weren't fooled...

"The Union Government "liberates" the enemy's slaves as it does the enemy's cattle, simply to weaken them further in the conflict, The principle is not that a human being cannot justly own another, but that he cannot own him unless he is loyal to the United States". ~William Howard Russell~ London Times, Oct. 23rd 1862



Photo: William Howard Russell
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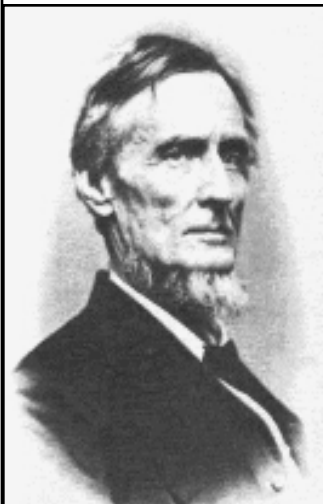
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Trivia Question:

December's question asks:
Which US POW camp had the highest number of deaths of Confederates imprisoned?

November's question asked:
The six lower states of the South seceded and sent delegates to discuss the formation of the CSA. What event triggered the upper Southern states to secede?

The answer: The firing on Fort Sumter.



Commander's Column

Commander Jackson has no column this month

The following article is a reprint from several years ago.

Christmas in the Confederacy

Excerpts below were written by Varina Davis, the wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, describing Christmas of 1864 in the Confederate White House in Richmond, Virginia.



"For as Christmas season was ushered in under the darkest clouds, everyone felt the cataclysm which impended but the rosy, expectant faces of our little children were a constant reminder that self-sacrifice must be the personal offering of each member of the family."

Due to the blockades around Confederate states, families could not find certain types of food and merchandise for their holiday celebrations, and available items were outrageously priced. The Southerners had to substitute many of the ingredients in the favorite Christmas recipes, and they had to make most of their gifts and tree decorations.

In Richmond, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family lived, it was discovered that the orphans at the Episcopalian home had been previously promised a Christmas tree, toys, and candy. The excerpt below shows how the people of Richmond creatively worked together to bring Christmas to the orphans in spite of the war's shortages.

"The kind-hearted confectioner was interviewed by our committee of managers, and he promised a certain amount of his simpler kinds of candy, which he sold easily a dollar and a half a pound, but he drew the line at cornucopias to hold it, or sugared fruits to hang on the tree, and all the other vestiges of Christmas creations which had lain on his hands for years. The ladies dispersed in anxious squads of toy-hunters, and each one turned over the store of her children's treasures for a

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**Jefferson Davis Camp #635
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