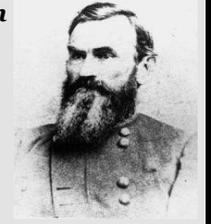




Claude Stillman, Commander Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



The Delta General

January, 2011

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Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, MS Division, SCV

CAMP NEWS: EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Jan. 22, 2011** – Lee and Jackson Banquet
- **Feb. 12, 2011** - Reenactment of Jefferson Davis Leaving Vicksburg to go to Montgomery, AL to become President of the Confederacy— 2:00 PM at the Vicksburg Court House
- **Feb. 19, 2011**— A parade up Dexter Avenue to the Alabama State Capitol Building, a reenactment of the swearing in of President Jefferson Davis and a selection of speakers at the Capitol Building.
- **Feb. 25-27, 2011**— Archusa Creek Park in Quitman, MS, will host a reenactment with battles on Saturday and Sunday. There will be memorial services at the Quitman Cemetery on Saturday and at the Clarke County Courthouse on Sunday. Reenactors and living history participants are needed. Contact Dennis Avera at 601-776-5052 or aaronavera@yahoo.com for more information.
- **Apr. 30, 2011**— Confederate Memorial Day at Beauvoir will be April 30, 2011. Guest speaker will be Tom Strain, Commander of the Army of Tennessee. As everyone knows Confederate Memorial Day at Beauvoir is a Division sponsored Memorial service.
- **June 3-5, 2011**—Mississippi Division SCV 116th Annual Meeting in Gulfport, Mississippi.
- **July 13-16, 2011**— Sons of Confederate Veterans Annual Reunion. More information to com

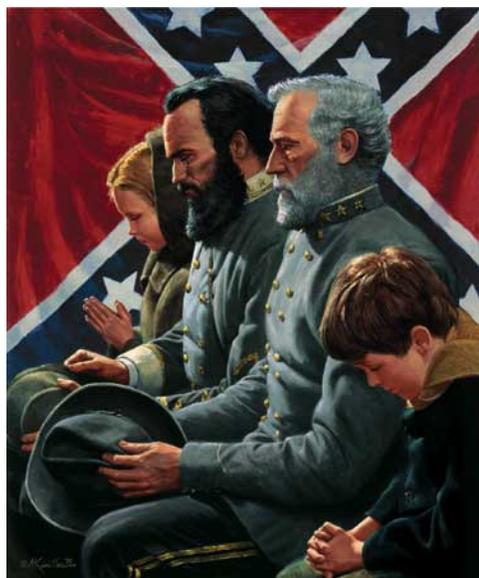


DR. BRANDON BECK TO SPEAK AT GEN. HUMPHREYS CAMP LEE/ JACKSON BANQUET

Dr. Brandon Beck of Columbus, Miss. And the Lt. Commander of the Caledonia Rifles SCV Camp 2140, Caledonia, Miss. Will speak at our Lee and Jackson Banquet to be held on January 22, 2011. Dr. Beck just published his new book "Defending the Mississippi Prairie; The Battle of Okolona" published by the History Press. He will speak on "Three Birthdays in the Life of Robert E. Lee". This will be a pot luck affair. All Camp reenactors are asked to come dressed in period attire to help with colorguard duties. The social will begin at 6:00 pm, supper at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the fellowship hall of the First Presbyterian Church where we have our Camp meetings.

Historian and author Dr. Brandon Beck is been better known in Civil War history circles for his books on the war in Virginia, specifically the Shenandoah Valley region, where he lived and taught for a while, founding the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University. 'The Battle of Okolona - Saving the Mississippi Prairie' is his first foray into the war in the West and it is an auspicious debut for him in that theater. Dr. Beck sheds some light on one of the lesser known actions that helped save northeast Mississippi and elevated Confederate commander Nathan Bedford Forrest to even greater fame.

Dr. Beck will have books for sale and to sign books as well. More information will follow about this event. Lets all mark our calendars for this great night of fellowship.



Happy Birthday Generals Lee and Jackson!

Make sure you mark on your calendar our Lee and Jackson Banquet for Saturday, January 22, starting at 6:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Indianola, MS. Bring a covered dish!

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CAMP NEWS:

CAMP ADJUTANT'S REPORT: DAN McCASKILL

Commander Claude "Junior" Stillman called the Meeting to order around 7:00 pm. Junior asked Camp Chaplain Earl McCown to open the Meeting with a word of prayer and to bless the food brought by the ladies and gentlemen of the SCV and OCR. Color Sergeant Joe Nokes led us in the Pledges and Salutes to the Flags. Commander Stillman welcomed everyone to the Camp's Christmas Party. Before conducting any Camp business, Junior invited everyone to partake of the provided feast.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Gator Stillman reported that author Brandon Beck had confirmed to be the speaker at the Camp's Lee - Jackson Pot Luck Supper on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at the 1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Social Hour would start at 6:00 pm with dinner starting around 7:00 pm. The Supper would take the place of our regularly scheduled Camp Meeting. The ladies of the OCR will be conducting a raffle. Anyone wishing to donate an item for the raffle needs to contact Sandra Stillman: 662-347-2782 or Email: SStillman@aol.com . 2nd Lt. Commander Ronnie Stewart did not have a report. Adjutant Dan

McCaskill reported that Camp membership has fallen to 54 with the passing of Edwin Haley and that a Brick for Beauvoir had been purchased in his memory. He reported the Camp was within its budget and that the carryover would be around \$ 400. Editor Larry McCluney was on a conference call with the GEC so Dan McCaskill asked members if everyone had received their copy of the "Delta General". He also reviewed the upcoming Sesquicentennial Events in January and February. Larry McCluney, as AOT Councilman gave a report at the end of the Meeting of the coming Secession Ball to be held in Charleston, SC on December 20, 2010 which kicks off the Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence. Larry reported that there would be a big protest planned for that evening by the NAACP and that they would protest other events over the coming years. Larry told us to prepare for "war". This would be a war to discredit our Confederate Heritage and our Confederate Ancestors.

Camp Business: Larry presented the application of Alana Palmer for the Oliver & Jeffrey McCaskill Memorial Scholarship to the Camp Executive Council. The applica-

tion was found to be in order and Earl McCown made the motion that the Council accept the application as presented and pass it to the McCaskill Family for final approval. Joe Nokes second the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Larry presented the application to Dan McCaskill. Dan reported that six Confederate Headstones have been received and would be placed in the Indianola Cemetery after the first of the year on a day when it is not freezing cold.

Program: With no other business to conduct, Commander Stillman turned the Meeting over to Alan Palmer. Alan with the assistance from Adrienne McCaskill on piano led everyone in the singing of traditional Christmas Carols to get us more into the Christmas Spirit.

After singing and visiting for an hour and a half, Commander Stillman wished all a Merry Christmas and asked Earl to dismiss us with a word of prayer.

Attendance for the Meeting was 27.

Submitted by,
Dan A. McCaskill, Adj.

NEWS FROM THE MOS&B COMMANDER-IN-CHEIF

The War Between the States produced some of the most outstanding civil and military leaders in the history of mankind. To perpetuate the idealism that animated the Confederate Cause and to honor the courage, devotion and endurance of those who dedicated their lives and services during four years of devastating war, and who, throughout the dreadful decade of reconstruction, labored heroically for the restoration of self-government as the most precious heritage of the American Revolution, male descendants of the officers who honorably served in the Army, Navy and other commands of the Confederate States of America and male descendants of the elected and appointed civilian officials of the Confederate States; the national Confederate Government; or the Five Civilized Tribes which allied with the Confederacy, unite to establish The Military Order of the Stars and Bars, a patriotic and fraternal Society.

If eligible, we invite you to join our prestigious organization - celebrating its 73rd anniversary and the only active heritage organization founded by Confederate Veterans.

The Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence commemorates the passing of 150 years since our ancestors gallantly defended their homeland against an invading army from the North. While academics can argue and debate about the causes and the reasons and the details of history, one thing that all can agree on is the courage and the heroism and the honor of the Southern leadership. The Military Order of The Stars and Bars will play a major role in making sure that the courage and heroism and honor of our ancestors is not lost in the commemorations.

Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.
Commander General, Military Order of the Stars and Bars



BEAUVOIR NEWS

Beauvoir's annual Christmas at Beauvoir evening event was a great success, with a much higher than anticipated turnout! Even with many other local, established holiday events in the area, attendance was much higher than last year's event. We are already looking forward to Christmas 2011!

The majority of the second floor of the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum has been poured, and work has started on the third floor! We hope progress will keep in step with the weather!

The next quarterly meeting for the Combined Boards of Beauvoir is Saturday, February 12, 2011, at 10:00 AM.

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SCV NEWS:

NEW MISSISSIPPI SCV LICENSE PLATE AVAILABLE IN 2011

- In tribute to the five years of the war, we will have a different design each of the next five years. The Beauvoir design is for 2011, there will be a Battle of Corinth design for 2012, Siege of Vicksburg design for 2013, Gen. Nathan B. Forrest design for 2014, and Confederate veterans tribute in 2015.
- The flag incorporated into the state map of the Sesquicentennial logo will also change each year: 2011-Bonnie Blue, 2012-First National, 2013-Second National, 2014-Gen. Forrest's battle flag, 2015-Third National.
- The Executive Council can change any part of the wording across the bottom each year as well, so, if "SCV" versus spelling out the whole "Sons of Confederate Veterans", is an issue for you, let them know. The more letters we add, the smaller the font will become, possibly making it more difficult to read.
- If you have the current, 8 year old design, SCV plate, you are not required to get the new tag each year. You can keep the one you currently have, and just put the year sticker on the plate when you renew each year.
- These plates are being done to commemorate the War between the States Sesquicentennial. These tags will be collectible and conversational. There will be many non-SCV members that will purchase the plate for their own reasons, apart from the things we normally would buy it for. This will bring new money to the SCV treasury, much more than the 8-year-old design that's been out. It will also bring more attention and hopefully more members to the SCV.



We should be able to do a press release and get this on the website shortly. One of the most effective ways to gin up sales is for individual, county level tag offices to have the design on display. Posters for that purpose will be available shortly and I fully intend to do a Statewide tour to distribute them where needed.

However, we all know that a local touch has no substitute, **so any of us well known to our own local tag office personnel or Tax Collector would be invaluable for the purpose of securing a place near the purchasing counter for our MS SCV tag information.** In the meantime your individual help in drumming up interest and support (email forwarding and Facebook posting) for the Beauvoir design is appreciated, and, as always, the money goes to support the cause.

- Greg Stewart, MS Division

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS KICK-OFF SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE

The Old Courthouse in Vicksburg will be the scene of the —kickoff— event of the Sesquicentennial of the Cause for Southern Independence hosted by the Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans. The event will be held on February 12, 2011.

Jefferson Davis will arrive, hopefully, by carriage at 2 PM. He will be escorted by the mayor and a militia escort. The mayor will be portrayed by William Mathews. The mayor will give a welcome speech followed by a speech from Jefferson Davis. There will be a reception after the speech in the court chambers upstairs in the Old Courthouse. This will be a big event and should be attended by all that can come. The media will probably be there and we need to make a good showing to let them know that the Southern side will be told over the next four years.

It is requested that no Confederate FLAGS except the Bonnie Blue Flag, Mississippi Magnolia Flag, or the First National should be present. The Battle Flag DID NOT EXIST YET. Secession cockades are encouraged since many Mississippians, especially in Vicksburg, would be wearing these.

1Lt. Comdr. Alan Palmer, chair of the Division Sesquicentennial Committee, has worked hard along with the other Committee members to put this event together and they deserve our thanks and appreciation.

While in Vicksburg you are encouraged to visit the Old Courthouse Museum. The museum houses such items as Confederate flags, including one that was never surrendered, the tie worn by Jefferson Davis at his inauguration as Confederate President, fine portraits, china and silver, and exquisite antique furniture. We hope to see everyone there.



The Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg was built in 1858. The museum is located at 1008 Cherry St. in downtown Vicksburg.

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are

the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today the Sons of Confederate Veterans is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Souther Cause. (From 1800mysouth.com , the new SCV recruitment website)

FEBRUARY 19, 2011 – 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS

Almost 150 years to the date the inauguration of Jefferson Davis as president of the Confederate States of America will be reenacted in Montgomery, Alabama on the very steps where he took the oath.

The event is already drawing fire from the liberals and politically correct crowd. We must show up in large numbers at this event. For information on this SCV Heritage Rally go to the this web link (**Confederate Heritage Rally 2011**) or type this link into your browser: www.confederate150.com/2011. Please try to attend this event.

Sat. - February 19, 2011 - Montgomery, AL

It is time to mark your calendar for the SCV Sesquicentennial Event to be held in Montgomery, AL on Saturday February 19, 2011. This event will feature a parade up Dexter Avenue to the Alabama State Capitol Building, a reenactment of the swearing in of President Jefferson Davis and a selection of speakers at the Capitol Building. Just like was done for the Flag Rally in 2000 in Columbia, South Carolina and for the Hunley Funeral in Charleston in 2004 - it is IMPERATIVE that this event be well attended. We must show the world that we will not permit the History and Heritage of the Confederacy to be forgotten and unobserved during the Sesquicentennial.

It is up to us to see that this history is remembered and portrayed in the right way so start planning your visit to Montgomery - organize vans and buses - so we can show the world we remember our Confederate Heroes. Activities to include-

- Heritage March up Dexter Ave to the Capitol
- Speeches from leaders of descendant organizations, Remarks from prominent officials
- Re-enactment of the swearing in of Jefferson Davis, raising of the first Confederate Flag, and firing of Rifle and Cannon salutes and more



CONFEDERATE LEADER'S OATH TO BE REENACTED IN ALABAMA

By PHILLIP RAWLS Associated Press © 2010 The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Hundreds of Civil War re-enactors will parade up Montgomery's main street to the state Capitol on Feb. 19 to recreate the swearing-in of Confederate President Jefferson Davis 150 years ago.

African-American leaders might protest nearby with a message that the Confederacy should be remembered with shame for trying to keep blacks enslaved rather than with celebration.

Organizers say they are not trying to create controversy. "We are trying to present a historical account of what happened 150 years ago," said Thomas Strain Jr. of Tanner, a member of the national board of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The national SCV is organizing the event, with more than 700 people already signed up to participate in the parade. Strain said it will look like the militia units and private citizens who marched up Dexter Avenue on Feb. 18, 1861, to see Davis take the oath of office at the top of the state Capitol steps. Several thousand people, including descendants of Davis, are expected to watch the parade and swearing-in ceremony.

Organizers will then fast-forward a month to recreate the raising of the first Confederate flag at the Capitol. But it will be done on a flagpole near the Capitol rather than using the main pole on the dome. In 1993, black legislators won a lawsuit that ended Alabama's practice of flying the Confederate battle flag from the Capitol dome, and the SCV isn't trying to buck that court ruling. "I'd love to see it up there, but that's not going to happen," Strain said.

Alabama's longest-serving black legislator, Democrat Alvin Holmes of Montgomery, was one of the lawmakers who won that lawsuit. Holmes said he plans to work with civil rights groups to organize a protest, much like occurred Monday night when a "Secession Ball" was held in Charleston, S.C. Members of the NAACP marched and held a vigil and one leader called that celebration "disgusting." "The Confederacy was to maintain the institution of slavery," he said. "People can argue it was about states' rights, but the states' rights was to maintain slavery. They wanted slaves and they didn't want the federal government to get involved."

Various events are being planned to mark the Civil War Sesquicentennial, from those under the auspices of the National Park Service and states to privately organized events such as the swearing-in recreation in Alabama. Nearly 2 percent of the nation's population, more than 600,000 people, died in the Civil War.

Robert Reames of Birmingham, state commander for the SCV, prefers to call the Civil War "the War Between the States." He said the re-enactment Feb. 19 will have a simple message: "That our ancestors did what they did in a honorable fashion and we're here to remember that honor."

Holmes, a retired college history teacher, said groups such as the SCV present a glamorous view of the war and don't talk about how it left the South economically depressed for decades. "It wasn't great. It was shameful," he said.

THE SCV AND THE POLITICALLY CORRECT HISTORY CHANNEL

BY AL BENSON OF THE CALEDONIA CAMP

Lots of people, when they want to view something of a historical nature, turn to the "History" Channel on television. Unfortunately, in many cases, when it comes to real history, that is one of the last places they should go. Over the years, on and off, I have watched some "History" Channel offerings. Many others I have shut off after the first five minutes. This channel takes a completely politically correct view on most historical subjects. Some of their programs, over the years, have questioned the truths found in Holy Scripture, and done it in such a way as to leave folks who don't really know much about the Bible with serious doubts. In this area they seem to take a thoroughly humanist, anti-Christian position. Of course they'd staunchly deny that, but I never recall seeing anything on that channel that defended Scripture--only things that questioned it. They do exactly the same thing with programs dealing with the War of Northern Aggression (a term they'd never use). Three years ago, if I recall correctly, they broadcast an offering about Sherman's March through Georgia that neither my wife nor I could stomach after the first five minutes. It was pure pro-Sherman spin and little else. In my opinion the "History" Channel has no interest in promoting accurate history, but rather in propagating the standard propaganda you would expect to find in any government school "history" book.

As we approach the Sesquicentennial observance of the War of Northern Aggression this becomes all too clear. According to a press release on <http://georgiascv.org> for November 29th "The nationally syndicated cable television History Channel has made the controversial decision to force cable television companies, including Comcast and Charter to pull adds paid for by the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Georgia commemorating the Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the War Between the States...". Vice-president Nancy Alpert of A & E Television, the parent company of the History Channel, gave the following explanation of her decision to ban the historical ads: 'The subject matter of each of the SCV ads, plus the actual language...is well beyond our guidelines for any advertising on AETN.' Alpert cited her opinion that the ads violated History Channel guidelines by quoting, among other things, a statement in one commercial that the war was 'Not a civil war fought to take over the United States, as it is called in history books today, this was a war...against an aggressive invasion by federal troops.'

What, pray tell, is wrong with that statement? It happens to be the truth! It was not a war in which the South was trying to take over or conquer the United States--all the Southern states sought to do was to separate themselves from the United States via secession--which was not prohibited in the Constitution.

Ms. Alpert seems to have had problems with the wording of the ads, of which there were twelve. I have not seen all twelve of them, but I did take the time to view six of them. I could find no problem whatever with what they said or the way they said it. They told the truth, but it would seem that the truth is a little too strong for the "History" Channel. It appears that they would much prefer the watered-down drivel about how wonderful Sherman's humanitarian march was for the people and state of Georgia, or how the "Great Emancipator" "freed" all the slaves (he really didn't free any).

One of the ads I viewed dealt with the Morrill Tariff and how it penalized the South while helping the North. Another dealt with the obvious theological differences between North and South. This is a forbidden subject in history books today. Yet another ad noted the cultural differences between the two regions. All of this is stuff our current "history" books will not touch. It's the stuff of which real history is constituted, and it's just those kinds of things that the "History" Channel chooses not to deal with. I just wonder if the "History" Channel people gave the Georgia SCV their money back, seeing they opted not to run their ads.

Actually, in my opinion, the Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans did an excellent job with this series of ads. They were succinct, well-done, and each presented a historical viewpoint that needs to be dealt with, and did it in 60 seconds flat. The subjects noted in each of these ads would be well worth doing a television presentation, prime time, so that people going into this Sesquicentennial year of the War could begin to see what the real issues were that the South fought over. I'm sure the liberal and socialist media will, for the next four years straight, hammer at us that it was all over slavery and nothing else.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STATE SENATOR DEFENDS SECESSION CELEBRATIONS

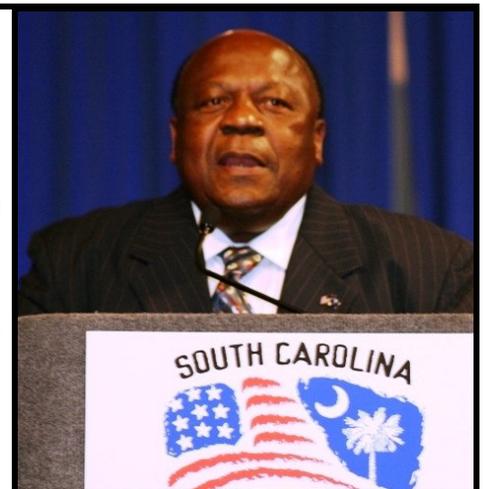
Many South Carolinians objected to a recent Civil War memorial celebration, leading to NAACP-sponsored demonstrations at the Charleston site of the Secession Gala and in front of its attendees' hotels. But one local African-American official recently defended the secession celebration. Robert Ford, state senator from Charleston, openly stated his support for celebrations of the sesquicentennial of South Carolina's secession.

In a December 21 press release, Ford stated "every African American and every White citizen across the United States should celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War." The War Between the States had black soldiers on both opposing sides, Ford pointed out, and both slaves and free black men in the Confederate military. "Those men who fought and died in the Civil War of 1860-1865 did so because they felt that they were doing the right thing," Ford said. "In 2010, who are we and why do we think that we have the right to say they were wrong? So, to all of those brave men - black and white, slaves and free - we should make every effort to take part in this celebration over the next five years." The sesquicentennial of the end of the Civil War will be in 2015.

The South Carolina Secession Gala, held in Charleston on December 20, was sponsored by the Confederate Heritage Trust with aid from the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Three local Republican officials participated in a dramatic reenactment of the State Assembly's signing of the Ordinance of Secession.

The local chapter of the NAACP organized a protest of the Gala at its Gaillard Auditorium location, followed by a march to a nearby AME church for a forum to discuss the event and its indication of reborn racism.

Ford has served in the state senate since 1993, and ran for governor in the 2010 Democratic primary.



PLANS FOR THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR MAY FACE CHALLENGES

By Marisa Kendall, USA TODAY

As communities across the nation prepare to commemorate next year's 150th anniversary of the Civil War, some are struggling with a lack of funding, while a bill that could change that is stuck in a House committee.

The Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act, which would establish a national, federally funded committee to help organize commemorative events, was introduced to the House on March 4 by Illinois Democratic Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. and then referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where it is still waiting to be passed, according to Jackson spokesman Andrew Wilson.

Democratic Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu introduced an act of the same name to the Senate in October 2009, but it never made it out of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Wilson says. Jackson says he hopes the bill will pass after Congress reconvenes on Nov. 15. "We must use the sesquicentennial as a chance to make sure all of us, young and old, have an accurate appreciation of this transformative period in our nation's history," he said.

Robert Rosen, a member of the South Carolina Sesquicentennial Advisory Board, is not optimistic about the Sesquicentennial Commission Act. "I think Congress is just going to dodge it," he says.

Some events have already kicked off ahead of the April 12, 2011, anniversary

of the Civil War's official first shot, which took place at Fort Sumter in Charleston, S. C. The commemoration will last until spring of 2015, says Cheryl Jackson, executive director of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission.

In the absence of a federal committee, some states have set up committees to plan commemorative events. Several, including those in North Carolina, South Carolina, Missouri, New Jersey and Connecticut have been denied state funding. "The biggest problem, of course, is there's no money from any source," Rosen says. The Georgia Civil War Commission's state funding was cut from \$50,000 two years ago to \$10,000 this year, says John Culpepper, commission chairman.

Gettysburg, Pa., has also been denied state funding, says Carl Whitehill, media relations manager of the Gettysburg Convention and Visitor's Bureau. "It was certainly the hope and expectation that there would be some state funding," Whitehill says.

Virginia's state commission has received a \$2 million annual state appropriation, Jackson says. Rosen attributes Congress' inaction regarding the Sesquicentennial Commission Act to controversy surrounding the Civil War. "It's kind of a political hot potato," Rosen says.

It would also be difficult to persuade conservatives to back a multimillion-dollar national committee in today's economy, says Daryl Michael Scott, vice president of

the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. "I think many Americans have lost a sense of history," Scott says.

Barbara Franco, co-chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Civil War 150 Planning Committee, says one benefit to the lack of a national committee is local committees are more willing to tackle difficult or previously ignored issues, such as the role of African Americans, women and children, she says. "That's a story that is a new story and really hasn't been told in previous commemorations," Franco says.

The sesquicentennial will be more inclusive than the 1960s centennial, which was planned by a federal commission and largely ignored the role of African Americans, says Hari Jones, curator of the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum. "This story has really been a suppressed story for us," he says.

Michael Givens, commander in chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, hopes the Civil War commissions will look at all sides and not play a "p.c. game" blaming only the Confederacy.

Although the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission will neither condone or condemn re-enactments this season, it plans to move away from the celebratory events that characterized the centennial and instead focus on education, says James Robertson, a member of the commission. "We're not out to celebrate anything," he says. "There's nothing to celebrate when three quarters of a million men died."

TAKEN FROM THE CIVIL WAR GAZETTE

FIRING ON THE STAR OF THE WEST IN CHARLESTON HARBOR, SC

January 9, 1861 - The unarmed vessel, *Star of the West*, arrives to reinforce the Federal garrison of soldiers at Ft. Sumter in Charleston harbor and is fired upon by southerners. The reinforcements are never delivered.

The January 26, 1861 edition of Harper's Weekly featured the following illustration, showing the First Shot of the Civil War. The first shot was fired on January 10, 1861. It was fired by the South Carolinians on Morris Island. They fired on the Union Ship "*Star of the West*" as it attempted to reinforce Major Anderson at Fort Sumter. Harper's Weekly, January 26, 1861

THE FIRING ON THE "STAR OF THE WEST."

WE publish on page 52 a fine illustration of the firing on the *Star of the West* from the Morris Island Battery, Harbor of Charleston, on 10th January, 1861. The event was mentioned in our last Number; and it is only necessary to say here that she was on her way to Fort Sumter with men and supplies for the reinforcement of Major Anderson. The captain of the *Star of the West*, by name M'Gowan, gives the following account of the event:

"When we arrived about two miles from Fort Moultrie—fort Sumter being about the same distance—a masked battery on Morris Island, where there was a red Palmetto flag flying, opened fire upon us—distance, about five-eighths of a mile. We had the American flag flying at our flag-staff at the time, and, soon after the first shot, hoisted a large American ensign at the fore. We continued on under the fire of the battery for over ten minutes, several of the shots going clean over us. One passed just clear of the pilot-house. Another passed between the smoke-stack and walking-beams of the engine. Another struck the ship just abaft the fore-rigging, and stove in the planking; and another came within an ace of carrying away the rudder. At the same time there was a movement of two steamers from near Fort Moultrie—one of them towing a schooner (I presume an armed schooner)—with the intention of cutting us off. Our position now became rather critical, as we had to approach Fort Moultrie to within three-fourths of a mile before we could keep away for Fort Sumter. A steamer approaching us with an armed schooner in tow, and the battery on the Island firing at us all the time, and having no cannon to defend ourselves from the attack of the vessels, we concluded that, to avoid certain capture or destruction, we would endeavor to get to sea. Consequently, we wore round and steamed down the channel, the battery firing upon us until their shot fell short."

Continued on page 7 . . .

Star of the West from page 6 . . .

A reporter of the Evening Post, who was on board, thus describes the scene:

"On we go; the soldiers are below with loaded muskets, and the officers are ready to give the word if there is anything to do. Now it is broad daylight, and we are making directly into the guns of Fort Moultrie, whose black walls are distinctly visible. The little steamer at our right is burning a signal light aft, and is making all possible head-way up the harbor. Now we discover a red Palmetto flag at our left on Morris Island, a little village called Cummings Point, and apparently but little more than a mile from Fort Sumter.

"Is it possible that those fellows have got a battery off here?" asks one. "No," answers another, "there is no battery there."

"But there is. It is now a quarter past seven, and we are about two miles from Forts Sumter and Moultrie, which are equidistant from us, and, suddenly, whiz-z! comes a ricochet shot from Morris Island. It plunges into the water and skips along, but falls short of our steamer. The line was forward of our bow, and was, of course, an invitation to stop. But we are not ready to accept the proffered hospitality, and the captain pays no attention to it, except to run up the stars and stripes at the mast-head—a garrison flag which was on board. A moment of anxious suspense, and bang! goes a heavy cannon from the same masked battery. The shot falls short of us a hundred yards or more, and bounds clean over our vessel aft, nearly on a line with the head of a sailor, but luckily a little above it.

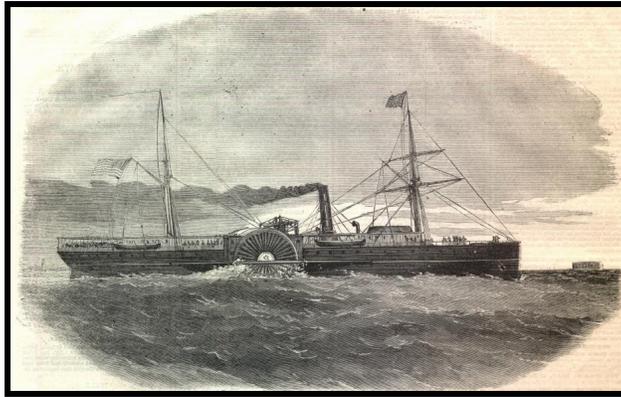
"On we go, and—whizz! again goes the smaller gun first fired, and another ricochet shot skips along the water and falls short of us.

"Booh!" exclaims the captain; "you must give us bigger guns than that, boys, or you can not hurt us."

"On we go, without heeding the compliments of our Charleston friends. An-

other moment and bang! again goes the heavy gun. The ball now strikes our ship in the fore chains, about two feet above the water. A seaman was holding the lead to take the soundings, and the ball struck directly under his feet. It is not surprising that, under the circumstances, Jack was strongly inclined to take to his heels, and he begins to scramble up with might and main, when the captain assures him that there is no danger, one ball having struck so near him; on the principle, I suppose, that lightning never strikes twice in the same place. Jack, reassured, patiently takes his place and drops the lead again.

The ball, fortunately, was too far spent to go through the side of our vessel, although it left an honorable scar. The battery continues to play upon us, and a huge ball comes clean over us, near the wheel-house. We are not yet within range of the



guns of Fort Moultrie, and yonder is a cutter in tow of a steamboat, preparing to open fire upon us. A moment longer, and we shall be in range of these three batteries. The gunners on Morris Island are growing confident; if they get the right range they will send a shot through our side, scattering death and destruction. Moultrie, directly in front, will bring her heavy guns to bear, and will drive their deadly missiles into our bow, while the cutter will open on our right.

"Why does not Major Anderson open fire upon that battery and save us? We look in vain for help; the American flag

flies from Fort Sumter, and the American flag at our bow and stern is fired upon, yet there is not the slightest recognition of our presence from the fort from which we look for protection. The unexpected battery on Morris Island has cut off all hope of escape by running the vessel aground near Sumter and taking to the boats. Is it possible that Fort Sumter has been taken by the South Carolinians? If it has not, why does not Major Anderson show that he will protect us, or at least recognize us in some way? To go within range of the guns of Fort Moultrie is to expose vessel, men, and stores to almost instant destruction, or to capture by the enemy.

"Helm out of port!" shouts the Captain, and the Star of the West is turned about without any great loss of time, as you may well imagine. We turn without accident, and steam away, with the stars and stripes still floating, and the battery still playing upon us by way of a parting salute."

A person who was on Morris Island at the time of the firing thus describes the excitement:

"The shots were fired by the Citadel Cadets, under command of Major Stephens, who has thus had the honor, which he so much coveted, of opening the impending conflict. Major Stephens is at the head of the State Military Academy, which occupies the Charleston Citadel. He is apparently about thirty-five years of age, with rather thin black hair, black and heavy beard, and large black eyes. He is about the medium size, of lithe form, with quick, nervous motions. His guns were directed at the steamer with scientific accuracy, and even the shot which failed to strike the ship fell very near her. Her flag was pulled down, and she immediately retreated. She was struck certainly three times, and perhaps five. The last shot which took effect was fired after she had turned to go out. The steamer was seen to shoot forward with a jerk the instant this shot struck her. Two balls were seen to strike her hull; one just forward of her wheel-house, the other upon the larboard quarter."

FROM BONNIE BLUE PUBLISHING

Southrons,

Our enemies are using it to denigrate the good name of the Confederate soldier and Southern independence. They are determined to intimidate us by screaming that slavery, and slavery alone, was the cause of the war. We at www.BonnieBluePublishing.com are launching a counter attack with a HUGE promotion for the three-DVD set, *The War Between the States and Reconstruction*, featuring distinguished historian and founding dean of the SCV's Stephen D. Lee Institute, Dr. Clyde N. Wilson. The set has been remastered and improved and is ready to ship in quantity with as high as a 55% discount, as well as a "Buy One Set, Get One Set for Only \$5" Special, which also means you can "Buy Five Sets and Get Five Sets for Only \$5 Each." The normal price is \$29.95/set.

Here is Dr. Wilson's updated bio which is on four screens on each DVD so that viewers will know his extensive background and accomplishments:

- Dr. Wilson is a professor emeritus of History at the University of South Carolina where he taught for 32 years.

. . . Continued on page 10

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MISSISSIPPI'S SECESSION - SPONSORED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, UDC

Friday, January 28, 2011 - 6:30 PM at the War Memorial Building in Jackson, MS

Gentlemen -

I am pleased to attach an invitation to the Mississippi Division UDC's event to observe the 150th Anniversary of the Secession of Mississippi. Please ensure that this e-mail is forwarded to all members of the SCV in Mississippi - all are invited, along with their families, to this special and unique event. As you will see on the invitation, an RSVP is requested in order that we can plan appropriately for the reception that will follow the evening's program. Please note, the reception will be light hors d'ourves - you will probably not want to rely on it for your dinner! Joining us for the evening will be two very special guests:

- Grady Howell of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will be our keynote speaker. Mr. Howell is the author of a number of books on Confederate history in Mississippi. An SCV member, Mr. Howell was awarded the UDC's Jefferson Davis Historical Gold

Medal for his research and writing. We are most pleased to have him with us as we begin our journey into the 150th Anniversary of the War Between the States.

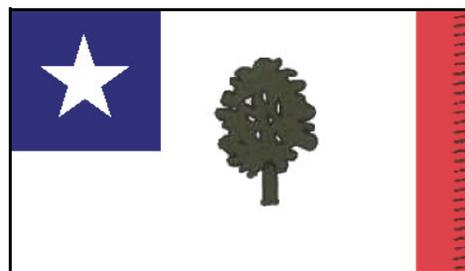
- Our entertainment for the evening will be mezzo soprano extraordinaire Lester Senter. Miss Senter's love of history in general and Mississippi history in particular is evident in the extensive research she has done in the realm of 19th century music. Her research has taken her to public and private music collections across the state. She has combined her love of historical music with her incredible musical talents and produced several albums of 19th century music including *The Owl* and *the Pussy Cat* (comprised of music from the collection of Varina Davis) and *Somebody's Darling* (music of the war period pertinent to the Battle of Raymond).

To learn more about our special guests, feel free to "Google" them - the more you learn about each, the faster you will make your plans to be in Jackson on the 28th! Although plans are not firm on this point yet, it is hoped that Mr. Howell and Miss Senter

will be able to sell and autograph their books and CDs, respectively, during the reception. If they are able to do so, you will want your checkbooks handy!

The Mississippi UDC 150th Anniversary Council looks forward to seeing you in Jackson on January 28th 2011, for the inaugural event in our commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the War Between the States. We will look to receive your RSVP.

Margaret Murdock, Chairman
150th Anniversary Council



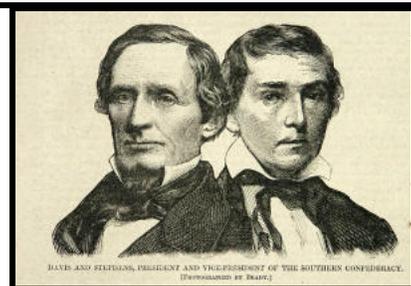
THE SOUTH GETS ITS MAN: JEFFERSON DAVIS ELECTED PRESIDENT

When deputies from six seceding states convened for the Provisional Confederate Congress on Feb. 4, 1861, they faced a daunting and exciting challenge: building a new country from scratch. They needed a new constitution, government, flag, seal, coat of arms and motto. They had to resolve complex issues of revenue, commerce, representation, and defense. Undeterred by the task ahead, the representatives of the six states got right to work (the four deputies from the seventh seceding state, Texas, arrived to participate in the Congress on March 2.) Four days after the Congress opened, on Feb. 8, they adopted a provisional constitution to formalize their new country, the Confederate States of America. The next day, Feb. 9, 1861, they unanimously elected their provisional president: Jefferson Finis Davis.

Davis, the 52-year-old ex-senator from Mississippi, had resigned his Senate seat on Jan. 21, 1861, upon being informed that Mississippi had seceded from the Union (an action Davis opposed, but his first allegiance was to his home state). Returning to Mississippi, he received a commission as a Major General of his state's troops. He had a wealth of experience that made him well qualified to become the Confederacy's first—and, as it turned out, only—president. A West Point graduate and veteran of the Mexican-American war, Davis had been Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce as well as both a Representative and Senator from Mississippi. Well liked and respected, he was almost the Democratic candidate for the 1860 presidential election.

The inauguration of Jefferson Davis as provisional president took place on Feb. 18, 1861. He was elected to a full six-year term as president of the Confederate States of America on November 6 and inaugurated on February 22, 1862. Because the Civil War ended the Confederacy before Davis's term expired, there never was a second Confederate president.

The swift action of the Provisional Confederate Congress in February 1861 was closely followed by both the Northern and Southern press, as suddenly everyone had to confront the reality that one country was now two. This article was printed by the New York Herald (New York, New York) in its Feb. 10, 1861, issue, the day after Jefferson Davis was elected the South's new president:



The News

The news from the South this morning is of the highest importance. The Southern Congress at Montgomery, Alabama, on Friday unanimously adopted a constitution for a provisional government. It is in substance the same as the constitution of the Union. It gives the Congress ample power as regards the questions of revenue and taxation. It prohibits the importation of negroes from Africa and other foreign countries, as well as the introduction of slaves from any State not a member of the confederacy. The Congress yesterday unanimously elected Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, for President, and Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia for Vice President of the Southern confederacy, and the President of the Congress was directed to appoint committees on Foreign Affairs, on Finance, on Military and Naval Affairs, on Postal Affairs, on Commerce and on Patents. An ordinance was passed continuing in force, until repealed or altered by the Southern Congress, all laws of the United States in force or use on the 1st of November last. It is understood that under this law a tariff will be laid on all goods brought from the United States. The Provisional Government is now fairly underway.

Continued on page 9 . . .

. . . Continued from page 8 – Davis

This article was printed by the Albany Journal (Albany, New York) in its Feb. 11, 1861, issue:

Southern Confederacy—Election of President and Vice-President – Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 9.

Unusual interest was manifested in the proceedings of the Southern Congress today. The Hall of the Convention and the gallery was crowded with spectators.

Mr. Memminger presented a beautiful model of a flag, made by the ladies of South Carolina. The flag has a blue cross on a red field; seven stars are on it. He also presented another model flag, made by a gentleman of Charleston. It has a cross and fifteen stars, on a field of stripes.

A committee was appointed to report on a flag, a seal, a coat of arms and a motto for the Southern Confederacy.

The President [of the Southern Congress] was directed to appoint Commissioners on Foreign Affairs, on Finance, on Military and Naval Affairs, on Postal Affairs, on Commerce and Patents.

Hon. Jefferson Davis, of Miss., was then elected President, and Hon. Alex. H. Stephens, of Ga., Vice-President of the Southern Confederacy. The vote was unanimous.

A resolution was adopted for the appointment of a Committee of Three to enquire and report on what terms suitable buildings can be procured in Montgomery, for the use of the several Executive Departments of the Confederacy, under the Provisional Government.

The Southern press, predictably, was enthusiastic. This article was printed by the Macon Daily Telegraph (Macon, Georgia) on the front page of its Feb. 11, 1861, issue:

By Electric Telegraph Southern

Confederacy!

**President—Hon. Jefferson Davis
Vice President—Hon. Alexander H. Stephens**

Montgomery, Feb. 9.—Hon. Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, is unanimously elected President of the Confederate States of North America, and Hon. A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, elected Vice-President, unanimously.

From Montgomery

Project for a Provisional Government Adopted, and to Go into Immediate Operation

Montgomery, Feb. 9.—The Congress last night unanimously agreed to the Constitution and project of a Provisional Government. A strong and vigorous government will go into immediate operation, with full powers and ample resources.

No propositions for compromise or reconstruction will be entertained. The Congress will remain in session to make all necessary laws.

On that same front page, the Macon Daily Telegraph carried an account of the proceedings of the Provisional Confederate Congress, including this interesting explanation of the proposed Confederate flags provided by Christopher Gustavus Memminger, a deputy from South Carolina who would soon be appointed the first Confederate States Secretary of the Treasury:

**Southern Congress – Sixth Day
Montgomery, Ala, Feb. 9, 1861.
Congress met this morning at 11 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Basil Manly.**

...Mr. Memminger: I conceive, Mr. President, this a fitting occasion to discharge a commission which has been entrusted to me by some of my constituency of South Carolina. I have before me a flag which some of the young ladies of South Carolina present to this Congress as a model flag for the Confederate States of America.

This flag, as it will be clear upon inspection, embraces the idea of a cross—a blue cross on a red field.

Now, Mr. President, the idea of a cross no doubt was suggested to the imagination of the young ladies by the beautiful constellation of the Southern Cross, which the Great Creator has placed in the Southern heavens by way of compensation for the glorious constellation at the North Pole. The imagination of the young ladies was doubtless inspired by the genius of Dante and the scientific skill of Humboldt.—But Sir, I have no doubt, that there was another idea associated with it in the minds of the young ladies—a religious one—and although we have not seen, in the heavens, the “in hoc signo vinces,” written upon the Labarum of Constantine, yet the same sign has been manifested to us upon the tables of the earth; for we all know that it has been by the aid of revealed religion, that we have achieved over fanaticism the victory which we this day witness; and it is becoming on this occasion that the debt of the South to the cross should be thus recognized.

I have also, Mr. President, another commission from a gentleman of taste and skill, in the city of Charleston, who offers another model, which embraces the same idea of a cross, but upon a different ground. The gentleman who offers this model appears to be more hopeful than the young ladies. They offer one with seven stars, six for the States already represented in this Congress, and the seventh for Texas, whose deputies, we hope, will soon be on their way to join us. He offers a flag which embraces the whole fifteen [slave] States. God grant that his hope may be realized, and that we may soon welcome their stars to the glorious constellation of our Southern Confederacy.

US POST OFFICE TO RELEASE SESQUICENTENNIAL STAMPS

The Postal Service begins a series with these stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, joining others across the country in paying tribute to the American experience during the tumultuous years from 1861 to 1865. The stamps will go on sale April 12.

A souvenir sheet of two stamps will be issued each year through 2015. For 2011, one stamp depicts the beginning of the war in April 1861 at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, while the other depicts the first major battle of the war three months later at Bull Run, near Manassas, Virginia.

The Civil War profoundly changed the country, bringing an end to slavery, transforming the social life of the South and the economic life of the nation, and having a lasting impact on those who lived through the four-year ordeal.

Art Director Phil Jordan of Falls Church, VA, created the stamps using images of Civil War battles. The Fort Sumter stamp is a reproduction of a Currier & Ives lithograph, circa 1861, titled “Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor.” The Bull Run stamp is a reproduction of a 1964 painting by Sidney E. King titled “The Capture of Rickett’s Battery.” The painting depicts fierce fighting on Henry Hill over an important Union battery during the Battle of First Bull Run.

For the stamp pane’s background image, Jordan used a photograph dated circa 1861 of a Union regiment assembled near Falls Church, Virginia.

The stamp pane includes comments on the war by Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, and Robert E. Lee. It also includes some of the lyrics used during the Civil War in “Johnny is Gone for a Soldier,” a song dating back at least to the Revolutionary War.



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**We're on the Web:
www.
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com**

- He did "exemplary" work as editor of The Papers of John C. Calhoun, Volumes 10 through 28. He has contributed over 400 articles, essays and reviews to a wide variety of books and journals, and has lectured extensively.
- He has written several books including Carolina Cavalier: The Life and Mind of James Johnston Pettigrew; From Union to Empire: Essays in the Jeffersonian Tradition; and
- Defending Dixie: Essays in Southern History and Culture.
- He has edited several books including three volumes of The Dictionary of Literary Biography; The Essential Calhoun; John C. Calhoun: A Bibliography; and A Defender of Southern Conservatism: M.E. Bradford and His Achievements.
- He is recipient of the Bostick Medal for Contributions to South Carolina Letters, the John Randolph Club Award for Lifetime Achievement, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans Medal of Meritorious Service.
- He is the M.E. Bradford Distinguished Chair of The Abbeville Institute, an affiliated scholar of the League of the South Institute, and an adjunct faculty member of the Ludwig von Mises Institute.
- He is a regular contributor to Chronicles magazine and Southern Partisan, and an occasional contributor to National Review.

We can customize orders of 25 sets or more by giving camps, chapters and units an opening screen (before talk) and two closing screens (after talk). You can put "Sponsored by" on the opening screen with your logo; and organization detail and contact information on closing screens.

The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina has dishonored its own ancestry and Charleston's history with an endless parade of South-hating historians screaming at the top of their lungs that Southerners were determined to hang onto slavery, and that we, today, should be ashamed.

We've had people held up to high esteem by the Post and Courier such as the fellow whose ancestor signed the Ordinance of Secession, but, instead of going to the Secession Ball, that man chose to demonstrate with the NAACP. This is the Post and Courier's new hero.

The Post and Courier's series, "Charleston at War," by Brian Hicks, has some descriptions of events that are pretty good, but he makes it clear that the whole thing - this magnificent display of democracy, self-government and independence -- is tainted by slavery. I guess democracy and self-government are just not enough for Brian Hicks and the Post and Courier in this day and age. I think 1776 is OK with them, but not 1861, when the exact same thing occurred.

However, we are going to get our word in because we own the domain name, www.CharlestonAtWar.com. It will be a good venue for answering the Post and Courier's politically correct drivel.

Slavery was not the cause of the war. Southern independence was. Southern independence meant the collapse of the Northern economy because it was utterly dependent on the South. Just think about it. Northern factories sold ONLY to the South. They could not compete with England in those days, and this is common historical knowledge. The South was their captive market. Without the South, Northern factories stood idle and it was happening with frightful speed as the Southern States seceded.

One can not find a Northern newspaper editor who is not in sheer panic after January, 1861 when they realized the North was headed for bankruptcy and anarchy, while the South's star was rising. There is no question about this. Read any Northern newspaper editor after January, 1861 and you will see clearly why the North had to have war. They told us as much. The bottom line is that they needed us, but we did NOT need them. The history that is being forced on us today by the Post and Courier is easily refuted, and it's time, as Sam Walton would say, to get after it.

Please visit www.BonnieBluePublishing.com today and buy some DVDs of Dr. Wilson's outstanding lectures for your camp, chapter or unit, or yourself.

Magna est veritas et praevalabit! (Great is truth and it will prevail!!)

Gene Kizer, Publisher

www.BonnieBluePublishing.com

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