

THE LEGIONARY

May 2006

A Publication of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp #273

Columbia, S.C.

www.wadehamptoncamp.org

"A Fraternal Organization of Southern Men"

Battle for Columbia Able to Overcome Wet Weather

Thousands came out for the third annual Battle for Columbia at the Culler Farm in Sandy Run earlier this month, making it the most successful Living History event ever for the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp.

On hand were more than 500 re-enactors - including at least 30 cavalry- from all over the Southeast, and at least 20 cannon.

The highlight of the May 5-7 affair was Living History Day on May 5, in which more than 1,100 children came out to learn

firsthand what life was like during the War Between the States.

"We got a tremendous response from educators and teachers," said Compatriot Jeff O'Cain. "Many of them said it was the best field trip they'd ever taken their kids on and were practically begging us to do it again next year, so they could come again."

Wet weather hampered attendance on Sunday, but everyone who made it out during the event raved about it, O'Cain added.

It was estimated that about one of every visitors was black, which contradicts conventional liberal "wisdom" that African-Americans aren't interested in War Between the States history.

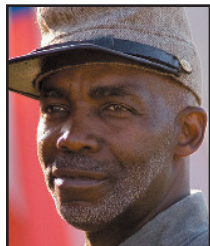
Special recognition goes to the handful of Hampton Camp Compatriots who more than pulled their own weight, including Jim Nettles J.B. Hensley, Robert Spigner, Jim Harmon, Bill Hollingsworth and Tom O'Cain, Jeff O'Cain, and Layne Waters.

A View From the Frontlines

Why One Man Took Part in the Battle

By H.K. Edgerton

On May 6, 2006, my little brother, Terry Lee, and I were given the honor of speaking to over 1,500 students and their teachers at the Battle of Columbia Living History and Education Day activities.



Edgerton

Many of us who find ourselves in the fray seeking to right the historic wrongs taught not only to our nation, but also the entente it has forged against the South; have always resonated in our speech that the public school systems have not taught our children truth, or very little about the War Between the States, the events leading up to it, and the magnificence of our relations to each other as a people, whether free or in some form of servitude in the South.

The affirmation of thinking became more evident as the groups of students, teachers and parents found themselves being grilled by Terry Lee.

See Edgerton, Page 6

Attention, Hampton Compatriots

If you have not already returned funds from Battle for Columbia tickets, or the unused tickets, please do so as soon as possible.

Send funds/tickets to: Battle for Columbia, Box 210307, Columbia, SC 29221.

Remember, all tickets must be accounted for. Help the Camp reconcile its books by sending your funds/tickets in. Thank you.



Division Commander Randy Burbage, left, tells kids about the CSS Hunley during Living History Day May 5, at the Battle for Columbia site in Sandy Run. The Hunley was a big hit with kids and adults alike.

Long to Speak at May Meeting

Curator of the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Museum Joe Long will speak to the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp at our upcoming meeting, May 18 at Seawell's.

Long, who is also a member of our camp, will talk about the Battle for Congaree Creek, the relatively unknown battle that took place in mid-February 1865 as Confederate troops sought to keep Yankees from moving on Columbia.

Hampton Camp Does It Right at Battle for Columbia

Compatriots, the third annual Battle for Columbia is now behind us and I am pleased to announce that we were once again a grand success.

Our Friday Living History and Education Day was well received and has become one of the best educational tools in this State.

We were given good coverage by television stations WLTX-19 and WOLO-25 in Columbia, and in the Times and Democrat newspaper in Orangeburg.

Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate on Sunday and the spectator turnout wasn't as good as we'd like.

The highlight of the three days for me was watching the two newest additions to the Battle for Columbia staff - Ricky Badger and Camp Surgeon Robert Spigner earned their stripes in a big way.

Ricky was involved in spectator issues and re-enactor issues and everything in between. He handled each situation admirably.

Robert was busy from early Friday until late in the evening Saturday dealing with heat stress, cuts, and strains. Thanks

Commander's Corner

Tommy Rollings

for your help and welcome to the hardest working team of men in the Camp!

Confederate Memorial day has passed and the Camp was well represented at the Statehouse on May 10.

Our Compatriots and re-enactors were standing tall for their ancestors at the Confederate monuments on the Statehouse grounds.

Welcome, New Compatriots

The Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp welcomes four new members:

Harry Paul Brown

Howard P. Pees, Jr.

William A. Stubbs

Perry S. Williams, Sr.

I'm sure your ancestors are all pleased with the way you represented them on our most important Confederate holiday and it's good to see there are still a few men willing to give a little time and energy to take a stand for our Confederate forefathers.

Our next meeting is Thursday May 18 and our speaker will be Joe Long from the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Museum.

His topic will be "The Skirmish at Congaree Creek - the Real Battle for Columbia" and I'm really looking forward to hearing him speak.

One of the many hundreds of skirmishes that took place during the War Between The States, Congaree Creek is relatively unknown outside South Carolina, so this should be a good chance to learn.

Please try to attend if you are able. Joe is a member of our Camp and really loves to speak to us.

If you've ever heard him you know he does a great job.

I hope to see a great many of y'all turn out on the 18th!



Compatriot Roger McClain won this beautiful print of the S.C. Statehouse and Confederate Soldiers Monument during a raffle held at the Battle for Columbia. The print was donated by Bill Lorick of Vista Art & Framing. Dick Stewart of Barnyard Flea Market donated a stall for the camp to sell raffle tickets.

Ford Shows Respect For CMD

Kudos to South Carolina state Sen. Robert Ford who, in an Associated Press story that ran on Confederate Memorial Day, proved he can look past skin color to see what the holiday is about.

"We live in the South," Sen. Ford told the AP. "Those people who died have descendants.

"For us to say to them they don't have a right to respect their descendants, that's just crazy," added Ford, who is black. "The whole thing's about history and understanding."

Ford told the AP he hopes South Carolinians of different races will work to learn about and respect each other more.

Unfortunately, Lonnie Randolph, president of the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, wasn't so open-minded. Randolph said the Confederacy had nothing to do with respecting people.

"I don't need a holiday to respect people," he said. "I don't have any reason to get happy and say I'm overjoyed for this holiday because it has nothing to do positive in the lives of people who look like I do."

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, New Orleans, La., April 25, 1906.

The Legionary

is the official publication of the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp, No. 273, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Columbia, S.C. Individuals interested in joining the Camp or the SCV should contact the following individuals:

Commander Tommy Rollings (803) 791-1130
Adjutant Layne Waters (803) 798-2429

May a Time to Remember and Celebrate Our Heritage

May is the month we especially remember our Confederate Veterans as we remember their valiant and courageous deeds as they fought for Southern Independence.

They were fighting for a noble and righteous cause! Nearly 20,000 South Carolinians died, and thousands of others were maimed for life fighting for the United States Constitution that their and our forefathers had given them.

At that time the Constitution guaranteed, and still does, states' rights and secession against a national government that had discarded the Constitution and was determined to replace it with a very strong central government that would forever force the whims of a despotic ma-

Chaplain's Pulpit

Robert Slimp

jority on all the people of the Union.

The Lincoln Administration was determined to provoke the war by invading the South because the Northern President realized that he could not build the strong central government he desired without high tariffs and more tax money from the South. Lincoln admitted, "how can I build a stronger nation as long as Southern harbors remain free ports for international trade?"

At that time, Southern Christianity was the most pure religion to be found in the world. On the other hand, most of the Northern churches had become liberal, humanistic, and in theology, Unitarian, and so sought to replace the Biblical Gospel of Christ with the Social Gospel

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that called for, among other things, the abolition of slavery.

The Lincoln regime ultimately won, because it was able to impose a naval blockade against all Southern harbors, and their armed forces outnumbered those of the Confederacy by a ratio of more than four to one.

Immigrants were pouring into the North at that time, and scarcely had they set foot on Northern soil than they were drafted into the Union Army. During the war, about half a million new immigrants served in the Union forces. Overwhelmed, the Confederates lost.

We freedom loving Southerners face the same problems today. That is why we must live up to General Stephen D Lee's charge.

I am going to comment on only one part of the charge: "Remember that it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

If we do this effectively, we may yet prevail. I say prevail, because our cause is as just and right today as it was in 1861! It is our duty to tell the story of our noble ancestors.

Some suggestions as to how to achieve this is to recruit new members into our SCV camps, starting with our own, to support the Sam Davis youth camps, edu-

cational opportunities like the "Battle for Columbia," and our re-enactments, South wide.

We should all read and support the Southern Mercury and the "Confederate Veteran." In these and other ways, we must tell the story of our heroic ancestors and oppose all attempts to "re-write our history" by our enemies. The truth is on our side!

I conclude by sharing a poem attributed to a South Carolina soldier, Paul Hayne. It was read at a Memorial Service in the late 1860s in Charleston:

An Ode on Confederate Memorial Day

*The marching armies of the past
along our Southern Plains,
are sleeping now in quiet rest
beneath the Southern rains.*

*The bugle call is now in vain
to rouse them from their bed
To arms they'll never march again..
They are sleeping with the dead.*

*No more will Shiloh's plains be
stained
with blood our heroes shed,
Nor Chancellorsville resound again
to our noble warriors' tread*

*For them no more shall reveille
sound at the break of dawn,
but may their sleep peaceful be
Till God's great judgment morn.*

*We bow our heads in solemn prayer
for those who wore the gray,
and clasp again their unseen hands on
our Memorial Day.*

Following Tracks in the Lowcountry

**By Lori Yount
Beaufort Gazette**

Union forces may have controlled many of the Lowcountry's sea islands and ports during the Civil War, but local Confederate soldiers held the mainland railroad almost to the bitter end.

Though not accomplished with megaguns, record amounts of bloodshed or brilliant field tactics, the Confederates' ability to keep the railroad meant troops, food and money-making crops were continually

pumped throughout the Confederacy.

"Logistics aren't quite as sexy as big battles, but they're just as vital," said Stephen Wise, curator at the Parris Island Museum and expert in Civil War history in the Lowcountry.

Wise and Lawrence Rowland, a local historian who co-wrote 'The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina,' give guided tours to battle sites in Beaufort and Jasper counties that were pivotal in the

See Tracks, Page 5

Research Problems?

The SCV can help. For complete assistance in all aspects of lineage & genealogy contact:

Jim Harley

mshjehjr@bellsouth.net
(803) 772-8080

Confederate Soldiers Remembered Throughout South

By Ethelene Dyer Jones

Blairsville (Ga.) Union Sentinel

April 26 is officially Confederate Memorial Day in Georgia. However, since the mode now is to take the Monday nearest the date as a holiday, April 24 this year was officially noted as for those who closed businesses and had a day off from work, making a long weekend from April 21 through Monday, April 24 as a time to remember our Confederate Dead.

April 26 marks the official end of the War Between the States for Georgia. It was on that date in 1865 that Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to General William Tecumseh Sherman in North Carolina.

Already, General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia on April 9, 1865.

Supporters of the Southern cause can feel pride in the way General Lee conducted himself at that meeting.

It is reported that Lee maintained dignity to the end.

He appeared at Appomattox Courthouse in a brand new uniform, wearing an embroidered red sash, and polished boots with spurs.

Standing tall, with his gray hair and beard in place and his dress uniform impeccable, he met General Grant whose boots were muddy and his old slouch hat askew.

The Generals, nevertheless, were gracious to each other. Grant said to Lee, "I met you once before, General Lee, while we were serving in Mexico. I have always remembered your appearance, and I think I would have known you anywhere."

Lee had evaluated the hard nine-month siege at Petersburg and decided that holding on longer would bring only a sad, pointless loss of more lives. He agreed to meet Grant and work out terms of surrender.

The Confederates were to lay down their arms, which they did. Lee suggested that his men would need their horses for spring planting.

Grant agreed to this request and also promised to provide rations to the emaciated Confederate Army.

Astride his horse, Traveller, General Lee rode among the ranks of his faithful soldiers. His words to them were: "Men, we have fought this war together. I have done the best I could for you. My heart is too full to say more."

General Grant expressed his feelings with these words: "I feel like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who has fought so long and valiantly."

Much lay ahead before the War Between the States was officially over.

Because news traveled slowly in April of 1865, there were more skirmishes in various places before complete cessation of fighting. That's why the treaty between Johnson and Sherman was not signed until April 26, 1865.

And then remained the long road to Reconstruction. In his second inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln expressed his hope for reconciliation: "With malice toward none, with charity for all...let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds."

President Lincoln's assassination shot hit him at Ford's Theater in Washington on April 14, 1865 and he died the next day.

His death complicated efforts at Reconstruction and hampered



Confederate Memorial Day is a time to remember those brave men who gave their lives fighting for a cause they believed in. Thousands lie in unmarked graves throughout the South.

reconciliation between the North and South.

As we observe Confederate History Month this April, we remember the sacrifices of soldiers, many of them our ancestors, who fought for what they believed.

Without the war, slavery may not have died out soon. The South's economy may have lingered for many more decades to agrarian pursuits with production hinging on slave labor.

The Civil War and the period of Reconstruction were tragedies in America's history.

But through it all came "a new birth of freedom," and proof that democracy could prevail, that "government of the people, by the people, and for the people would not perish from the earth."

An anonymous poet has written these striking lines for Confederate Memorial Day:

*The marching armies of the past
Along our southern plains,
Are sleeping now in quiet rest
Beneath the Southern rains.*

*We bow our heads in solemn prayer
For those who wore the gray,
And clasp again their unseen hands
On our Memorial Day.*

Birmingham Memorial Day Celebration Draws Just 50

Kelli Hewitt Taylor
Birmingham News

More than 50 people gathered at Elmwood Cemetery Sunday to honor Confederate soldiers and their families, as well as the 100th anniversary of the cemetery's Confederate monument.

Confederate Memorial Day was celebrated April 24 in Alabama and several other Southern states, with other state observations in May.

Additional ceremonies were held Sunday in downtown Birmingham and Columbia.

"If we don't remember, it will all vanish," said Larry Muse of Mountain Brook.

Muse is sergeant-at-arms for the Birmingham-based Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which sponsored the event.

"Of course it's not over.
The principles they fought
for, every generation must
fight for."

Muse has traced his own Confederate heritage and, like many in attendance, is an avid history buff.

Muse brought his teenage son to the event.

"It's more of a heritage thing to me," said Mace Muse, 17.

The Mountain Brook student said he is frustrated that more about the Civil War isn't taught in Alabama. Civil War re-enactors in Confederate uniforms fired cannon and gun salutes near the monument and 19 Confederate soldiers' graves.

The Rev. Charles Baker, who gave the memorial address, said the causes that Confederate soldiers fought for were the same that inspired the American Revolution soldiers: independence and self-government.

"Of course it's not over," said Baker, who is also pastor of Center Point Independent Baptist Church. "The principles they fought for, every generation must fight for."

Those involved say they are frustrated to be linked to racism. They say their interests are in Alabama history, family and the fight for states' rights.

"This has nothing to do with any modern political motivation," said Tim Steadman, camp commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans group that includes a black member. "Everyone in this organization is an amateur historian. It's groups like our group keeping history alive."



The Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp welcomed four new members during its April meeting: Harry Paul Brown, Howard P. Pees, Jr., William A. Stubbs and Perry S. Williams, Sr. The Hampton Camp's next meeting will be held on May 18 at Seawell's Restaurant in Rosewood Drive in Columbia.

Membership Help Line

For complete assistance in all aspects of membership & recruiting contact:

Scott James

wscottjames@prodigy.net
(803) 781-1836

Tracks

Confederacy maintaining the Charleston and Savannah Railroad until Gen. Sherman marched through the area in January 1865.

"There was a learning curve," Wise said. "It was the first modern war. They were just beginning to understand logistics. For the most part, it didn't sink in how important the railroad was" until Sherman made his march against the Confederacy's supply lines.

Being on the defensive, the Confederates understood a little better how impor-

tant it was to keep the Union from breaking its lines, Wise said.

They built earthwork fortifications to keep the Northern forces away from the tracks.

Out of range of the Union's unparalleled naval power, the Confederates forced the Union to send infantry from the sea islands to attack the railroad, and in their native marshes and creeks, Wise said the Confederates had the upper hand.

Remembering One of Virginia, and America's, Greatest

By George Rowand
Fauquier Business

One day when we were studying Virginia history in the fourth grade, the teacher asked us a question: "Who was the greatest Virginian?"

Well, for us native-born Virginians, that was a tough question. After all, we had learned that when it came to producing people of quality, Virginia was far in front of any other state - maybe even any other place on the planet. (It was, after all, Henry Steele Commager, the Amherst historian,

who said that never in the history of the world had so many quality people been assembled in one place as in pre-Revolutionary War Virginia, and he was a Yankee!)

So we began to vote on Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry and Woodrow Wilson and Meriwether Lewis, and all the rest, and just like on "American Idol," one person was eliminated on every ballot, and the voting quickly came down to just two: George Washington and his relative, Robert E. Lee. The teacher called for one more vote to settle the matter.

That was a tough one. The Father of the Country versus the Last Cavalier. I had a hand in determining the ballot. For some reason, there was a pack of boys who looked to me for guidance in things educational in those days, and when it came to a show of hands for one of the candidates, I could feel the eyes on me, imploring me to tell them which way to go. I shook my head. Then the teacher called for a vote on the other candidate, and I nodded. The issue was decided.

George Washington may have been First in War, First in Peace and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen, but he was second in Mrs. Brown's fourth-grade class that day. Robert E. Lee was voted top Virginian.

Non-Virginians probably don't under-

stand the impact of the General on the hearts of Virginians, but his presence was still strong a century after he led his state in the Civil War. When we boys were playing war games, the one we all wanted to be was Robert E. Lee, and it wasn't even close. (Nobody wanted to be U.S. Grant. I mean, even kids could tell who was the real class

and who was lucky to have a job, though Grant did earn some points because he had refused Lee's sword at the surrender at Appomattox. That was civil of him, we thought.)

What Lee stood for in our minds was honor. He was the military leader of the South, but he went to war reluctantly, and that stood out to us. And we understood that it easily could have gone the other way, and if he had taken the reins of the Union troops - as offered by Abraham Lincoln - the Civil War would have been over years before it finally came to a bloody close. Yet he couldn't join the Union because it would have meant that he would have had to fight and kill his Virginia neighbors, and he wasn't about to do that. That would have been dishonorable.

When the war was finally over, Lee insisted that the Confederate troops surrender and return to their homes because he knew the South has suffered enough. If he had been a different sort of man, he could have called for guerrilla war, and if he had, the Civil War might still be going on. It would have made the insurrection in Iraq look like a day at the beach, a Teddy bear picnic, a tea party, by comparison. But he wasn't that sort of man, and he went back to Virginia and became the president of Washington College, moving from reluctant warrior to educator.

I have been to Stratford Hall - Lee's family home - on a number of occasions,

and I always find something new to admire about the man. (I recommend the trip to everyone. It's east of Fredericksburg, and an easy trip from here.) The other day I found something that I had bought at Stratford Hall years ago. It was a little something Lee had written about what it means to be a gentleman. I thought you all might like to see what he had to say:

The forbearing use of power does not only form a touchstone, but the manner in which an individual enjoys certain advantages over others is a test of a true gentleman. The power which the strong have over the weak, the employer over the employed, the educated over the unlettered, the experienced over the confiding, even the clever over the silly - the forbearing or inoffensive use of this power or authority, or a total abstinence from it when the case admits it, will show the gentleman in plain light.

The gentleman does not needlessly and unnecessarily remind an offender of a wrong he may have committed against him. He cannot only forgive, he can forget; and he strives for that nobleness of self and mildness of character which impart sufficient strength to let the past be but the past. A true man of honor feels humble himself when he cannot help humbling others.

Look around the country. Find me a person in a position of power who could meet Lee's standard for a gentleman. Find me a person of honor. Find me a person who, when he had an advantage over another, chose not to press that advantage because it would have been an unseemly display of arrogance.

We were only fourth-graders so long ago, but we instinctively knew who was a man, and a gentleman.

Edgerton

One such question was what do the stars on the Confederate Flag represent? To even my own surprise, most could not answer correctly.

I thought I would get in on the action, so I asked them about Black History Month and if their teachers had told them of Reverend Mack Lee, Levi Carmine, Holt Collier, Horace Greene, Napoleon Nelson, or any of the many Black heroes - both men and women - that had served their homeland so very heroically in the War Between The States. Their reply was "No!"

In their defense, many of the teachers said they had no knowledge of most of what we spoke of, but wanted more information. I was so very glad that Terry Lee was armed with the Historic March

Across Dixie Documentary, which is a teaching tool extraordinary by itself, but I too was armed with the Asheville/Hendersonville Tribune newspaper which has gone to unprecedented steps to inform a public of the events, issues and personalities of this volatile period.

I was so very proud of the genuine interest of the many Black students and parents as well as all who were there. I also told the teachers to ask the SCV to bring their students to meetings, or at the very least go themselves if they truly wanted to seek truths about our honorable ancestors who gave their lives for their homeland that had been invaded, and who now find themselves, their memories, their symbols desecrated.

In the Confederation

What's Going On

Hampton Compatriots Stand Tall at Statehouse

A number of compatriots of the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp turned out to do duty guarding the Confederate Soldiers Monument and the Battle Flag on Statehouse grounds on May 10, which was Confederate Memorial Day.

However, Compatriot Marion Hutson wasn't able to make it out for the first time in many years. Hutson is still recovering from back surgery. We hope to see Marion at CMD events next year.

Important May Dates to Remember

Notable Confederate Birthdays

May 1: Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder
May 9: Brig. Gen. William Edmondson 'Grumble' Jones*
May 14: Brig. Gen. George Pierce Doles*
May 16: Gen. Kirby Smith
May 19: Brig. Gen. Felix Kirk Zollicoffer*
May 24: Maj. Gen. Charles Clark
May 28: Brig. General Alpheus Baker, Abbeville District
May 28: Gen. P.G.T Beauregard
May 29: Maj. Gen. Robert Emmett Rodes*
May 31: Maj. Gen. William Fitzhugh Lee
May 31: Maj. Gen. Stephen Dodson Ramseur*
*Died in Confederate service

Coming Events

Coming Events

May 18: Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp May Meeting, 6 p.m.
Aug. 2-6: 111th Annual Reunion, New Orleans, La.

Neutrality Proved Impossible for Oklahoma Indians in War

When, one by one, the southern states began to secede from the Union in 1861, the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory found themselves under increasing pressure to join the Confederate cause.

With Confederate states on the east and south and only Kansas on the north siding with the Union, Indian Territory was caught in a vice. Aligning with the South seemed like the expedient thing to do.

Yet many members of the tribes wanted to remain neutral and take no part in "the white man's war." They argued that the

Five Tribes should simply stay out of the conflict and then negotiate with whoever was left standing. But their attempt at a neutral stance proved almost impossible to maintain.

Tribal leaders such as Cherokee Chief John Ross, argued for neutrality, hoping to maintain the fragile unity his tribe had found after years of conflict over removal. If he could urge his nation to remain neutral, perhaps they could avoid being pulled back into the factionalism that had plagued them so long. Beside this, the federal government held a large amount of money in

trust for the Cherokees.

To sign a treaty with the Confederacy could mean a forfeiture of these funds.

But many Cherokees, led by men such as Stand Waite, strongly sided with the Confederacy and began forming military regiments to involve themselves in the war. Ross felt increasing pressure to sign an alliance treaty with the South and when the Union pulled all federal troops out of Indian Territory to help with the war effort back east, Ross felt he had but one choice. He chose the South.

-The Muskogee (Ok.) Phoenix

Last 'Real Son' of a Confederate Sailor Passes On in Florida

A local link to American history died in Lee County, Fla., last month — the last son of a Confederate sailor.

Brant Stanford of St. James City on Pine Island was literally the last of his kind in the entire world, said Robert Gates. He died of a heart attack on March 29, and a precious link to American history is now gone.

He was one of the last links to the War between the States.

The 95-year-old was known and loved by many on the island for his always gracious manners, devotion to his wife Jane, loyalty to the Elks Club, and a tremendous smile that brightened the day of all he met, Gates said.

But Stanford was a living connection to one of the most cataclysmic events America has ever experienced — from 1861 to 1865.

He understood that momentous time in our history better than most today, mainly because he heard about it directly from a man who was there: his father, Billy Rufus Stanford, a sailor during that war, in the Confederate States Navy, Gates said.

Brant knew more about that war than merely dates and figures. He knew the thrill and the horror, not from a book, but from his

own flesh and blood, Gates said.

Billy was 13 years old in 1863, working in the Columbus, Ga., Naval Iron Works, on the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

Billy and his father worked in the boiler shop, making them for river ironclads and gunboats. That year, all the workers were brought into military service, enlisted into the Confederate Navy. When Union Gen. William T. Sherman marched his Army through Georgia in 1865, Billy and his father defended the city and ironworks in Company C of the Naval Battalion.

Brant was born in 1911, when his father was 62, listening to vivid stories of that war until his father died in 1937.

He was known among historical and ancestral groups specializing in the Civil War and he never forgot his father's ordeal. He enjoyed educating people about the personal side of the war. He was a revered member, known as a "Real Son" of the SCV and was also an American patriot, Gates said.

"Brant was the very best kind of Southern gentleman. He understood the past and looked forward to the future. The kind of man Robert E. Lee would value as a friend," said Robert N. Macomber, maritime author and lecturer who lives on Pine Island.

Important Dates in the War of Northern Aggression

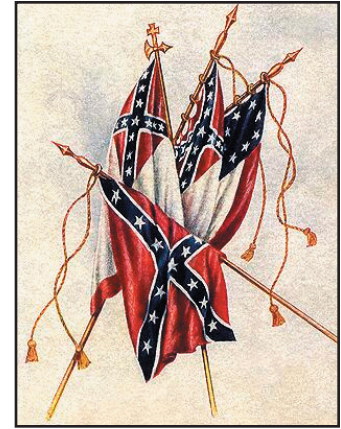
- May 3, 1863: Battle of Chancellorsville. Gen. Robert E. Lee outmaneuvers Federals despite being greatly outnumbered.
- May 5, 1864: Battle of the Wilderness. Federals suffer 18,400 casualties; Confederates 11,400.
- May 6, 1861: Arkansas secedes from the Union.
- May 8, 1862: Confederates repulse Federals at McDowell, Va., in Peninsula Campaign.
- May 10, 1863: Gen. Thomas E. "Stonewall" Jackson dies.
- May 15, 1862: Confederate defenders turn back Federal gunboats at Drewry's Bluff, Va.
- May 15, 1862: Federals thumped at Princeton Courthouse, W.Va., by Confederates under Brig. Gen. Humphery Marshall in Peninsula Campaign action.
- May 15, 1864: Confederates send Yankees packing at New Market, Va.
- May 23, 1862: Confederates capture nearly 900 Yankees at Front Royal, Va.
- May 20, 1861: North Carolina secedes from the Union.
- May 25, 1862: Stonewall Jackson routs Federals at Winchester, Va., inflicting more than 2,000 casualties in decisive battle in Valley Campaign.
- May 31, 1862: Battle of Seven Pines, Va. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston wounded, command transferred to Robert. E Lee.

Words To Remember

"Let them teach their children that their patriotic fathers fought for their fatherland; that they were inspired by as patriotic motives as ever fired the hearts or nerved the arms of freemen; and though our Cause has gone down in disaster, in ruin, in blood, not one stain of dishonor rests upon it."

-Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton

Next Camp Meeting
Thursday, May 18



6 p.m. at Seawell's
Restaurant, on Rosewood

Scripture Thought

"...So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings (traditions) we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter..."

-2 Thessalonians 2:15

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