



The Ironclad Newsletter

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The 3rd Annual Railroad Days Festival

Entertainment for the entire family

The West Nassau Historical Society and the Town of Callahan will hold the 3rd Annual Railroad Days Festival the weekend of May 30 - 31 to encourage community understanding of the area's history and to broaden residents' knowledge of the rich heritage of western Nassau County.

The West Nassau Historical Society is located in the historic Callahan Depot at 45383 Dixie Avenue. It was built in the 1880's and served the predecessor railroads of CSXT until 1983. The Depot is the focus of the Society as members collect, research, interpret, and preserve the history and culture of West Nassau County, Florida.

This year's festival will feature

various food & craft vendors, train & motor car exhibits, live music & entertainment on the front deck. The highlight of the two-day festival will be the Railroad Days Parade, which is set for Saturday May 31st at 11:00 am. The Mickler St County Bldg will showcase model train displays inside & Classic Car Show in the parking lot. The Town of Callahan will be having children's activities at Ewing Park.

The Greater Nassau County Chamber of Commerce will kick off festivities for the 3rd Annual Railroad Days Festival with a Miss Railroad Days Beauty Pageant at the West Nassau High School Auditorium. Contestants vie for trophies in four

(Go to RR Days - Continued on page 2)

Let the South Go? Who would pay for my tariff?

It is said that history repeats itself and we offer the following proof:

Way back in 1861, the southern States of the federal Union were a great supplier of tax money. After the First American War for independence, the Northern States decided to heap their State debts onto the shoulders of the Federal government. Who would benefit from this? Why, the North, itself! The Federal Government raised tariffs to pay for these debts, and the South got the "raw end of the deal" since it exported more goods, and, in turn, paid most of the tax which also went to Northern improvements.

Desiring freedom from this injustice and declaring home rule for themselves, they sought separation. But, when asked if he would let the South go in peace, U.S.

President Abraham Lincoln exclaimed, "Let the South go? Let the South go! Where then shall we get our revenues?" Therefore, he did not and we all know how that story ended.

Now, on the 7th of this month, 147 years later, Mayor Jack Brady of Margate, Broward County Florida, in touting a secession resolution to the city commission establishing South Florida as a separate state said, "We believe South Florida has many different issues than those in North and Central Florida and yet we all get put into the same frying pan together. ... Local officials are the closest to the people and we have to do what is right for our citizens."

City leaders in Margate and North

(Go to Let the South Go - Continued on page 5)

RR Days

(Continued from page 1)

age groups, with the young ladies in the 16-18 age group competing for a \$250 scholarship. There will be concessions served and entertainment during intermission. All four winners will participate in the Railroad Days Parade the following Saturday as well as portions of the program at the Depot. For more information, contact the Greater Nassau County Chamber of Commerce at 904-879-1441 or stop by their office inside the Callahan Depot.

Railroad Days gives us all a chance to indulge in railroad nostalgia, to learn a bit more about our pioneer past, to have fun, and to share our fascinating heritage and history.

A Unionist Point of View

United States President-turned-congressman John Quincy Adams, another friend of union (albeit one who himself suggested the possibility of Northern secession over the issue of Texas annexation), observed in commemoration of the Constitution's fifty-year jubilee:

"The indissoluble link of union between the people of the several states of this confederated nation is, after all, not in the right but in the heart. If the day should ever come (may Heaven avert it!) when the affections of the people of these States shall be alienated from each other; when the fraternal spirit shall give way to cold indifference, or collision of interests shall fester into hatred, the bands of political associations will not long hold together parties no longer attracted by the magnetism of conciliated interests and kindly sympathies; and far better will it be for the people of the disunited states to part in friendship from each other, than to be held together by constraint."

Oh, would that Mr. Lincoln had paid more attention to his predecessor. The Southern Nation might today have been spared the horrors of war and enjoy the freedom and independence she coveted so dearly.



SCV Camp 745 tent featured at last year's festival

A Biblical Supplication

Arise, O god, take up thy cause; remember that the senseless insult thee every day. Forget not the outcry of thy foes; the uproar of thy enemies rises continually.

(Psalms 73:22-23)

The Spirit of Railroad Days Enhanced by Guns of the Confederacy

In keeping with the Spirit of RR Days the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Order of the Confederate Rose will feature Mr. Larry Skinner at their monthly Camp meeting on May 19. Mr. Skinner is one of North Florida's favorite historical speakers and expert on early Railroads. His subject will be "The Campaign in Jacksonville in 1863 and how it was affected by the large Railroad Guns".

This month's Camp meeting will be at the PIG BBQ, in Callahan beginning at 7:00 PM. As always the public is always invited and encouraged to attend.



Lt. Cmdr. Bob Sieg and his wife Penny of Bryceville seem prepared for the Railroad Days Celebration.

Our Florida Railroad Heritage

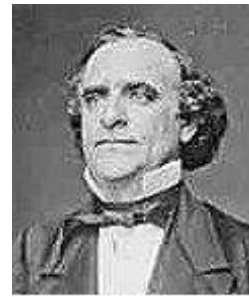
The Florida Railroad, built before the War Between the States to provide a coast-to-coast rail shipping route, stretched 155 miles from Fernandina on the Atlantic to Cedar Key on the Gulf. The line opened up the vast, sparsely settled interior of the State for development. Train stations popped up along the tracks, and towns began to flourish around them.

By the 1880s the landscape was etched with iron rails. Tourists arrived in style to enjoy Florida's balmy breezes, and growers sent carloads of oranges and fresh produce to northern markets. The timber, turpentine, and phosphate industries depended on the railroads to haul their products as well.

Railroads represented progress and boosted Florida's economy. Former Negro slaves and their descendents provided much of the labor for building the railroads and found steady work maintaining the tracks and manning some of the shops.

United States Senator David Levy Yulee (1810–1886) was the driving force behind The Florida

Railroad, the state's first trans-state line. Yulee was the visionary who unleashed the "iron dragon" and sent it rumbling through the swamps and pine forests from the ocean to the gulf. Yulee's railroad opened up the center of the state and planted new towns in the wilderness. A brilliant statesman, a resolute organizer, and the first person of Jewish descent to serve in the U.S. Congress, this fascinating Floridian had a profound impact on the growth and development of Alachua County and North Central Florida. The town of Yulee, Florida bears his name.



Senator David Levy Yulee

We Call Them Southrons

Where are men like this today?

"...Sir, we are not weak, if we make a proper use of the means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the Holy cause of Liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battle for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable--and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace--but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

Patrick Henry, (Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775)



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Historical Quiz

Under what document did the original colonists state that the purpose for settlement in the New World was "for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian Faith"?

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

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:

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?

Answer: Thurgood Marshall, the first Black "Supreme Court Justice, made this admission in 1987 during the bi-centennial celebration of the Constitution.

On the Internet

COMING SOON

AN EXCITING NEW CAMP 745 WEB SITE.

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

About the SCV Florida Division

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Florida Division, Inc. is a vibrant, fast-growing, non-profit corporation, consisting of over 53 camps and more than 1,500 members throughout the state of Florida. The Florida Division is involved in numerous projects throughout the state, ranging from Confederate Gravesite location and preservation to conservation of the State's Confederate Flag Collection as well as their "Flags Across Florida and Heritage License Tag Projects.



The Sons of Confederate Veterans

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.



The Southern Spirit

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

Let the South Go

(Continued from page 1)

Lauderdale argue that much of the state's tax revenue comes from the South, but little is returned there in the form of spending. North Lauderdale Commissioner Rich Moyle is quoted recently to have told state legislators, "Last year you beat our cities up, and this year you are stealing our lunch money. How are we supposed to run our cities?"

Is this De Je Vous almost a century and a half later? How will Governor Crist and the state Legislature answer this cry for independence? Will he ask, "where shall we get our revenues", or will he "let the South go?"

Whenever there is a cry for freedom, we believe the only answer should be: God Speed!

Happy Birthday, Edmond Kirby Smith May 16, 1824

Edmund Kirby Smith, Confederate general and Commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi West, was born today in St. Augustine.

Smith was a graduate of West Point (1845), fought in eight battles of the Mexican-American War, taught mathematics at West Point, was wounded in Indian fighting, and was a noted botanist.

In 1861, he resigned his position with the United States Army to enter the Confederate States service.

Smith organized the Army of the Shenandoah and was severely wounded at the Battle of First Manassas. After campaigns in Tennessee and Kentucky, he was given command of the Trans-Mississippi West. When Vicksburg surrendered on July 4, 1863, Smith's command was isolated from the

mainstream of the Confederacy. As an independent Department commander, his control over the Confederacy west of the Mississippi was virtually absolute.

Following the end of the War Between the States, Smith taught mathematics at the University of the South (Sewanee).

During the war, Smith signed his orders and reports as "E. Kirby Smith," and thus arose the habit of referring to him as "Kirby Smith." Following his death on March 28, 1893, his family adopted this as their family name and hyphenated it as "Kirby-Smith." When he died in 1893, Kirby Smith was the last full general of the Confederacy.

Florida selected him as one of two individuals (John Gorrie was the second) to represent the state in the Hall of Statues in the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Reliving Florida's Past

MAY 6 1851 Dr. John Gorrie, a physician in Apalachicola, patented his ice-making machine today. Gorrie, 1802-1855, looking for a way to cool patients suffering from malaria fever, was granted Patent No. 8080. His invention led the way for commercial ice making machines and eventually for the development of air conditioning. He is one of two Floridians honored with a statue in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C.

MAY 9 1832 Fifteen Seminole chiefs, meeting at Payne's Landing (near Micanopy), signed a treaty to cede their lands in Florida to the United States.

MAY 10 1861 Union president Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus in Florida, citing the existence of an "insurrection" against the United States in that state.

MAY 11 1905 The Florida Legislature adopted the first automobile regulations today. All vehicle owners were charged \$2.00 to

register their automobiles..

MAY 12 1742 General James Oglethorpe and troops from Georgia attacked St. Augustine from the sea, but failed to capture the Castillo de San Marcos. After a pro-



longed siege, Oglethorpe and his soldiers left the area in September.

MAY 17 1775 The American Continental Congress ordered all trade between the American colonies in revolt against Great Britain and East and West Florida stopped.

MAY 22 1865 Part of the baggage of Confederate President Jef-

erson Davis arrive at David Levy Yulee's Cotton Wood plantation near Archer. Davis was attempting to flee the North American continent after the surrender of Confederate armies in Virginia and North Carolina. For years, rumors persisted that a considerable part of the Confederate treasury was buried on Yulee's property. If so, it has never been found.

MAY 27 1891 Florida's first Salvation Army Corps was established today in Jacksonville. Five years later on this date, a Salvation Army officer was arrested while conducting street services and charged with disturbing the peace.

MAY 31 1861 Federal mail service comes to an end in Florida and the rest of the Confederate States of America. Confederate Postmaster General John Reagan announces that the CSA will now perform the functions previously carried out by the United States Postal Service. The official date of the new service will be June 1.

Did Secession End in '65?

How many Florida's do we need to get it right?

Under the terms of the *Treaty of Paris (1763)*, which ended the Seven Years' War, Spain ceded all of its territory east and southeast of the Mississippi River to the Kingdom of Great Britain. The British divided the territory into two parts, East Florida, with its capital at St. Augustine, and West Florida, with its capital at Pensacola.

Both Floridas remained loyal to Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War. Spain participated indirectly in the war as an ally of France and captured Pensacola from the British in 1781. In the *Treaty of Paris (1783)*, which ended the war, the British ceded both Floridas to Spain. This cession, as well as the *Louisiana Purchase* in 1803 resulted in border disputes among France, Spain, Great Britain, and the United States.

In the year 1810, British settlers along the Gulf Coast resisting Spanish rule, led a rebellion and established the Republic of West Florida. On September 23 at Baton Rouge the flag of the new republic with a single white star on a blue field was unfurled. This flag would later become known as the "Bonnie Blue Flag."

Appointed by the legislature of the new republic, the first and only governor was Fulwar Skipwith, a former American diploma and according to her Constitution, based largely on the U.S. Constitution, the official name of the nation was the "State of Florida". Skipwith proclaimed that he was ready to "die in defense of the Lone Star flag."

However, on October 27, 1810, parts of West Florida were annexed by proclamation of U.S. President James Madison, who claimed the region as part of the *Louisiana Purchase* signaling the end of the republic and her independence.

There were several territorial disputes between the U.S. and Spain and In 1818 U.S. Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams accused Spain of breaking *Pinckney's Treaty* by failing to control the Seminoles in the Floridas. Faced with the prospect of losing control, Spain formally ceded all of its Florida territory, including East and West to the United States under the *Adams-Onís Treaty* in 1819. In 1822, the U.S. Congress organized the *Florida Territory*, and in 1845, Florida was admitted to the Union as the 27th state.

A short sixteen years later, on January 10, 1861,

after the election of Abraham Lincoln and acting in accordance with Thomas Jefferson's declaration of 1776, the legislature in Tallahassee voted to secede from the Union of States. After less than a month as an independent republic, Florida became one of the founding members of the Confederate States of America.

On July 25, 1868, after the Confederate States had been military defeated in an unsuccessful War for independence and Florida was forced to meet the requirements of Reconstruction, including ratifying certain amendments to the United States Constitution, she was readmitted by that government to the Union.

Fast forward to April 23, 1982. Key West residents of Monroe County, in defiance of a U.S. Border Patrol roadblock, declared their secession from the Union and hoisted the Conch Republic banner in Mallory Square. The mayor of Key West was chosen as first prime minister of the Conch Republic and war was declared on the United States. It was over in a minute, and the Conch Republic quickly surrendered and applied for foreign aid. A tongue-in-cheek secession to be sure, nevertheless for many it reflected their true desires of separation.

Now today, the leaders of two small Florida cities, Margate and North Lauderdale of Broward County have again raised the issue of secession. On the May 2008 agenda for the upcoming city commission meeting of Margate is a resolution to be voted on which reads, "Supporting severing the ties of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties from the state of Florida and establishing their own 51st state of the federal union of the United States; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date."

Over many years, our beautiful Florida has been a political football, to be sure. So, just as there was once an East Florida and a West Florida, should there now be a North Florida and a South Florida? Consider perhaps even a three-way dissolution -- North, Central and South. Citizens of north Florida might well ponder the advantages of such a split eventually leading to independence and freedom from liberal "Blue States" that force the tyranny of the majority upon us in such fields as abortion, gun control, legal and illegal immigration, unfunded mandates and foreign policy to name just a few.

Just as there was once an East Florida and a West Florida, should there now be a North Florida and a South Florida?

Camp Calendar

Dates to Remember

- **May 19** - Camp 745 Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM The Pig BBQ, Callahan
Speaker: *Larry Skinner.*
- **May 24** - Miss Railroad Daays Beauty Pageant
West Nassau High School
- **May 30-31** - Railroad Days celebration,
Downtown Callahan.
- **June 16** - Camp 745 Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM The Pig BBQ, Callahan
Program: *To Be Announced*
- **July 21** - Camp 745 Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM The Pig BBQ, Callahan
Program: *To Be Announced*

Confederate Heritage Tag

The 2008 legislative session has ended without passing a bill allowing for our Confederate Heritage Tag, so the fight continues. Please contact your State Representative and ask about his/her failure to support **HB 1159**.

More information and to locate your State Representative can be found on the Internet at www.heritageplate.org

The Truth of the Matter

The arrogance of federal officials seems never-ending. Six years after his resignation, U.S. President Richard Nixon famously told reporter David Frost, "When the president does it, that means it's not illegal."

Could this legacy of political corruption, lack of integrity and lack of fidelity to the Constitution be with us today?

You make the call.

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30					

July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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		

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
745**

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Sons of Confederate Veterans

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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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