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# LEGIONARY

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Chris Drawdy, Editor

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN

## NORTHERN TOWN CELEBRATES STATUS AS LAST CONFEDERATE HOLDOUT

By Daniel Robison | Town Line, New York  
<http://www.voanews.com>

The firefighters in Town Line are one sign of the New York hamlet's unusual history. Sporting a Confederate flag on their uniforms, they're known as the "Last of the Rebels." That's because this town near the Canadian border seceded from the United States at the start of the Civil War in 1861. One hundred and fifty years later, the town is still trying to figure out why.

The only church hall in town was filled past capacity recently for a party marking the 150th anniversary of this northern town's decision to side with the South during the Civil War. Cannons sit in the parking lot. Ladies are in elaborate dresses while gentlemen swelter in woolen soldiers' uniforms.

Brandon Adkins, who has strapped on an authentic battle sword, likes to tell  
**See *Last Confederate Holdout*, page 3**



--Town resident Brandon Adkins describes himself as a natural-born Confederate from upstate New York.

## CHARLESTON – SHELLED, SACKED, AND EXTERMINATED:

Taken from "*The Siege of Charleston*", 1861-1865, E. Milby Burton, USC Press, 1970, pp. 320-325



"The night of February 17 - 18 was one of horror and chaos, undoubtedly the worst ever experienced in the history of the city. There were more women in the city than usual, as those from the outlying plantations were sent in to get them out of the way of Sherman's marauders.

As darkness approached, conditions became worse. No one dared to go to bed. Fires were breaking out all over the city, and since the white firemen, who acted in a dual capacity of militiamen, were gone, only Negro companies were left to fight them. [A]n explosion was caused by the blowing up of the [ironclad] Palmetto State at her wharf. This was the gunboat that the women of the State had financed by selling their jewelry.

[It was rumored] that unoccupied houses would be taken over by the Union troops, at which news women and children rushed back and barricaded themselves in their homes. The soldiers of the 21st US Colored Troops, who were in possession of the city, started on a tour of liberation –

anything that was not nailed down, was taken. They went everywhere breaking into homes and helping themselves to whatever they wanted, cursing and raving at the inhabitants all the while.

On February 28, General Order Number Eight was issued calling on the citizens of Charleston to take the oath of allegiance to the United States [government] and providing that no passes or favors would be given to those who refused to take it. The order also stated that no guards would be placed over the houses of citizens for the protection of private property, but that any person fearing molestation should display the United States flag in a conspicuous position and that any person who plundered a house would be punished. Nothing was said about what would happen to a person who plundered a house not flying the United States flag.

Apparently the order was ignored, and plundering continued unrestrained, for General Gillmore wrote from Hilton Head to General Hatch in Charleston: "I hear on all sides very discouraging accounts of the state of affairs in Charleston; that no restraint is put upon the soldiers; that they pilfer and rob houses at pleasure, that large quantities of valuable furniture pictures, statuary, mirrors, etc., have mysteriously disappeared – no one knows whither or by what agency..."

A month later Gillmore issued another order instruction the officers stationed in Charleston to return the silver, pianos, organs,

**See *Charleston*, page 3**

*This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.*  
~Elmer Davis

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in the First World War, then known as "the Great War." Commemorated as Armistice Day beginning the following year, November 11th became a legal federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.

Every year, the Lt Gen Wade Hampton Camp honors our nation's veterans by participating in the Columbia Veteran's Day Parade. This year, our camp will continue the tradition and I urge all veterans to participate on Friday, Nov 11 by marching alongside fellow SCV veterans. The turnout is always exciting with many local area elementary school students waving flags and cheering

graciously.

Additionally, the Wade Hampton Camp plans to honor our Camp's veterans by presenting the SCV War Service Medal to 17 Compatriots at our November meeting. The War Service medal is awarded on the basis of active service in the armed services for Compatriots who served during any of the following: World War I, World War II, Korean War, Viet Nam War, Lebanon and Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf's Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Afghanistan's Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our November meeting will be a special celebration dedicated to our Camp's veterans and I hope to see a larger than usual turnout.

Many in our Camp have honorably served in the armed forces. These Compatriots have put our country before their family, their friends, their jobs and themselves. They have sacrificed much more than most of us will ever understand. We as Americans hold dear that our rights and freedoms are what make this country great. We also know that there are people in this world that wish our way of life to end. This country's veterans have been the

defenders of liberty and freedom.

Without our veterans, we could not vote, openly discuss politics, or attend the church of our choosing. We can pursue a career, and better the lives of our families because of these veterans. As always, I urge you to thank a veteran (or active duty serviceman) at every opportunity. Please shake their hand and let them know you appreciate their service to our country. It is because of these men and women; we are able to make the choices we make.

Finally, November is an election month in our camp. The positions of Commander and Camp Adjutant for 2012 will be decided. Again, I hope to see a great turnout. ☪



CHAPLAIN'S WITNESS

Life can be much like a burnt biscuit.

*I found this true to everyday life and thought it would be a very interesting article for this month's newsletter.* - WWL

Burned biscuits

When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing.... never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

As I've grown older, I've thought about that many times. Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences - is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

And that's my prayer for you

today... that you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!

We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship! "Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket - keep it in your own."

So, please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burned one will do just fine. And PLEASE pass this along to someone who has enriched your life. Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle. "Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point."

~ ARTHOR UNKNOWN ☪

people he's a natural-born Confederate from upstate New York. "One guy, he was calling me a Yankee. And I says, 'Excuse me, I'm from Town Line, I'm a Confederate. We were Confederates for the longest time.' He said, 'If that's true, I'll kiss your rear end in front of everybody to see.' He looked it up and I guess he believes me now that we were the last of the rebels."

Many in Town Line, like history teacher Ray Ball, also find it hard to believe. "I was very surprised when I first heard it 10 years ago. I thought, 'No way. Come on.'" As the story goes, townspeople gathered at the local schoolhouse just after war broke out and voted 80 - 45 to secede from the Union. Shortly after, according to Ball, five local men headed south and joined the Confederate Army.

"The country was literally coming apart at the seams," he says, "and the seams tore much farther north than most people realize." But locals are still unsure why Town

Line, just minutes from Canada, took such a dramatic step. Ball points out that residents supported Abraham Lincoln for president just the year before. Most were German immigrants without connections to the American South.

"They had nothing to do with slavery here," Ball says. "So it had to be something beyond that, why they voted the way they did." Karen Muchow, who runs the local historical society, has researched the story for years without finding the answer. But, she says, after the Civil War ended, Town Line's secession from the Union was conveniently forgotten.

"I think it was embarrassment, on some parts, that it happened," says Muchow. "There are no records that we know of. There could be in someone's attic. Or were, and (were) destroyed. So there's no names, which may have been on purpose." Life went on. Residents paid federal taxes and opened a U.S. Post

Office. Then, in 1946, right after World War II, a local newspaper unearthed the story.

Word spread around the country. Telegrams flooded in, hounding the town "rejoin" the Union. Even President Harry Truman wrote an open letter, urging residents to roast veal as a peace offering. Bowing to pressure, the town scheduled a vote.

Back at the 150th anniversary celebration, the crowd watched grainy film footage of long-dead relatives dropping ballots into a box and then lowering the town's rebel flag, which had flown, on and off, for 85 years. As an act of unity, an Abraham Lincoln impersonator leads the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance while facing both U.S. and Confederate flags in the front of the church - a salute to Town Line's self-proclaimed status as the "the last holdout of the Confederacy." ©

## CHARLESTON

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pictures and works of art they had stolen. It appeared that, with the officers looting and nothing being done about it, it was perfectly all right for the soldiers to help themselves. It is not recorded that any of the material was returned, for the simple reason that none of it was.

That a single piece of furniture or silver survived is a miracle. The silver could be buried, and most of it was...Some paintings were rolled up and hidden in attics; most of the others usually had a bayonet thrust through the throat as if it was a man or

through the heart if it was a woman. Holes were shot through the furniture. The silver was usually located by the method of putting a rope around the neck of the person who knew where it was and gently raising him off the ground, then easing him back so that his feet barely touched.

Col. W.W.H. Davis of the 104th Pennsylvania...wrote: "The plunder was not all obtained by the soldiers, but officers received a fair share. Some of them sent north pianos, elegant furniture, silverware, books, pictures, etc., to adorn their New

England dwellings."

Possibly William Howard Russell, the war correspondent for the London Times, best expressed the feelings of hatred that existed in the North when he wrote: "The war which was made to develop and maintain Union sentiment in the South...is now to be made a crusade against slave holders, and a war of subjugation - if need be, of extermination." Charleston to all extents and purposes was exterminated. ©

## MISCELLANEA

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"Help me to be, to think, to act what is right, make me truthful, honest and honorable in all things; make me intellectually honest for the sake of right and honor and without thought of reward to me." -*Prayer carried by General Robert E. Lee*

"Captain, my religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to be always ready, no matter when it may overtake me." He added, after a pause, looking me full in the face: "That is the way all men should live, and then all would be equally brave" -*General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson*

"The contest is not over, the strife is not ended. It has only entered upon a new and enlarged arena." "The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form." -*President Jefferson Davis*

## Important Dates in The War of the Southrons:

- Oct. 1, 1864 General Forrest's cavalry skirmish with Federal garrisons at Athens & Huntsville, AL.
- Oct. 3, 1862 Battle of Corinth, MS. Gens. Van Dorn & Price inflict severe losses on Federal troops.
- Oct. 9, 1862 Gen. Stuart leads 1,800 Confederate cavalymen on a rain into Pennsylvania which lasted several days.
- Oct. 10, 1862 Federal troops and gunboats engage Gen. Forrest on the Tennessee River. The Confederates inflict serious damage to three vessels.
- Oct. 11, 1862 Stuart's cavalymen begin to circle around the stationary Union army, cutting telegraph wires and destroying military equipment.
- Oct. 12, 1870 Gen. Robert E. Lee dies in Lexington, VA, at the age of 63.
- Oct. 15, 1863 In Charleston, SC, the C.S.S. H.L. Hunley sinks for a second time during a practice dive. Seven men were killed.
- Oct. 18, 1864 Pro-Southern ladies of Great Britain hold a benefit for Confederate soldiers at St. George's Hall in Liverpool, England.
- Oct. 21, 1864 In Missouri, as Price's Confederates leave Lexington, they defeat the Federals on the Little Blue, and the Federals withdraw from Independence.
- Oct. 23, 1828 Birthday of Brig. Gen. Turner Ashby of VA (1828-1862)
- Oct. 26, 1864 Confederate guerrilla "Bloody Bill" Anderson killed near Richmond, MO.
- Oct. 29, 1863 Federal batteries fire 2,691 shells into Confederate held Ft. Sumter, killing 33 defenders.

**October Camp Meeting**  
**THURSDAY, OCT 20TH**  
**6 O'CLOCK P.M.**



**SEAWELL'S**  
**RESTAURANT**  
**1125 Rosewood Drive**  
**Columbia, SC**

**SPEAKER**  
 Jack Marlar,  
*SCV Director of the*  
*Sam Davis Youth Camp*

WWW.WADEHAMPTONCAMP.ORG



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 C/O Adjutant Carl Potter  
 A Non-Profit Organization

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