



The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Volume I – Issue 5, June 2016

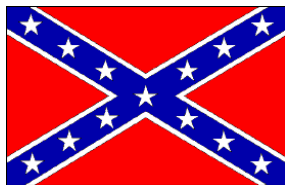
Rattling Sabres

by
Glen E. Zook

Several things come to mind this month! First of all, at the May Camp #18 meeting, the subject of the present trend of removing any, and all, traces of Confederate symbols, monuments, place names (including schools), etc., came up. The consensus at the meeting was that such is not only a bad idea, but that doing so erases much of the history of this country. Although the meeting is over, I am going to express my opinions in this manner.

Such doings are not new. In the latter half of the 1990s, similar rumblings were coming forth in the Dallas / Fort Worth area. At that time, as the Commander of the (old) Department of the Southwest, I wrote a "Letter to the Editor" of the Dallas Morning News about this. I honestly do not remember exactly what I said. Somewhere in my files, I have a copy of that edition of the newspaper. However, so far, I have not found just where! But, that letter did get me invited to speak at several Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps.

It is unfortunate that the Confederate Naval Jack has been adopted by numerous "hate" organizations as their emblem and the Battle Flag of the Army of Virginia (which was adopted, later, by some, but not all, of the other Confederate armies), which is, basically, the same blue cross of Saint Andrew, on a red background, with white stars, because of the design, is considered, by many, to be the same flag. It is also unfortunate that the Naval Jack has been called, again by many (who are very misinformed) "The Stars and Bars".



The real "Stars and Bars" is also known as the "First National". This is the flag with two red stripes separated by a white stripe, with a blue field, that originally had seven stars in a circle. Later, up to thirteen stars were added although there were actually only eleven states that comprised the Confederacy. The other two stars were for the States of Kentucky and Missouri which actually remained in the Union. The real "Stars and Bars" flag does not invoke the idea of hatred that the Naval Jack conveys. In fact, this flag flies over the amusement parks of Six Flags Over Texas and Six Flags Over Georgia and no one takes notice.



I really believe that the "unwashed masses" do not even realize that the true "Stars and Bars" was even a flag flown by the Confederacy! An example of this is the "new" flag of the State of Georgia. Because of the fact that a certain segment of society objected to the "old" flag, which did contain the Battle Flag, a new design was conceived and that flag met with the approval of all minority groups as well as others. That flag is no more than the First National with slight alterations!



I do wonder why the SCV keeps "pushing" the Battle Flag for display on license plates when opposition to the display of that flag is so great. Technically, the "Stars and Bars" represents the entire Confederate States of America whereas the Battle Flag only represents certain army groups, definitely not every army group, that served the Confederacy. I truly believe that, if the "Stars and Bars" were displayed on license plates, that design would be immediately approved in any of the fifty states.

Another, in my mind much more serious, is the removal of Confederate memorials, and statues of various Confederate personnel, from public display even as much as actually destroying them. A certain segment of society today is trying to eliminate any evidence of a certain period in the history of this country and to "whitewash", and change, real happenings during the 1860s. I really wonder just what percentage of the total population really objects to the display of these statues and memorials. If the truth be known, I suspect that the percentage, of persons who really care that these items are on display, is very small. It is just the fact that certain groups are very vocal and gain the support of the news media which, in turn, gives the idea that a significant number of people support this removal when most of the people just don't care or are actually in opposition to this removal.

It is my personal opinion that the members of the SUVCW need to voice their disapproval of the removal of these statues and memorials individually, as camps, as Departments, and even at the National Level!

Another related happening is the changing of the names of public schools that were named for Confederate figures. In many cases, the students have supposedly asked for a name change. Especially at the elementary and middle school / junior high school level, I really doubt this. I really think that certain members of the faculty are the force behind this. Really, how many children even have any idea as to what the name of the school represents? Very few! But, with the bias that has existed in the education system for several decades, there are a LOT of teachers, and administrators, that definitely have views that definitely do not want anything to do with a positive view of the Confederacy.

Slavery was one of the causes of the Civil War. But, it was not "the" cause of the war. States' Rights, and high tariffs played a much more important role with high tariffs being, probably, the most important. Northern interests wished to protect the growing industrial revolution that was taking place, primarily, in the North. The southern states were, to a large extent, agricultural. The South relied, to a great extent, on exporting agricultural products, especially cotton, to Europe and receiving manufactured goods from Europe. But, the high tariffs, put in place by a northern majority in Congress, greatly increased the cost of those goods.

Blacks, both slave and free, served in Confederate armies. Estimates range from a low of around 65,000 to over 180,000. There were entire companies comprised of blacks and even a couple of larger groups. Black Confederate soldiers were routinely captured by Union Forces. When asked "why", most of them indicated that "their" country had been invaded and that "they" were only fighting to repel invaders!

There are several of these Confederate black soldiers buried in one of the Douglass Community cemeteries in Plano. For several years, for Memorial Day, SCV members placed small Confederate flags on these graves. Then, some "agitators" created such a "stink" that the SCV discontinued placing the flags. However, a number of the descendants, of those black Confederates, actually thanked the SCV for the recognition!

Basically, I truly believe that the trend to destroy the Confederate monuments, statues, school names, and so forth, is a misguided attempt by a very small, but very vocal, minority and, I am sure, that the "intent" is very self-serving to that group!

The vast majority of my ancestral relatives fought on the Union side although a couple of my ancestral uncles did fight for the Confederacy and those were on my paternal grandmother's side. Her great grandfather moved, along with his family, from Hardy County, Virginia (now West Virginia), to Indiana in the early 1830s. Her great grand uncle was a company commander in the 18th Virginia cavalry.

On a different subject: I received my second issue of "The Banner" and my criticisms, suggestions, etc., are the same as I wrote last month. However, there is no way that those suggestions could have even been considered because the publication had already been prepared and was definitely at the printers before the May edition of The Texas Union Herald was distributed.

Remember, there will be no Camp #18 meeting in June because of the Department encampment. Details on the encampment appear elsewhere in this edition.

The Texas Union Herald

The Texas Union Herald is published monthly by the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**. For official business, including editorial and article submission, the mailing address is as follows:

Glen E. Zook
The Texas Union Herald
410 Lawndale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: (972) 231-3987
(972) 231-5011

Articles, news items, features, and the like are welcomed for publication in **The Texas Union Herald**. Deadline is normally the 1st of the month of the cover date of publication. Submissions may be handwritten, typewritten, or submitted in any of the popular computer formats (Microsoft Word, Open Office, Word Perfect, and ASCII). Please contact the editor for details.

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Articles Needed!

If the members of the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18** do not want to be inundated with articles that were chosen by the editor (what he wants to see in the newsletter) then they need to start inputting items for inclusion in **The Texas Union Herald**. Tidbits about the Civil War, stories, articles, current news items, photographs, even commentaries are most welcome.

Don't worry if you are not an accomplished author. Get the idea onto paper (computer, etc.) and get it to the editor. He really can edit (rewrite, etc.) and you'll be surprised at just how well you can write!

If you have E-Mail capabilities, you can either include the information in the body of the message or put it in either Word format or ASCII ("txt") format. If, for some reason, you cannot do either, contact the editor to see if your particular word processor format can be handled.

If "hard" copy, make sure the copy is legible (can be read by someone else!). Typewritten, computer printed, even in Crayon on "Big Chief" tablet is acceptable. Just get the information in!

Even small (1 or 2 paragraphs) material, or photographs, can be used. That makes editing and publishing the newsletter easier since "fill" material is available for those little areas that seem to happen whenever an article is included in the publication.

Mailing Address:

Editor
Texas **Union** Herald
410 Lawndale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 Camp Officers

Commander	Paul Ridenour paulridenour@tx.rr.com
SVC	John Schneider schneider1@sbcglobal.net
JVC	Brother Erder rerder@verizon.net
Secretary	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Treasurer	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Chaplain	Harold Sickler HaroldSickler@sbcglobal.net
Patriotic Instructor	Drake Peddie dmpeddie@aol.com
Graves Registration	Open
Historian	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Civil War Memorials	Open
Eagle Scout Coordinator	John Schneider schneider1@sbcglobal.net
Editor	Glen E. Zook gezook@sbcglobal.net texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

**There will be no Camp #18 meeting
for the month of June!**

Department Order No. 5 SERIES 2015-2016

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Texas

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
2914 Shoreside Dr.
Pearland, TX 77584

Announcement of the Annual Department Encampment:

The Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, in Houston, Texas has been selected as the site for the twenty-second annual encampment of the Department of Texas. The encampment will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2016.

Registration for the encampment will be between 10:00 and 10:30 AM at Carriage House meeting facility located on the grounds of the Library. The Library is located at 5300 Caroline St, Houston, Texas 77004.

A luncheon meal during the encampment will be provided to all registered members and guests.

The encampment will start promptly at 10:30 AM. There will be a break for lunch. The afternoon session should be complete by 2:00 PM.

Ordered this 16th Day of May, 2016

By Order of:

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Don Gates, Secretary Treasurer
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Order No. 6 SERIES 2015-2016

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Texas

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
2914 Shoreside Dr.
Pearland, TX 77584

Appointments:

The following Brothers are hereby appointed to serve as members of the Nominating Committee for the twentieth annual Department Encampment.

Gen. J.J. Byrne, Camp #1	Brother Brian Glass, PDC
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp #2	Brother Stephen Schulze, PDC
Col. E.E. Ellsworth, Camp #18	Brother George Hanson, PDC

Brother Stephen Schulze, PDC is appointed to serve as chairman of this committee.

The Nominations Committee is to meet, consult, and make its recommendations to the Encampment for Department Officers for the 2016-2017 term of office. The Department Officers to be elected are:

Department Commander
Department Senior Vice Commander
Department Junior Vice Commander
Department Secretary/Treasurer
Department Council Members (3)

The Nominating committee will also make its recommendations for delegates and alternates to the National Encampment to be held in Springfield, Illinois, August 11-14, 2016.

Ordered this 16th Day of May, 2016

By Order of:

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Don Gates, Secretary Treasurer
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Order No. 7
SERIES 2015-2016

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Texas**

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
2914 Shoreside Dr.
Pearland, TX 77584

Appointments:

The following appointments are made for the duration of the twenty-first annual Department Encampment:

Guard	Brother William Pollard	Camp #2
Guide	Brother Michael Lance	Camp #2

Ordered this 16th Day of May, 2016

By Order of:

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

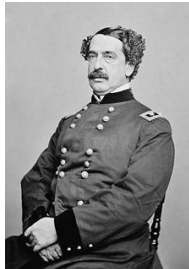
Attest:

Don Gates, Secretary Treasurer
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

June Birthdays



General Robert Anderson
14 June 1805



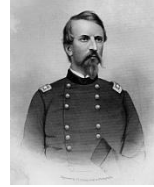
General Abner Doubleday
26 June 1819



General Arthur McArthur, Jr.
2 June 1845



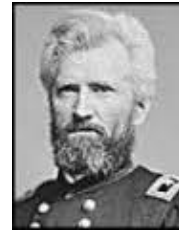
General Samuel D. Sturgis
11 June 1822



General Phillip Kearny
2 June 1815



General Wesley Merritt
16 June 1834



General Robert H. Milroy
11 June 1816



Admiral David Dixon Porter



General James B. Ricketts
21 June 1817

The Field Musicians

by
Larry Johnson

In reading military history one often encounters the term "field music". To many this is a synonym for the Regimental or military band. In actuality, this term is used to differentiate field music from the band. They were two separate entities, which had quite different functions. So, what was the difference?

Civil War infantry regiments were authorized ten companies of 100 men plus the regimental headquarters. To the headquarters was attached the and, if the unit had one. Each company, in turn, was authorized on fife and one drummer. Some companies actually had a drummer and a fife, many had one, or the other, and some companies had neither. Cavalry troops and artillery batteries employed buglers instead of fifers and drummers and, like the infantry, some units possessed their authorized complement of musicians and some did not. Whatever their strength and composition, the assemblage of buglers, fifers, and drummers were collectively referred to as the "field music".

The field musicians' role in military operations was strictly utilitarian in nature. They were the regimental and/or company commander's voice, whose sole function was to broadcast commands. While these duties ranged from regulating camp life to maneuvering troops on a battlefield, they always remained within the will of the commander. In other words, the field musicians were the signal corps of their time and never stepped out of that role. Entertaining troops was not their purpose and they were rarely allowed to do so. That was the function of the band.

For formal ceremonies such as dress parade, reviews, funerals, and even military executions, the services of the regimental band were desired. In the case of an infantry unit which did not have a band, the alternative was to mass the fifers and drummers from the companies into a corps. This was done only for specific functions and then the fifers and drummers returned to their companies. The fife and drum corps as a separate, standing unit did not exist, but the practice of massing the field musicians into a momentary corps was so widespread that it became commonplace among large bodies of infantry. Massing of field musicians among cavalry and artillery units seldom, if ever, happened. This was due largely to the fact that these units employed the bugle, and its ability to play five notes and nothing else, made it useless for anything but signaling. Thereafter, field musicians in the artillery and cavalry arms remained with their troops and batteries.

I am speaking of Civil War times. By World War I, the drum and bugle corps was established, but no such unit ever saw service on a Civil War Field.

Cavalry regiments were also authorized a regimental band, and like their infantry counterparts, some regiments had a band and some did not. When cavalry was assembled into commands as large as a division, or even a corps, there were enough mounted bands present to provide formal music for parades, reviews, and other ceremonies. The field musicians (buglers) stayed with their troops because there were needed to sound commands to the riders even while the bands were playing.

While most Civil War period terminology is inexact, to say the least, the term "field musician" is specific. This

term is always used to denote the men whose musical talents made them part of the command structure. Sometimes, other forms of this term, such as "musicians" or "field musicians", were used, but they all refer to the same thing. In order to avoid confusion, and also to eliminate any undermining of the chain of command the men who played in bands were called "bandsmen"; they are never referred to as "musicians". Some of them weren't! Here the period terminology is reliable. Whenever any writer of the times says "field music" or "musicians", he is talking about fifers, drummers, and / or buglers, men whose services were strictly limited to duties required to regulate the activities of soldiers in the field.

Another term one sometimes encounters is "assembled field music". This is used to describe the massing of (infantry) field musicians into a temporary unit. Therefore, "assembled field music" is the period term for a fife and drum corps. One will not likely see this phase in conjunction with a cavalry or any other unit. But, if it appears, it means the same thing – the combining of field musicians from their organic companies into a temporary unit.

While the distinction between "bandsmen" and "musicians" remains strong, there are cases where these lines become blurred. In some regiments, the company-level field musicians also played other instruments, and, when off duty, they formed themselves into an ad-hoc regimental band. On the Confederate side, where talented black musicians, who could play more than one instrument were numerous, doubling both as a bandsman and a field musician allowed bands to come into being in regiments where normal manpower constraints otherwise would not permit their existence. But, the Federals weren't exactly devoid of talent. Some of blue-clad regiments, particularly those made up of German immigrants, could boast not only of superb bands, but string orchestras as well! Of course, when campaigning, these musicians' duties on the company level severely limited their ability to participate in other activities. When not campaigning, they were equally adept at performing reveille or providing music for an officers' dance.

All in all, the field musicians were a vital part of any 19th century army. They are gone now replaced by radiomen and signal personnel. But, they left a timeless and colorful legacy. We don't argue that a coded radio message is far superior form of battlefield communications than the shrill notes of a fife. Neither do we question that modern tactics require soldiers to move quirkily rather than march en masse to the beat of a drum. But, all is not lost. The next time you hear Taps, look into the shadows and see if the ghost of the old bugler is still there, silently watching and listening. He knows some things can't be replaced. And, chances are that he's smiling.

Letter to the Editor

Brother Zook:

Great news letter! I especially liked the article on military justice.

Thanks,

Robert E. Grim
Maj. Gen. SVR

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

It has been estimated that over 65,000 Southern blacks were in the Confederate ranks. Over 13,000 of these, "saw the elephant" also known as meeting the enemy in combat. These Black Confederates included both slave and free. The Confederate Congress did not approve blacks to be officially enlisted as soldiers (except as musicians), until late in the war. But in the ranks it was a different story. Many Confederate officers did not obey the mandates of politicians, they frequently enlisted blacks with the simple criteria, "Will you fight?" Historian Ervin Jordan, explains that "biracial units" were frequently organized "by local Confederate and State militia Commanders in response to immediate threats in the form of Union raids...". Dr. Leonard Haynes, a African-American professor at Southern University, stated, "When you eliminate the black Confederate soldier, you've eliminated the history of the South."

As the war came to an end, the Confederacy took progressive measures to build back up it's army. The creation of the Confederate States Colored Troops, copied after the segregated northern colored troops, came too late to be successful. Had the Confederacy been successful, it would have created the world's largest armies (at the time) consisting of black soldiers, even larger than that of the North. This would have given the future of the Confederacy a vastly different appearance than what modern day racist or anti-Confederate liberals conjecture. Not only did Jefferson Davis envision black Confederate veterans receiving bounty lands for their service, there would have been no future for slavery after the goal of 300,000 armed black CSA veterans came home after the war.

1. The "Richmond Howitzers" were partially manned by black militiamen. They saw action at 1st Manassas (or 1st Battle of Bull Run) where they operated battery no. 2. In addition two black "regiments", one free and one slave, participated in the battle on behalf of the South. "Many colored people were killed in the action", recorded John Parker, a former slave.

2. At least one Black Confederate was a non-commissioned officer. James Washington, Co. D 34th Texas Cavalry, "Terrell's Texas Cavalry" became it's 3rd

Sergeant. In comparison, The highest ranking Black Union soldier during the war was a Sergeant Major.

3. Free black musicians, cooks, soldiers and teamsters earned the same pay as white confederate privates. This was not the case in the Union army where blacks did not receive equal pay. At the Confederate Buffalo Forge in Rockbridge County, Virginia, skilled black workers "earned on average three times the wages of white Confederate soldiers and more than most Confederate army officers (\$350- \$600 a year).

4. Dr. Lewis Steiner, Chief Inspector of the United States Sanitary Commission while observing Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson's occupation of Frederick, Maryland, in 1862: "Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number [Confederate troops]. These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only in cast-off or captured United States uniforms, but in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. These were shabby, but not shabbier or seedier than those worn by white men in the rebel ranks. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie-knives, dirks, etc.....and were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army."

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

6. Black and white militiamen returned heavy fire on Union troops at the Battle of Griswoldsville (near Macon, GA). Approximately 600 boys and elderly men were killed in this skirmish.

7. In 1864, President Jefferson Davis approved a plan that proposed the emancipation of slaves, in return for the official recognition of the Confederacy by Britain and France. France showed interest but Britain refused.

8. The Jackson Battalion included two companies of black soldiers. They saw combat at Petersburg under Col. Shipp. "My men acted with utmost promptness and goodwill...Allow me to state sir that they behaved in an extraordinary acceptable manner."

9. Recently the National Park Service, with a recent discovery, recognized that blacks were asked to help defend the city of Petersburg, Virginia and were offered their freedom if they did so. Regardless of their official classification, black Americans performed support functions that in today's army many would be classified as official military service. The successes of white Confederate troops in battle, could only have been achieved with the support these loyal black Southerners.

10. Confederate General John B. Gordon (Army of Northern Virginia) reported that all of his troops were in favor of Colored troops and that it's adoption would have "greatly encouraged the army". Gen. Lee was anxious to receive regiments of black soldiers. The Richmond Sentinel reported on 24 Mar 1864, "None...will deny that our servants are more worthy of respect than the motley hordes which come against us." "Bad faith [to black Confederates] must be avoided as an indelible dishonor."

11. In March 1865, Judah P. Benjamin, Confederate Secretary Of State, promised freedom for blacks who served from the State of Virginia. Authority for this was finally received from the State of Virginia and on April 1st 1865, \$100 bounties were offered to black soldiers.

Benjamin exclaimed, "Let us say to every Negro who wants to go into the ranks, go and fight, and you are free...Fight for your masters and you shall have your freedom." Confederate Officers were ordered to treat them humanely and protect them from "injustice and oppression".

12. A quota was set for 300,000 black soldiers for the Confederate States Colored Troops. 83% of Richmond's male slave population volunteered for duty. A special ball was held in Richmond to raise money for uniforms for these men. Before Richmond fell, black Confederates in gray uniforms drilled in the streets. Due to the war ending, it is believed only companies or squads of these troops ever saw any action. Many more black soldiers fought for the North, but that difference was simply a difference because the North instituted this progressive policy more sooner than the more conservative South. Black soldiers from both sides received discrimination from whites who opposed the concept.

13. Union General U.S. Grant in Feb 1865, ordered the capture of "all the Negro men... before the enemy can put them in their ranks." Frederick Douglas warned Lincoln that unless slaves were guaranteed freedom (those in Union controlled areas were still slaves) and land bounties, "they would take up arms for the rebels".

14. On April 4, 1865 (Amelia County, VA), a Confederate supply train was exclusively manned and guarded by black Infantry. When attacked by Federal Cavalry, they stood their ground and fought off the charge, but on the second charge they were overwhelmed. These soldiers are believed to be from "Major Turner's" Confederate command.

15. A Black Confederate, George _____, when captured by Federals was bribed to desert to the other side. He defiantly spoke, "Sir, you want me to desert, and I ain't no deserter. Down South, deserters disgrace their families and I am never going to do that."

16. Former slave, Horace King, accumulated great wealth as a contractor to the Confederate Navy. He was also an expert engineer and became known as the "Bridge builder of the Confederacy." One of his bridges was burned in a Yankee raid. His home was pillaged by Union troops, as his wife pleaded for mercy.

17. As of Feb. 1865 1,150 black seamen served in the Confederate Navy. One of these was among the last Confederates to surrender, aboard the CSS Shenandoah, six months after the war ended. This surrender took place in England.

18. Nearly 180,000 Black Southerners, from Virginia alone, provided logistical support for the Confederate military. Many were highly skilled workers. These included a wide range of jobs: nurses, military engineers, teamsters, ordnance department workers, brakemen, firemen, harness makers, blacksmiths, wagonmakers, boatmen, mechanics, wheelwrights, etc. In the 1920'S Confederate pensions were finally allowed to some of those workers that were still living. Many thousands more served in other Confederate States.

19. During the early 1900's, many members of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) advocated awarding former slaves rural acreage and a home. There was hope that justice could be given those slaves that were once promised "forty acres and a mule" but never received any. In the 1913 Confederate Veteran magazine published by the UCV, it was printed that this plan "If not Democratic, it is [the] Confederate" thing to do. There was much gratitude

toward former slaves, which "thousands were loyal, to the last degree", now living with total poverty of the big cities. Unfortunately, their proposal fell on deaf ears on Capitol Hill.

20. During the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913, arrangements were made for a joint reunion of Union and Confederate veterans. The commission in charge of the event made sure they had enough accommodations for the black Union veterans, but were completely surprised when unexpected black Confederates arrived. The white Confederates immediately welcomed their old comrades, gave them one of their tents, and "saw to their every need". Nearly every Confederate reunion including those blacks that served with them, wearing the gray.

21. The first military monument in the US Capitol that honors an African-American soldier is the Confederate monument at Arlington National cemetery. The monument was designed 1914 by Moses Ezekiel, a Jewish Confederate. Who wanted to correctly portray the "racial makeup" in the Confederate Army. A black Confederate soldier is depicted marching in step with white Confederate soldiers. Also shown is one "white soldier giving his child to a black woman for protection".- source: Edward Smith, African American professor at the American University, Washington DC.

22. Black Confederate heritage is beginning to receive the attention it deserves. For instance, Terri Williams, a black journalist for the Suffolk "Virginia Pilot" newspaper, writes: "I've had to re-examine my feelings toward the [Confederate] flag...It started when I read a newspaper article about an elderly black man whose ancestor worked with the Confederate forces. The man spoke with pride about his family member's contribution to the cause, was photographed with the [Confederate] flag draped over his lap...that's why I now have no definite stand on just what the flag symbolizes, because it no longer is their history, or my history, but our history."

Books:

Charles Kelly Barrow, et.al. ***Forgotten Confederates: An Anthology About Black Southerners*** (1995). Currently the best book on the subject.

Ervin L. Jordan, Jr. ***Black Confederates and Afro-Yankees in Civil War Virginia*** (1995). Well researched and very good source of information on Black Confederates, but has a strong Union bias.

Richard Rollins. ***Black Southerners in Gray*** (1994). Also an excellent source.

Dr. Edward Smith and Nelson Winbush, "***Black Southern Heritage***". An excellent educational video. Mr. Winbush is a descendent of a Black Confederate and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV).

This fact sheet is provided by [Scott Williams. It is not an all inclusive list of Black Confederates, only a small sampling of accounts. For general historical information on Black Confederates, contact Dr. Edward Smith, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20016; Dean of American Studies. Dr. Smith is a black professor dedicated to clarifying the historical role of African Americans.](#)

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America's Brass Band Heritage

by
Larry Johnson

It all started with Joshua. Or, did it? The idea of making some kind of noise for the dual purposes of frightening the enemy and inspiring one's own troops appears, for the first time in recorded history, at the time the ancient Israelites began the conquest of Canaan. But, the practice is obviously much older. The earliest Egyptians are known to have used trumpets for military purposes and there are indications that the most ancient civilizations in China and India had similar practices. But, Joshua's use of a recognizable form of military music is the earliest instance in which such a practice was written down.

What General Joshua chronicled was his use of the first military band at the siege of Jericho around 1400 BC. The Bible clearly describes a band of seven trumpets at the head of his army while it marched around the city. This band, which was composed of Hebrew priests, was under the tutelage of a man who was dressed in all the finery of his time. His costume included an ephod, or breastplate, set with twelve gemstones. The hem of his robe was decorated with pomegranates. And, on his head, he wore a turban of the finest linen. While the Bible identifies this individual as the High Priest, he is instantly recognized, by bandsmen everywhere, as the original drum major. So, all the elements of what would evolve into the modern military band were present at the time of this ancient campaign.

In subsequent centuries, there is only a single mention of a significant military-type ensemble, that of Nebuchadnezzar, until Greco-Roman times. Then, the use of brass, reed, and percussion instruments in close association with military activities reached a golden age.

The Romans, who practiced the art of war profusely, were quite fond of brass instruments and developed several types of horns and trumpets for military use. They also combined trumpets with drums. The Roman drum major, or standard-bearer, wore a wolf skin over his upper body and carried a wooden pole topped by the Imperial letters SPQR. Roman bands are not known to have played anything other than calls, acoustically there instruments were incapable of melody. But, the presence of several types of brass instruments, in relatively large numbers, does create some interesting speculation as to whether Caesar's legions developed a close relative of a modern-day drum and bugle corps.

The Greeks differed from the Romans in military music as widely as they differed in other areas. Athenian Greek armies placed melodic instruments (flutes, strings, reeds) as the head of their columns and reinforced them with tambourine-like percussion instruments instead of drums. Spartan Greeks utilized the double pipes and, on several known occasions, refused to go into battle until they first heard the sound of them. The precursors of the Scottish traditions can be clearly seen here. Trumpets were strictly signaling devices in Greek armies and were separate, and apart from the musical establishment.

The passing of the Greco-Roman world brought an end to the early military band prototypes. The trumpet reigned supreme on battlefields for a thousand years, usually in the service of a monarch or nobleman, and almost always in the form of a single instrument. Organized ensembles did not re-appear until the time of the Ottoman

Turks. And, then began the history of the modern military bands.

As Turkish armies marched across Europe, they carried with them bands of shawms (primitive oboes), trumpets, flutes, and percussion. The melody instruments (shawms) predominated, but other instruments were present. The Turkish Janissary Bands were notable in their use of percussion which included the bass drum, cymbals, triangle, and pairs of nakers, which were a rudimental form of kettledrums. These instruments became immediately popular in Europe and, as European powers began to emerge from feudalism and organize modern armies, military bands were formed once again and the Turkish instruments incorporated in them. As late as Mozart (d. 1791), composers still used the term "Turkish Music" when referring to the percussion section of the orchestra.

The next important period in the development of bands was the time of Napoleon. Napoleon recognized the value of bands and he took a direct hand in the establishment of good bands in the French Army. Under his guidance, bands were enlarged to include clarinets, oboes, bassoons, trombones, horns, serpents (Russian bassoons), and the ever-present trumpets. Percussion sections followed the Turkish model and consisted of side drums, bass drums, cymbals, triangle, and an instrument that came to be known as the Turkish crescent. This was a wooden pole from which were suspended several small bells attached to a crescent-shaped plate at the top of the pole. The British Army eventually adopted this instrument which was known to them as a "Jingling Johnny". German bands, which called it the Schellenbaum, were still using it as late as World War II.

Following Napoleon, military bands contracted somewhat, dropping brass instruments entirely except for horns. The post-Napoleonic bands became almost standardized at two clarinets, two oboes, two bassoons, and two horns. An occasional serpent could still be found, but they were disappearing from use. This period lasted but briefly because bands were about to undergo an abrupt change.

This change was the invention of the piston valve. Like the automobile, which was invented several times by different men in different places, the valve was the result of the work of Wieprecht, Stolzel, Perniet, and others. When applied to brass instruments, the valve made a complete chromatic scale possible. Virtually overnight, the valved brass replaced the oboes and clarinets as melody instruments, and the band had a new voice: the cornet.

At this point, enter Adolph Sax. Sax was an instrument maker in the early 19th century who seemed to dabble in everything. Yes, he invented the saxophone. He designed, built, and patented entire families of instruments, but concentrated on the brasses. Sax prophetically foresaw the possibilities of valved brasses, and, with a practical eye toward financial rewards, set out to revolutionize the world of musical instruments.

Sax revived an idea that had been developed in Medieval times. Secular instrumental musicians had conceived the idea of consorts, which were entire families of similar instruments. One such group, the violin consort, supplanted the viols, and survives today as the string section of the modern orchestra. There had been consorts of shawms, recorders, strings, even trombones, and these had divided themselves into two groups by the level of their sound. Consorts of quieter instruments had divided

themselves into two groups by the level of their sound. Consorts of quieter instruments, such as viols, were known as soft music and generally played indoors. The more raucous consorts, such as shawms, were called loud music and normally performed for outdoors events. In Adolph Sax's time, there was a need for an ensemble that could play outdoors and produce enough volume of sound to be heard. The military band of his time, consisting of clarinets, oboes, and bassoons, was inadequate to the task. So, Sax revived the concept of loud music by creating a family of valved brasses. These instruments proved equal to the task and soon became standard band instruments.

But, Sax went one step further. He also adopted the most characteristic feature of the consorts, which was a set of instruments that possessed matched timbres. He compared the two groups of brass instruments that had co-existed since ancient times: conical-bore horns and cylindrical-bore trumpets. Then, he decided the ideal homogeneity of sound could be produced by a family of instruments halfway between the two extremes. Sax then developed two families of instruments. One was called Saxtrombas, the other was named Saxhorns. There was initial interest in both groups, but it was the Saxhorn that caught on. This family of valved brass instruments produced an adequate volume of sound, blended well together, and were fully chromatic. They worked so well that by the 1840s most military bands throughout the world had become essentially Saxhorn bands.

Military bands, in America, developed along the same lines as those in Europe. What few American bands there were, at the time of our Revolution, were clarinet and oboe centered. These saw the introduction of keyed bugles in the very early 19th Century, and then converted to brass as soon as the valved brasses reached America. By the end of the 1830s, a phenomena, known as the brass band movement, was underway, and before it was over, it would have an enormous influence on the course of American military music.

In the early 1800s, American society was predominantly rural. Small towns and villages were the core of America, and much of our culture developed from them. Such was the case with brass bands. As towns grew, so did the need for music and entertainment for private and civic events. The only music available in the days before recording was live, so every town had a need for musicians. This need was filled by the creation of town bands, which, because they often played outdoors, were usually composed of brass instruments. Town bands became popular and soon spread. By the 1850s, nearly every town had a band, and larger towns and cities sometimes had several. The brass bands eventually found themselves at the center of a town's social life and in this position it was only natural that they soon grafted onto another social institution: the militia movement.

Originally, nearly every settlement in America had formed militias for the necessary purpose of protecting themselves from marauding Indians. But, as the frontier steadily moved west, the need for militias passed. So, with nothing of a military nature to do, the militias became social organizations. In many towns, militia muster was a major social event, calling for music and entertainment. Naturally, the town bands turned out for these musters, and it was inevitable that the bands became closely associated with the militia units. This association led to the need for the

bands to march, and that need, in turn, led to the next development in brass instruments.

The Saxhorns were first built as either upright or bell-front instruments. Trombones, which were widely used in brass bands, also had bells facing forward. The configuration perfected the sound of the bands towards their front, which was desirable when playing concerts. But, when bands were on the march, forward-projecting instruments became a liability because troops marching behind them could not hear the music, much less march to it. To remedy this situation, some now unknown manufacturer produced a series of Saxhorns facing to the rear, over the player's shoulder. The Dodworth Band in New York City, which purchased a set of these over-the-shoulder instruments in the late 1830s, is believed to have been the first band to have used them. The rearward-facing design proved workable, and, by the late 1850s, a majority of the brass bands all over the country, in particular those that performed in conjunction with the various militia units, owned a set of over-the-shoulder instruments.

Thus, when the American Civil War broke out, all the elements necessary to provide Regimental Bands were in place. When recruiters raised a regiment, all they had to do was go into an area and muster in enough pre-existing militia companies to form a regiment. No matter where the recruiters went, somewhere, nearby, was a town band which had probably been serving with the militia. The band already had military or marching instruments and experience in playing them. And, they were nearly always willing to enlist as a unit. Of course, this readiness to serve was prompted somewhat by the alternative, which was to be conscripted as an infantryman. But, by and large, the bandsmen's motives were pure. They were aware of the contributions the bands made, and they felt that, serving in a band, was the patriotic thing to do. So, enlisting an intact band was no problem, there were plenty of them, on both sides, and the members were eager to join.

Once the War was underway, the Regimental Bands, on both sides, were of inestimable value. These units performed every type of service, in all weather, and under every imaginable condition. Bands were everywhere, at the front, in the rear, on the march, and in the camp. They played for the entertainment of idle troops, and they played under fire to inspire men in battle. Bandsmen performed lively tunes for grand reviews and they produced somber tones for funerals. They played hymns for divine services and provided music for dances. Bands even played a part in military executions. In every facet of military life, there was a role for bands and the bands served well.

The Civil War was the culmination of the brass band movement. Some 600 bands served the Union cause; Confederate bands were fewer but there were probably more bands in Southern armies than previously thought. The Federal Army felt it had too many bands and in 1862 the Regimental Bands were discharged. Many of them were re-enlisted as Brigade bands and for the remainder of this conflict nearly every brigade had a band. Confederate bands remained on the Regimental level and either served for the duration or until their enlistment expired. But, then came Appomattox and the day it was finally over. Then, all the bands went home and the heyday of the Brass Bands was over.

Musical, not social, forces had brought about changes in the composition of bands. The over-the-

shoulder instruments had served well in the field, but they had been severely out of tune, and were not acceptable for continued service once the bands returned to a concert role. Hence, they were discarded and their day was ended. The importance of the clarinet had been re-discovered and bands began re-admitting reed instruments as soon as the war ended. By the time of the Spanish-American War, the conversion to mixed reed and brass instrumentation, led by a young John Phillip Sousa, had been completed and the brass band were heard no more.

The following is from a book entitled **Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms** copyright 1886 and published in 1890. Although the title of the book does not suggest any connection what-so-ever with the Civil War, it contains much information about the battles of the Civil War, summarized by the persons who fought during the war. The volume is virtually a 4 year college course in one book, including all sorts of things like Government, proper writing forms, how to make public speeches, correct use of the English language, and many other topics. It covers all major battles of the Civil War and many of the minor skirmishes. All spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. are directly quoted from the original ("sic") and are not those necessarily used today.

Continued from April

Battles of the Second Year of the War

Skirmish at Monterey, Va., and Capture at Chattanooga. - April 12, 1862, Confederates attacked General Milroy's Union force at Monterey, but were repulsed. On the same day, the Union general, Mitchel, captured 2,000 Confederates at Chattanooga.

Second Siege of Yorktown, Va. - Yorktown was strongly fortified by the Confederates, under General J. E. Johnston, who occupied it on April 17, 1862, with 53,000 men, exclusive of cavalry. The siege of this stronghold, which began April 5, 1862, was conducted by General McClellan, who had a force of 118,000 Unionists. It continued for a month. On the 4th of May, Johnston and his men evacuated the place, with whatever he could take, and started toward Richmond. Union cavalry under Hancock, and Hooker's division, engaged 30,000 of them near Williamsburg, and a severe fight ensued. The Confederates at length retired, but most of their trains had by the time escaped beyond the lines. The Unionists lost 1,856 killed and wounded and 372 missing. The Confederate loss is believed to have been at least 2,600 killed and wounded.

Bombardment of Forts Jackson and Saint Phillip, La. - Commodore Farragut and the Union fleet designed to capture New Orleans from the Confederates, and sailed early in February, 1862. On the 18th of April, 1862, he began the bombardment of the two Confederate forts, Saint Phillip and Jackson, in the Mississippi, below New Orleans, with such success that the obstructions were removed, and the fleet passed the forts on its way to New Orleans, April 24.

Fights in North Carolina - April 19, 1862, the Unionists, under General Burnside, defeated a body of Confederates near Elizabeth City, N.C. The Union loss was 11 killed. On the same day, General Reno, with 2,000

Unionists, defeated some Confederate troops at Camden, N.C., in which the former lost 99 wounded and 14 killed.

Capture of New Orleans - Part of Commodore Farragut's fleet of Union vessels, nine in number, and a land force of Unionists, under General Butler, appeared before New Orleans, then held by the Confederates, April 25, 1862. Forts Saint Phillip and Jackson, the Confederate strongholds, capitulated April 28; General Lovell, with his Confederate troops, retreated into the interior of the State, and General Butler took possession of the city, May 1, 1862. The Confederate loss, besides the forts, included 11 gunboats, the ram Manassas, and the iron-clad Louisiana. The Confederates destroyed immense quantities of cotton, steamboats, ships, sugar, and other property in the city, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Unionists. The loss of the Unionists in passing the Confederate forts was 30 killed and 110 wounded.

Fight at Lebanon, Tenn. - Fought May 5, 1862, between the Union troops under General Dumont and Morgan's Confederate cavalry. The latter had 66 killed and 183 taken prisoners; the Unionists lost 10 killed and 26 wounded and missing.

Battle of West Point, Va. - Fought May 7, 1862, between a formidable force of Confederates - a part of Lee's army - and Generals Franklin and Sedgwick's divisions of about 30,000 Unionists. The battle lasted six hours, when the Confederates were repulsed. The Union loss was 194 killed and wounded.

Battle at McDowell's, Va. - On the 8th of May, General Milroy's force of Unionists attacked a body of Confederates, but after a fight of five hours he was obliged to withdraw, having sustained a loss of 29 killed and about 200 wounded.

Evacuation of Pensacola, Fla. - The 3,000 Confederates, under General Bragg, who had occupied Pensacola since January 12, 1861, fearing a visit from Commodore Porter's Union mortar-fleet, evacuated the city May 9, 1862. When leaving, they fired the navy-yard, destroying the extensive workshops, warehouses, forts McRae and Barrancas, the lighthouse and the magnificent naval hospital. The Unionists at Fort Pickens, by a heavy cannonade, succeeded in driving the Confederates from the forts and buildings, thus arresting the work of destruction.

Capture of Norfolk, Va. - May 10, 1862, the Confederate authorities of Norfolk surrendered the city to General Wool and his 5,000 Unionists, without a fight. The navy-yard was in ruins, the iron-clad Merrimack had been blown up, and many guns spiked. The Confederates left behind them some 200 cannon and considerable ammunition.

A Naval Fight - May 10, 1862, a fight occurred between 8 Confederate and 6 Union gunboats on the Mississippi river, near Fort Wright, in which the former were defeated, losing 2 of their vessels.

Surrender of Natchez, Miss. - May 12, 1862, Commodore Farragut's fleet captured Natchez, which was then occupied by a small Confederate force, and was soon after abandoned by the Unionists.

A Naval Fight In Virginia - A squadron of 4 Union war vessels, under Commodore Rodgers, encountered a Confederate force at Fort Darling, on the James river, eight miles from Richmond, May 16, 1862, and after a sharp fight the fleet withdrew, having lost 13 killed and 16 wounded.

On the Chickahominy - May 17, 1862, McClellan's left wing drove a body of Confederates across the Chickahominy, at Bottom bridge, 13 miles from Richmond.

Battle of Lewisburgh, Va. - May 23, 1862, a force of Confederates, under Colonel Heath, attacked a body of Unionists, and, after an hour's contest, were defeated. The Unionists lost 14 killed and wounded.

Battle of Front Royal, Va. - Fought May 23, 1862, between Colonel Kenley, commanding a Union regiment, three companies and part of a battery, and a large force of Confederates, near Manassas gap, Va. After a desperate defense, Kenley retired across the Shenandoah, and rallied again; but was finally compelled to retreat, with a very heavy loss.

A Union Defeat - May 25, 1862, General Banks, with about 4,000 Unionists, encountered more than 25,000 Confederates, under Jackson and Ewell, at Strasburg, Va. Against such odds, after the first attack, and having held Winchester for two hours, Banks retreated to Williamsburgh to await reinforcements.

Battle of Hanover Court House, Va. - Fought May 27, 1862, between Fitz John Porter's division of Unionists and 13,000 Confederates. The latter were dislodged with the loss of about 200 killed, 730 prisoners, 2 railroad trains, arms, and ammunition. The Union loss was 53 killed and 344 wounded and missing.

Movements at Corinth, Miss. - May 28, 29, and 30, 1862, Corinth was invested by the Unionists under Generals Halleck, Pope and W. T. Sherman. On the 29th the Confederates, under Beauregard, evacuated their position, and on the 31st the Unionists, under General Pope, with 40,000 Unionists, pursued the fugitives (whose retreat had been obstructed by another Union force), and took many prisoners. Beauregard, however, again rallied his forces at Oklono, Miss.

Battle of Seven Pines, Va. - Fought May 31, 1862, between a large force of Confederates, under Longstreet, D. H. Hill, and Smith, and the Union troops is Casey's division of McClellan's army. Casey sustained his position for three hours against superior numbers, but finally fell back to the Seven Pines. They were dislodged from that position by the Confederates, and driven to a belt of woods, where the 1,800 Unionists, under Heintzelman, made so strong a resistance as to check the assault. Both armies then separated and encamped for the night.

Battle of Fair Oaks, Va. - While the battle of the Seven Pines was in progress, May 31, 1862, another battle was fought at Fair Oaks, hardly a mile away, between the Unionists in Sumner's division of McClellan's army and about 38,000 Confederates, under Johnston and Smith. The contest continued from four o'clock in the afternoon until twilight, when the Unionists charged upon the foe, driving them back in confusion at about the time that the struggle at the Seven Pines closed. Johnston was severely wounded in the last attack. Both armies bivouacked on the field, but a short distance from each other. Next morning hostilities were resumed at Fair Oaks, but not at the Seven pines. Sumner being reinforced by Hooker, after an hour's hard fighting the Confederates were driven from the shelter of the woods, and retreated in confusion to Richmond.

Losses at the Seven Pines and Fair Oaks - The losses of the Unionists in both battles were 890 killed, 3,627 wounded, 1,222 missing. The total loss of the Confederates is estimated at 6,733.

Fort Pillow Besieged - Fort Pillow, about 40 miles north of Memphis, Tenn., was erected by the Confederates. After a siege of 54 days by Union gunboats, under Commodore Foote, the fort, occupied by 6,000 Confederates, under General Villipigue, was abandoned, it having been dismantled and destroyed, June 5, 1862.

Battle Near Memphis, Tenn. - Fought June 6, 1862, between 8 Confederate war-vessels, under Commodore Montgomery, and a Union fleet of 5 gunboats and 9 rams, commanded by Colonel Ellet. Four of the Confederate vessels were sunk and 3 were run ashore. After the battle, the city of Memphis was surrendered to the Unionists, and was always afterwards retained by them.

Skirmish Near Harrisonburg, Va. - Fought June 6, 1862, between Unionists and Confederates, under General Ashby, who was killed.

Battle of Cross-Keys, Va. - Fought June 8, 1862, between a Union force under General Fremont, and 5,000 Confederates under General Ewell, a contest that retarded Fremont's advance. The Union loss was 664; that of the Confederates is unknown.

Battle of James Island, S. C. - Fought near Charleston, June 16, 1862, between Unionists, under General Stevens, and Confederates, the former being defeated with a loss of 85 killed, 172 wounded, and 128 missing.

Battle at Saint Charles, Ark. - Fought June 17, 1862, between Unionists, under Colonel Fitch, and a Confederate battery, which was destroyed. An explosion in a Union gunboat killed 125.

Battles Before Richmond - June 26, 1862, McClellan's Union army of 103,000 was gathered on the Chickahominy, confronted by about 100,000 Confederates, under Robert E. Lee. Richmond, the Confederate capital, was in no condition to withstand a siege. Lee, therefore, decided to attack McClellan and raise the siege. He, therefore, divided his army and posted it at several points. The contest opened at Mechanicsville, where the Confederates attacked McClellan's right wing. In the action 6,000 Unionists contended with 12,000 Confederates. The latter were repelled, and fell back having lost 1,500 men, while the Union loss was barely 300, owing to their sheltered position. On the 27th the battle of Cold Harbor was fought with great severity, between about 56,000 Confederates and 33,000 Unionists. During this day's fight the Confederates lost 9,500 in killed and wounded, and the Unionists 4,000 killed and wounded, 2,000 prisoners, and 22 cannon. During on skirmish the Confederates lost 200 of 650 men. The victory at the close of the day was apparently with Lee, although he had suffered double the losses that he had inflicted, and his position was perilous. June 29, a series of engagements occurred at Savage's Station, McClellan having fallen back from his advantageous position. At Peach Orchard the Confederates attacked the Unionists, but were repulsed. Later in the day they renewed the attack at Savage's Station, which lasted until nine o'clock in the evening. The Union loss was about 600; that of the Confederates about 400. The Union wounded and sick (2,500) fell into the hands of the Confederates. June 30, McClellan continued his retreat to the James river. On this day was fought the battle of Frazier's Farm, between the Union divisions of McCall, Hooker, and Kearney, and the Confederates under A. P. Hill and Longsteet. The attempt to break the Union line failed. The Unionists lost about 300 killed, and 1,500

wounded; the Confederates, 325 killed and 1,700 wounded. The battle of Malvern Hill was fought July 1, 1862. McClellan had about 90,000 men; Lee only 60,000 with which to attack McClellan's position. McClellan's artillery and musketry, well-placed, served to repel the Confederates' repeated charges upon his lines. The attacking party was not more than 28,000 strong. At dark the contest ceased, the Confederates having been repulsed at every point. The Union loss, that day, was about 375 killed and 1,800 wounded; the Confederate loss, 900 killed and 3,500 wounded. During the engagements from June 26 to July 1, it is estimated that the Unionists lost 1,582 killed, 7,709 wounded, and 5,958 missing; while the Confederates lost 3,150 killed, 15,255 wounded, and about 1,000 prisoners.

Skirmish at Bayou Cache, Ark. - Fought July 7, 1862, between a portion of General Curtis' Union army and the Confederates under General Rust, the latter being defeated, with 110 killed. Curtis lost but 8 killed and 45 wounded.

Skirmish at Jasper, Ala. - Fought July 7, 1862, between Unionists and Confederates, the former being worsted.

Capture of Hamilton, N.C. - July 9, 1862, Hamilton was captured by the Unionists.

Battle of Murfreesboro, Tenn. - Fought July 13, 1862, between a small force of Unionists, by whom it had been previously occupied, and a body of Confederates, under Forrest, a Michigan regiment being taken prisoners, and \$30,000 worth of commissary stores were captured.

Capture of Kentucky Towns - July 11, 1862, the Confederate, General Morgan, raided Lebanon, Ky., burned part of the town and despoiled the bank. July 17, he captured Cynthiana, Ky., and burned several railroad bridges.

A Raid in Indiana - July 18, 1862, a band of Confederates raided Newburgh, Ind., destroyed some hospital stores, captured 250 stand of arms, and retreated across the Ohio.

Skirmish at Memphis, Tenn. - Fought July 19, 1862, between Unionists and Confederates, the former losing 6 killed and 32 wounded

Bombardment of Vicksburg, Miss. - In June, 1862, the Union fleets of gunboats, respectively commanded by Commodore Farragut, from below, and Commanders Davis and Ellet, from above, met at Vicksburg, which was then strongly fortified and occupied by a Confederate force estimated at 10,000, and from time to time bombarded the city without any definite results. July 14, 1862, the commanders made a general attack upon the fortifications and heavily bombarded them for two hours. The upper batteries were silenced, and the city was set on fire in several places. Farragut's fleet passed the batteries and steamed down the river. The Confederates were not dislodged. On the 22d of July, the siege was abandoned.

Battle at Moore's Hill, Mo. - Fought between Confederates and Unionists, July 28, 1862, the former being defeated. The Unionists lost 10 killed and 30 wounded.

Capture of Orange Court House, Va. - August 1, 1862, Union cavalry, under General Crawford, after a short skirmish, drove out 2 regiments of Confederates, killing 11, and taking over 50 prisoners.

To be continued

Headstones in Jefferson, Texas Cemetery

Photos courtesy Paul Ridenour



In 2004 as found by Charles Steger



2016 before spraying with D-2



2016 after spraying with D-2

Brother Ridenour will spray them again in a few months and then the headstones should appear as if new again.



The Ridenour Report

Brothers, did not forget that we have the SUVCW state encampment in Houston this Saturday, June 4th, in Houston.

On the 4th Sunday in April, Drake Peddie, Don Gates, Rick Erder, Chuck Sprague, and myself showed up at the Greenwood Cemetery in Dallas to clean the 86 or so Union headstones and Union monument. Remembering that Memorial Day was coming up and not sure what kind of events were taking place in the cemetery, we decided not to spray the headstones with D/2 cleaner because they would turn dark brown and orange and it would be a few weeks before that coloring would fade away. Sometime in June we plan to resume cleaning them.

On Memorial day we had two great events. First, our private ceremony at Captain W. L. Boyd's grave in the Pecan Grove Cemetery and secondly, the McKinney citywide event afterwards. You can read about them in my two articles.

We will see you at our next meeting in July.

Paul Ridenour
Camp Commander

SCV and SUVCW Common Interests

By Paul Ridenour

In our May meeting, it was brought up about some of the issues that Confederate patriotic groups are having with the Confederate Battle Flag, monuments being vandalized, negative media attention, etc. This is an article I wrote for a Sons of Confederate Veterans newsletter before all of that happened.

As Camp Commander of the E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I was unable to attend the 2015 SCV Texas Division Reunion in Temple the weekend of June 5-7, 2015. Our SUVCW Texas Department Encampment was the same weekend in Ft. Worth.

We voted and passed a resolution to work more closely with the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The resolution was authored by Harry W. Reineke IV, the Guide/Guard for the Department of Illinois. In order to make this workable, it has to come from the camps and from the states. Once the states have voted on it, it will be presented to National SUVCW.

Everyone in the Department of Texas voted for this resolution. Here are some of the reasons the SUVCW wants to foster a brotherly relationship:

1. Both sides after the war sought reconciliation
2. Both sides attended reunions in 1875, 1881, 1887, 1893, 1913, and 1938
3. Members of the SUV are also members of the SCV [Note: The Ft. Worth SUV camp was founded by SCV members]
4. Cemeteries include both Union and Confederate final resting places

5. Union and Confederates lived as neighbors

6. Several national offices held in the SUVCW are also members of the SCV

This is not going to be easy. We will always have our differences. When my SUVCW camp designed a 150th Civil War medal that included both sides, the National SUVCW did not want to have anything to do with them. We made them ourselves and they are known as the Texas Medal, the most popular selling SUVCW medal during these last five years of the 150th Civil War Commemorations.

The SUVCW wants to work more closely with the SCV through participating in cemetery projects, memorial services, local events, monument erection and maintenance.

Both sides already do some of these things. The Wells Camp lays a red rose at the grave of the only Union soldier in the Murphy Cemetery on Memorial Day. The Ellsworth Camp always lays a wreath at the Confederate Monument in Pecan Grove Cemetery on Memorial Day. I invited Richard Smoot to attend the SUCVW Memorial Day event, and he would have if not for the cancelation due to all of the rain and flooding.

As different states within the SUVCW vote on this matter, and once National is presented with it, I will let you know the final outcome.

Newsletter Medal Available

A suggested donation of \$7.50 made to the E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 would be appropriate. If it is desired to have the medal mailed, then please add an additional \$1.50 to cover the cost of postage, etc.

Donations should be sent to the Camp #18 Secretary – Treasurer:

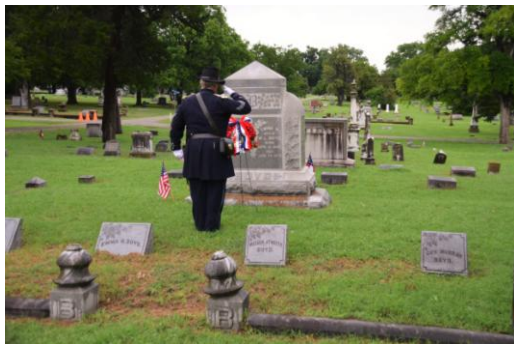
Don Gates, PDC
Camp 18 Secretary
1205 Balboa Circle
Plano, TX 75075

The medals will be delivered at the next camp meeting or, if desired, by mail.



Photos From Memorial Day 2016

E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 participated again this year in a private ceremony honoring Captain W. L. Boyd at the Pecan Cemetery in McKinney. Brothers of the camp met at 8 AM and have a short ceremony. The ceremony consisted of an opening prayer, welcome and introduction, reading of the names of the 14 Union soldiers buried here, laying of the wreath at Boyd's grave and also at the Confederate monument, three volleys are fired, and a closing prayer.



After the private ceremony at Boyd's grave, the city of McKinney's 32nd Annual Pecan Grove Memorial Day event started at 10 AM. Ellsworth camp brothers also participated in the event by firing a 21 gun salute towards the end as the orchestra played Battle Hymn of the Republic. Some of the dignitaries and speakers included US Congressman Sam Johnson, County Judge Keith Self, Sheriff Elect Jim Skinner, Mayor Brian Loughmiller, and Guy Giersch, Historical Preservation Officer.

Performing during the ceremony included the McKinney Community Band, "National Anthem" sung by James Shelby, McKinney Fire Department Bagpipers on "Amazing Grace," and "Taps" played by Dale Littrell.



More photos from Memorial Day 2016, and other events, will be in the July edition of the Texas **Union Herald**.