

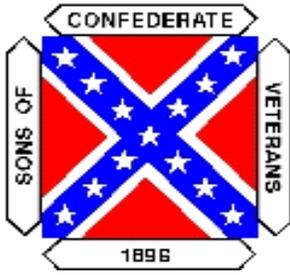


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Sons of Confederate Veterans
Jefferson Davis Camp No. 635

* Volume XLVI * * PO Box 16945, Jackson, MS 39236 * * February 2017 * * Number 2*



February Meeting Bill Lee Program on Major General Fox Connor

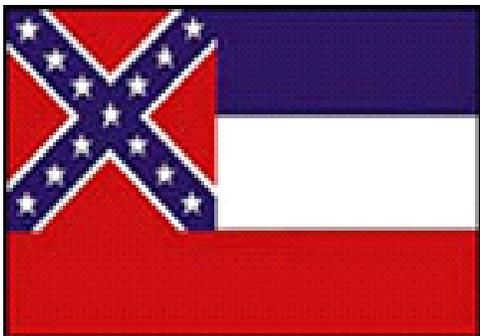
The January meeting will feature a program by Bill Lee on Major General Fox Conner whose father, Blind Bob Conner, was in the 41st Mississippi Infantry.

Everyone come and bring guests, especially new recruits!

When: February 28, 2017, 5:30 pm.

Where: Municipal Art Gallery, State St., Jackson.

See you there!



So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

*Matthew 24:33-37
(KJV)*

January Meeting Report

Virginia Battlefields

The January meeting featured a presentation by Robert Murphree on his visits to Virginia battlefield sites.

Thoughts from General Lee

"Every brave people who considered their rights attacked and their constitutional liberties invaded would have done as we did.

"Our conduct was not caused by any insurrectional spirit, nor can it be termed a rebellion; for our construction of the Constitution under which we lived and acted was the same from its adoption, and for eighty years we had been taught and educated by the founders of the Republic, and their written declarations, which controlled our consciences and actions.

"The epithets that have been heaped upon us of 'rebels' and 'traitors' have no just meaning, nor are they believed in by those who understand the subject, even at the North..."

—Robert E. Lee, explaining his actions in a postwar letter to R.S. McCulloch

Rebel Ramblings

by Robert Murphree

Editor's Note: Due to computer problems Robert Murphree's regular "Rebel Ramblings" is not available this month. Robert promises to have something in March. Coincidentally with Robert's computer problems, I received a message from long-time camp friend Joan Meyer offering her review of a new book on the secession of Mississippi. So this month we're going to let Joan have Robert's space.

Joan's review follows:

I have just read The Mississippi Secession Convention by Timothy B. Smith. It was written up in the Clarion-Ledger one Sunday and it was just as good as indicated in the story.

The basis of the historical work is the delegates and deliberations of the 100 men who removed Mississippi from the Union of the US. The facts are highly footnoted from good sources. The author was not trying to establish any particular position on the slavery issue but rather how slavery and politics influenced the thinking of the delegates' opinions.

Several controversial people have said that the entire cause of the war was slavery as proven by the Ordinance of Secession. This book shows how slavery permeated Mississippi in all areas of society, politics and economics and how that affected the men who separated their state from the Union. The issue of growing abolitionist power in the North changed the political and economic position of the South.

Timothy Smith shows how the delegates argued their beliefs whether for secession or for cooperation. He reveals that the richer men, who had more to lose, might be just as pro-secession as the poorer man, who owned no slaves, was against staying in the Union because Mississippi was becoming a second-class state through loss of power in the US Congress and the election of Abraham Lincoln. Many people believed that war was inevitable with secession. The possibility of war did not seem to influence their positions on either side. Once it was decided, the delegates joined the military or political arena for their state's independence.

The final chapters detail what happened to the delegates during and after the war. All but one worked for the Confederacy or Mississippi in some capacity. Many of them fought and 13 died for the Cause even if they had not originally been for secession. The importance of Mississippi to most of them continued until their death - some returned to their native states after the war.

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Calendar

February 28, 2017

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

March 28, 2017

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

April 22, 2017

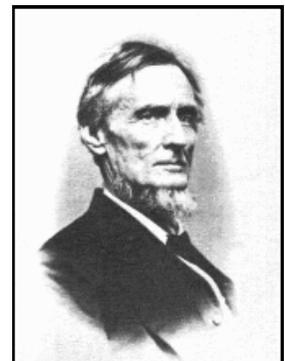
Cemetery cleanup for Confederate Memorial Day

April 23, 2017

Confederate Memorial Day observance at Greenwood Cemetery in Jackson

April 25, 2017

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery



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

DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are not necessarily the views or opinions of this editor, the Jefferson Davis Camp 635, or any member thereof.

Chaplain's Dispatch

Dear Friends and Compatriots:

Never Too Old

In Luke 2 there were two old people, Simeon and Anna who recognized Jesus and even held the baby! Dr. David Jeremiah stated, "...both declared His identity, both offered prayers and blessings to Baby Jesus! The only saints who don't get used by God are those who have removed themselves from service!"

Sincerely,

Rev. Glenn D. Shows
Chaplain

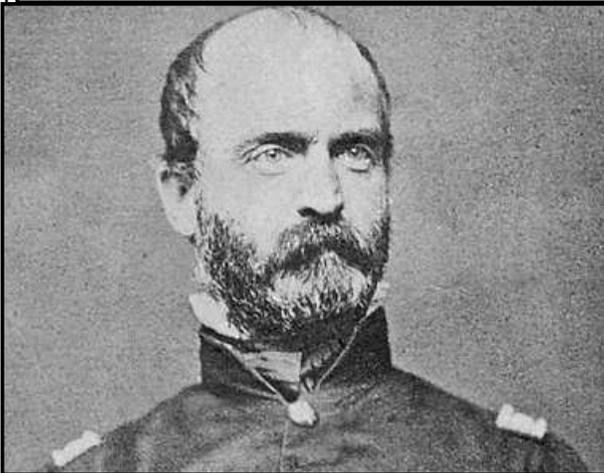
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This is definitely a "history" book rather than a novel but it is very well-written and researched. I would recommend it to anyone interested in Mississippi history and the War Between the States in particular.

Joan Meyer

Visit the camp web site at:

<http://www.scvcamp635.org>



Lewis Addison Armistead 1817-1863

Confederate general Lewis Addison Armistead was born February 18, 1817 in New Bern, North Carolina.

Armistead is most famously remembered for the third day at Gettysburg. During the battle, he led his brigade during Pickett's Charge, fixing his hat on the point of sword and reputedly urging his men to "remember what you are fighting for – your homes, your friends, your sweethearts!"

He and a handful of Virginians and Tennesseans under his command succeeded in crossing the stone wall where, in the words of James McPherson, "Armistead was mortally wounded with his hand on a Yankee cannon and his followers fell like leaves in an autumn wind." The spot where Armistead and his men fell, a bend in the wall that became known as "the angle," is regarded by many as the 'high-water mark' of the Confederacy.

Armistead was taken to a Federal field hospital, where he requested that his watch and other valuables be given to his friend Hancock, who had faced him that day from the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge. Armistead died two days later on July 5, and was buried in his family plot in St. Paul's Churchyard in Baltimore.

From a posting by the Civil War Trust by way of a reposting on the Facebook page of "Defending



Sara Colquit of the Sam Raney Plantation at Camp Hill, Alabama: "We usta have some good times. We could have all the fun we wanted on Sa'dday nights, and we sho had it, cuttin' monkey shines, and dancing all night long. Sometimes our mistis would come down early to watch us." *The Slave Narratives*

Conversely under Union occupation...a letter by Charles Stevenas to Lt. J. H. Metcalf (Acting Assistant Adjutant General) on Jan. 27, 1863 describes working conditions of contrabands at Kenner, La.: "The reason the negroes gave for their filthy conditions was that they had no time to clean up in. On inquiry I found they have worked from sunrise till dark, Sundays included, since last Sept. ..."

The drawing depicts contraband ("liberated" slaves) traveling with a troop of Union soldiers. Contraband camps were located on the outskirts of Union encampments.

"My cattle at home are better cared for than these unfortunate persons." --Col. Frank S. Nickerson, U.S. Army

Elsewhere at Fortress Monroe in the Virginia theatre, Lewis C. Lockwood, a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts testifies that this kind of abuse was committed on a widespread extent. In a letter dated Jan 29, 1862 he writes: "Contrabandism at Fortress Monroe is but another name for one of the worst forms of practical oppression -Government slavery. Old Pharaoh slavery was government slavery and Uncle Sam's slavery is a counterpart..."

From the Facebook page of "Defending the Heritage."



South Carolina Monument to "Faithful Slaves"

LAST DESPERATE DAYS



In my research over the years the thing that moved me the most about this conflict was the Confederate Veteran sitting in camp that last year of the war reading letters from home; letters that told them of the devastation and how their children were starving; letters that begged for their return. The men agonized and wept reading them; their hearts breaking because they were torn between a sense of duty to their fallen comrades and the need to protect and provide for their families. Many thought of leaving that last desperate year of the war, but still faced another battle reluctant to give up for fear their childhood friends would have died in vain.

I feel their anguish in every ounce of my being, almost as if I had sat there with them on those last fateful days of war. Talk about anguish of soul and spirit. It brings a tear to my eye just thinking of it now. I guess that's why we do what we do here at Defending the Heritage.

Travis (Defending the Heritage Facebook page)

Photo used: "Return Home" by William Gilbert Gaul. Found in the Birmingham Museum of Art. Minor text editing done by this editor.

YANKEE TERRORIZING CHILDREN...

A mother recounted a traumatic incident during Sherman's march. "When Union soldiers invaded her home, her six-year-old daughter hid with her treasures—a bar of soap and her doll. One of the men approached the bed, and finding it warm, in a dreadful language accused us of harboring and concealing a wounded rebel, and he swore he would have his heart's blood.

"He stooped to look under the bed, and seeing the little white figure crouching in a distant corner, caught her by one rosy, little foot and dragged her forth. The child was too terror-stricken to cry, but clasped her little baby and her soap fast to her throbbing little heart. The man wrenched both from her and thrust the little one away with such violence that she fell against the bed.

"Such scenes created vivid memories and tales oft repeated. So throughout the war, and the years to come, the mere mention of "Yankees" might strike terror in Confederate children, stimulating fears that haunted them in darkened bedrooms or around dying campfires."



*From the Facebook page of "Defending the Heritage," original source of text was the NPS website
Photo used: Unknown child, however the look on her face made her the right fit for this post.*

Here are two men the PC historians wish didn't exist.

Joe Wiley at age 90 (on the left) and Howard Divinity, age 91 taken at Brice's Crossroads in June of 1921. Yeah...we know: They aren't supposed to exist or if they do, they were FORCED to be there, they didn't really fight, they were promised junk, they weren't really in the army, they wore masks, blah, blah, blah....

Joe was with Co A 7th GA and Howard was with Co A 12th MS. This information along with the photo is courtesy of Mississippi Department of History and Archives.

From the FB page of Southern Historical Society



More on Blacks in the Confederate Army

Although the Confederacy did not officially enlist blacks until almost the end of the War, there were states that were allowed to enlist blacks within their states in 1861. To dispel this, or deny this is a distortion of history.....below are some letters/quotes that support the "Black Confederate Soldier"

Here is a letter from 10 Sep. 1862 from the Union Sanitation Commission Inspector Dr. Louis Steiner, he saw Confederates march through Fredrick, Md, here is what he wrote about:

"At four o'clock this morning the Rebel army began to move from our town, Jackson's force taking the advance. The movements continued until eight o'clock P.M., occupying sixteen hours. The most liberal calculation could not give them more than 64,000 men. Over 3,000 (blacks) must be included in this number. These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, but in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. These were shabby, but not shabbier or seedier than those worn by white men in the Rebel ranks. Most of the (blacks) had arms, rifles, muskets, sabres, bowie knives, disks, etc. They were supplied, in many instances, with knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, etc., and were an integral portion of the Southern Confederacy Army. They were riding horses, mules, driving wagons, riding caissons, in ambulances, with the staff of generals, and promiscuously mixed with all the Rebel horde. The fact was patent, and rather interesting when considered

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in connection with the horror rebels express at the suggestion of black soldiers being employed for the national defense."

(<http://www.americancivilwarforum.com/black-confederates-the-stiener-report-frederick-md-1862-114364.html>)

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On March 3, 1863, The New York Herald reported that Joseph Hooker- Commander of the Union Army at that time stated that "the pickets of the enemy along certain portions of the line on the opposite side of the Rappahannock are one-half (black) and one-half white men. The (black soldiers) are armed and uniformed the same as the whites. The fact appears beyond question only 100-130 yards intervening between our pickets and the enemies and they are plainly distinguished without the aid of a glass."

(This article from The New York Herald is currently copyrighted by newsbank,2004)

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National Park Service historian, Ed Bearrs, stated, "I don't want to call it a conspiracy to ignore the role of Blacks both above and below the Mason-Dixon line, but it was definitely a tendency that began around 1910" Historian, Erwin L. Jordan, Jr., calls it a "cover-up" which started back in 1865. He writes, "During my research, I came across instances where Black men stated they were soldiers, but you can plainly see where 'soldier' is crossed out and 'body servant' inserted, or 'teamster' on pension applications." Another black historian, Roland Young, says he is not surprised that blacks fought. He explains that "...some, if not most, Black southerners would support their country" and that by doing so they were "demonstrating it's possible to hate the system of slavery and love one's country." This is the very same reaction that most African Americans showed during the American Revolution, where they fought for the colonies, even though the British offered them freedom if they fought for them.

Historian Ervin Jordan, explains that "biracial units" were frequently organized "by local Confederate and State militia Commanders in response to immediate threats in the form of Union raids...".

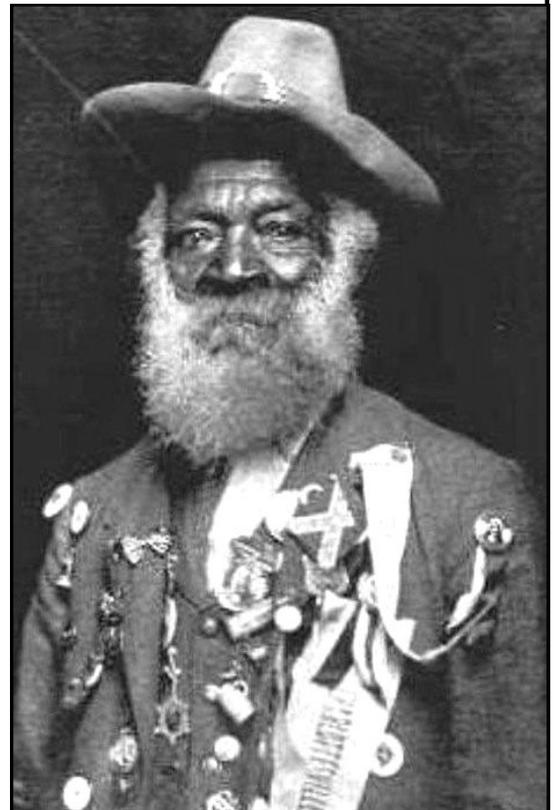
Frederick Douglas reported, "There are at the present moment many Colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but real soldiers, having musket on their shoulders, and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down any loyal troops and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government and build up that of the...rebels."

(<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/county/stlouis/blackcs.htm>)

There are many more sources out there, one thing that stands out to me is that when you read about black soldiers in the North they were segregated, (all black regiments, like 54th Mass, etc) but when you see black soldiers in the Confederate Army they are not segregated but integrated.....

This just shows what you can dig up if you don't approach a subject of research with pre-conceived beliefs, (or on the "politically correct" bandwagon....)

An article submitted by "Chris" to the Facebook page of "Defending the Heritage"



Unknown Confederate Veteran

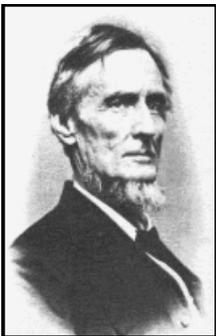
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Trivia Question:

This month's question asks: This man was the only Confederate general to switch sides to the CSA after beginning the war in command of a cavalry unit for the Union. Who was he?

January's question asked: This Confederate also has a birthday in January but he is not celebrated as often as Lee and Jackson. This is perhaps due to his hesitancy in acting in a pivotal battle and his subsequent criticism of other revered Confederates when defending his actions. Who is he?

The answer:
Lt. Gen. James Longstreet, born January 8, 1821, died January 2, 1904.



Commander's Column

Commander Jackson has no column this month

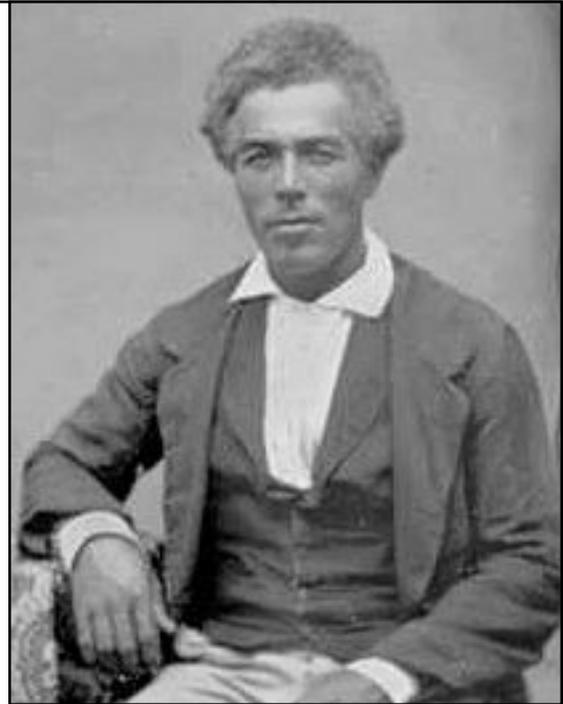
**Horace King
—Architect for the
Confederacy!**

Did you ever hear of Horace King? Probably not unless you are extremely well read on WBTS history. Once you read his story, you'll know why the PC historians of today don't want him remembered or discussed.

Horace King was born a slave in 1807 in SC. In 1830 his owner died and Horace was sold to an architect named Godwin. Horace took an interest in architecture and had a talent for it. Horace's reputation as a builder spread and he came to the attention of an AL lawyer named Jemison. Jemison and Horace had quite a few ventures, not the least of which were bridges spanning the Chattahoochee River and the reconstruction of the AL state capitol in 1849. Jemison orchestrated Horace's freedom by an act of the AL legislature in 1846.

Horace built numerous bridges for the Confederacy during the War Between the States, and supplied logs, nails (which were really wooden pegs) and over 15,000 feet of lumber for the construction of the CSS Jackson, an ironclad gunboat for the Confederate States Navy. That ship now resides at the Columbus National "civil war" Navy Museum.

From a posting on the Facebook page of "Defending the Heritage" by the Mid-South Flaggers. Some editing of text done for readability. Editing of image done to improve fit and clarity in the newsletter formatting.



HORACE KING - 1807-1885

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