

The Delta General



This Issue: Merry Christmas

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

December 2024, Volume 27, Issue 12

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Commander's Comments — Michael Anthony

Greetings friends of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We are now in the heart of the holiday season, the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is the time where most of the leaves have fallen, the skies are alternately sunny or gray and gloomy, darkness comes early in the afternoon and leaves late in the morning; and hopefully, the air is crisp and cold.

Unfortunately, in our present society, we hear the following all too often during December: "I am just so busy", "Where has the time gone"? Our running from here to there and everywhere and trying to get the perfect gift for just about everybody we know and attending five Christmas parties every week for three weeks sometimes precludes us from remembering the reason we celebrate Christmas or why we should be excited about the coming new year. If you want to think about the meaning of Christmas and the anticipation of the New Year, than open your most recent copy of "Confederate Veteran" and read the article "General Lee and Family Gather at Lexington to Enjoy Their First Christmas" by Mark Vogl. This fantastic retrospective of General Lee and his family's first Christmas in his last home is a great opportunity to remember that family and home, being together and enjoying the blessing that is every one of us is the best part about Christmas. Yes the presents are nice; and I hope you received the Confederate-themed gift you really wanted this year, but I also hope you have a great time being with those you love and you get to remember that peace, health, and happiness are truly priceless.

This season, I am so excited for the future of our Great United States of America. After four years of withering attacks on all things Confederate, the American people chose a leadership that should be much more friendly and understanding to Confederate history and heritage. I have great hope that our great Reconciliation Monument at Arlington National Cemetery will be restored to its rightful location; the abhorrent Congressional Naming Commission will immediately be disbanded, and the monuments of our American heroes like Robert E Lee will be further protected; and those monuments that were dismantled will be re-erected. The American people emphatically spoke in favor of Confederate history and heritage. We can all thank God and be grateful for this support as we Live the Charge and tell the truth about the War Between the States and Reconstruction.

After all the presents have been unwrapped, the Christmas decorations returned to the attic, and the fireworks of New Year's Eve have exploded, a new year begins; and with it, our Camp's Lee-Jackson Banquet. This year, the Lee-Jackson Banquet will begin at five o'clock on the evening of Saturday, January 11. Our featured speaker will be the Historian of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Mister Forrest Dawes of Waynesboro, Mississippi. Mister Daws is a phenomenal speaker who is very well versed on the Confederate Monuments of Mississippi as well as the different flags that flew for the various armies, divisions, and brigades of the Confederate Army and Navy. The Lee-Jackson Banquet is a fantastic time of reunion, fellowship, food, and learning. Please come to the Banquet and support the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp. Remember, coming to the Lee-Jackson Banquet is not for us: it is for them. If you are a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, you took an oath to Live the Charge. Coming to the Lee-Jackson Banquet is an example of Living the Charge. I hope to see you all there.

As we end 2024, let me wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year. May God bless each one of you in the coming year with peace, safety, happiness, and health. And may God bless the memory of our Confederate ancestors and the noble, honorable, and righteous Cause for which they fought.

Deo Vindice,
Michael Anthony

Lee/Jackson Banquet—January 11, 2025

Lets make plans to attend our annual Lee/Jackson Banquet at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be MS Division Lt. Commander Forrest Daws. The ladies will have their Silent Auction with many prizes. If you have any prizes to donate please bring them to the meeting in December and give them to Annette McCluney.

Remember, its \$5.00 per person to help pay for expenses and bring a dish to compliment the entrée that the Camp will provide. The attire for the night is Sunday Church dress or Period attire.

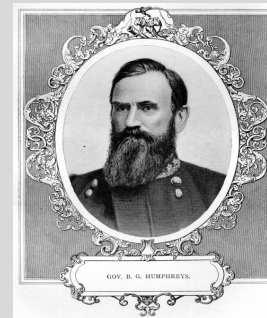
Let us all turn out for this get together and fellowship to celebrate two great Southern men's birthdays.

December 14, Camp Meeting

This year's Camp meeting will feature our Christmas gathering. We are asking everyone to bring your favorite finger food dish as we gather to celebrate Christmas and remember the four long Christmases that our ancestors spent away from home to fight for a just Cause. We will also take time out to finalize all plans for our Lee/Jackson Banquet. Please come out and enjoy the fellowship and bring family and friends as we share in this fellowship and remembrance.



SCV Chat — Every Monday Night on Facebook at 7:00 PM Central time and on Thursday Nights at 7:00 PM for Look Around the Confederation



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Larry McCluney
Camp Commander / Editor:
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From the Chaplain's pen... Earl McCown

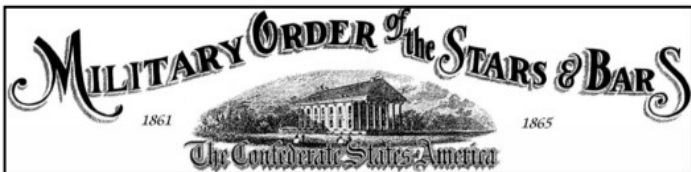
Tried and True Faith 1 Peter 1:6-7

As Christians we sometimes suffer through trials where we can't see any rhyme or reason. But, God has a purpose in everything we face. Trials of our faith will surely come. We should expect them and be ready for them. No Christian is immune from them, Don't think you're an abnormal Christian when the trials show up. Trials come in many different varieties. Just when you think you've got one thing figured out something else pops up. You can't anticipate when they'll come or what they will be. Trials bring grief, and hit us really hard. We don't understand why things like these happen like they do. Things get out of control and we don't know how to react to it. Trials will test us with fire. Fire burns. Trials get hot sometimes. I don't believe you will ever have a pleasant trial.

I believe these trials are necessary and needed. Trials come along and remind us of who we are or better yet what we are – mere humans. God places these trials before us to prepare us for life. God isn't playing with us. He is not some mean God that torments us for no reason. He has a positive purpose for every trial we face. He uses everything to bring us closer to Him; for His glory! We never know the reason for the trials. Bit God does. Think of Jobs trials. We should believe the trials we find ourselves in have a purpose in the will of God. When we find ourselves in a trial, we should remember God is working. We should look at the trial as God working to bring us closer to Him. There is a purpose to your trial. You might even find the trial to be a blessing!

With every trial, our faith is tested. Our faith is refined in the fire. How is gold refined? It passes over and over through fire to burn the dross out. Everything it comes out of the fire it gets purer than it was before. Fire tries our faith, every time we pass through the trials of life, our faith becomes purer and purer. We learn about ourselves in these trials. We learn we are not as powerful as we think we are. We learn we are not in control like we want to be. We learn that we have to seek Someone higher than us to bring us through. We learn about Jesus during our trials. We there is no one else to turn to. We learn that only the grace of God can bring us through. We learn He is faithful, and will never leave us nor forsake us. We find ourselves more comfortable leaning on Jesus.

Our tested faith will bring praise, honor and glory to Jesus Christ. There are things that happen that we can't explain. But we can be sure that God has a purpose in all we go through. We love Jesus even though we don't see Him. We believe Jesus even though we don't see Him. And we can rejoice in the outcome of our faith – our salvation.



General Charles Clark Chapter, MOS&B

During the War Between the States, as in all other wars, with their major full scale battles and even the minor skirmishing, there are small events that are mostly overlooked, I bring to your attention one small facet of such an action from the Battle of Port Gibson, Mississippi.

On April 30, 1863, Confederate Brigadier General Martin E. Green deployed his brigade along the Rodney Road just east of the Magnolia Church. His thin line of four small regiments was strengthened by four guns of the Pettus Flying Artillery. At 5:30 a.m., Maty 1, the Federals advanced in overwhelming numbers along the Rodney Road toward Green's position. It was not long before his line was hard pressed and the artillery unit ran out of ammunition. Green was reinforced shortly after 8 o'clock by two guns of the Botetourt (Virginia) Artillery and the 23rd Alabama Infantry. Even so, he could not stem the Federals advance. At 10:00 a.m. the Federals surged forward, captured the guns of the Virginia battery, and drove the Confederates from their position.

As Green's men scrambled to the rear, the brigades of Confederate Brigadier General William Baldwin and Colonel Francis Cochran arrived and established a new line between White and Irwin branches of Willow Creek. Here the battle was renewed at mid-afternoon. The Confederates fought tenaciously but were non match for the powerful Union battle lines which came on relentlessly. At 5:30 p.m. Bowen telegraphed his superiors in Jackson, "I am falling back across Bayou Pierre. The men did nobly, holding out the whole day against overwhelming odds."



This seemed to be the beginning of the end, The Union army was to go on and be victorious over the outnumbered Confederate army.

In June, 1863, Brigadier General Green was shot through the head by a Federal sniper and died almost instantly.

Trials and Triumphs of the 11th Tennessee Regiment

Organized in the summer of 1861, the 11th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Confederate States Army, was a Civil War fighting unit that would spend most of the war battling the enemy from Cincinnati to Atlanta.

Two of the regiment's colonels would become generals, and the men that made up the companies of this regiment were recruited mostly from Davidson, Cheatham, Dixon, and Humphreys Counties. Some of the local companies adopted unique names, such as "The Hermitage Guards" and "The Beauregard Light Infantry." They fought at notable places like Wild Cat, Tazewell, Fishing Creek, and Perryville, Kentucky.

The men of the 11th faced their biggest test at Murfreesboro (also known as the Battle of Stones River), Tennessee. On December 31, 1862, their commander, **Gen. James E. Rains**, was killed. The former chief prosecutor for the Middle Tennessee counties of Davidson, Sumner, and Williamson was shot through the heart leading his men, and his last words were, "Forward, my brave boys, forward."

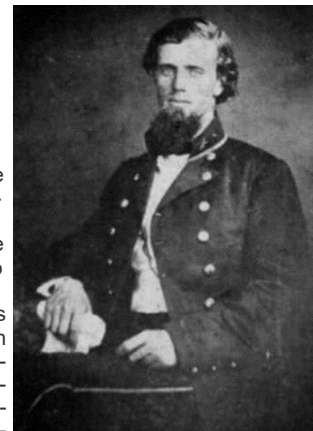
The 11th was also present when another well-respected commander was shot, this time at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. Assigned to Preston Smith's Brigade, the 11th Tennessee found themselves on the attack during the night of September 19, 1863. **Gen. Preston Smith**, leading the charge, became disoriented in the darkness and believed he was barking orders to his own Tennesseans, but he was actually addressing the 77th Pennsylvania. The confusion quickly attracted enemy gunfire, and Smith was shot; a bullet deflected off a golden pocket watch and into his chest. He was brought to the rear of the line but died within the hour. Smith was a very successful Tennessee attorney with multiple offices in cities like Memphis and Waynesboro.

His body was transported to Marietta, Georgia, where it was temporarily buried. A newspaper account of the funeral reported, "A silver plate, upon the coffin containing the body of General Smith, bore the inscription 'General Preston Smith, C.S.A., killed September 19 at the Battle of Chickamauga at 6 p.m.' ... [The coffin was] made of solid oak, elegantly finished and appropriately adorned with wreaths of magnolias and arborvitae, with a tastefully arranged cluster of flowers on the lid. ... The services of the Protestant Episcopal Church were said by the Rev. Doctor Charles T. Quintard. ... The remains were escorted to the cemetery by the cadets of the Georgia Military Institute. ... A military salute fired over the grave." In 1868, the general's body was reinterred at Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis.

The 11th Tennessee went on to fight in Sherman's campaign to capture Atlanta and participated in Confederate General Hood's Franklin and Nashville Campaign. The regiment would finish the war in near Greensboro, North Carolina. The battle flag of the 11th Tennessee still exists and can be viewed at the National Confederate Museum in Columbia, Tennessee.

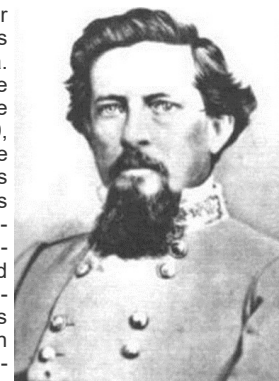
Adjutant's Report — Dan McCaskill

No Adjutant's Report for November.



Gen. James E. Rains

Fishing Creek, and Perryville, Kentucky.



Gen. Preston Smith

Beauvoir and Division News

Friends of Beauvoir

For as little as \$25 annually, you can become a member of the Friends of Beauvoir. Membership includes tour admission and a 10% discount at the Beauvoir gift shop.

Bricks for Beauvoir

Honor your Confederate ancestors while supporting Beauvoir. Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit, and company. The memorial bricks will be laid creating a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate soldier. For more information on these opportunities, please visit www.visitbeauvoir.org or contact Beauvoir directly at (228) 388-4400

Mississippi Division News

2025 Mississippi Division Reunion Pickwick Landing, TN June 6-8, 2025

Compatriots of the Mississippi Division SCV and Ladies of the Mississippi Society OCR,

We are honored to invite you to the 2025 Mississippi Division Annual Reunion, hosted by Col. William P. Rogers Camp 321. The Reunion will be held on June 6-8, 2025, at the Lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park, Pickwick Landing, TN.

Our Annual Reunion serves as a gathering of our compatriots, families, and friends. It is a time when we come together to transact the business of our organization but also as a time to celebrate our shared honorable heritage, reflect on our achievements from the past year, and envision the future of our organizations. Please make plans to join us for a memorable week-end.

Our host hotel is the Lodge at Pickwick Landing, located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Pickwick Landing, TN. The Lodge offers 119 rooms, all of which directly face the Tennessee River, as well as a great restaurant and bar. Room Rates are \$155.00 a night. Please use Group Code 8244 to receive this room rate when booking.

Pickwick is close to many sites of the War for Southern Independence: the battlefields of Shiloh, Brice's Crossroads, Corinth, and Davis Bridge. The state park also offers some amazing fishing and golfing.

Registration is now open, and we encourage you to secure your spot at the reunion at your earliest convenience. Please take advantage of our early registration rates.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Reunion Planning Committee at msdivadjutant@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you next June at Pickwick!
In the Bonds of the Old South,

Mike Moore, Chairman
2025 Reunion Host Committee

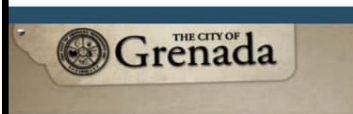
Donate Today!

As many of you know by now, the Grenada City Council recently removed the Grenada Confederate Monument. Mississippi State Law is very clear about the requirements for any municipality that is relocating a monument. The law states, "The governing body may move the memorial to a more suitable location if it is determined that the location is more appropriate to displaying the monument." After the Council voted to relocate the monument, it was arranged and offered to have the monument placed in the Confederate section of the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Grenada. The Council ignored this offer, even after hearing pleas at a public meeting from locals and state officials. Instead, the Council voted to move the Monument to a location in the woods behind a fire station south of town, with no road or path leading to the location. The law is clear. A more appropriate location was offered and turned down in favor of a less appropriate location. This willful disregard for Mississippi Law came after the Council illegally covered the Monument up for four years. Again, Mississippi Law states, "None of the following items (War Between the States Monuments), structures, or areas may be relocated, removed, disturbed, altered, renamed or rededicated" Keeping the Monument covered was another blatant disregard for Mississippi Law and a slap in the face of not only the residents, but of every descendant of someone who sacrificed themselves for military service. People want action taken, and we want to help. If you would like to donate for legal expenses, we need your help. The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. Help us do something. **Help us help the people of Grenada. Donate today.**

Checks may be made out to the Mississippi Division SCV and mailed to:

Mississippi Division SCV
108 County Road 5131
Booneville, MS 38829

Mayor Latham refuses to follow the State Law in Grenada County ! He refuses to move the statue to the Confederate Cemetery where the statue belongs!
He wants to place this statue behind a fire station.
Call his office 662-226-8820.



Mayor



CHRISTMAS IN CAMP

BEAUVOIR: THE JEFFERSON DAVIS HOME AND PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY



Christmas in Camp is Saturday
December 21, 2024 5pm-10pm

What to Expect
Reenactors and Living Historians will be onsite dressed in both Confederate & Union Uniforms to demonstrate how both sides came together to celebrate Christmas.

2244 Beach Blvd
Biloxi, MS. 39531

Contact Info
www.visitbeauvoir.org



2025 SCV MS Division Reunion

Registration Form

129th Reunion – Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

31st Reunion – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose

Pickwick Landing, TN – June 6-8, 2025

Hosts: Col. W.P. Rogers Camp 321 SCV and Ladies of Col. W.P. Rogers Chapter 25, OCR



SCV Member Name: _____

Title: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____

OCR Member Name: _____

Title: _____

OCR Chapter Name & Number: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies (quantities limited). Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. OCR members will receive a medal if payment is provided below.

REGISTRATION AMOUNTS

SCV Member – on or before May 6, 2025, \$60.00 / After May 6, 2025, \$70.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

OCR Member – on or before May 6, 2025, \$30.00 / After May 6, 2025, \$35.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

Commander’s Reception - on or before May 6, 2025, \$25.00 per person QTY _____ \$ _____

Awards Banquet – on or before May 6, 2025, \$50.00 per person QTY _____ \$ _____

(NO RECEPTION OR BANQUET REGISTRATION AFTER MAY 6, 2025, **INCLUDING WALK-UPS**)

Individual Ancestor Memorial - \$10.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

Half Page Ancestor Memorial - \$40.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

Full Page Ancestor Memorial - \$100.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT =====> \$ _____

Please Make Checks Payable to **Col. W.P. Rogers Camp 321** & Mail to:
Camp 321 C/O: Dwight Johnson, 3470 CR 100, Corinth, MS 38834

SCV Contact: Mike Moore (732) 962-5335 OCR Contact: Laura Moore (662) 416-7949

HOTEL INFO

The Lodge at Pickwick Landing
120 Playground Loop, Counce, TN 38326
(888) 867-2757
or online at:

www.tnstateparks.com/lodges/pickwick-landing

Use Group Code **8244** when booking for \$155.00 room rate.



130th Annual National Reunion Houston, Texas

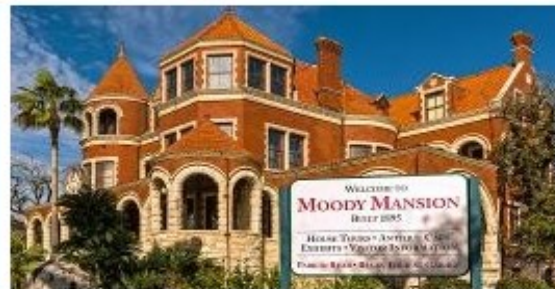
In the heart of Texas, Houston stands as a city of dualities—a place where the “Spirit of the Confederacy” monument whispers tales of valor, while rockets at the Johnson Space Center defy gravity. Here, Hermann Park cradles tranquility—a lush oasis with McGovern Lake and the bronze gaze of Sam Houston. Moody Mansion guards secrets within its red-brick walls, and Sabine Pass, where sea meets land, echoes bravery from the Civil War. But it’s San Jacinto that resonates—a battlefield where Texas won its independence, and the bay murmurs courage and sacrifice. Houston isn’t just a city; it’s a symphony of resilience, launching expectations beyond the stars.



Battle of Galveston Tour



Dick Dowling Grave / San Jacinto Tour



Moody Mansion



Host Hotel

Houston Marriott South Hobby Airport

9100 Gulf Fwy.

Houston, TX 77107

(713) 943-7979



Sons of Confederate Veterans
130th Annual National Reunion
 Houston, Texas July 17-20, 2025



Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

SCV Camp Name: _____ Number _____ Division _____

Current Rank, Title, or Position: _____

Spouse Name (For Name Badge): _____

*Note: Please only provide your spouse's name if they are attending a Reunion Meal or Tour. Spouses **DO NOT** need to pay for registration.*

Date	Time	Event	Price	Qty	Total
SCV REUNION EARLY BIRD	REGISTRATION	ALL SCV MEMBERS MUST REGISTER (through May 31, 2025) includes medal & program	\$75.00		
SCV REGULAR REUNION	REGISTRATION	ALL SCV MEMBERS MUST REGISTER (June 1, 2025 through July 7, 2025) includes medal & program	\$85.00		
Thursday, July 17, 2025	12:00 PM	Heritage Defense Luncheon	\$48.00		
Thursday, July 17, 2025	1:45 PM	Battle of Galveston Tour/Dinner/Cemetery Tour	\$100.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	7:30 AM	Chaplain's Breakfast	\$38.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	12:00 PM	SCV Awards Luncheon	\$48.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	1:45 PM	Battle of San Jacinto Tour/ Dick Dowling Grave	\$40.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	7:30 AM	Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast	\$38.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	8:30 AM	Ladies Tour to Galveston - Moody Mansion/ Lunch/ Museum	\$70.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	6:00 PM	Commander in Chief Reception	\$30.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	7:00 PM	SCV Banquet/Debutante Presentation/Grand Ball <i>Note: Dress Attire is Coat & Tie or Period Uniform</i>	\$80.00		
Ancestor Memorials ~ Each		<i>You Must Submit Ancestor Info on Separate Form</i>	\$10.00		
Extra Reunion Medal		Note: 1 Medal is included with your registration, order extras here	\$25.00		
Reunion Medal		Limited Edition - Numbered 1-100. Note: This medal is NOT included with registration.	\$100		
		FINAL TOTAL - Registration, Tours, Extra Medals			

Please Make Checks Payable to: "Texas Division SCV"
 Mail the Form & Check to **733 W 3rd Ave. Corsicana, TX 75110**

21st Century Confederate Heroes



Greetings:

I want to thank to all of our friends and Compatriots that have enrolled as "21st Century Confederate Heroes"!

Right now, if you have paid the \$1,000 to enroll, there's nothing else for you to do. The medals and neck ribbons are nearly out of production. Once they are finished, we will begin sending packages to all our 21st Century Confederate Heroes. In addition to the neck ribbon, in the package will be: 1) a certificate; 2) a form for your paver; and 3) instructions for submitting your information for the "Heroes" book and donor screen.

I appreciate all of the support given to this initiative as well as your patience.

Thank you,
Adam Southern, Executive Director

For more information on becoming a "21st Century Confederate Hero," please go to this site: [SCV-21st-Heroes.pdf \(scvconfederatelegion.com\)](http://scvconfederatelegion.com)

To make an online payment for the 21st Century Confederate Heroes initiative, please go to this site: www.donate.scv.org

History Being Made in Texas



SCV Chat

November 23 at 2:20 PM · 🌐

On November 10th the Sons of Confederate Veterans Alamo City Guards Camp raised the very first monument to the Tejano Confederate Soldiers. The Monument is located at the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery in Von Ormy, Texas to honor Hispanic Texans who served in the Confederate armed forces. This was a historic day. The SCV is on a mission to honor all Confederate Veterans unlike other "historians." Take the month to learn about the Tejano Confederate Veterans.



THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT ELM SPRINGS

The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is under attack as never before. The National Battlefield Parks have been taken over by the "it's all about slavery" provocateurs. Museums have changed their collections and interpretations to present what they call the cultural history of the War for Southern Independence. In reality this new perspective is nothing more than South bashing. The forces of political correctness have gone into high gear. They attempt to ban any and all things Confederate through their ideological fascism.

There needs to be at least one place where the people of the South and others can go to learn an accurate account of why so many struggled so long in their attempt to reassert government by the consent of the governed in America!

The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building that will have two purposes. One of the uses of this new building will be to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. At the SCV Reunion in July of 2009 the GEC set up a building fund for this purpose. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and in the media.

These plans have now become a reality. The ground breaking has taken place and the museum is now open.

Take this journey with us and support the museum as a donor or join the Friends of the Museum today!

Send Donations to:
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Attn: National Confederate Museum
P.O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card.
www.theconfederatemuseum.com

The Death of Jefferson Davis, December 6, 1889

The Christmas Season of 1889 was a time of sadness in Dixie. Hundreds of thousands of people came to remember and pay their last respects to Jefferson Davis in the crescent city of New Orleans.

Jefferson Davis, and wife Varina, found great contentment and peace at "Beauvoir" their beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast Home. This is where he wished to die when his time came but it was not to be.

Davis completed his book *A Short History of the Confederate States of America* in October 1889. On November 6 Varina attended to their home as Davis left for Brierfield Plantation to take care of family business. As he traveled through New Orleans Davis was exposed to a cold-rain that caused him a severe cold and bronchitis that was further complicated by Malaria. On the 13th he left Brierfield to return to New Orleans. Varina Davis, who had taken another boat to Brierfield, met him on the river, and he finally received some medical care. They arrived in New Orleans on the 16th, and Davis was taken to the home of a friend, Charles Erasmus Fenner, an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Davis remained in bed but was stable for the next two weeks; however, he took a turn for the worse in early December.

Milo Copper, a former servant of the Davis family, upon hearing of Davis' illness, made the long trip from Florida to New Orleans to be near Davis' side. As Cooper entered Davis' sick room, he burst into tears and fell on his knees and prayed that God would spare the life of Jefferson Davis and bless the family. Just when Davis appeared to be improving, he lost consciousness on the evening of the 5th and died at age 81 at 12:45 a.m. on Friday, December 6, 1889, in the presence of several friends and with his hand in Varina's.

The news of his death hit the front page of many Southern newspapers. The praises and tributes read similar to that of a New Orleans paper:

"Throughout the South are Lamentations and tears; in every country on the globe where there are lovers of liberty there is mourning; wherever there are men who love heroic patriotism, dauntless resolution, fortitude or intellectual power, there is a sincere sorrowing. The beloved of our land, the unflinching upholder of constitutional liberty, the typical hero and sage, is no more; the fearless heart that beats with sympathy for all mankind is stilled forever, a great light is gone—Jefferson Davis is dead!"

The body of Jefferson Davis laid in state at the city hall of New Orleans, Louisiana from midnight, December 6, 1889, to December 11th. The United States and Confederate flags hung from above and in the city hall that was covered with many flowers.

The church bells tolled as over 80,000 people lined the streets of New

Orleans to pay their respects to a Southern legend. All schools and businesses were closed that day. Those men who comprised the honor Guard for the procession to Metairie Cemetery included: the Army of Northern Virginia Association, the Army of Tennessee and the Washington Artillery. Metairie Cemetery would be a temporary burial place for Davis as he was moved in 1893, by funeral train to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.



Funeral Procession of Jefferson Davis in New Orleans

Making the story sadder, the United States War Department did not recognize Davis and the US flag was not flown at half-mast. The US flag was flown at half mast in the South. Jefferson Davis was the only former Secretary of War that was not given the respect and honor by the United States Government. Eighteen months after his death and temporary burial in New Orleans Metairie Cemetery, Davis' widow, Varina, decided the final burial place was to be Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery, considered the National Cemetery of the Confederacy. His remains were removed from the vault in New Orleans and placed on a flag-draped caisson escorted by honor guards composed of his old soldiers to Memorial Hall, where he lay in state. The next day, as thousands of people silently watched from the sidewalks and balconies, the caisson bore his body to a waiting funeral train. On the way, bonfires beside the tracks lit up ranks of Davis' old soldiers standing at attention beside stacked arms. In Richmond, gray haired veterans escorted him to the Virginia statehouse, where thousands filed past in respect before interment.

On October 17, 1978 President Jimmy Carter posthumously restored of citizenship rights to Jefferson F. Davis by signing S. J. Res. 16 into law and made the following statement: In posthumously restoring the full rights of citizenship to Jefferson Davis, the Congress officially

completes the long process of reconciliation that has reunited our people following the tragic conflict between the States. Earlier, he was specifically exempted from resolutions restoring the rights of other officials in the Confederacy. He had served the United States long and honorably as a soldier, Member of the U.S. House and Senate, and as Secretary of War. General Robert E. Lee's citizenship was restored in 1976. It is fitting that Jefferson Davis should no longer be singled out for punishment.

Editor's Note: The Caisson that carried President Davis' Coffin in New Orleans is on display at Beauvoir.

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 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."

General Robert E. Lee and Santa Claus

Dear General Lee:

We think you are the goodest man that ever lived, and our auntie says you will go right straight to heaven when you die; so we want to ask you a question, for we want to know the truth about it, and we know that you always speak the truth.

Please tell us whether Santa Claus loves the little rebel children, for we think he don't; because he did not come to see us for four Christmas Eves. Auntie thinks you would not let him cross the lines, and we don't know how to find out unless we write and ask you. We all love you dearly, and we want to send you something; but we have not any thing nice enough; we lost all our toys in the war. Birdie wants to send you one of our white kittens--the one with black ears; but Auntie thinks maybe you don't like kittens. We say little prayers for you every night, dear General Lee, and ask God to make you ever so happy. Please let us know about Santa Claus as soon as you can; we want to know for something very, very, very particular; but we can't tell even you why until Christmas time, so please to excuse us.

Your little friends,
Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie



The above letter was sent the following day, and in about a week the answer was received:

My dear little friends:

I was very glad to receive your kind letter, and to know by it that I have the good wishes and prayers of three innocent little girls, named Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie.

I am very glad that you wrote about Santa Claus for I am able to tell you all about him. I can assure you he is one of the best friends that the little Southern girls have. You will understand this when I explain to you the reason of his not coming to see you for four years.

The first Christmas Eve of the war I was walking up and down in the camp ground, when I thought I heard a singular noise above my head; and on looking to find out from whence it came, I saw the queerest, funniest-looking little old fellow riding along in a sleigh through the air. On closer inspection, he proved to be Santa Claus.

Halt! Halt!, I said; but at this the funny fellow laughed, and did not seem inclined to obey, so again I cried Halt!. And he drove down to my side with a sleigh full of toys. I was very sorry for him when I saw the disappointed expression of his face when I told him he could go no further South; and when he exclaimed, Oh, what will my little Southern children do! I felt more sorry, for I love little children to be happy, and especially at Christmas. But of one thing I was certain--I knew my little friends would prefer me to do my duty, rather than have all the toys in the world; so I said: Santa Claus, take every one of the toys you have back as far as Baltimore, sell them, and with the money you get buy medicines, bandages, ointments, and delicacies for our sick and wounded men; do it and do it quickly--it will be all right with the children.

Then Santa Claus sprang into his sleigh, and putting his hand to his hat in true military style, said: I obey orders, General, and away he went. Long before morning he came sweeping down into camp again, with not only every thing I had ordered, but with many other things that our poor soldiers needed. And every Christmas he took the toy money and did the same thing; and the soldiers and I blessed him, for he clothed and fed many a poor soul who otherwise would have been cold and hungry. Now, do you not consider him a good friend. I hold him in high respect, and trust you will always do the same.

I should be pleased to hear from you again, my dear little girls, and I want you ever to consider me,

Your true friend,
General Robert E. Lee



Christmas in the Civil War

Many traditional American Christmas customs that we take so much for granted world-wide today, spring from the early 19th century. Ironically the spirit of joy and goodwill to man came to maturity during The War Between the States, when violence, chaos, and staggering personal loss seemed likely to drown out choruses of "*Peace on Earth.*"

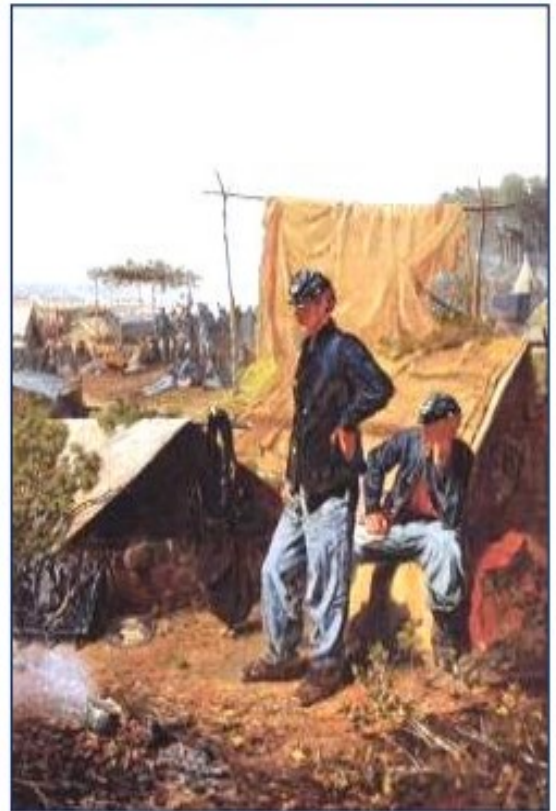


Winslow Homer

Homer's career as an illustrator for *Harper's Weekly* and other publications lasted nearly 20 years. In 1859 he opened a studio in New York City.

Within a year of self-training he was producing such excellent oil works that his mother, herself an accomplished water painter, wanted to send Homer to Europe to study but instead, *Harper's Weekly* sent him to the front lines of the *American Civil War*. *Mother was not pleased.*

Artists of the period, such as Winslow Homer, whose painting is seen here entitled "*Home Sweet Home*" (courtesy *The National Gallery of Art, Washington*) captures the very essence of Christmas in camp and brought it to the troops. The tent was a common home at Christmas for many but at such times became a sweet place to be, rather than on the all too bitter and gory battlefield.



Home Sweet Home



Homer's Prisoners from the Front

Winslow Homer used his numerous sketches as subjects for later paintings and one of the most successful of his works was '*Prisoners from the Front*,' painted in 1866. The picture captures the essence of a moment of truth, despair,

yet dignified pride. The artist has painted them in the poignant fading light of sunset. Christmas was to be a very unhappy time for prisoners of war on either side. Thoughts of home overwhelmed them with pain and grief.

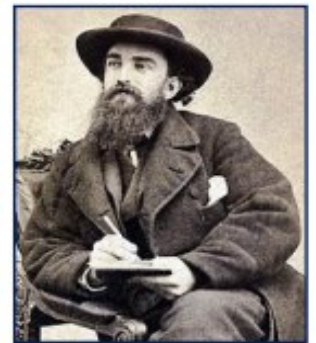


Another artist from the period, who contributed greatly to the Christmas legend but also captured the life of soldiers and remarkable images of home that no camera could, was Alfred Waud. His paintings were to become picture postcards of the times and in this scene we are allowed to see the busy docks of New Orleans as Confederate's would have known them.

Waud, along with photographer Mathew Brady, witnessed the debacle at **Bull Run** (*First Manassas*) where both came close to being captured by Confederates. Waud attended every battle of the Army of the Potomac, from **Bull Run** to the **Seige of Petersburg** in 1865 and was only one of two artists present at **Gettysburg**. His depiction of **Pickett's Charge** is the only visual account by an eye witness in existence.



The picture, reproduced here, (left) is of terrible quality. I have improved it as best as possible for use in this issue but can find no other image that betters this one.



Pickett's second wave of Confederate's can be seen in the distance in ordered and packed ranks, charging towards a Union line stationed behind the stonewall, while Confederates have battled their way up to the wall itself.

Waud is pictured after the conflict (right above.) Below, he's captured, in what has become one of the most famous photographs of any *Civil War* artist; perched high on the rocks, he's actually photographed sketching the battle of Gettysburg. This image reveals a remarkable three dimensional effect, if you know how to focus your eyes without a 3D viewer. (*Instructions covered in an earlier issue.*) It is not likely that he's making the sketch shown above, as it is on the distant rocky outcrops, the position is well known and many pose for a picture on this rock today. Waud's position for Pickett's charge puts him in very dangerous country as the air there was thick with Minie balls.

Alfred Waud was born in London, 2nd October 1828 and emigrated to the US in 1850. There he found work as an illustrator with a Boston periodical known as **The Carpet Bag**. He also provided illustrations for **Hunter's Panoramic Guide from Niagara to Quebec** in 1857 and worked for the **New York Illustrated News** and **Harpers Weekly**.



The rocks can be lined up to this day, although the shrubs have long gone. Use your eyes to see this picture in 3 D.



Both Thomas Nast, and Alfred Waud specialised in creating visual chronicles of the spreading influence of many holiday traditions that we still enjoy today, including Santa Claus, Christmas trees, gift-giving, carolling, holiday feasting, and Christmas cards.

Nast and Homer drew scenes of the wartime practice of sending large Christmas boxes filled with homemade clothes and food items to soldiers at the front. The war made a huge impact on the nation, both North and South, in the way that Christmas was to be observed.

Christmas boxes, like the ones Homer and Nast illustrate brought to their recipients a much-needed mental and physical boost. In 1861, for the first *Harper's Weekly* Christmas cover of the war, Homer drew overjoyed soldiers revelling in the contents of the *Adam's Express* box from home, it was a melee of fun and discovery.

The most beloved symbol of the American family Christmas--the decorated Christmas tree--came into its own during the Civil War. Christmas trees had become popular in the decade before the war and in the early 1860s, many families were beginning to decorate them. Illustrators working for the national weeklies, helped popularize the practice by putting decorated table-top Christmas trees in their drawings.

On the home front, living rooms were mostly decorated with different kinds of pines, holly, ivy and mistletoe. While there were many families who suffered a lonely Christmas during the war, they still had a Christmas tree as centrepiece for the home. Most trees were small, a mere pine branch that was propped up on a table in a bucket.

Christmas decorations were largely home made, as indeed they were until recently in Australia; they included such things as strings of dried fruit, popcorn and pine cones. Coloured crepe paper, silver foil, as well as spun glass, were popular choices for making decorations. Santa brought gifts to the children that were home made, such as carved toys, cakes or fruits. (*My own boyhood Christmas was like this with fresh fruit and nuts.*)

It was inevitable that the Christmas tree would make its way into military camps. Alfred Bellard, of the 5th New Jersey, remarks about the arrival of the newly popular Christmas icon to his camp along the lower Potomac River.

"In order to make it look as much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tent, decked off with hard tack an' pork, in lieu of cakes an' oranges, etc".



Christmas carols were sung, both at home and in camps. You can imagine how homesick soldiers would become singing these songs. Some of the most popular were *"Silent Night," "Away in the Manger," "Oh Come All Ye Faithful,"* and *"Deck the Halls"*.

Thomas Nast (left) was born in *Landau-in-der-Pfalz*, Germany, September 27th 1840. When he was six he arrived in New York with his mother. After art studies, Nast became an illustrator for *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, he was then only 15 years old. By 19, Thomas Nast was working at the august publication *Harper's Weekly*. Today he is best known as the creator of *Santa Claus, Uncle Sam, The Republican Elephant and Democrat Donkey*. Nast borrowed his ideas for Santa from the leaner pipe smoking German *Pelznickel* but he made him look quite different.

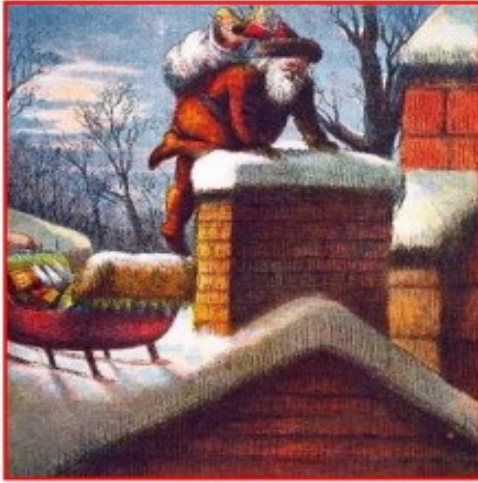
I have often wondered at Thomas Nast's creation of Santa Claus and his inspiration for the chubby, heavily bearded face and cannot help but see the likeness in another well known American figure of his time, who inspired both adults and children with his wit and wisdom, Henry Wordsworth Longfellow. He bares a remarkable resemblance to the rotund jolly fellow illustrated by Nast.



Civil War era tree



Henry W. Longfellow
1879



During the war, Santa has fairly basic features but after the war, Nast finally captures the imagined character in all his full glory and it has remained virtually unaltered to this day, the spitting image of Longfellow.

During the war, a year after his wife died terribly when her dress caught fire, the poet Henry Longfellow received a message that his oldest son Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been severely wounded with a bullet passing under his shoulder blade and damaging his spine. That Christmas of 1863 is silent in Longfellow's journal.

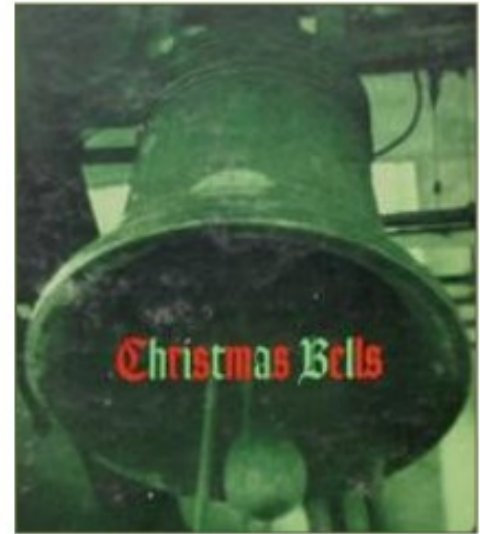
Finally, on Christmas Day 1864, he writes the words of a poem "*Christmas Bells.*" The re-election of Abraham Lincoln or the possible and foreseeable end of the terrible war, may have been the inspiration for his poem. Lt. Charles Longfellow survived. Contrary to popular belief, the occasion of writing that much loved Christmas poem was not due to Charles' death, if anything it was because of his survival that Longfellow came out of his grief and solitude and once again burst into poetry.

CHRISTMAS BELLS

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
their old familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet
the words repeat
of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
the belfries of all Christendom
had rolled along
the unbroken song
of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till; ringing, singing on its way,
the world revolved from night to day.
A voice, a chime a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



Then, from each black accursed mouth
the cannon thundered in the South,
and with the sound
the carols drowned,
of peace on earth, good-will to men!

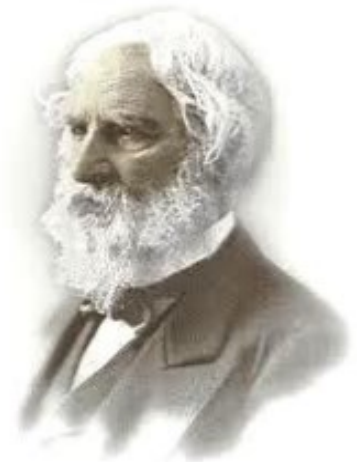
It was as if an earthquake rent
the hearth-stones of a continent,
and made forlorn
the households born,
of peace on earth, good-will to men!



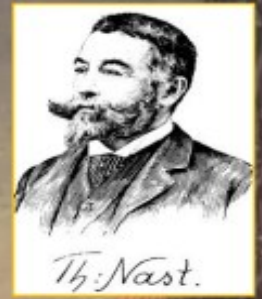
And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
and mocks the song
of peace on earth, good-will to men!"



Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
the Right prevail,
with peace on earth, good-will to men!"



Thomas Nast had a knack for capturing important moments, the war is more vividly portrayed thanks to his pen, paint and artistic genius.



Departure of the 7th Regiment to war. April 19th 1861 by Thomas Nast.

One of the most fascinating events of the war came shortly after an extended winter season following the Christmas of 1862. It is depicted by an unknown Confederate artist.

Known as *'The Great Snowball fight of Rappahannock,'* over ten thousand Confederate soldiers of the 1st, 4th, and 5th Texas Infantry engaged in a spirited snowball battle near Fredericksburg, Virginia February 25th 1863.

Some 12 inches of snow blanketed the ground and combatants employed real battle tactics in the fight, including forming battlelines, charging *'the enemy,'* skirmishing, use of cavalry and the taking of prisoners.

One soldier remarked, *"It is one of the most remarkable combats of the war."* General 'Stonewall'

Jackson is reported as witnessing the spectacle and one of the soldiers, spying them on the ridge said, *"I wish that General Jackson and the staff had joined the fight, I wanted to throw snowballs at their old faded uniforms."*

Eventually the 3rd Arkansas was drawn into the fight as the Texas boys decided to join forces with their former 'opponents' and attack them. While there was a lot of laughter and in spite of being under the barking orders of officers,



the whole event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and while it no doubt proved a good morale boost it wasn't without injury. While most were unharmed, many sustained minor injuries, bruising and swollen eyes. In response to the upheaval and the disfigurement of his troops, General James Longstreet, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia reportedly banned snowball fighting.



Pitched battle as CS Texans attack CS Arkansas soldiers 1863.

The Longstreet order may have stood during the war but not the test of time and numerous such snowball fights have become part of American legend, including the Freshman-Sophomore Snowball Fight of 1892.

An indication of the injuries sustained is demonstrated by Darwin R. James, John P. Poe and Arthur L. Wheeler from the class of 1895. In this sombre picture that belies the fun they had receiving their wounds.

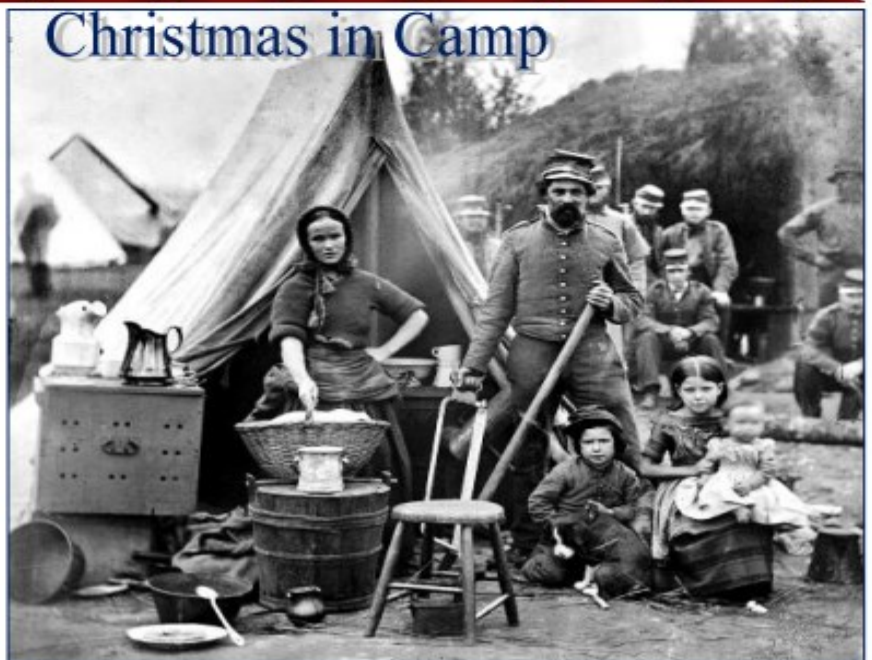


Courtesy Princeton Uni. Archives.



One of my favourite pictures of camp life, is taken in the colder months, evident by the mother's hand knitted woollen jumper and possibly in winter quarters. When soldiers were encamped for some time, it wasn't uncommon for them to bring their wives and children along, especially when not campaigning. The boy has his puppy dog and the girl cares for the baby. Father is ready to saw firewood and mother attends to the laundry. She is lean and hungry and a tear in her left sleeve reveals hard times but they are all healthy and wives could make a living doing jobs for other soldiers, such as sewing, washing and cooking. Others have grouped for the photo but to have a family in camp was an attraction in itself, as it reminded them of home, particularly at Christmas.

The family is well equipped and the huge trunk would hold all of their possessions and loaded on a wagon when the unit was on the move. The picture was badly damaged and as often happens with these old glass plates, mould eats away the image. The editor has restored the picture to enable its full appreciation. Unfortunately we don't know who they are, nor who the good photographer is.



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Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"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."

LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE, COMMANDER GENERAL,
UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, APRIL 25, 1906.