
NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



THE SILVER GRAY



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Stature in progress of President Jefferson Davis with his white son and adopted black son, Jim Limber. The finished statue will be at President Davis' last home at Buvoir.

JEFFERSON DAVIS REMEMBERED

This statue stands in a prominent spot in front of the Alabama State Capitol—the actual spot where President Davis stood for his inauguration in 1851.



The inscription reads:

JEFFERSON DAVIS
SOLDIER - SCHOLAR
- STATESMAN

A GRADUATE OF
WEST POINT
MILITARY
ACADEMY, HE
SERVED
THE UNITED
STATES AS
COLONEL
OF MISSISSIPPI
VOLUNTEERS
MEXICAN WAR,
MEMBER OF HOUSE
OF
REPRESENTATIVES,
SENATOR
AND AS
SECRETARY OF
WAR

INAUGURATED
PRESIDENT OF
THE PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT
CONFEDERATE
STATES OF
AMERICA,
FEBRUARY 18, 1861



MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH

RINGGOLD 1890's DAYS

AL Creamers

On May 5, 1868 General John Logan issued General Order No. 11, which read, in part:

“ Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as a sacred charge upon a nations gratitude, the soldiers and sailors widow and orphan.

Less than two decades later, in 1884, Oliver Wendell Holmes said:

“With changing times, Memorial Day is more celebrated as a holiday than the solemn occasion it was. We must remember that the day means to honor Americas defense personnel who lost their lives in various wars.”

That sentiment is more true today than it was in 1884. With the myriad of distractions in today's society, it is far too easy to overlook something as simple as realizing that this country is dotted with millions of stones that stand silent guard over the remains of the man and women, fathers and mothers, and sons and daughters whose selfless sacrifices have made our presence in the historic city of Ringgold today, possible.

It costs no money and requires no appointment to spend 5 minutes out of a day, 1 day a month, to stand before the final resting spot of a soldier, from the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the War Between the States, the Spanish American war, The Great War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Viet Nam and the Gulf Wars and pay silent honor for their sacrifice. It can be done on a lunch break. There is no shortage of cemeteries in the Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee area. Many of you have relatives' interred close by who served and died in the War Between the States through the current war. Find time to visit them and thank them for their service and their sacrifice.

But don't stop there, if you know anything about that person who's name is on the stone, share that information with a living descendant of that soldier. If you know the son or daughter, wife or husband, mother or father of a soldier lost in the current war, share any stories of that person so they may better know the family member they lost. If you have no stories, listen to theirs. So often it takes a long time for them to be willing to talk and when their ready they have no one to listen to them. A few minutes of your time could make a world of difference to a survivor.

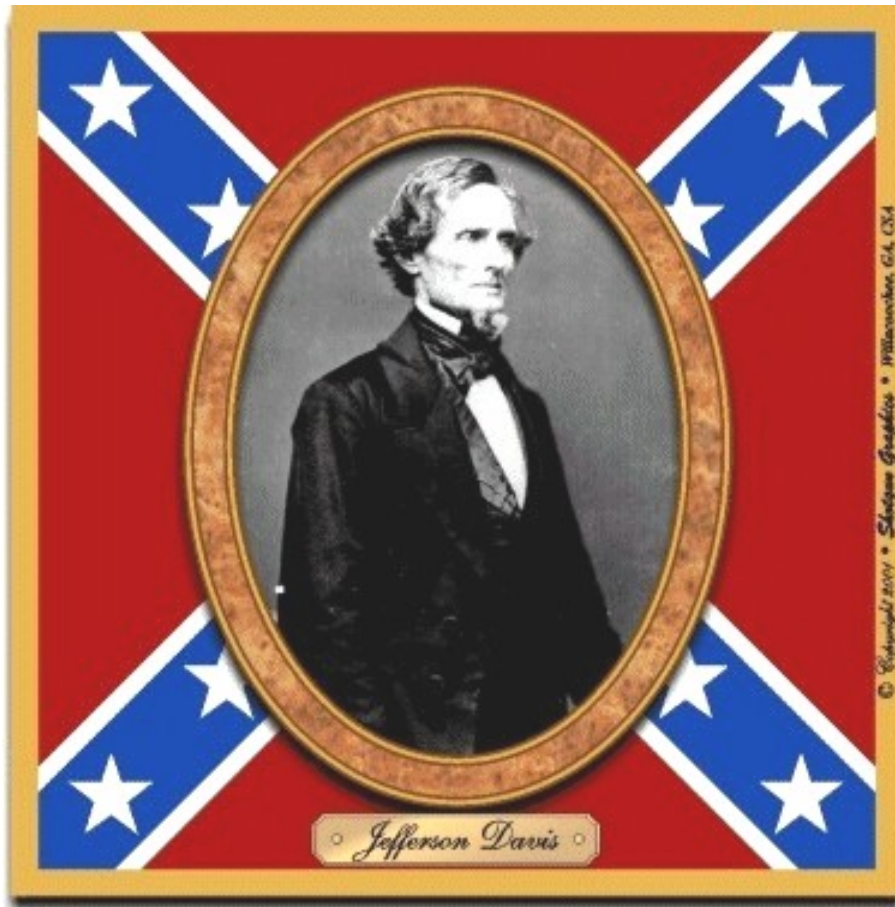
Above all, Remember, many of our fallen soldiers are buried on foreign soil, or MIA. There are still some that may be held as POW's and the too, must NEVER be forgotten.

Remembering Jefferson Davis' Birthday

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"Never teach your children to admit that their fathers' were wrong in their efforts to maintain the sovereignty, freedom and independence which was their birthright." — Jefferson Davis

Free people are those who remember their past! In 1931, a bronze statue of Jefferson Davis, sculptured by Virginia's Augustus Lukeman, was given to the National Statuary Hall at our nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. by the State of Virginia. June 3, 2007, is the 199th birthday of an American Hero — Jefferson Davis of Mississippi.



Please share the following story with your family. Take a look at the calendar and see what dates are shown for June 3rd. You will more than likely see that the birthday of Jefferson Davis is excluded. The birthday of Abraham Lincoln is shown for February, but no mention for Jefferson Davis in June. This is more than a shame and we should write these calendar

folks and let them know that Davis' birthday should be included.

Jefferson Davis was born on June 3, 1808, in the horse racing (Derby State) of Kentucky. Birthday observances are annually held in Richmond, Virginia, Irwinville, Georgia, Montgomery, Alabama and other places throughout the USA.

Is our nation's history still taught in public schools? The time is long overdue for America's educators to teach the historical facts about Abraham Lincoln but also about Jefferson Davis.

Jefferson Davis, who would become the first and only President of the Confederate States of America, was a strong Unionist but also a strong defender of the United States Constitution. Our founding fathers believed in the sovereignty of the states and so did Jefferson Davis.

There are some less scholarly people who have called Davis a traitor. Here are a few of his accomplishments that dispel such myths of political correctness thinking.

He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point.
Fought valiantly in the War with Mexico.
Served as United States Senator from Mississippi.
Served as US Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce.

Was first to suggest the transcontinental railroad to link Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, first to suggest Panama Canal Zone, suggested the purchase of Cuba and appointed Robert E. Lee as Superintendent of United States Military Academy at West Point.

Visiting Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis, would be a way to better understand this man Davis. It, however, was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Efforts are underway to restore this splendid house and Jefferson Davis Presidential Library. This is where Davis wrote his book, "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government." You can learn more about Beauvoir at: www.Beauvoir.org.

Jefferson Davis' last marriage was said to be a good one to Varina, who gave him two sons and two daughters (Jefferson, Margaret, Winnie and Billy). Winnie was nicknamed (Daughter of the Confederacy) as she was born during the time of the War Between the States. Billy was killed by an accidental fall at the Confederate White House in Richmond and in 1864, an abused black child named Jim Limber was adopted by the Davis family.

Jefferson Davis died between 12:30 AM and 1:00 AM on December 6, 1889. The news of his death hit the front page of most Southern newspapers. The praises and tributes read similar to that of a New Orleans paper that read: *"Throughout the South are lamentations and tears; in every country on the globe where there are lovers of liberty there is mourning; wherever there are men who love heroic patriotism, dauntless resolution, fortitude or intellectual power, there is an sincere sorrowing. The beloved of our land, the unfaltering upholder of constitutional liberty, the typical hero and sage, is no more; the fearless heart that beats with sympathy for all mankind is stilled forever, a great light is gone — Jefferson Davis is dead!"*

The Heritage of the South is part of America's proud past.

JEFFERSON DAVIS AS U.S. SECRETARY OF WAR

While we are all familiar with Jefferson Davis and his role as President of The Confederate States of American, few know of his accomplishments as U. S. Secretary of War. When Jefferson Davis became Secretary of War in 1853, he strongly urged a larger Army, one that could be expanded to 27,818 men in time of war by enlarging the company to 128 men. Davis desired new mounted regiments for frontier service, because only highly mobile units could hope to handle the Indians. In March 1855 Congress added 4 new regiments to the existing 15 (2 of dragoons, 1 of mounted rifles, 4 of artillery, and 8 of infantry). They were the 1st and 2d Cavalry Regiments and the 9th and 10th Infantry Regiments. The mounted arm thus consisted of dragoons, mounted rifles, and cavalry until the Civil War, when all mounted regiments were called cavalry.

At Davis' insistence the new infantry units were armed with percussion-cap, muzzle-loading rifle muskets instead of smoothbore muskets. Nineteenth century The new weapon had an effective range was about 400 to 600 yards as compared with 100 to 200 yards for smoothbore muskets. The rate of fire was a theoretical three rounds a minute, though this was seldom attained in practice. The introduction of rifling into field and coast artillery increased the accuracy and more than doubled the effective range. During this period an important smoothbore piece was introduced for the light batteries, the 12-pounder bronze cannon called the "Napoleon" for Napoleon III. Rockets declined in favor.

Secretary of War Davis found the Army to be in need of a solution to its transportation problems in the western US. The rough terrain and dry climate was seen as being too rough on the horses and mules used by the Army, and camels provided a possible solution. On, March 3, 1855, the US Congress appropriated \$30,000 for the project. Major Henry C. Wayne was assigned to procure the camels. On June 4, 1855, Major Wayne departed New York City and purchased camels at ports in North Africa. On April 29, 1856, Supply arrived at Indianola, Texas, with thirty-three camels and five drivers.

After allowing the animals a few weeks to recuperate from their sea voyage from the Baja pensinsula, they were taken to Camp Verde. Reports from initial tests were largely positive. The camels proved to be exceedingly strong, and were able to move quickly across terrain that horses found problematic. Their legendary ability to go without water proved valuable on an 1857 survey mission led by Edward Fitzgerald Beale from Fort Defiance to the Colorado River. The survey team and their camels continued on into California where they were stationed at the Benicia Arsenal.

While the camels proved to be well-suited to travel through the region, their unpleasant disposition and habit of frightening horses is believed to be responsible for their failure to be adopted as a mode of transportation in the United States. Many of the camels were sold to private owners, others escaped into the desert. These feral camels continued to be sighted through the early 1900s, with the last reported sighting in 1941 near Douglas, Texas.



The Chaplain's Corner

As we have observed Confederate Memorial Day and now Memorial Day, we have found that the fight for freedom is not a dress rehearsal, it takes place in a real world with real enemies and real dangers. And the American Dream is alive and well because of the brave men and women who serve and protect us.

As civilians and service people of this generation, we have a grand opportunity to leave an enduring legacy to our children. That legacy is a nation strong and free, and we, as protectors of liberty, must do our utmost to leave to the next generation a better nation than the one we received from the last.

May our own personal sacrifices be worthy of those who sacrificed so much to ensure that the Dream will never die. And may God Bless America forever.

1 Peter 3:13-15 *(13) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right?*

(14) But even if you do suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

(15) but in your hearts, reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Prayer List: Lewis Leach is still fighting for recovery after his motorcycle accident. Mark Steele has some improvement in his knee condition.

Let's continue to remember these in our thoughts and prayers.

May God Bless,

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 10-13: Annual Reunion of the Mechanized cavalry. The annual reunion of the SCV Mechanized Cavalry will be held in Gulf Shores, Alabama on June 10-13, 2009.
- June 13: Annual Reunion of the Georgia Division. The annual reunion of the Georgia Division, SCV, will be held June 13, 2009 at Fayetteville, Georgia. Our camp will have five votes. There are some critical amendments to the Division by laws to be considered.
- June 16: Camp Meeting: The June 2008 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at Randy's Restaurant in Trenton. We will meet to eat at 6:00 P.M. – there will be no retreat! Call 298-4544 for directions.



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HONORING OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE

