The Vanguard

Newsletter of the Illinois Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

http://sites.google.com/site/illdivscv/ Vol 1, Issue 3 Nov-Dec 2012

Editor's Notes

- For starters, my profuse apologies for the delay in getting this third issue out. Between finishing up my master's program with Troy University (of Troy, Alabama!) and three job-related road trips in a row, your editor quickly fell behind the old power curve. With this issue of The Vanguard, I fully intend on getting back to the bimonthly publication schedule; plan on seeing the next edition after the first of the year.
- As for this time of year, apparently winter has finally arrived, field events are few and far between and most everyone's moved into winter quarters. January will feature events like the annual Lee-Jackson Birthday Balls/ Dinners and other activities are planned elsewhere in Upper Dixie.
- As always, we request that camp officers keep The Vanguard staff advised of activities including news, information and photos. You send it, we'll run it.
- And, to all compatriots and ladies of the Illinois Division as well as our associates, Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Deo Vindice!

In Honor of Fallen Compatriots

James "Jim" Benedict
Lt George E. Dixon Camp
27 October 2012

Mary Ellen Dawson Kaess
Mother of Brian Kaess,
Lt George E. Dixon Camp
1 October 2012

I believe a kind God has ordered all things for our good. My reliance is in the help of God. At present I am not concerned with results

- General Robert E. Lee

Confederate Thanksgiving, 1862

To the People of the Confederate States:

Once more upon the plains of Manassas have our armies been blessed by the Lord of Hosts with a triumph over our enemies. It is my privilege to invite you once more to His footstool, not now in the garb of fasting and sorrow, but with joy and gladness, to render thanks for the great mercies received at His hand.

A few months since, and our enemies poured forth their invading legions upon our soil. They laid waste our fields, polluted our altars and violated the sanctity of our homes. Around our capital they gathered their forces, and with boastful threats, claimed it as already their prize.

The brave troops which rallied to its defense have extinguished these vain hopes, and, under the guidance of the same almighty hand, have scattered our enemies and driven them back in dismay. Uniting these defeated forces and the various armies which had been ravaging our coasts with the army of invasion in Northern Virginia, our enemies have renewed their attempt to subjugate us at the very place where their first effort was defeated, and the vengeance of retributive justice has overtaken the entire host in a second and complete overthrow.

To this signal success accorded to our arms in the East has been graciously added another equally brilliant in the West. On the very day on which our forces were led to victory on the Plains of Manassas, in Virginia, the same Almighty arm assisted us to overcome our enemies at Richmond, in Kentucky. Thus, at one and the same time, have two great hostile armies been stricken down, and the wicked designs of their armies been set at naught.

In such circumstances, it is meet and right that, as a people, we should bow down in adoring thankfulness to that gracious God who has been our bulwark and defense, and to offer unto him the tribute of thanksgiving and praise. In his hand is the issue of all events, and to him should we, in an especial manner, ascribe the honor of this great deliverance.

Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, do issue this, my proclamation, setting apart Thursday, the 18th day of September inst., as a day of prayer and thanksgiving to Almighty God for the great mercies vouchsafed to our people, and more especially for the triumph of our arms at Richmond and Manassas; and I do

(Continued on page 3)

Division Calendar

01 Dec 2012—Rock Island Memorial Camp 2229 Christmas Party and Lee-Jackson Supper, at the Roadhouse Restaurant and Bar, 807 S 7th St, Oregon, Il. Festivities will included supper (menu or buffet), prize drawing, War Between the States Trivia and a short program on Christmas, Gen Robert E. Lee and LtGen Stonewall Jackson. If you can attend, please RSVP to Camp Commander Jacob Lake **ASAP**: scvcamp2229@gmail.com.

01 Dec 2012—Southern Brigade Commander field visit, John Kempshall Camp 1534, Niantic/ Decatur, 12 noon. If interested in joining us for lunch, contact rangermk@sbcglobal.net.

05 Dec 2012—Monthly Meeting of the Lt George E. Dixon Camp 1962, SWIC Senior Center, 200 N Church St, Belleville. Details/questions, contact Comp Adjutant Gale Red (618)622-8949.

15 Dec 2012—Wreaths Across America event, Camp Butler National Cemetery, John Kempshall Camp 1534, 11 AM. Contact Camp Commander Nick Muehlebach for details (217)972-9659 nmuehlebach1987@gmail.com.

17 Dec 2012—Dixon Camp Squad East monthly meeting, Anthony's Wild West Restaurant, Flora, IL at 6:30 PM.

26 Jan 2013—Lt George E. Dixon Camp Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner Ball, Bellcourt Manor, 225 E A St, Belleville, IL. Music by the Chris Talley Trio, buffet dinner, silent auction, 50/50 drawing, uniforms not required, guests welcome, $30 per person. To RSVP/make a reservation, contact Camp Adjutant Gale Red at 5 Hunters Point, O'Fallon, Il 62229 or galered@yahoo.com.

Feb/Mar 2013—Confederate soil cemetery in commemoration of the Confederate dead interred at Greenwood Cemetery, Decatur. Observed by the John Kempshall Camp 1534, details to follow.

16 March 2013—Confederate Heritage Rally & Dedication of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library, Beauvoir, Biloxi, MS. The Dixon Camp plans to dispatch a contingent, watch for more details. Monitor http:/confederate150.com/2013.html in the meantime.

20 Apr 2013—Illinois Division Convention, Crowne Plaza Springfield, $25 per attendee. Speaker and other details to be determined, mark your calendars!

4-8 Nov 2015—"Last Flag Down," commemoration/ reenactment of the surrender of CSS Shenandoah to the captain of the HMS *Donegal*, in Liverpool, England. One hundred tickets are being offered for a donation of $100 each or two for $175, will include a drawing for prizes including round-trip coach tickets from New York City to Liverpool with accommodations during the event. For more details, contact Doug Nash, CSS Shenandoah Memorial Committee and Commander, Pvt Lorenzo L. Bennitt/Pvt Robert F. Duke Camp 773, Durham, NC at nc46e@hotmail.com.

Illinois Division Staff

Commander:	Jacob Lake
1st Lt Commander/Commander, Northern Brigade:	Rev Dr Mark Worthington
2nd Lt Commander/Commander, Southern Brigade:	Mark Morgan
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Nicholas Muehlebach
Color Sergeant:	Tim Lake
Chaplain:	Johnny Kicklighter
Genealogist:	Gale Red
Heritage Preservation & Public Affairs Officer:	Robert Mestas
Judge Advocate:	Tom Prince

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The Vanguard is grateful for all submissions.

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Illinois Division
Army of Tennessee
Sons of Confederate Veterans

From the Field

Camp Douglas Memorial Camp 516, Chicago

- The Camp Douglas Regulars held their last meeting of the year on the 10 November at the Church of the Highlands in LaGrange. Camp Chaplain Robert Mestas gave a well-received presentation on General Robert E. Lee.

John Kempshall Camp 1534, Niantic

- The camp held its monthly meeting on Saturday, 17 November at the home of camp Commander Nick Muehlebach. The featured presentation covered the extreme hardships sustained by the citizens of western Missouri at the hands of the Kansas Jayhawkers.
- The membership decided to hold an additional camp activity at least every other month, in addition to the monthly meetings. These events will start in either February or March with a soil ceremony for the Confederate dead in Decatur's Greenwood Cemetery. Details to follow.
- Camp Commander Nick Muehlebach as a new blog, at http://southerconfederate.blogspot.com.
- The Kempshall Camp website was recently updated, including a new recruiting video. Take a look at both at https://sites.google.com/site/scvjohnkempshallcamp1534/.

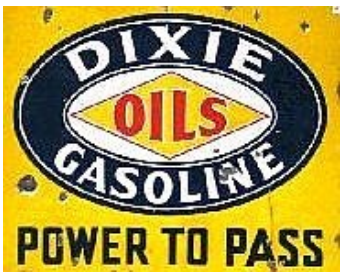
Lt George E. Dixon Camp 1962, Belleville

- Concerning the Camp Dixon *Ir*regulars, at the 2 September meeting compatriot Brandon Baker presented the camp with a Battle Flag which he'd flown in Iraq for his last Army combat deployment.
- On 20 October, at the Browning Memorial Cemetery in Shafter (10N Vandalia), Dixon Camp members participated in a graveside memorial service for Pvt William T. Wilson, B/4th Missouri Cavalry. Pvt Wilson was the great-uncle of Dixon Squad East members CF and Robert Marley.
- The Dixon Camp held its regular meeting on 1 November with Compatriot Charles E. Knight of St Louis' Sterling Price Camp giving the feature presentation. Compatriot Knight's talk concerned the Confederate Sea Raiders.
- Squad East continues to hold monthly meetings third Mondays at Anthony's Wild West Restaurant, 6:30 PM. At the 19 November meeting, Attorney Roy Dent gave a presentation on "Civil Liberties in Times of War: The Suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus During the Civil War." Squad East is continuing local recruiting efforts with an eye towards achieving camp status in the Illinois division.
- The Dixon Camp's holding its annual Lee-Jackson Dinner Ball on Saturday, 26 January 2013 at the Bellecourt Manor. See page 2.

Rock Island Memorial POW Camp 2229, Rockford

- The Rock Island Camp gathered for a breakfast meeting on 10 November at the Five Coins Restaurant in Rockford.
- The Camp's planning its big annual Christmas Party and Lee-Jackson Supper, at the Roadhouse Restaurant and Bar in Oregon, IL. See pg 2 for details; if interested, y'all need to contact Camp Commander Jacob Lake **ASAP**.
- Finally, congrats to Commander Jacob Lake on his recent (October) engagement to the lovely Christina! Depending upon the location of the wedding, we're sure Commander Lake might have need of an honor guard dressed in appropriate dress gray.

Finally, when traveling, don't forget...



Thanksgiving *(Continued from page 1)*

hereby invite the people of the Confederate States to meet on that day at their respective places of public worship, and to unite in rendering thanks and praise to God for these great mercies, and to implore Him to conduct our country safely through the perils which surround us, to the final attainment of the blessings of peace and security.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Confederate States, at Richmond, this fourth day of September, A.D.1862.

JEFFERSON DAVIS

Union Man—posted May 4, 2012 at 3:26:17 PM

I find it near repugnant in your very well done story of the Battle of Athens that you would list with "awe" people like Nathan Bedford Forrest, a founder of the KKK. Not only is he despicable on that account, but he was an insurrectionist against the United States Constitution during the Civil War. Sam Davis, another insurrectionist who was rightly hanged for committing espionage against the United States, also gets mention from you. I will barely give you Andrew Jackson, who as a soldier in the War of 1812 against the Brits may have distinguished himself but later treated Native Americans brutally, both in person and in policy. In his presidency he exhibited an executive power to be one of the first "Progressives" against the Constitution. Choosing a couple of these men to honor from the great state of Tennessee showed a complete lack of judgment in this case.

Editor's Reply:

Some comments just beg an editor's reply, and this would be one.

I am not only qualified for the genealogical registries of the Sons of the American Revolution and First Families of Tennessee, but also Sons of Confederate Veterans. In regard to the latter let me respond to your comments.

Perhaps Union Man has not read much beyond elementary history books on men like Forrest and Davis, or the causes of what he refers to as the "Civil War" (at the time of that conflict, it was popularly known by Unionists as "The War of the Rebellion," and by Confederates as "The Second War for Independence").

I just returned from a backroads trip across my home state, including a stop in Pulaski, Tennessee, NB Forrest's birthplace—also where the KKK was founded. For the record, Forrest did *not* found the KKK, and as it's intimidation practices became more violent toward carpetbaggers and black people, Forrest turned his back on the Klan. Notably, the town of Pulaski has, fittingly, turned the historic plaque on the KKK founding place backwards, as an appropriate expression of Tennessee's view of the KKK.

If you want to know more about the character of NB Forrest, I suggest you read about his early life and his leadership. If you want to know more about his views on racism and blacks, I suggest you read his 1875 address to the Independent Order of Pole-Bearers Association, a national organization of black folks that invited Forrest to deliver a key speech. Of that speech, the *New York Times* wrote at the time, "when offered a bouquet of flowers by a black woman, he accepted them as a token of reconciliation between the races and espoused a radically progressive agenda of equality and harmony between black and white Americans." You probably missed that in History 101.

As for "insurrection against the United States Constitution," surely even the most devoted Lincolnphile must objectively admit it was Lincoln himself who dealt the greatest blow to our Constitution. I remind you that our Declaration, which is Supreme to our Constitution, states, "That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government..." Further, in the 1787 Constitutional Convention, James Madison rejected language that would permit the federal government to suppress secession and observed rightly: "A Union of the States containing such an ingredient seemed to provide for its own destruction. The use of force against a State would look more like a declaration of war than an infliction of punishment and would probably be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound."

Jackson is on this list because of his brilliant military leadership in the War of 1812, but I concur with David Crockett's criticism of Jackson as president on the removal of the Cherokee. The two most despicable blights upon our nation's history are the institution of slavery and the subjugation of Native Americans. And indeed, you are correct that Jacksonian Democrats did assault the Constitution. So, despite's Jackson's notable successes as a military commander, I agree with your assessment of his presidency.

It's easy to be critical of great men in a narrow reading of history. For example, in regard to the War Between the States, Lincoln, the "great abolitionist," did not emancipate slaves until forced to do so in 1863—he was more concerned about his political support from free white laborers in the north, who would face competition from immigrating blacks. Of course, Lincoln was as racist as most in that era (READ: *Lincoln's Legacy*), but like many leaders in that era, including Robert E. Lee, he correctly opposed slavery (you may recall that Lincoln's first choice for the Army of the Potomac was Robert E. Lee, but Lee, despite the fact he detested slavery and opposed secession, declined Lincoln's offer citing his first allegiance was to his home state of Virginia). You may also want to read Walter E. Williams' essay on Black Confederates.

And a footnote on slavery: As for the drunkard Ulysses Grant, who would later head the most corrupt presidency of the 19th century, after ostensibly "freeing the slaves," Grant sent his right hand man, George Armstong Custer (the same GAC who Grant awarded the oval surrender signing table from Appomattox), out west to slaughter countless native men, women and children, who refused to be enslaved on government plantations. Ironically, the modern-day Democrat Party has found much more passive and effective entitlements to entice black folks onto government plantations.

History, and the men of history, are a bit more complex than just topical accusations of the sort you have posted.

Semper Vigilo, Fortis, Paratus et Fidelis!
Libertas aut Mortis!
Mark Alexander

Note: The *Patriot Post* is an online news/analysis/commentary page which, while primarily concerned with current politics and events, regularly delves into US history. Subscription to the twice-weekly posts are free, however, the Post does hold two fund-raisers a year, which your editor gladly donates to. You can check out the page at http://patriotpost.us/, *highly* recommended.

Jim McClure is the editor of the *York* (PA) *Daily Record*. In an 18 May 2012 editorial, he compared efforts to replace two missing headstones in York County: the grave marker of Negro League ballplayer Paul Stephens in Pleasureville and that of an unknown Confederate soldier in Hellam Township. McClure stated he felt it best to honor the baseball player:

> One story tells about a local resident who played in a segregated professional baseball league.
>
> The other observes an unknown soldier who fought for a cause that created or supported this segregation. Further, that rebel soldier might have been a scout or a spy, whose gathered intelligence could have led to the death of Union soldiers or private citizens.
>
> As it was, two Union fighting men died in the Confederate assault. Yankees burned the bridge to keep the rebels from crossing, and those flames caused thousands of dollars in damage to Wrightsville.
>
> The likes of this unknown Confederate—11,000 or more on York County soil—stole horses, damaged fields, extorted residents to gain money and goods and harassed women and children.
>
> Here's my conclusion: Let's celebrate Paul Stephens' life and times with a brass plaque.
>
> In the case of the unknown Confederate soldier, let him rest in peace—unmarked. That way, memories of his cause will be lost or quite rightly fade away.

And here's the response, sent in by reader—and past commander of the Department of Pennsylvania, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War—Ivan Frantz:

Why a Confederate soldier deserves a grave marker

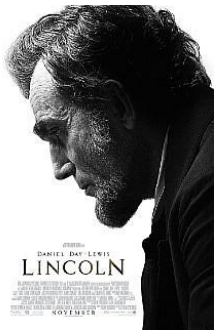
> I am writing because I must take exception to Jim McClure's comments about the effort to re-mark the grave of the unknown Confederate soldier along the Susquehanna River near Wrightsville.
>
> This soldier was probably like most men that served in the Confederate army—from a rural or farming background, with a modest family income, and not a slave owner, who was defending his country's right to exist as he saw that right. As a soldier in the Army of Northern Virginia, he was simply an instrument of his government's policy, and since you know nothing of his personal background you have no right to judge him or belittle his service to his government. You cannot judge him using today's politically correct ideas in the context of the social and political world that existed 150 years ago.
>
> I don't think that anyone in today's world can morally defend the inhumanity, injustice and cruelty of slavery. Nor can anyone condone the horrors that occur during war. But I would remind you that what the Army of Northern Virginia did on Pennsylvania soil to gather supplies and provisions was absolutely no different than what Gen. Hunter and his Union army did in the Shenandoah Valley or what General W.T. Sherman's army did on their march from Atlanta to Savannah. As a matter of fact, in accordance with General Lee's Order #73, the Army of Northern Virginia was not nearly as destructive as Hunter or Sherman. Before starting his march to the sea, Sherman requisitioned copies of the 1860 census for Georgia to see where the richest path for his armies lay so that they could "live off the land" without having to depend on a long supply line.
>
> If you wish to condemn an individual for the actions of their government, and consider that their military service for that government should be forgotten along with the memory of that individual, what would you do about the members of the U.S. 7th Cavalry under the command of Ltc. George Armstrong Custer at the battle of Little Big Horn? T he 7th Cavalry was being used as an instrument of U.S. Government oppression to drive the Native American population from their ancestral lands because of the white man's greed for buffalo hides and Black Hills gold. Ltc. Custer's job was to round up the Native American population, remove them from lands on which they had been living before a white man ever set foot on the North American continent, and confine them to a reservation on which they could no longer live their way of life, but was convenient for the white man who wanted their land and resources.

(Continued on page 7)

History & Heritage: "Lincoln"

Compatriots – I would like to forward you an article written by our Illinois Division Heritage Preservation and Public Affairs Officer, Robert Mestas

- CDR Jacob Lake
Illinois Division



Lincoln's law partner states that, "Mr. Lincoln coveted honor and was eager for power. He was impatient of any interference that delayed or obstructed his progress.

He stood in direct conflict to the ideas of the founding fathers; they would not have supported Lincoln's economic policies of protectionism and the idea of a stronger central government. They would have choked at the idea of invading the Southern states to "save" the union.

The war itself was fought over economic issues. Lincoln did not care about slavery and said repeatedly that it was not the cause of the war. This was confirmed by congress through the Crittenden Johnson resolution of July 1861. The war was actually caused by the invasion of 11 States that sought the same rights as their forefathers, to governed by something that had the consent of the people…

Lincoln said in his inaugural speech that there would be no invasions accept to collect taxes. *American Heritage* magazine in 1996 said that tariffs were a prime cause of the Civil War. Two weeks after Sumter Lincoln ordered a blockade of the South claiming tariff collection as his only motive.

There was no income tax in 1860, the government was funded by tariffs. The South being an agricultural society conservatively accounted for about 70% of the nation's imports and therefore paid at least 70% of the nation's taxes, yet the South only represented about 33% of the nation's population. To add insult, most of the taxes collected in the South were spent in the North on roads, bridges, canals and railroads.

Lincoln was a sectional candidate, his New Republican Party was the only political party that was exclusively Northern in its affiliation and had virtually no Southern support. Elected by less than 40% of the popular vote, he did not even carry Philadelphia and New York, two of the North's largest cities. In the North he became an aloof dictator, shutting down over 200 newspapers that questioned his policies, he imprisoned Maryland legislators on suspicion of Southern sympathies, he deported his most vocal opponent in Congress, and violated the 2nd Amendment by disarming the border states.

He was the consummate politician who spoke out of both sides of his mouth, saying one thing to one audience and the opposite to another. His Emancipation Proclamation was the most hypocritical document ever written: it freed few if any slaves; it only applied to slaves in states that were in rebellion. Lincoln had no control over the states in rebellion, he couldn't buy a newspaper in Charleston SC, let alone free slaves there. However, slaves in states where he did have control, those he did not free. For them it was as if no proclamation had ever been written. He himself admitted that the proclamation had No legal or Constitutional Justification.

He was adamantly opposed to racial equality, actually using the words "superior and inferior" to describe the "appropriate" relation between the white and black races. See his campaign speech in Charleston Illinois in 1858.

He opposed giving blacks the right to vote, to serve on juries, or to intermarry with whites. He supported the legal rights of slave owners and the Fugitive Slave Act. He pledged his support of a constitutional amendment (Corwin Amendment) that would have prohibited the federal government from ever interfering with Southern slavery. He was a railroad industry lobbyist who championed corporate welfare.

He once represented a slave owner in a case in which he sought to recover his runaway slaves. Lincoln lost the case and the slaves gained their freedom. He advocated sending all blacks back to Africa, Central America, or Haiti – anywhere but the U.S.

He opposed the extension of slavery into the territories so that "free white people" would not have to compete with blacks for jobs. He opposed black citizenship in Illinois and supported the state's constitution, which prohibited the emigration of black people into the state.

He was the head of the Illinois Colonization Society, which advocated the use of state tax dollars to deport the small number of free blacks that resided within the state.

He sent troops to New York City to put down a draft riot by shooting hundreds of them in the streets. He was an enemy of free-market capitalism.

He started a war over tax collection that ended up killing 800,000 Americans and wounding and maiming hundreds of thousands more.

He promoted the lie that no such thing as state sovereignty ever existed to "justify" his invasion and conquest of the Southern states. He refused to meet with Confederate peace commissioners before the war to work out a peaceful compromise. The South was willing to pay it's portion of the national debt and pay for all property confiscated by the South. He provoked Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas and Tennessee to secede by launching a military invasion of their sister states. All four of these states had previously voted not to secede but now reversed themselves.

Although he used religious rhetoric in his speeches when it was politically expedient. Lincoln almost certainly was not a Christian. Lincoln struggled with severe depression.

Lincoln admirer Karl Marx sent him a congratulatory letter after his reelection in 1864; in which he stationed armed guards at polling places to intimidate voters.

On giving blacks the rights to full citizenship Lincoln stated on September 18 1858, "If the State of Illinois had that power, I should be against the exercise of it. That is all I have to say about it."

(Continued on page 7)

Heritage *(Continued from page 6)*

Finally, by his own words Lincoln incriminates himself, in his first inauguration speech when he says; "We denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter under what pretext, as the gravest of crimes."

We find the definition of treason in Article III section 3 of the Constitution where it states that "Treason against the United States shall consist only, in levying war against them..."

Lincoln was never president of more than half the country and no matter how you slice it, Union soldiers were not fighting to free slaves and Confederates were not fighting to keep them. There is nothing in the Constitution saying secession is illegal. Therefore, logic tells us there must be another reason.

Lincoln said his sole purpose for invading the South was to preserve the Union. Why force states to remain in the Union that d id not want to be there? Why not just let the South go? Taxes that's why. "Let the South go!" he said "where then shall we get our revenue?"

Famed abolitionist Fredrick Douglas gave a scathing indictment of Lincoln's racial policies in an April 14th, 1876, speech, at which President Grant was in attendance. "He was preeminently the white man's President, entirely devoted to the welfare of white men. He was ready and willing at any time during the first years of his administration to deny, postpone, and sacrifice the rights of humanity in the coloured people to promote the welfare of the white people of this country."

Hardly seems the description of a Great Emancipator.

Further Information:

Robert does a 45 minute to an hour presentation dispelling myths concerning the war. He lays it all out so it is easily understandable, he spoke at the last camp meeting of Camp #516 and he will be speaking at their Lee Jackson event as well in January.

Anyone with a FaceBook account should subscribe to his :Defending the Heritage" page, where he gives daily information on heritage and history. The page currently has about 5500 followers across the country.

His "Defending the Heritage" CD is a great resource and is packed with information and all put to music. He has had tremendous response form all over the country with 100% positive feedback on the CD.

Anyone in the division wanting a copy he'd make available for $10.00 shipping included. It normally sells for $14.95 plus tax and shipping online, at the following site: www.defendingtheheritage.com.

The Press *(Continued from page 5)*

I don't know if you are a military veteran, but if you are you should be ashamed of yourself and your remarks about another veteran like this. Allow me to suggest that you get Gen. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's book titled "The Passing of the Armies." Read the part about where Gen. Chamberlain is again placed in command of his old brigade, and is designated as the officer to officially receive the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. And continue reading about Gen. Chamberlain's thoughts about his former foes on the battlefield, and his actions that he took in receiving the surrender as the Confederates marched forward to stack arms and give up their flags. Remember, Gen. Chamberlain was severely wounded by his enemy and carried the scars and difficulties caused by those wounds for the rest of his long and distinguished life.

I am also reminded of a story about the commander of the Massachusetts Department of the Grand Army of the Republic. The Massachusetts Department placed a monument on the battlefield at Petersburg, Va., after the Civil War. While dedicating the monument they were hosted by Confederate veterans from the area, with which they shared some good hospitality. The next year for their annual convention the G.A.R. veterans invited their Confederate hosts to Massachusetts to return the hospitality, with all of the men marching together in a parade, with the event being covered well by the press. A woman wrote the Massachusetts Department Commander to express her dismay and outrage about this show of hospitality, explaining that she had lost two sons in the late rebellion and she could not understand how the G.A.R. veterans could march down the same street with the Confederate veterans. She said she would not be caught dead on the same street with a Confederate veteran.

The Massachusetts Department Commander responded that although he did not agree with the reasons why the Confederacy went to war, the Confederate veterans were really no different than him in that they were serving in the army for a cause in which they believed. They had suffered the same cruelties and hardships together during the war. He said that when he would eventually die, he expected to see Confederate veterans on the streets of heaven, and if she could not be found dead on the same street as a Confederate veterans then she could go to Hell.

I have two great-great-grandfathers who served in Pennsylvania regiments during the Civil War. They both survived the war, and have received honored burials in their home communities. This unknown Confederate was not so fortunate, but he certainly had a mother, maybe a wife and children, and certainly other family members who knew the pain and loss of never knowing where he died, or if he received a decent burial. His death, and his service, do not deserve to be forgotten if for the sake of respecting his family that never knew his fate.

As a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I am proud to take part in helping to remember the service and sacrifice of this veteran, just as Gen. Chamberlain was willing to respect and honor his defeated foes.

As a fellow human being, we can do no less.

At the Front:

Illinois Confederates Behind the Lines...

Photos from the annual Rock Island Memorial POW Camp 28 July BBQ/picnic. From the left (below), Dr Gerald Mance, Commander Jacob Lake, Allan Johnson and Tim Lake.

(*Above*) On 20 October, Dixon Camp 1LCDR Billy Altman was sworn into the SCV 1st Mechanized Cavalry in Paducah, KY. Capt Creig Cain presided at the ceremony, held in the Tilghman House and Museum

(*Right*) Dr Robert Marley at Pvt William Wilson's grave, 20 October.

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