



# The Ironclad Newsletter

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April 2008



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## Folklore of Confederate Memorial Day

From the May, 1893 issue of *Confederate Veteran*

It is a matter of history that Mrs. Chas. J. Williams, of Columbus, Georgia, instituted the custom of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers, a custom which has been adopted throughout these united States. Mrs. Williams was the daughter of Maj. John Howard, of Milledgeville, Ga. She married Maj. C. J. Williams on his return from the Mexican War. As colonel of the First Georgia Regulars, of the Army in Virginia, he contracted disease, from which he died in 1862, and was buried in Columbus, Ga.



visited his grave every day, and often comforted themselves by wreathing it with flowers. While the mother sat abstractly thinking of the loved and lost one, the little one would pluck the weeds from the unmarked soldiers' graves near her father's and cover them with flowers, calling them her soldiers' graves.

After a short time while the dear little girl was summoned by the angels to join her father. The sorely bereaved mother then took charge of these unknown graves for the child's sake, and as she

(Go to **Folklore** - Continued on page 2)

## Federal Fort Liberated

In South Carolina, Fort Sumter was bombarded on April 12, 1861. By the end of the month, the Republican administration had ripped the guts out of the Constitution, as constitutional government passed away in the United States... Here is the sequence of events:

First, on April 15, Abraham Lincoln called up the militia from all of the states to put into the field an army of more than 75,000 men. The Constitution puts this power with the Congress: Article I, Section 8, sets forth the powers of Congress: "To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections...."

Six governors rejected Lincoln's call as illegal. The governor of North Carolina, John Ellis, responded, "I regard the levy

of troops made by the administration for the purpose of subjugating the states of the South as in violation of the Constitution, and a usurpation of power. I can be no party to this wicked violation of the laws of the country, and to this war upon the liberties of a free people. You can get no troops from North Carolina." The other five governors answered in the same vein.

Second, also on April 15, Lincoln called Congress into session, as required by the Constitution for "Extraordinary Occasions," but delayed the meeting of Congress almost three months. By contrast, when Pearl Harbor was attacked, Roosevelt called Congress into session the

(Go to **Federal Fort** - Continued on page 5)

## Folklore

*(Continued from page 1)*

cared for them thought of the thousands of patriot graves throughout the South, far away from home and kindred, and in this way the plan was suggested to her of setting apart one day in each year, that love might pay tribute to valor throughout the Southern States. In March, 1868, she addressed a communication to the *Columbus Times*, an extract of which I give:

"We beg the assistance of the press and the ladies throughout the South to aid us in the effort to set apart a certain day to be observed from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and to be handed down through time as a religious custom of the South, to wreath the graves of our martyred dead with flowers, and we propose the 26th day of April as the day."

She then wrote to the Soldiers' Aid Societies in every Southern State, and they readily responded and reorganized under the name of Memorial Associations. She lived long enough to see her plan adopted all over the South, and in 1868 throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams died April 15, 1874, and was buried with military honors. On each returning Memorial Day the Columbus military march around her grave, and each deposits a floral offering.

## A Legal Holiday in Florida

Florida Statutes [Title XXXIX, Chapter 683(j)] designate April 26 each year as Confederate Memorial Day, set aside to remember the sacrifices made by Southern soldiers in their fight for independence over 140 years

## Our Confederate Memorial Day

Remembering those who fought for our freedom

How many springs have gone since they  
Who wore the uniform of Gray  
Last looked upon summer snow  
Of dogwood, blooming down below  
Their Southern skies and friendly sun,  
Or watched the winding rivers run  
Or knew when spring wind's gentle hand  
Stretched forth to heal their wounded land.

They sleep where the azaleas spread  
Their glorious colors, where the red  
Old hills and mountain peaks  
Stand listening while nature speaks.  
And from the woodlands sound the strains  
Of memories; where coastal plains  
Run down to join the ceaseless tide  
Ebbing and flowing as they died.

Let us remember them as time  
And tide move on in endless rhyme.  
When spring is wearing her bouquet  
For the lost legions of the Gray.  
While bud and blossom, hill and tree  
Remember them, so shall we.

Oliver Reeves



Above: Jones Cemetery, Nassau County, Florida

## Defending our Cause

The more things change, they more they stay the same

"When I find myself reviled by Southern papers as one renewing 'dead issues,' the pain is not caused by the attack upon myself, but by its desecration of the memories of our Fathers & those of their descendants who staked in defence of their rights -- their lives, their property & their sacred honor. To deny the justice of their cause, to apologize for its defence, and denounce it as a dead issue, is to take the last of their stakes, that for which they were willing to surrender the other."

President Jefferson Davis, 1882

## Memorial Day Celebration

Don't Miss this Upcoming Event

Saturday, April 26, 2008, 10 AM - 12 Noon

Celebrate this momentous event with SCV Camp 745 at Jones Cemetery in Nassau County, Florida

Be on hand to hear the dynamic Southern orator, Pastor Ray McBerry, 1st Lieutenant, Gen John B Gordon Memorial Camp, 1449; Thomaston, Georgia, President, Georgia League of the South and founder of Dixie Broadcasting Company. His topic will be "*Why Should We Observe Confederate Memorial Day?*"

With Southern Banners flying amid Southern patriotic music, uniformed Confederate soldiers and ladies in period dress will pay homage to those who served the South during the War for Southern Independence.

The Nassau Red Shirts Color Guard will also perform.

This is an historical event for the entire family and the public is cordially invited to attend.



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## We Call Them Southrons

Where are men like this today?

We feel that our cause is just and holy; we protest solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice save that of honor and independence; we seek no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the States with which we were lately confederated; all we ask is to be let alone; that those who never held power over us shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms. This we will, this we must, resist to the direst extremity.

The moment that this pretension is abandoned the sword will drop from our grasp, and we shall be ready to enter into treaties of amity and commerce that cannot but be mutually beneficial. So long as this pretension is maintained, with a firm reliance on that Divine Power which covers with its protection the just cause, we will continue to struggle for our inherent right to freedom, independence, and self-government.

Jefferson Davis, April 29, 1861

## 38th Annual Florida Division Reunion

The Year of Davis

May 2 - 4, 2008

Ocala, Florida

Christopher Sullivan, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans writes, "Jefferson Davis was born 200 years ago and 2008 will be a special year for the Sons of Confederate Veterans as we honor the memory and legacy of the one and only Confederate president. As your Commander-in-Chief, I will ask every Compatriot, Camp and Division to do whatever is necessary to see that the Davis record is honored both as Confederate President, patriotic soldier, loving family man, and as an American statesman."

Join with your friends and the Florida Division in Ocala as we celebrate President Jefferson F. Davis by dedicating this year's Division Reunion in his honor.

Reservations may be made up to 25 April.

## Advertisement

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Check Out This Great Offer!

**WDXB Internet Radio**

At WDXB, you will hear Pro-Southern broadcasting 24 hours every day and seven days a week! We are unapologetically dedicated to preserving our heritage by helping to pave the way for the future of our Confederation.

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## Historical Quiz

Twenty years ago, a high U.S. justice official made this admission: "While the Union survived the civil war, the Constitution did not. In its place arose a new, more promising basis for justice and equality, the 14th Amendment ..." Whose words are those?

Mail your answer to: **Historical Quiz, P.O. Box 37338, Jacksonville, Florida 32236**, or send an email to:

[neflos@net-host.net](mailto:neflos@net-host.net)

The first correct answer will win a free Florida State Flag, suitable for outdoor display of your patriotism.

*Answer to last quiz:*

In December 1863, the Director of the U.S. Mint submitted designs for a new one-cent coin, two-cent coin, and three-cent coin to Treasury Secretary Chase for approval. What slogan ultimately appeared on the 1864 two-cent coin?

*Answer:* The slogan that appeared on the 1864 two-cent coin was what would eventually be called the official motto of the United States government: "In God We Trust"

No one had the correct answer to last month's quiz.

## On the Internet

### COMING SOON

**AN EXCITING NEW CAMP 745 WEB SITE.**

**STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES AS WE MOVE FORWARD.**

## Your Federal Government at work

Speaking for the U.S. State Department and the Department of Homeland Security regarding RFID technology, spokesman Steve Royster addressed passport security issues.

Dismissing fears that passports could be read by unauthorized scanners at 20 to 30 feet away when opened, he said, "The personal stuff is safe in government computers."

How's that for irony? Does a statement like the one from this government official make you feel free and independent? You make the call.

## Southern Admonitions

"A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know where it is today ... The reputation of an individual is of minor importance to the opinion posterity may form of the motives which governed the South in their late struggle for the maintenance of the principles of the Constitution. I hope therefore, a true history will be written, and justice will be done them."

Robert E. Lee



The Southern Spirit

Can we say the victor of the struggle for independence that took place so many years ago has indeed provided that truth and justice to the posterity of this union?

## Federal Fort

*(Continued from page 1)*

very next day, December 8, 1941.

Third, less than a week later, April 21, he ordered the purchase of war materials, five naval vessels, which under the Constitution required congressional appropriations.

Fourth, the same day, he ordered the navy to blockade all Southern ports. A blockade is an act of war, requiring the resolution of Congress.

Finally, on April 27, he suspended the right of habeas corpus - unquestionably one of the most important of our civil liberties, for it prohibits government from making arrests without just cause, that is, from locking people up and throwing the key away, so to speak

## Happy Birthday, Mr. Jefferson

April 13, 1743

Here's what the third president had to say about the right of secession and the threat of Hamiltonian mercantilism:

"The alternatives between which we are to choose [are fairly stated]: 1, licentious commerce and gambling speculations for a few, with eternal war for the many; or, 2, restricted commerce, peace and steady occupations for all. If any State in the Union will declare that it prefers separation with the first alternative to a continuance in



union without it, I have no hesitation in saying 'let us separate.' I would rather the States should withdraw which are for unlimited commerce and war, and confederate with those alone which are for peace and agriculture."

Sounds like Mr. Jefferson was right about option 1, which gave us global outsourcing, corporate welfare, the military-industrial complex, and a war whose supporters admit has no end in sight.

Which is why we want to try option 2.

## Reliving Florida's Past

**APRIL 6 1818** The Spanish fort at St. Marks was occupied today by Major General Andrew Jackson and his troops. The protests of the Spanish commander were ignored.

**APRIL 7 1973** The last of 348 flights bringing refugees from Cuba landed in Miami today. Nearly 261,000 refugees made the flight from Cuba to Miami during the seven-and-one-half years they operated from 1965 until 1973.

**APRIL 9 1824** John McIver of North Carolina became the first settler in the new town of Tallahassee today, when he arrived with a group of seven persons and took up residence there.

**APRIL 12 1834** President Andrew Jackson formally signed the Treaty of Payne's Landing today. By the terms of this treaty, the Seminole peoples agreed to a conclusion of hostilities in Florida and the cession of lands in Florida. The Seminoles were to be transported to lands west of the Mississippi, paid almost \$100,000, and to receive a large amount of blankets, dry goods, and other ser-

vices. The Treaty of Payne's Landing did not end hostilities, since some Seminole leaders refused to accept the terms of the treaty.

**APRIL 15 1896** Henry Flagler's railroad arrived in Miami today. The



FLORIDA.

first train, a wood burning steam engine, carried a load of building materials--certainly a harbinger of Miami's future.

**APRIL 24 1836** Brigadier General Winfield Scott and his troops arrived today in Volusia on their way to St. Augustine to establish his command headquarters for actions

against the Seminole Indians.

**APRIL 26 1565** Major General Andrew Jackson convened a court martial today for two British subjects in West Florida, Alexander Arbuthnot and Robert C. Armbrister. The two men were charged with inciting the Creek Indians against the United States. Each man was found guilty and put to death. The action was controversial and stirred up a great deal of diplomatic upheaval between the United States and Great Britain.

**APRIL 27 1909** The Florida House of representatives approved the orange blossom as the official flower of Florida today.

**APRIL 30 1803** The treaty ceding the territory of Louisiana to the United States was signed today in Paris. The portion of West Florida, from the Perdido River to the Mississippi River, was not part of the original treaty. The United States claimed the area as part of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory. In one bold stroke, President Thomas Jefferson doubled the size of the United States through this diplomatic coup.

# Union Dissolved

Ending the Republic

This was the headline in the *Charleston Mercury*, a South Carolina newspaper on December 20, 1860. It heralded the secession of the Palmetto State from the compact known as the United States.

However, while South Carolina's association with the "Union of States" was truly dissolved, she was only one of 36 states at that time to leave the alliance. A 35 state United States union still existed. Within a few weeks, six more would withdraw, but there would still be a 29 state Union left intact.

Today's twenty-first century headline might well tell a more accurate story of national dissolution. At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the great Statesman, Benjamin Franklin, was asked what kind of government the Constitution was bringing into existence. He answered, "A Republic, if you can keep it". Sadly, the formation of that Republic lasted only 78 years until 1865 when it began a spiraling downfall from the pressure of Abraham Lincoln's War and the reconstruction that followed.

The educationally challenged pupils of our government schools should be made aware that in the original Republic, the United States Senate was intended to represent the states of the compact, and under their federal Constitution, senators were selected by the state legislatures. It was to be a more deliberate forum of elite wisdom where six-year terms insulated its members from public opinion. The Constitution further stipulated that no amendment may deprive a state of its equal suffrage, regardless of population, in the Senate without the consent of the state concerned.

However, since the ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution in 1913,

senators have been directly elected by the by the people of the state, virtually destroying the concept of state representation.

If Florida's Senator Bill Nelson would have his way, the last vestige of the original Republic will be soon be on its way to the historical archives. Pandering to political parties and special interest individuals, Nelson has declared that the "system is broken", and filed legislation in the

Senate last fall that "will (among other things) abolish the Electoral College and give citizens direct election of their president by popular vote." This, in effect, would, destroy state boundaries, wiping out the states as well. At this point, with no more states, there would be no compact and thus no "united States".

The Senator has turned against his own state and the entire concept of the Republic and the Constitution he swore to uphold. Should a contest be held to rename the new country?

Of course, an amendment to abolish the Electoral College would have to be ratified by three quarters of the now existing states and the possibility of that seems remote. Neverthe-

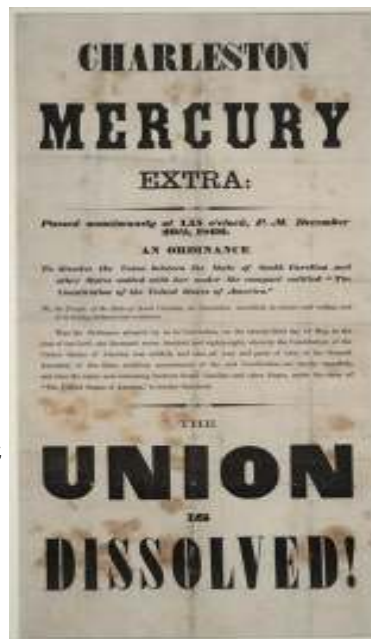
less, as this type of thinking surfaces every four years, it may be only a matter of time before the history books close on the over 200 year old experiment.

Can we keep the Republic, Mr. Franklin? Well, apparently not. However, the more important question is, does anyone really care?

## A Biblical Supplication

O Lord, answer my prayer, and let my cry come to thee.  
Hide not thy face from me in the day of my distress.  
Incline thy ear to me: when I call thee, answer me speedily.

(Psalms 101:1-3)



## Camp Calendar

### Dates to Remember

- **Apr 21** - Camp 745 Monthly Meeting  
7:00 PM The Pig BBQ, Callahan  
**Program:** *Member Show and Tell*
- **Apr 26** - Confederate Memorial Day  
Camp 745 Celebration  
Jones Cemetery, Callahan.
- **May 2-4** - Florida Division Annual Con-  
vention. Ocala, Florida
- **May 19** - Camp 745 Monthly Meeting  
7:00 PM The Pig BBQ, Callahan  
**Program:** *To be announced.*
- **June 16** - Camp 745 Monthly Meeting  
7:00 PM The Pig BBQ, Callahan  
**Program:** *To be announced.*

## April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Confederate Heritage Tag

The 2008 legislative session has begun and the fight for our Confederate Heritage Tag in Florida has heated up. Please contact your State Representative and ask him/her to support **HB 1159**.

More information and to locate your State Representative can be found on the Internet at [www.heritageplate.org](http://www.heritageplate.org)

## The Truth of the Matter

"If the Republicans lose their little war, they'll vote it out in the next election and return to their homes in New York, Massachusetts, or Illinois fat with their war profits.

"If we lose, we lose our country; we lose our independence; we lose it all."

*Thomas Jonathan Jackson  
December 1862*

## June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## Official U.S. Policy on Confederate POW's Preamble to H.R. 97, Passed by Both Houses of the U.S. Congress

"Rebel Prisoners in our hands are to be subjected to treatment finding it's parallels only in the conduct of savage tribes and resulting in the death of multitudes by the slow but designed process of starvation and by mortal diseases occasioned by insufficient and unhealthy food and wanton exposure of their persons to the inclemency of the weather."

**LT. EDWARD K. JOHNSTON, CSN - SCV CAMP  
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## Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of The Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Are you ready to die for your country? Is your life worthy to be remembered along with theirs? Do you choose for yourself the greatness of soul?”

Not in the clamor of the crowded street,  
Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng,  
But in ourselves are triumph and defeat”

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General. United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.

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