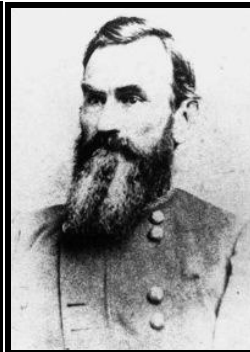


The Delta General

Editor: Larry McCluney Phone: 662-453-7212 E-mail: confederate@windjammercable.net

February – 2009

Volume: 12, Issue 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Note – pg. 1

Black CSA History – p.1 & 6

MS Division News – pg. 2

Convention News – pg. 3

OCR News – pg. 4

Honest Abe? – pg. 4-5

Upcoming Events

Feb. Meeting – will feature guest speaker Jan Taylor of the Winterville Mounds park. she will be speaking on the Southern Native Indians and their contribution to the War of Northern Aggression.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Compatriots,

It seems just like yesterday we were bringing in the New Year and now the month of January is swiftly coming to an end. On the 17th of January, we celebrated the birthdays of Robert Edward Lee and Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson with a pot luck supper at the church in Indianola. For those who could not make it, we had a great time with plenty of good food. I want to thank everyone who came for all the delicious food they brought. Brother James Taylor preached / gave an outstanding talk on Lee and Jackson and their fine Christian character. If you ever get a chance to hear James give a talk, take it, you will not be disappointed. From the feedback we heard, everyone enjoyed the pot luck supper better than the banquet and want to do the same next year.

The Convention is fast approaching and we need everyone in the Camp to pitch-in and help. For those who cannot help physically, financial help would be most welcomed whether in the form of purchasing an ad for your business, selling ads to others or making a donation to the Camp. Your ad layout and money needs to be sent to me ASAP.

For those thinking of attending the Convention, there are some deadlines to remember. After March 29, registration fees go up by \$ 5, the sell of banquet tickets end on May 15th and the discount rate for the hotel room end on March 29th. Please get those registration forms and checks to me as soon as you can. I hope to see many of our camp members in Greenwood.

God Bless the South,

Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Commander

THE VIRGINIA PILOT, A BLACK CONFEDERATE

By Linda McNatt

On a gentle knoll surrounded by the woods and cotton fields of Skeetertown on Saturday, the allegiance and honor of a humble Suffolk farmer was compared to that of Civil War General Robert E. Lee. "I believe that Jason Boone gave his service to this cause because he loved his home and loved his neighbors," said F. Lee Hart IV, commander of the Tom Smith Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. "He saw this war as an attack on his home, and, like Robert E. Lee, he refused to raise his sword against his state."

Boone was a landowner, twice married, father of 30 children. For three years, beginning in 1862, he served in the 41st Virginia Infantry, Company K, Confederate States of America. He was considered a specialist in the building of breastworks - a defensive low wall used in battle - or trenches. In 1924, at the age of 93, he was granted a pension of \$ 6 a month, which he received until his death at the age of 105. Boone was a free-born black, and for what . . .
Continued on page 6

ATTENTION: Address Changes

If anyone in our Camp has a mailing address change, e-mail address change, or has not received their Newsletter; please contact Larry McCluney at 662-453-7212 or e-mail – confederate@roadrunner.com

* **Newsletter Disclaimer:** Editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted and all submissions to the newsletter must be in proper format (all Caps not accepted).

Copyright Notice: In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, any copyrighted material published herein is distributed under fair use without profit or payment to those who are interested in receiving the provided information for non-profit research and educational purpose only.

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS:

ROBERT E. LEE On his birthday, remember the man, the history **By Gordon Cotton**

It was 1807 — 202 years ago — that the Lee family in Virginia welcomed a baby boy and named him Robert Edward. Monday is the birthday of that great American, Gen. Robert E. Lee, and is also a state holiday. Robert E. Lee never came to Mississippi, but other than the many men from here who fought under his command during the War Between the States, he may have had an unusual Vicksburg connection. Was he wearing boots, a gift from two Vicksburg sisters, when he met with Gen. U.S. Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865? That is a good possibility.

In January 1865, for his 58th birthday, the general received a package from two Vicksburg sisters, Sallie and Lucy Marshall, daughters of the Rev. and Mrs. Charles K. Marshall. Lee wrote the following thank you: "I have rec'd the overboots sent me by your father and had the opportunity yesterday of testing their value. It was one of the most tempestuous days of the winter, hail, rain, and sleet. By their means through out all day I was comfortable. Please accept my grateful thanks for your birthday kindness and believe me with great respect, R.E. Lee."

The boots had been paid for with money carefully saved by Sallie Marshall who had covered gold pieces with cloth and used them as buttons to keep them from being stolen. She had used some of those buttons to pay for the boots. When Lee prepared to meet Grant to discuss surrender, he put on his best apparel — a handsome new uniform, his dress sword and his deep-red sash, for he expected to become a prisoner of war. He commented, "I must make my best appearance." His uniform immaculate, his boots well-polished — what a contrast he was to Grant when they met, for the Union commander wore a crumpled uniform and mud-spattered boots. A witness to the meeting described Lee as "6 feet tall, hair and beard of silver gray, a handsome uniform of Confederate gray buttoned to the throat with three stars on each side of the turned-down collar, fine topboots and handsome spurs and a splendid sword."

Those fine boots — were they from the Vicksburg sisters? There's probably no way of knowing, but it is entirely possible. The girls, by the way, were the granddaughters of the Rev. Newit Vick, the city's founder. Their mother was Amanda Vick.

Another Vicksburg connection with Lee was a very remote one: his brother, Sidney Smith Lee, was married to a sister of Elbeck Mason who, with his wife, Virginia, lived for a time in the Cobb House in the Southern Cultural Heritage Center complex and then bought the castle that stood on the hill behind Price's Glass and Mirror and was demolished by the Union army of occupation.

There was always a portrait of Gen. Robert E. Lee in the office of Dwight D. Eisenhower, even when he was president of the United States, and in 1960 a New York dentist took him to task, citing the fact that Lee gave his best efforts to defeat the nation from 1861-1865. In his reply on Aug. 1, 1960, Eisenhower pointed out that secession was at that time an unresolved question and had been debated for 70 years. Lee, the president said, believed unswervingly in the Constitutional validity of the Southern cause. Of Lee personally, he wrote that "he was thoughtful yet demanding of his officers and men, forbearing with captured enemies but ingenious, unrelenting, and personally courageous in battle, and never disheartened by a reverse or obstacle. Through all his many trials he remained selfless almost to a fault and unflinching in his belief in God." Eisenhower saw Lee "noble as a leader and as a man, and unsullied as I read the pages of our history." He felt that the youth of America would do well to emulate his qualities, including his painstaking efforts to help heal the nation's wounds once the war was over. "From deep conviction I simply say this: a nation of men of Lee's calibre would be unconquerable in spirit and soul," Eisenhower stated and concluded, "I proudly display the picture of this great American on my office wall."

The late Sen. Ben Hill of Georgia many years ago capsuled the qualities that make Lee loved and admired:

He was a foe without hate
A friend without treachery
A soldier without cruelty,
And a victim without murmuring.
He was a public official without vices
A private citizen without wrong
A neighbor without reproach
A Christian without hypocrisy,
and a man without guile.
He was Caesar without ambition
Frederick without tyranny,
Napoleon without selfishness,
and Washington without his reward.

There's a concerted effort in our nation to erase the name of Robert E. Lee from schools named for him, an effort spearheaded by bigots more interested in rewriting history than in supporting education. Those who seek to defame him aren't worthy to polish his Vicksburg boots.

**Program Ads for Sale For The 114th Annual Mississippi Division Reunion
Sons of Confederate Veterans And The 15th Annual Mississippi Society
Order of Confederate Rose Reunion**

Ad Sizes and Prices Please Circle One Full Page \$ 100 1/2 Page \$ 50 1/4 Page \$ 25 Business Card
\$ 15 Please Submit Your Own Ad Layout, Business Card or Other

Name: _____

Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

114th Mississippi Division SCV Reunion Program Ad Receipt

Quantity: Size: Amount:

Questions: Contact Dan McCaskill at 662-822-1096

**Motel Information for the 114th Reunion MS Division, Sons
of Confederate Veterans and 15th Reunion MS Society,
Order of Confederate Rose**

May 29-31, 2009 . . .Greenwood, MS

Hosted by the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp#1625 and the Ella Palmer Chapter #9, MSOCR. A block of 75 rooms are reserved at the Best Western inGreenwood. Reservations can be made by calling 662-455-5777. Ask for the Mississippi Division, SCV Convention Discount.

These rooms consist of: 33 Non-Smoking King-size beds - 4 Smoking King-size beds
33 Non-Smoking doubles – 5 Smoking doubles

Rates are \$75.00 + tax a night

Reservations **MUST BE MADE** before March 29, 2009. Reservations after this date will revert back to the regular rate. Cancellations must be made **BEFORE** May 15, 2009.

All rooms include complimentary hot breakfast every morning. Here is the web site for those who are interested in seeing the motel and directions to it online. www.bestwesternmississippi.com/greenwood-hotels/

The time is now! Sign up now and save!!! We want to encourage all to register early and save money by registering early. The Convention theme for 2009 is "Welcome to the MS Delta, the Land of Cotton". We have an exciting Convention planned out for everyone. This year the OCR will get their own Convention medal for the first time as well and of course the lots of free tours, free seminars, and a wonderful Convention center, Confederate Memorial Hall. And, it's air-conditioned! The motel is very flag friendly and they will promote our organization on the marquee'. For information and registration visit: <http://msconvention2009.homestead.com/index.html>

(Note: Registration forms have been sent out in the State Newsletter, the Jeff Davis Legion)

OCR NEWS:

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Dear OCR ladies,

First of all I would like to thank all of you that attended our Lee-Jackson pot luck dinner. I think that the event was a huge success. I would also like to thank all of you that donated raffle items and bought raffle tickets. All of the money raised at the Lee-Jackson supper will help to fund the state convention. Don't forget that we still need raffle items for the state convention. The OCR officers will meet at Dan McCaskill's house on February 6th for the executive council meeting. Please let me know if you cannot make it. I would like all of the ladies to plan on attending the February camp meeting. We will decide on what to put on the cake for the president's reception. Please bring a copy of your suggestion or it will not be considered. We will also make final decisions on the table decorations and several other convention items. We will also be inducting 4 new members, so plan to attend.

Confederately yours,

Miranda McCaskill

THIS MONTH IS OLE' ABE'S 200TH:

HONEST ABE WAS NOT SO HONEST BY PASTOR JOHN WEAVER

There is a woman by the name of Mildred Rutherford who wrote a book a number of years ago and the book have recently been reprinted and the name of it is *A True Estimate of Abraham Lincoln*. She shows us that people back then knew exactly Ole Abe was violating the Constitution in every direction possible. Here are the nine that Mildred Rutherford lists: (1.) First of all coercion in 1861, which was a violation of Article 4. And of course that's where Lincoln tried to coerce the South into fighting and of course into surrendering to him basically. (2.) Lincoln violated the Constitution when he violated the Laws of Neutrality, which was the Trent Affair, Article 6, Clause 2, which was a violation of international law. Now if you don't know what the Trent Affair was, it is very interesting because the Confederate Government had sent some representatives to England to present our cause there before the English Parliament and our Confederate men were on an English ship named the Trent. And the United States government came and took the Confederate men off a British ship and imprisoned them. You say, well, what's so bad about that, because of the laws of Neutrality, and remember the War of 1812 was fought over the same issue because the English was doing that to our citizens. And what happened, the North was humiliated in this. Those men had to be released and William Seward had to write an apology to the English government because the English government would not even negotiate. They said you will either release those men or there is going to be war between you and England as well as the South and England. So, Lincoln when he violated the Constitution in this area, by the way, do you know what he did for the Captain who arrested those men and took them off of the English Ship? He gave him a gold medal. Didn't matter to him that he violated the Constitution. (3.) He suspended the Writ of Habeas Corpus, Article 1, Section 9, Clause 2. (4.) He declared war without the consent of Congress in 1861, which is a violation of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11 and 12. (5.) He made West Virginia a State in violation of Article 4, Section 3, Clause 1. He just separated Virginia and made West Virginia a State all by himself. (6.) He denied the freedom of speech in the Valandeham Imprisonment, which was a violation of the first Amendment. (7.) He blockaded Ports of the States that were held by the Federal government to still be in the Union. You don't block your own Ports. (8.) The Liberty of the Press was taken away - that is a violation of the First Amendment. (9.) Violation of the Fugitive slave law, which was violation of Article 4, Section 2, Clause 3.

Now, may I remind you last week that Lincoln confessed to six of these Constitutional violations in his joint resolution to Congress, trying to get Congress to validate everything that he had done six of them. Now the amazing truth is this: there were many people who were friends of Lincoln in his Cabinet and in Congress who recognized that what Lincoln was doing was unconstitutional and wrong. For instance, Godwin in *The Nation* says this, "The first real breach in the Constitution was President Lincoln using his war power to abolish slavery." He said Lincoln had no authority to do that. Thaddeus Stevens who was of Lincoln's own party and was a radical Republican and here is what he said, "I will not stultify myself by supposing that Mr. Lincoln has any warrant in the Constitution for dismembering Virginia." Thaddeus Stevens says Lincoln had no Constitutional Warrant to divide Virginia, yet he did. McClure, who was a friend of Lincoln's said "Mr. Lincoln swore to obey the Constitution, but in 18 months violated it by his Emancipation Proclamation." They knew. Mr. Rhodes said "There was no authority for the Proclamation by the Constitutional Laws, nor was there any statute that warranted it". So they realized Lincoln had absolutely no grounds for doing what he did. Wendell Phillips, of the Cooper Institute, said in 1864 "I judge Mr. Lincoln by his acts, his violations of the Law, his overthrow of Liberty in the Northern States. I judge Mr.

Lincoln by his words, his deeds, and so judging him, I am unwilling to trust Abraham Lincoln with the future of this country." So here was a leading man of the Cooper Institute saying Lincoln cannot be trusted. Percy Gregg said, "Listen, Lincoln never hesitated to violate the Constitution when he so desired. The Chief Justice testified to this. Lincoln suspended with Writ of Habeas Corpus in 1861. He allowed West Virginia to be formed from Virginia, contrary to the Constitution. He issued his Emancipation Proclamation without consulting his Cabinet and in violation of the Constitution." Isn't it amazing how every one of these men is acknowledging, not necessarily all at once, but at least several of his unconstitutional acts? Charles Sumner, who was another radical republican and a member of his own party, said this: "When Lincoln reinforced Fort Sumter and called for 75,000 men without the consent of Congress, it was the greatest breach ever made in the Constitution and would hereafter give the President the Liberty to declare war whenever he wished without the consent of Congress." Now that was Charles Sumner. Charles Frances Adams was a historian of Massachusetts. Listen to what he said. "How can we justify the acts of Mr. Lincoln's administration? An unconstitutional policy called for unconstitutional coercion. An unconstitutional coercion called for an unconstitutional war. An unconstitutional war called for an unconstitutional despotism. Authority uncontrolled and unlimited by men, by constitution, by the Supreme Court or by Law was Lincoln's war policy." Let me paraphrase that. Lincoln did whatever he wanted to do. He was not constrained by the Constitution. He was not constrained by Law. He was not constrained by the Supreme Court. So when the Supreme Court ruled against him, he just kept going and did whatever he was going to do anyhow - totally irresponsible. Now, may I remind you that these men were not Lincoln's enemies. They were his friends. They were in his Cabinet. They were in his party. So Lincoln did not hesitate to violate the Constitution whenever he chose to do so, nor would he abide by the decisions of the Supreme Court. Let me put it to you like this: Lincoln was a tyrant in the strictest sense of the term. Why? Because Lincoln used lawful power unlawfully.

Everyone in here has heard of J.P. Morgan, the great financier. Listen to what J.P. Morgan said, "I supported President Lincoln. I believed his war policy would be the only way to save the country, but I see my mistake. I visited Washington a few weeks ago and I saw the corruption of the present Administration and so long as Abraham Lincoln and his Cabinet are in power, so long will the war continue, and for what? For the preservation of the Constitution of the Union? No! But for the sake of politicians and governmental contractors." That was J. P. Morgan. He said, I understand what is going on. There is no fight to preserve the Union. There is no fight to preserve the Constitution. There is only a fight to reward the benefactors of Abraham Lincoln. That's it! Horace Greeley said this: "I cannot trust honest old Abe. He's too smart for me." The word is really not smart. The word is cunning, deceitful. Layman said, who was one of Lincoln's partners, "Mr. Lincoln did not possess a single quality for his office as president. People said he was good and honest and well meaning, but he never pretended that he was great. He was only nominated by means of a corrupt bargain, entered into by Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania and Caleb Smith of Indiana, provided Lincoln would pledge them Cabinet positions. These pledges Lincoln fulfilled, and thus made himself a party to corrupt bargains." That was his own law partner that said that.

Now, I want to read something to you just for a moment that is rather lengthy but I want you to listen. I want to tell you why. You have never heard, probably, of a Judge by the name of Judge Henry Clay Dean. I have a book at home that has just been reprinted and the book is by Judge Henry Clay Dean and the title of the book is Crimes Of The Civil War. But it is not crimes of the South; it is crimes of the North and crimes of Abraham Lincoln. You know, I told you in time past, that Lincoln arrested 38,000 Northerners and had them imprisoned without a trial. Never pressed a charge against them. Well, Judge Henry Clay Dean was one of those that Lincoln arrested and put in prison without a trial. I want you to listen to first of all, his indictment of Lincoln and his government and then secondly, he is going to tell you why he was arrested. Now this is very informative. Remember this comes from a Judge who was alive, who suffered under Abraham Lincoln, who knew firsthand what was going on. Here is what Judge Henry Clay Dean writes:

"Our government is in nothing uniform except its' contempt of law and powerful only for the oppression of the people. Every officer seems to contemplate his office as an engine of destruction in which he is engaged to work the ruin of the particular department of government entrusted to his care. The Postmaster General has for the last five years been violating the mails. The Secretary of the Treasury has been squandering the public wealth. The Secretary of the Navy has been enfeebling our naval power. The Secretary of War all crimsoned with innocent blood is employing the army for the destruction of the Country. The Secretary of State has been subverting Constitutional law and disgracing our form of government at home and abroad. The Secretary of the Interior has been conniving with public jobbers to defraud the government of its most valuable lands. The Attorney General is gravely burlesquing nonsense itself by defining Constitutional construction of unconstitutional laws and is in conspiracy with military commissions to murder innocent women. The President is administering the government through military satraps in a manner unknown to Republican systems and disgraceful to despotism's, which regard the character of those entrusted to power. We now witness among our kindred the debasement of a civilized people who are forced to submit to the insult and domination of barbarian negroes and foreign vagabonds. The courts of the Country are infamously corrupt. The state Legislatures and Congress are flagrantly accessible to bribes, which has become the only tangible basis of' special, and an essential necessity in general legislation. The people of the late Confederate States after encountering the terrible vicissitudes of war were overtaken by famine, which inflicted frightful forms of starvation and are now overrun and robbed by predatory invasions and endangered by the insurrection of domestic savages incited by foreign incendiaries."

The Delta General

1412 North Park Dr

Greenwood, MS

Camp Officers

Commander
(Adjutant) -

Dan McCaskill

1st Lt Cmdr- Charles
"Gator"Stillman

2nd Lt Cmdr- Claude
Stillman

Color Sgt - Ralph
Washington

Appointed

Officers:

Editor/Webmaster -

Larry McCluney

Chaplain - Earl
McCown, Jr.

Sgt-at-Arms -

Thomas Haik



is thought to be the first time for a black Confederate soldier in Virginia, he was honored on this autumn day with a ceremony and a memorial for his courage.

Boone's great-granddaughter, Katheryne B. Hamilton, who was born in Suffolk and now lives in Portsmouth, brought the event together. But not without some misgivings, she said. "When I first started thinking about it, some of my family members said, 'Definitely not,' " Hamilton said. "But I have always been so proud of Jason Boone. He was independent. He was a landowner. He was the father of 30 children, married to the mothers of them all. He worked hard and raised those children." And, when the Civil War broke out in April 1861, Boone was living on his farm in Skeetertown, a mixed neighborhood of free blacks and white landowners. Boone's farm remained in family hands until 1981. "When his neighbors were going to war, these were men he hunted with, fished with, worked with," she said. "I believe he did what he felt he had to do. What do I have not to be proud of?" Hamilton was searching for her family roots more than a year ago when she read a newspaper article about Hart's efforts to preserve Suffolk's historic Cedar Hill Cemetery. She called to tell him that her great-grandfather served with the South. "He asked me if my great-grandfather had a headstone," Hamilton said. "At that time, I didn't even know where he was buried." When she found his grave in Landa Cemetery, near the Suffolk Airport, she contacted Hart again, and that's when he offered a monument for her grandfather's grave. After months of preparation, about 100 people - blacks as well as whites, all with a shared heritage - came together to honor a soldier of the Confederacy.

"I am a historian, and today, history is being made," said Edward C. Smith, a history professor at American University in Washington, who spoke at the ceremony. "I can't imagine the times that this man heard, 'Jason, you're fighting on the wrong side.' Why would a black Southerner, especially a Virginian, fight for the Confederacy?" Smith has made black history in America his lifelong work and has written several books on the subject. Slavery, he said, was an important part of the Civil War, but it did not start it. Slavery, in fact, was not abolished in the nation's capital until April 1862, a year after the war started. "History is not what we want the past to be," he said. "History is what the past was. We read into the past prejudices of the present. Why would Mr. Boone fight for the South? He was a Southern patriot." Smith called Saturday's event the fulfillment of the dream that Martin Luther King Jr. longed for. "You see it, right here, today," he said. And he called Hamilton a hero in her own right. "I never thought I would see this," he said, after a cannon salute to Boone and after "Taps" was played. "It's not that blacks today don't know this part of their history, but they don't respect it. Mrs. Hamilton has turned a corner."

Boone, Hamilton said, was descended from Joe Skeeter, an English land surveyor who settled Skeetertown, near the Dismal Swamp. Apparently Skeeter had two interracial marriages. His daughter, Patsy, was Jason's mother. Hamilton said that, today, Skeeter's descendants live both as black and white. "I'm black, and I'm proud of it," she said. "But I don't think I'm African. How often do any of us see a real African today? I'm an American, and I think it's time that we all begin to take pride in our American heritage." Wiping tears from her eyes on Saturday, with many members of her family sitting before her, Hamilton said that she felt Jason Boone was there with them, and he would have been proud, too. And in another history-making gesture, the Sons of Confederate Veterans presented the Confederate flag - the flag that has stirred such controversy in recent months from both a political and racial standpoint - the flag that had been laying throughout the ceremonies across Jason Boone's grave - to his family. And it was accepted.