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## CSS Tennessee Ironclad



*CSS Tennessee Flag*  
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The Capt. W.H. McCauley Camp 260 extends our sincere thanks to Cdr. Paul Clement, USN-RET. of Clarksville, Tennessee for the fine model of the *CSS Tennessee Ironclad*. Cdr. Clement is a professional model builder and has made many ships for museums across the country. This model took him over five months to build and we are indeed grateful for his generosity.



Lt. James D. Johnston, CSN,  
commander of the *CSS Tennessee*

The **Civil War News** is a current events monthly newspaper published by Pete and Kay Jorgensen, former community newspaper publishers, who are collectors and history buffs. The newspaper was founded 32 years ago by Michael A. Cavanaugh as **The Civil War Book Exchange**.

The **Civil War News** publishes:

- More than 600 coming event listings a year
- Extensive coverage of preservation efforts and threats at sites across the country
- In-depth reviews of some 200 Civil War books a year, plus CD and video reviews
- A monthly guest Preservation News editorial page column
- Regular columns on firearms by Joe Bilby, images by Ron Coddington and Civil War Round Tables by Matthew Borowick.
- Photo coverage of reenactments
- Special sections with new year's coming events and unit & group recruiting ads in January, information about groups doing preservation fundraising in April, Gettysburg in July and Civil War books in November.



The Readers of this fine newsletter are urge to subscribed to **Civil War News**. Normally, subscription are \$29.49 for one year. RETURN THE FLYER OR MENTION Capt W.H. McCauley Camp 260 for a \$10.00 saving and CIVIL WAR NEWS will donated \$10 to the Camp.

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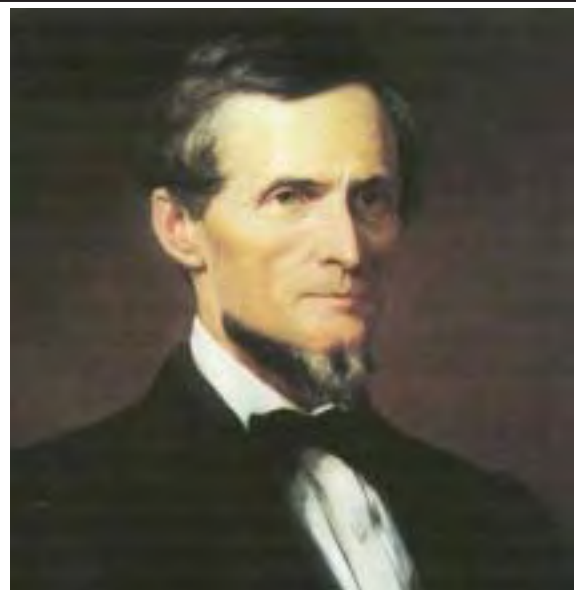
**Captain Ed Baxter and His Tennessee Artillerymen, CSA** is the first complete unit history ever written on Baxter's Company Tennessee Light Artillery 2nd Organization. This book retraces the footsteps of these Confederate soldiers in the Civil War starting with their recruitment in Middle Tennessee in the fall of 1862. The long marches, drudgery of camp life and their role in some of the bloodiest battles of the war are detailed in the book. The book includes the struggles their families faced at home while they were defending the Southland and details their capture and parole in Macon, Georgia at the end of the war. The book contains the complete service and pension records of all the soldiers who served in the company as well as photograph and personal information.



### About the Author

Dennis Joe Lampley was born October 10, 1951 in Nashville, TN. At age 4 his family moved back to the family farm in the Liberty Hill Community of the 1st District of Williamson County. The land had been pioneered by his great-great-great grandfather in 1811. He and wife Irene, a member of the Tidwell family who were also pioneers of the area, continue to reside on the home place as the sixth generation on the same land.

Lampley graduated from Fairview High School and received his B.S. Degree in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. After working in the dairy industry for several years, he now works for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Over the years, Lampley has been active in several agricultural, environmental and historical organizations.



### 2008: YEAR OF JEFFERSON DAVIS

<http://www.scv.org/pdf/JeffersonDavisResolution.pdf>

# Shadowy Path May Lead to Treasure

By Kim Christensen, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer    December 5, 2007

HATFIELD, ARK. — Deep in the woods near Brushy Creek stands an old beech tree, its smooth bark etched with dozens of carvings, including biblical references, a heart and a legless horse.

Bob Brewer was 10 when his great-uncle, W.D. “Grandpa” Ashcraft, pointed it out on a logging trip 57 years ago.

“He said, ‘Boy, you see that tree? That’s a treasure tree,’” Brewer recalled on a recent visit to the site. “‘You see that writing? If you can figure out what that is, you’ll find some gold.’”

The old man didn’t elaborate, but his words stuck with Brewer through childhood and two tours of duty in Vietnam as a Navy helicopter crewman. So did memories of Grandpa’s frequent, unexplained horseback rides into the nearby Ouachita Mountains.

In 1977, after retiring from the Navy, Brewer returned to western Arkansas and took up an obsessive search — for buried treasure, and for his family’s links to a secretive, subversive Confederate group, the Knights of the Golden Circle, or KGC.

After many years of research, he is among those who believe that the group buried millions in ill-gotten gold across a dozen states, to finance a second Civil War that never came to be. And he thinks Ashcraft and his son, Odis, had something to do with it.

“I think Grandpa Ashcraft and Uncle Ode had a secret,” Brewer says.

A similar theme will play out on the big screen Dec. 21, when Nicolas Cage returns as code-breaking treasure hunter Ben Gates in “National Treasure: Book of Secrets,” a sequel to Disney’s 2004 hit. Brewer is a consultant on the film.

But although Cage’s character searches for Confederate gold and his ancestral ties to the Lincoln assassination, Brewer’s journey shows, once again, that real life can be stranger than fiction — or at least as intriguing.

Steeped in the history of the South and the West, his quest is haunted by the legend of Jesse James and imbued with the mysterious stuff of Freemasonry, coded treasure maps and conspiracy theories dating to John Wilkes Booth.

Along the way, Brewer says, he has unearthed about \$200,000 worth of gold and silver coins. It’s enough to support his modest lifestyle, and to thumb his nose at those who might think he’s just another old coot with a metal detector.

“It’s my damn story,” he says, “and if they don’t believe it I’m not gonna worry about it, damn it. Pardon my French.”

Brewer’s life is detailed in “Shadow of the Sentinel: One Man’s Quest to Find the Hidden Treasure of the Confederacy,” a book he wrote with Warren Getler, a former Wall Street Journal reporter.

The authors say their 2003 book, reissued in paperback as “Rebel Gold,” sheds new light on the hidden history of the KGC, even as it lays out Brewer’s efforts to trace his familial connections to the group and crack the code behind its legendary “depositories.”

Having found smaller coin caches, Brewer says he’s now on to “a big, big one” in Oklahoma — big enough to more than validate his 30-year search.

“It was supposed to have been \$2 million when it was buried,” he says. “We figure it’s about 80 times that face value.”

The hunt that brought Brewer to this point began in earnest after he retired from the Navy in 1977 and started spending time at a Hatfield coffee shop, where talk often turned to treasure-hunting. Some spoke of “Spanish treasure signs,” similar to the markings his great-uncle had shown him.

Spaniard Hernando de Soto had explored the nearby mountains in 1541 and local legend held that he stashed gold there. Over time, Brewer came to doubt the Spanish angle, but linked what his forebears had told him to what he was hearing in town.

He sketched the symbols others described, tracked them down when he could and plotted them on topographical maps. During a stint as a state inspector of beekeepers, he explored remote areas of the forest and found more carvings on trees and rock faces.

Many were recurring symbols: snakes, turtles, crescent moons, crosses, numbers and letters with odd flourishes. Brewer figured they were cryptic indicators of distance and direction, clues to buried riches.

By mapping them, Brewer surmised that they ran along lines that might extend for miles as part of a larger “treasure grid.” Tracing the lines with a metal detector, he says, he learned to systematically find buried clues, one leading to the next, everything from gun barrels to farming implements to milk can lids.

(cont. from page 3)

If that sounds far-fetched, it did also to some of the 400 or so residents of Hatfield, including Brewer's wife, Linda.

"A lot of her friends, and even my own family, were telling her, 'You better watch Bob because he's going off the deep end,'" Brewer says. "She was beginning to believe it, too."

But Brewer persisted, and concluded that clues could be found not only in carvings on trees but also in the trees' shape. Some appeared to have been contorted as saplings, or had oddly grafted limbs that caused them to grow into unusual shapes and directional pointers.

Following a line from one such "hoot owl tree," Brewer says, he found the carved beech that Grandpa Ashcraft had shown him several decades earlier.

He studied its symbols, "walked the lines" radiating from them and found buried horseshoes and other clues that led to his first cache in 1991 — a canning jar filled with gold and silver coins from the 1800s, their \$400 face value a fraction of their actual worth.

Brewer says he was "stunned" by the find, in the forest about 10 miles from his home.

"I was totally wiped out for a couple of days and couldn't sleep for a couple of nights," he says. "I thought I had it all figured out and I'd be rich within a week. I was a little wrong about that."

The Brewers made a video about the carved beech, dubbed the "Bible Tree" for etchings such as "1st Thess 3:2," an apparent reference to First Thessalonians. It was a hit at treasure-hunting shows, and Brewer soon was trading stories and information with others who shared his esoteric interest.

In 1993, one of them showed Brewer a book about Jesse James, with passages about the Knights of the Golden Circle, buried Confederate treasure and cryptic symbols.

Founded in the 1850s by George Bickley, a former Virginian living in Cincinnati, the group was reputed to include prominent political figures and Confederate leaders, among them Gen. Albert Pike, a high-ranking member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

One of the things that led Brewer to link his family to the KGC were "Pike" carvings he'd seen on trees. Another was Grandpa Ashcraft's mysterious, daylong rides into the woods.

Sometimes his great-uncle told him he'd been hunting "cows," says Brewer, who only much later learned it might have been short for "cowan," a Masonic term of contempt for intruders. Grandpa had shown him where one was buried amid the pines and hardwoods.

"He said the man got in here, got to messing around and putting his nose where he shouldn't have, and got himself killed," he says.

Eventually, Brewer concluded that Grandpa and Uncle Ode were part of a generations-old network of "sentinels" who watched over caches of KGC money. Much of it came from government-payroll holdups and train robberies, according to Brewer and others who say Jesse James was a leader and benefactor of the group.

Ceci Gillespie thinks some of the loot wound up on a chunk of property she and her sister own in Wapanucka, Okla., about 100 miles southeast of Oklahoma City.

"We've had at least 10 people show up with the same idea, that Jesse James buried treasure there," Gillespie says, starting with an 87-year-old man who greeted her with a "treasure map and his 'list of reliable facts' " some 20 years ago.

In the mid-1990s came Brewer, teamed with an Oklahoma schoolteacher who also had a Jesse James treasure map. In the area, they found a jar of silver coins dated 1812 to 1880, Brewer says, but their hunt was cut short when the sisters booted them from the property.

Brewer says the teacher doubled back without him and found another cache of gold coins. The man might later have struck it even richer, according to a 1995 story in the Daily Oklahoman, which said he'd "unearthed a Wells Fargo safe full of gold coins" at an undisclosed location.

If it was from her property, Gillespie says, she's never gotten any of it, though she is convinced that millions in gold are still stashed there.

Robert Smith, a University of Oklahoma law professor who has written at length about Jesse James and other American outlaws, dismisses stories of huge treasure troves.

"I know very little about the Knights of the Golden Circle or whether such an organization even existed," he says. "But my own feeling is this stuff about buried gold, as far as Jesse James is concerned, is nonsense."

James M. McPherson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Civil War historian and a professor emeritus at Princeton University, has his own doubts about the group's reach.

## Camp 260's Happenings



We had a fine meeting January 8th to start the year off right. We signed up one new member & had three more new visitors interested in joining. We christened 2008 with a cemetery cleanup outside the Stayton Community of Dickson county. We were out in the middle of nowhere & almost dropping off the northern map of DC into Cheatham Co. as we tended to the graves of Corp. William Mayberry (Killed @ Franklin) & Pvt. J. B. Monroe (captured @ Ft. Donelson & prisoner @ Camp Douglas), both of Co. B, 49th Tennessee Infantry. We may have taken a goat path to get there through the hollers & hillsides, by tobacco barns, across muddy streams & cow pastures to get there but finally can say mission accomplished! Thanks to all that participated~ You are appreciated for stepping up on a cold day cause this was snake/tick country & we couldn't have gotten in there after it turns warm. Thanks to Bro. Barry Mayberry for heading up this clean up.

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**FROM THIS.....TO THIS!**  
**Think - Pancakes??????**

MORE INFO TO COME

(cont. from page 4)

“There certainly was an organization called the Knights of the Golden Circle,” McPherson allows, noting the group sought to spread slavery by annexing territory in Mexico and the Caribbean in the years before the Civil War.

But once the war began, “the story becomes pretty shadowy,” he says.

“My guess is that as the war went on, its reality kind of shaded over into myth,” he says.

Brewer’s co-author Getler, who met Brewer in 1998 and spent five years with him in the field and on a lengthy paper chase, counters that “we dug a lot deeper” into the group than anyone before.

“The Knights of the Golden Circle were a much more powerful organization than history gives credit to,” Getler says.

At the National Archives in Washington, he and Brewer scoured files and rare-book collections, finding the personal prayer book of KGC founder Bickley, who in 1863 was arrested as a spy but never charged, and died in 1867. Inside the book was a hand-written key to the group’s code.

The pair interviewed descendants of members, searched the Library of Congress for relevant writings and pored over the archives of the Pinkerton detective agency, which had pursued James. Their search of an online database yielded illuminating articles from newspapers, magazines and journals dating to the 1800s, and at Georgetown University Library they found works on Booth.

They concluded Booth was either a KGC member or was helped by the group while on the run after shooting President Lincoln at Ford’s Theater on April 14, 1865.

“No one can be sure,” Getler says, “but we are pretty confident that the KGC, the most powerful subversive group that ever existed in the United States, was very involved in the assassination of Lincoln.”

He’s also confident that Brewer is on to something very real.

“This is not crop circles,” he says.

Brewer’s quest has taken him from Arkansas to Georgia to Arizona and back to Oklahoma, where he and two partners have zeroed in on a site more than 100 miles from the Gillespies’ land.

Like other treasure hunters, they are cagey when discussing their work, loath to let slip too many details about exactly where and what they’re doing.

They say the Oklahoma search got held up by summer rains and flooding, which produced four-foot-high grass. It’s crawling with snakes and too high to work in with metal detectors, they say, and hiring someone to mow it would draw too much attention.

Others might be watching and could beat them to the gold. Brewer is willing to wait it out.

“We know where it’s at now,” he says. “All we have to do is put our detectors over it and we’ll find it.”

In some areas, treasure hunting is banned by law or requires permission from private property owners, or state and federal agencies that oversee public lands. At the Oklahoma site, Brewer and his partners have a contract with the owner.

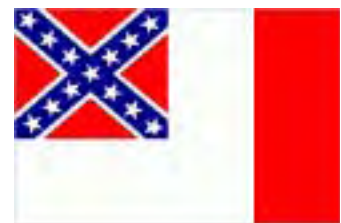
“We don’t ever go anywhere without permission — period,” says John London, 63, an Amarillo, Texas, electrician and satellite dish installer working with Brewer. “There are no ifs ands or buts about it, and if you don’t get it, the ‘butt’ will be yours.”

(cont. on page 7)

***Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans:***

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit 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 he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.”

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



***Salute to the Confederate Flag***

***“I Salute the Confederate Flag  
with Affection, Reverence, and  
Undying Devotion to the Cause  
for which it Stands”***

(cont. from page 6)

Along with metal detectors, global positioning devices and laptop computers with mapping software, London’s treasure-hunting tools include dowsing wands and an “information rod” made from an old rabbit-ears TV antenna with a silver dollar riveted onto it.

He insists it works, but says he hasn’t had to rely on it in Oklahoma.

“This is pure KGC research that has brought this stuff up,” he says.

Another partner, Jim Weaver, a 63-year-old window and siding salesman from Hutchinson, Kan., credits Brewer’s “unique ability” to decipher symbols and find clues.

“You can say it’s a gift. You can say it’s genetic,” Weaver says. “I don’t know what it is, but Bob really has discovered something remarkable.”

He says he’s seen evidence “beyond any possible shadow of a doubt” in Oklahoma.

“If we bring this thing to the conclusion we anticipate,” he says, “it will be mind-boggling.”

If he does hit it big, Brewer says, it won’t change his life much. He has all he needs: a good family, enough money to pay his bills, a nice house on a patch of land where he can step out his front door and shoot deer and wild turkey all day long.

Mostly, he just wants to finish his life’s work.

“Sometimes I wish I had never started it,” he says. “But I was always good at puzzles and when I set my mind to doing something, I do it.”



Bob Brewer points out arcane symbols on a tree in western Arkansas that he believes are clues to a treasure stashed away by the Knights of the Golden Circle, a secretive Confederate group. A man seeking Confederate gold and his own family’s hidden history uncovers a cryptic trail that may stretch back to a secret society and Jesse James.

(Tom Ewart / For The Times)

FOUND: Bob Brewer shows off coins he has uncovered through his 30 years of treasure hunting. He’s still waiting on a big score and says he’s closing in on it in rural Oklahoma.

(Tom Ewart / For The Times)

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## Discovery Channel Examines Winans Steam Gun

The true story of a 19th-century weapon of mass destruction with Baltimore ties gets a shot in the arm as it’s rebuilt on ‘Mythbusters’

John Lamb was tracing his great-great-grandfather’s involvement in the Civil War when he came across reports of a 19th-century killing machine.

The former Harford County resident and Civil War buff soon turned his interests toward the so-called Winans Steam Gun. A shiny, black, oversized metal contraption, the steam gun was made by an Ohio inventor who boasted that it could take out an entire regiment in one sweep, firing up to 400 rounds a minute from 300 yards away.

There are only a few reports of the steam gun being fired, including in a demonstration before the Baltimore City Council. Still, widespread news of its purported prowess made it one of the original feared weapons of mass destruction. And it just happened to be on display in Baltimore during the riot of April 19, 1861, one week into the Civil War. City officials sought it as protection after a clash between Baltimore’s pro-Confederate civilians and Union troops, attempting to cross the city en route to Washington, left 16 dead and scores injured.

(cont. on page 10)

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## GRACE PERIOD FOR DUES IS NOW OVER!

The SCV's Fiscal year (not calendar) begins August 1st with a 3 month grace period to pay your dues. After Nov. 1st there is a \$5 late fee to reinstate and if not received you will be dropped from the rolls. **YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS NOTICE AND YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!**

**Mail your Dues to:**

**Capt. W.H. McCauley Camp 260**

**P.O. Box 1276**

**Dickson, TN 37056-1276**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS for 2008

**Feb. 2 John Bridges to Speak @ 260 Saturday**

Bro. John Bridges of the Sam Davis Camp #1293 in Brentwood will be our honored guest speaker Saturday at noon on February 2nd at St. Paul Church in Charlotte. He is a member of the musical trio "Coleman Scouts" who performed for the crowd at last year's Tennessee Division Reunion in Murfreesboro. He last spoke to us about his last book "Capt. Tom - Crisis of Faith" about his great grandfather who rode with Gen. John Hunt Morgan. Please mark your calendars for this very informative talk on these 3 brave cousins who fought for Tennessee & the South. He will have books on hand for sale for all interested. Please bring a friend.

**Feb. 15 - 17 Island 10 Reenactment**

**Feb. 16 Dover's Ball**

**Mar. 1 Schedule Camp Meeting at Noon, St. Paul.**

**Mar. 29 - 30 Battle of Centerville Reenactment**

**Apr. 5 Sallie's Spring Cotillion**

**May 3 - 4 Dickson's Old Timer's Day**

**May 16 - 18 Battle of Sacramento Reenactment**

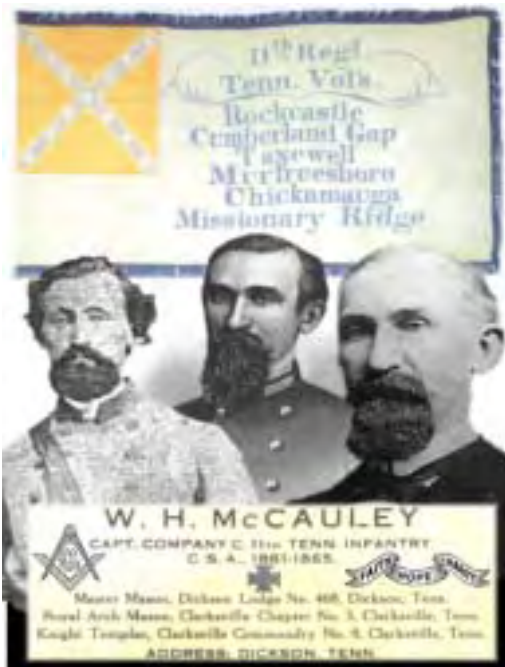
**June 7 Schedule Camp Meeting at Noon, St. Paul**

**July**

**Aug.**

**Sept. 27 3rd Annual Blue & Gray Ball at Old Spencer Mill**

If you know of any events the camp will be interested in please send to [dalesquickprint@bellsouth.net](mailto:dalesquickprint@bellsouth.net)



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## WELCOME NEW CADETS

Let's welcome cadet: **James Gibson Lowe** who joins on the service of his 5th Great Grandfather, Riley Qualls, Co. H, 10th Tn Cav.

Cadet: **Cody Ray Ivey** and Cadet **Caleb Zane Keaton**

who joins on the service of Sgt. Willis Jerome Sullivan, Col. Gray's Co. 3rd Tennessee (Forrest's) Cavalry

# Three Cousins *from* Mechanicsville



*Based on the True Story of  
DeWitt S. Jobe, Tom Benton Smith, & Dee Smith  
—HEROES OF THE UNCIVIL WAR—*

JOHN BRIDGES

(cont. from page 7)

More than 140 years later, Lamb, a former resident of Darlington who now lives in Chattanooga, Tenn., has become a sought-after source on the steam gun. It was ultimately dismantled for scrap - with no credible evidence of its potential.

The gun will be featured on the Discovery Channel's Mythbusters. The crew of the show, eager to see whether the gun could do what its founder claimed, consulted with Lamb to build prototypes, one of which propelled golf-ball-sized projectiles.

"This particular device has a legendary element," Lamb said. "If it had worked or had been adapted to work, it could have changed the course of the Civil War."

The show comes amid recent news of Civil War-era cannonballs found in debris taken from the Patapsco River near Brooklyn. The Winans Steam Gun, which was inadvertently credited to Maryland industrialist Ross Winans after he exhibited it on his property, is scarcely mentioned anymore beyond Civil War history circles.

But Lamb said that during the Baltimore Riot, widely regarded as the Civil War's first bloodshed, it was the talk of the nation. Newspapers from as far away as Wisconsin and California wrote about the weapon that used steam and centrifugal force to rotate metal spheres inside its belly, then hurl the spinning objects toward the target with precision timing.

Reports called it everything from Dickinson's Patent Centrifugal Gun (after its inventor, Charles Dickinson) to the Centrifugal Steam Gun, the Baltimore Steam Battery and the name that became most popular, the Winans Steam Gun.

"It was a big deal," said Lamb, who grew up in a Darlington house built by his great-great-grandfather, a member of the 2nd Maryland Infantry during the war.

An avid reader of Civil War literature, Lamb was researching the 2nd Maryland Infantry when he came across writings about Winans, a Confederate sympathizer, and the steam gun coveted by both sides in the conflict.

"It was invented by a man named Dickinson who made a number of strong claims for the gun, probably told to those who attended his demonstrations and later picked up by the press," Lamb said.

He added that Dickinson claimed the gun to be "easy to move from place to place and could be built in versions to fire shots from 1 ounce to 24 pounds, with similar range and force of gunpowder weapons."

According to an April 21, 1861, article in *The Sun*, the city purchased the gun from Dickinson for defense after the riot.

"The centrifugal steam gun of Mr. Dickinson on exhibition in this city for some time past, has been purchased by the city and will be used in its defense," the article said. "The gun is something like a steam fire engine and will throw three hundred balls per minute. It is the intention of the authorities to plant the gun at the head of the street up which the invading troops attempt to march and by signals to clear the streets of citizens and sweep the ranks."

Some reports suggested the gun was not purchased, but taken, from Dickinson, Lamb said. He said the gun ended up at a foundry shop owned by Winans, who was also making munitions items for the city at the time. Many believe that is how the gun became known to be invented by Winans.

"The newspaper people probably assumed it was his gun," said Wallace Shugg, a retired English professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County who has written on Winans and Maryland's involvement in the Civil War. "Many people figured here was this crazy guy inventing all kinds of things. They may have given him credit without asking."

Ultimately, the gun was returned to Dickinson. He attempted to take it to Harpers Ferry, Va., (now West Virginia) to sell to Confederate forces. But Union forces captured the gun mid-journey and took it to their camp at Relay, in Baltimore County. The gun eventually ended up in Massachusetts, was put in display long after the war, then turned to scrap. The Discovery Channel became interested in the gun while researching other Civil War weapons.

"It was made at the beginning of the steam era, and we're interested in something that has so much power that is purely driven by steam," said Discovery Channel producer and director Eric Haven.

The producers flew Lamb to San Francisco where the segment for the show was produced. He consulted them on the construction of prototypes that are slated to be aired on the show.

"It was a very unique design, an L-shaped barrel that spun around with a timing mechanism," Haven said. "Cannonballs were dropped into the top of the barrel and at just the right time were flung out of the barrel. After small-scale testing on one not using steam power, we brought it up to larger scale and hooked it up to steam using an ordinary household water heater."

Haven added that TV viewers will need to tune in to see whether the prototypes worked.

While there are no remnants of the old steam gun to be found, what appears to be a replica of it sits in Elkridge, behind the Elk Ridge Landing marker along U.S. 1. The paint-chipped, weather-beaten contraption sits amid tall grass. It looks like Dickinson's gun, but it has no signs or markers.

The Battle of Sacramento will take place this year May 16-18 in Calhoun Kentucky. You can register online at <http://battleofsac.com/RegForm.htm> and we will invoice you. Or you can print the registration form and send it in with your check.

Last year, we conducted an in-depth survey. We have the results of that survey in an 8-page 4-color publication. **Send us your mailing address along with the addresses of all who are in your regiment** and we will mail each of you a copy today.

This year we anticipate the Battle of Sacramento to be bigger and better than ever! Help us make this happen by spreading the word about it! Don't forget to send us your mailing address.

Sincerely,

The Battle of Sacramento Marketing Team

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Keep up with camp announcements & historical posts concerning our local Southern history. To join, please send an email to [therail@scvcamp260.org](mailto:therail@scvcamp260.org) with your name & Camp 260 membership info. For more info, contact camp webmaster D.J. Cloninger at [webmaster@scvcamp260.org](mailto:webmaster@scvcamp260.org).

**COME PAY US A VISIT SOMETIME!**

**WE MEET AT NOON ON THE 1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 1400 ST. PAUL ROAD. ALL VISITORS WELCOME! Y'ALL COME!**

(cont. from page 10)

Lamb, a director of development and communications for a Chattanooga branch of Habitat for Humanity, is writing a book about the steam gun.

The episode marks the second time he has been involved with a Mythbusters segment. He was a technical adviser about a gun design taken from a Leonardo da Vinci workbook.

Hundreds of accounts of the famed steam gun are mentioned on the Web, he noted, many of which still refer to it as the Winans Steam Gun. He hopes the Mythbusters episode changes that.

“I hope it catches people’s attention,” he said. “It’s a neat reminder of what happened in the past and how a story can get twisted and become more than what it was in the beginning.”



A trip taken by  
Mr and Mrs Jarrett Howell, Mary Stewart, Elmer, Jennie and Will  
Woodworth, at Eljenwood, Mch 3<sup>rd</sup>- 1907.  
By Mary Stewart

Mr Howell took us to show us the battle field. We went directly up the hill back of my house and bore to the northwest. The path is dim, but we got through the briars and bushes easily. We passed places where charcoal had been burned the old fashioned way. Logs were stood on end in form of a wigwam, with earth covering them about the depth of one foot leaving an opening at the top where the fire was set. It was left to burn itself out. The earth is still blackened by it, tho it is about 50 years ago it was done. By and by we came to a more open space. Here Mr Howell showed us where two soldiers had been buried. We saw the trees which marked the lines for the sentinels march. There were 1700 Iowa cavalry stationed here. The horses were inside the rope circle and tied to the rope and fed on the ground We saw where the tents were. There were several heaps of stones which we were told were the remains of some “Irish houses” that were taken by the commanding officer to “warm his soldiers feet.” The Irishmen were working for the railroad. There was another pile of stones where the magazine had been. McNeary was a guerilla with 125 men. He stole up the hill from below the Poplar Spring, coming up just where Jennie Woodworths house is now. He put the main force on the hill east of the cavalry and kept

Sons of Confederate Veterans - Col. Jack Moore Camp 559  
TN. Society Order of Confederate Rose - Cordelia W. Moore Chapter 12  
Presents Re-enactment 7th TN. Co. B

# *Skirmish of Centerville on the Duck River*

**\*Saturday - March 29, 2008 \***

Hwy 100 at Duck River Soccer Field - Centerville, TN.

**\*Ladies Tea Party 11:00 a.m. \* special music 1861-1865**

**Drill 11:00 a.m. ~ Officer Call 1:30 p.m. ~ Inspection 2:30 p.m.**

**Skirmish 3:00 p.m.**

5:00 p.m. closes to public



**\*Sunday - March 30, 2008 \***

**Authentic Church Service 10:00 a.m.**

**Officer Call 12:30 p.m. Inspection 1:15 p.m.**

**Skirmish 2:00 p.m.**

5:00 p.m. closes to public

**\*\* No admission \*\***

**\*\* Sutlery's welcome no fee \*\***



Information contact:

Perry Holder 731-983-5401

Ralph Carnell 731-989-7530

Harvey Moore 931-729-7090

Ron and Anita Jo Walters 931-670-5541

Tennessee Society Order of Confederate Rose, Sallie Sizemore Chapter 8  
Cordially Invite you to Our Inaugural

# Sallie's Spring Cotillion

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Old Spencer Mill



Social at 5:00 p.m.      Grand March at 6:30 p.m.

Dress: Civil War Attire Preferred,  
Formal, Semi-Formal (Suit & Tie)

Authentic Civil War Music provided by  
**Mean Mary and Frank James**

**\$25 per person,**

Under 16 no charge with paid adult  
All payments due by March 31, 2008

Make Check Payable to Sallie's Spring Cotillion

send to: Capt. W.H. McCauley 260, P.O. Box 1276, Dickson, Tn 37056

For Additional Information: [www.scvcamp260.org/ocr](http://www.scvcamp260.org/ocr)  
or Carolyn Qualls 615 446-8841 or [karolynq1974@bellsouth.net](mailto:karolynq1974@bellsouth.net)  
or Whitney Qualls 615 446-8939 or [wnq2006@bellsouth.net](mailto:wnq2006@bellsouth.net)

Please return this portion of this flyer with your reservation. Tickets are limited.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending with \_\_\_\_ Guest(s).

Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed find \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address to mail tickets \_\_\_\_\_



them lying low till the right time. He fired at first one sentinel and then the other. The second man kept his place, while the first (neither being hit) ran to report to his superior. The cavalry turned out and went for the men who had fired, while McNeary kept up a fire and backing down. He thought to bring the cavalry where his men on the other hill could do havoc. Soon as they began to put in their work the cavalry turned away from McNeary and cleared them all out. Of course, McNeary with his forces could do nothing but harass. He got away. Some men were killed and some wounded and there were some sick in camp. Mrs

Howells mother, and another woman went next day with baskets of provisions for the sick. They were stopped by a sentinel who told them not to go inside as they would not be let out again. He took the provisions and had a man carry them to an officer and to the sick. They had passed one picket and officer told them they could not get out the way they had come in, so they rode out a different way, and fearing the soldiers stopping them, they rode home as fast as they could go. They had hardly arrived home when they saw men coming tracking the horses. Tracks came through the gate on to the barn, the men hardly taking their eyes off the ground. They found the horses warm from the run, but they were assured it was only the women who had gone to take provisions to the soldiers and not spys they were on the track of. If anyone came near the camp they were closes watched. East of White Bluff one mile were stationed some Michigan infantry on the Nashville Pike. Mrs Howell heard next day that there were sick men in need of food there and she went with baskets of food, and when she reached there she found them Negro soldiers, and would not give them anything, for the white men needed all. Hood with several thousand men were started for this place. They were near Nashville. The Michigan infantry in a single night threw up great earthworks with which to protect themselves. Two colored troops were first sent up the hill and were mowed down as a machine mows grass. Then men were sent solid 11 men deep and were badly cut up. The Federals held Nashville. Mr Howell saw Nashville the day after the big battle and he said the ground looked like barrels and barrels of molasses had been turned out there. The dead were stacked on wagons in great loads, and buried in ditches near the Cumberland river, and the first freshet that came the bodies were all washed into the river. Mrs Howell was then a little girl but she recalls seeing the battle from the window in the top of a high building. When one man who held the flag was shot down another took his place, and then another till the battle ended. The excitement about here was high. There were Union men and they had a hard time of it. Many were taken out of their beds and shot. So many were shot that all could not be buried, and their bones lay exposed on the ground for days. Mr Howell said he did not think there need have been a war. He said Lincoln had called a stop to all preparations and asked Davis to hold an election and vote the states in again making the offer to pay expenses and buy the slaves and set them free. This they would not do so the war went on. They were holding a meeting at White Bluff and talking loudly about war and saying the Yankees were cowards and would not fight. That one southerner could make a dozen Yankees run, and a lot more like that. Mr Howells father got up on a box after the speaker got down and told them they were making a mistake, that the Yankees were just as good fighters as they were, and that they ( the southerners) would be in the fight, and their fathers and brothers and their blood would be shed. One of the men called out "We'll put a stop to that blab." and being right near, pointed his gun at Mr Howell and was about to shoot when someone hauled him away, and Howell got down. There was a lot of moonshine whiskey in circulation then. Provisions were scarce. The Union officers would demand things, always giving a voucher in return. Mrs Howell says most she can remember of the war was, that she was always cooking for the soldiers. Every day great pots would be filled with meat, in the kitchen and out in the huge iron pots. The meat would be cut into chunks of 3 or 4 pounds, and

(cont. from page 15)

boiled, and often just as they had put the meat over, a regiment would come passing thru and they would file into the house, and each man would take a chunk of meat out of the kettle before it was warmed thru, and pass on. They would shoot the cattle and hogs and when the war closed Old Mrs Howell said she had one mule, one cow and one sow. The soldiers came one day and were about to shoot Mr Howells cattle and Mr Howell told them not to, that they were too poor, and not fit to eat. He took the keys and opened his smoke house and gave them all except one piece, enough to cook once for his family. A negro came once and asked for something and would not give a voucher . When Mr Howell demanded a voucher the negro shot at him. Mr Howell told him he would report him and walked off. The negro shot more than once, but did not hit him. Mr Howell told the captain. The negro was put in the guard house. The captain gave Mr Howell a gun and 40 rounds of cartridges and told him to defend himself. Scarcely anyone had guns, as the South had so few and anything that would shoot was taken. Mr Howells mother saved a gun by hiding it in the ceiling. One of the federal officers amused himself by giving some of the boys a military drill. The chief officer hearing the words of command came to enquire into it. When he found what it was he had the officer to stop it. When the soldiers left they set fire to the storehouse containing food stores. Some of the citizens stood by and as the boards burned so they could, they had hooks and pulled them off and secured quite a lot of provisions. He spoke of the general fairness of the federal troops and their kindness. He said more meanness was done by the guerillas, who were their own people than by the federals through here. The Union men at that time were mostly Democrats, but changed when Cleveland came in on account of the tariff. They were in sympathy with Cox's army. No man felt sure when he went to bed, that he would wake alive. I found a birds nest in a bush where the magazine had been. Quite large trees have grown up since that time. Some of that land had been plowed, but for many years it has been wild. Mr Howell said the day after the camp broke at Poplar Spring, the ground was covered with ink bottles. Mary found a bullet from an old army pistol. Mr Howell said when he had a saw mill here he has had logs come in that when sawed were so perforated with bullet holes they not fit to use. West of White Bluff about four miles is a deep cut in the railroad, called Burns, or McNeary cut. Mr Howell said that at that time there were about a thousand cords of wood which belonged to the R.R. The federals were taking a freight train thru. The train had soldiers sitting on the outside of the cars closely with guns in their hands.. McNeary flagged the train, told the engineer to put on steam and blow up the engine. His men hidden behind the wood fired on the train. The engineer reached over and uncoupled the engine, and steamed fast away. He and the fireman were the only ones who lived. The McNeary men came down and bayoneted the wounded who had not been killed. They took what they wanted from the cars and burned the rest, and burned the wood. Mr Howell saw the blaze.

This was typed from the original manuscript as closely as Microsoft Word would let me.  
Courtesy of Tony England, White Bluff Historian.

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## Union 'Trick' Results in Sam Davis' Capture

By Mike West, Managing Editor

Confederate courier Sam Davis had reason to be wary as he rested in a thicket on the Rain's farm outside of Nashville.

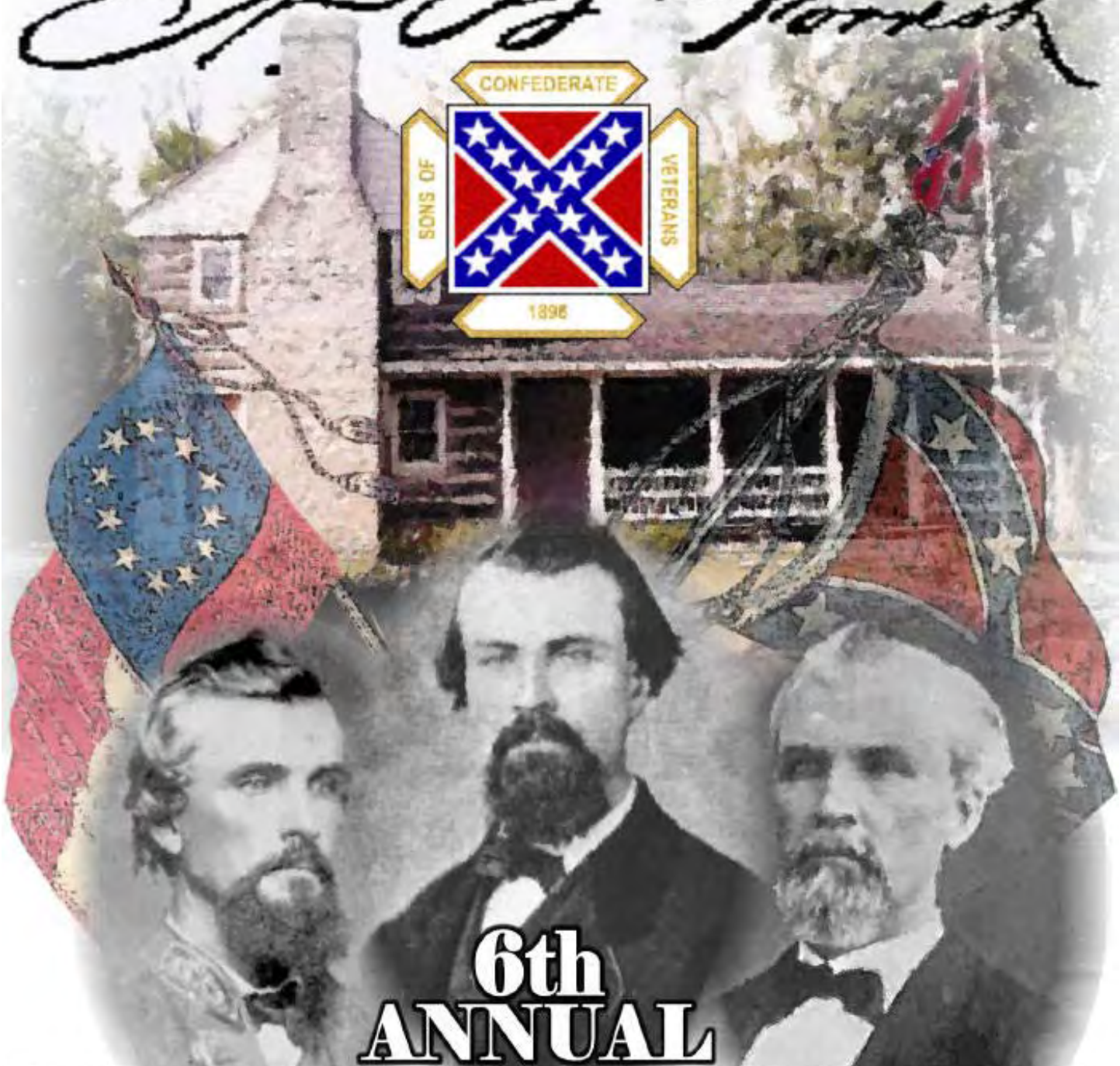
Union Brig. Gen. Grenville Dodge had the 7th Kansas cavalry looking for members of Coleman's Scouts, a Confederate spy/courier unit of some 40 to 45 operatives.

Davis, along with his older half-brother John G. Davis, were active members of the unit, which was led by former teacher Henry Shaw, who disguised himself an unkempt, bearded herbal doctor who hobbled along with a limp.

Not all of Coleman's operatives were men. Confederate sympathizer Mary Kate Patterson, who married John Davis in 1864, played an active role in the spy ring. Her brother, Everard Patterson, was a member of Coleman's Scouts as well.

Mary Kate Patterson, who lived about nine miles from Nashville off Nolensville Pike, brought Davis his breakfast that Sunday morning in the thicket accompanied by her cousin Robbie Woodruff. He gave the two young women a list

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(cont. from page 16)

of items to purchase in Nashville. Most of the items were intended for Gen. Braxton Bragg, commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee.

“We found him up, looking as bright as if he had slept all night, and, oh, he did enjoy his good warm breakfast, for we rode fast and had his coffee in a jug to keep it warm,” she wrote in the February 1896 edition of *Confederate Veteran*. “Two of my little brothers brought our dinner and we spent a nice, pleasant Sunday together - the last he spent on earth but one.”

The following day, a Monday, Davis’s younger brother, Oscar, kept him company while Patterson and Woodruff went to Nashville. After dark, he headed south toward Pulaski.

Davis next stayed at or near the home of Bob English near Lynnville in Giles County where he rendezvoused with Shaw and scouts W.J. Moore and Joshua Brown. Portions of Dodge’s troops were stationed nearby rebuilding the railroad line.

There, Davis on or about Nov. 18, was presented with the document that ultimately led to his death. It was apparently taken from Dodge’s desk by Houston English, who was a young slave of Bob English, while the general was at a meal. Davis hid that document in his boot, which was later cut apart by Union troops. That same boot is part of the collection at Tennessee State Museum in Nashville. A map showing the Union fortifications of Nashville was hidden in his saddle.

Shaw also gave him a letter for Col. A. McKinstry, provost marshal of the Army of Tennessee. A provost marshal was in command of the military police of a unit.

In his waterproof saddlebag were the personal items Mary Kate Patterson and Robbie Woodruff had collected for Gen. Bragg, including six or seven newspapers, toothbrushes, soap and blank writing journals.

It was hoped if Davis was stopped and searched only the items in the saddlebag would be discovered. He was dressed as a Confederate and wore a heavy Union overcoat that had been dyed butternut gray by his mother, Jane Simmons Davis. She had given him the coat when he surreptitiously visited the family home early in November. His father, Charles, cobbled his boots on the same visit.

With so many Union scouts and cavalry active in the area, Shaw instructed Davis to take a more circuitous route to Chattanooga by crossing the Tennessee River near Pulaski. Davis eluded capture once, but Brown and Moore were taken into custody.

Union scouts under the command of Capt. Levi H. Naron, nicknamed Chickasaw, were alert and devious.

Naron, who wrote a book about his own exploits in 1865, was an unlikely Union soldier.

“Chickasaw” was a Newton County, Ga., native who lived in Mississippi for 21 years and was a former slave owner. During the Mexican War, he was a member of the 1st Mississippi Rifles under the command of Col. Jefferson Davis, who later became president of the Confederacy.

Despite this background, Naron was a strong Unionist, who delivered stump speeches denouncing the Confederacy. Surrounded by bitter enemies, he relocated his wife and six children to Illinois and cast his lot with the Union army.

“Chickasaw,” under strict orders to apprehend members of Coleman’s Scouts, dressed his Union scouts as Confederate soldiers.

“While on their return to camp they met a young man dressed in rebel uniform, whom they conscripted for the rebel army. The young man was very indignant at first, and told them they were doing wrong, that he was on special business from General Bragg, all of which was of no avail, my scouts persisted in taking him before their Captain, who could act at his pleasure,” wrote Naron.

That young man was Sam Davis who was attempting to cross the Tennessee River near Minor Hill.

The ruse was over the minute they asked him for his weapons.

“He attempted to escape by putting spurs to his horse, but the scouts were on the watch, and the moment he made the effort one of the men caught his horse by the bridle rein,” Naron said.

Similarly, Shaw, Moore and Joshua Brown were captured and taken to Gen. Dodge for questioning.

“We did not know of the importance of the capture of Shaw, or that he was the Captain Coleman commanding Bragg’s secret service force. Nothing was found on any of the prisoners of importance, except upon Davis, who evidently had been selected to carry the information they had all obtained through to General Bragg,” Dodge said.

“Davis was brought immediately to me, as his captors knew his importance. They believed he was an officer and also knew he was a member of Coleman’s command.”

(cont. from page 18)

The general took the first crack at breaking Davis with the goal of locating Coleman and his command.

“Davis met me modestly. He was a fine, soldierly-looking young man, dressed in a faded Federal soldier’s coat, one of our army soft hats and top boots. He had a frank, open face, which was inclined to brightness,” Dodge said.

“I tried to impress upon him the danger he was in, and that I knew he was only a messenger, and held out to him the hope of lenient treatment if he would answer truthfully, as far as he could, my questions,” he said.

Davis, listening intently, gave Dodge no information. Capt. Armstrong, the 16th Division’s provost marshal, then placed Davis in the Pulaski jail with the other prisoners. An undercover Union informant was also added to the cell.

But the captured Confederates didn’t talk amongst themselves.

Dodge, in retrospect, said there were two reasons for the silence.

“They all knew Colonel Shaw was one of our captives, and that if his importance was made known to us he would certainly be hung, and they did not think that Davis would be executed,” he said.

The Confederates were wrong. The life of 21-year-old Sam Davis would soon be forfeit.

<http://www.murfreesboropost.com/news.php?viewStory=7386>



Sam Davis’ boot was cut apart by federal troops looking for secrets.

(Courtesy Tennessee State Museum)

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## Sam Davis Carries His Secret to the Grave

By Mike West Managing Editor

Jailed in Pulaski, options were few for Confederate Scout Sam Davis.

He could talk and walk away a free man or stay mum and die on the gallows.

Perception was part of his problem. Sam Davis was perceived a courier/scout by Confederates and a spy by Union soldiers like Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge.

When captured, Davis was wearing part of a Union uniform ... an overcoat that had been dyed butternut by his mother, Olivia. Otherwise, he was dressed as a typical Confederate soldier. Some contemporary accounts claim he was wearing a Union cap.

From the Southern point of view, Davis was a courier, carrying information collected by others to Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg. Thus, he should have been treated as a prisoner of war.

However, Dodge did not buy that argument.

“A soldier caught in the uniform, or a part of the uniform of his enemy, within his enemy’s lines, establishes that fact that he is a spy and is there in violation of the Articles of War and for no good purpose,” Dodge wrote. “This alone will prohibit his being as a prisoner of war, when caught as Davis was in our uniform, with valuable documents upon him, and seals his fate.”

Obviously, the documents were what made the difference.

If Union forces had not found the stolen documents in his boot and the map of fortifications hidden in his saddle, Davis would have probably be released like the other members of Coleman’s Scouts being held in Pulaski along with him.

That certainly added to the complication.

Because one of the prisoners was Henry Shaw, who under the assumed name, E. Coleman, was chief of the Confederate Army of Tennessee’s spy ring.

Shaw really wasn’t under suspicion. Passing himself off as lame, herbal doctor, Shaw had been held because of inadequate identification. Dodge didn’t know he had the infamous Coleman in his jail until well after the war.

“We did not know of the importance of the capture of Shaw, or that he was the Captain Coleman commanding Bragg’s secret service.”

Davis had been questioned personally by Dodge and by provost marshal Capt W. F. Armstrong without divulging any information.

Dodge reported the capture to Major. B.M Sawyer, assistant adjutant general, Army of the Tennessee.

His Nov. 20, 1863 report said:

“I herewith inclose a copy of dispatches taken from one of Bragg’s spies. He had a heavy mail, papers, etc, and shows Captain Coleman is pretty well posted.

“We have broken up several bands of mounted riders and Confederate cavalry in the last week, capturing some five commissioned officers and one hundred enlisted men, who have been forwarded.

“I also forward a few of the most important letters found in the mail. The tooth brushes and blank-books I was greatly in need of and therefore appropriated them.”

Two or three days more of interrogation failed to break Davis or to shake his resolve.

Apparently, Davis was winning converts among Union headquarters personnel particularly provost marshal Armstrong and Chaplain James Young of the 81st Ohio, who had befriended the 21-year-old Confederate.

When Armstrong failed to gain any information from the scout, Dodge increased the pressure.

“I had Davis brought before me again, after my Provost Marshal had reported his inability to obtain anything of value from him. I then informed him that he would be tried as a spy; that the evidence against him would surely convict him, and made a direct appeal to him to give me the information I knew he had.”

“He very quietly, but firmly, refused to do so,” Dodge said.

The general then ordered him to be court martialed on Nov. 24.

Sitting in judgment were Col. Madison Miller, 18th Missouri Infantry, Lt. Col. Thomas W. Gains, 56th Missouri Infantry, Major Lathrop, 39th Ohio Infantry and Capt. George Elliott, 30th Iowa, judge advocate.

Two charges were filed: Being a spy and being a carrier of information from within the lines of the United States Army to persons in arms against the United States government.

Davis pleaded not guilty to the first charge and guilty to the second.

The military court acted quickly and decisively finding Davis guilty on all counts.

“The court does therefore sentence the said Samuel Davis of Coleman’s Scouts, in the service of the so-called Confederate States, to be hanged by the neck until he is dead, at such time and place as the commanding general may direct.”

With the finding and sentence approved his execution was scheduled for Friday, Nov. 27, 1863 between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6 p.m. Brig. Gen. F.W. Sweeney was ordered to make the arrangements.

Dodge and his fellow officers still hoped to extract the information from Davis and spare his life.

### **He only had seven days to live.**

Union officers renewed efforts to get Davis to reveal the identity of Capt. Coleman and each time, he repeated the same answer: “I will not tell.”

“Considerable interest was taken in young Davis by the Provost Marshal and Chaplain Young, and considerable pressure was brought to bear upon them by some of the citizens of Pulaski; and I am under the impression that some of them saw Davis and endeavored to induce him to save himself, but they failed,” Dodge said.

Mrs. John A. Jackson, representing a citizens group, approached Dodge personally to beg for his life.

Then the hard-bitten Union scout “Chickasaw” Naron picked up the mantle and tried to prevail upon Davis to save his own life.

“He replied, that he would not confess anything. That when he entered the army he did not expect to live through this war, and if Tennessee could not be restored to the Southern Confederacy he would rather die than live. I could not but admire his brave manly spirit. At no time, while in my presence, did he seem to feel depressed,” Naron said.

Chaplain Young spent time with Davis on his final night, chatting about war experiences and home.

They prayed and sang Sam’s favorite hymn, “On Jordan’s Stormy Banks.” The chaplain gave him paper and pen so he could write his final letter home.

(cont. from page 20)

Pulaski, Giles County, Tenn.

Nov. 26, 1863.

Dear Mother

Oh how painful it is to write to you. I have got to die tomorrow morning-to be hung by the federals. Mother do not grieve for me. I must bid you good bye for ever more -Mother, I do not hate to die. Give my love to all.

Your Dear Son

Sam

Mother tell the children all to be good. I wish I could see all of you once more, but I never never [will] no more.

Mother and Father Do not forget me, think of me when I am dead, but do not grieve for me, it will not do any good.

Father You can send after my remains if you want to do so, they will be at Pulaski, Tennessee. I will leave some things too with the hotel keeper for you. Pulaski is in Giles County, Tennessee, south of Columbia.

At dawn the following morning, a wagon awaited Davis, who sat on top of his own coffin on the short ride to the gallows.

“Chickasaw” was allowed time to talk to Davis a final time.

“When he was taken to the scaffold I was permitted to talk to him. I addressed him thus; ‘Davis, you are not the man that should be hung, and if you would yet tell me who General Bragg’s chief of scouts was, so I might capture him, your life would yet be spared.’

“He looked me steadily in the eye, and said ‘Do you suppose were I your friend that I would betray you?’ I told him I did not know, but life was sweet to all men. His reply to this, was, ‘Sir, if you think I am that kind of a man you have missed your mark. You may hang me a thousand times and I would not betray my friends.’

While the witnesses to his execution remembered Davis’ last words in different ways, they watched in silence as a hood was pulled over his head and the noose tightened by the executioner.

“I then left him, only to witness in less than two minutes afterwards his fall from the scaffold, a dead man. Thus ended the life of Samuel Davis, one of General Bragg’s scouts, a noble, brave young man, who possessed principle. I have often regretted the fate of this young man, who could brave such a death when his life rested in his own hands. His mind was one of principle, though engaged in a wrong cause,” Naron said.

It was Provost Marshal Armstrong who gave the signal to spring the trap door. He sent a message to Davis’ family: “Tell them for me that he died the bravest of the brave, an honor to them, and with the respect of every man in this command.”

<http://www.murfreesboropost.com/news.php?viewStory=7494>



PIC: Monument pic courtesy of Marlin Rood Camp #270.

## ***REBEL RE-ENACTOR WITH A CAUSE***

*Spotsylvania resident Willie Levi Casey Jr. is an African-American member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and proud to be Southern.*

By LAURA MOYER The Free Lance-Star

ROCKVILLE—In the Hanover County woods where men in blue and men in gray are shooting at each other, it's all noise and smoke and stink.

Across a field there's cannon fire so loud it resets your heartbeat for you. Horses whicker, and men shout. Fog-thick gunpowder smoke gives off a rotten-egg reek.

For Confederate Pvt. Casey of the 6th North Carolina State Troop, a Civil War re-enactment unit, the conflict is all external.

In real life, the Rebel private is Maj. Willie Levi Casey Jr. of the U.S. Army—a tasty bit of irony if you're looking for it.

But Casey sees no irony at all in re-enacting as a 19th-century soldier in gray and being a 21st-century African-American.

Casey, a 40-year-old resident of Spotsylvania County's Chancellor area, is a Southerner by birth and proud of it by choice.

He's been re-enacting since 1997 and was welcomed as a full member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp No. 1722 two years ago.

It all makes sense, he said, if you view the Civil War not as a textbook struggle between good and evil, but as the nuanced conflict it truly was.

"Look at the mentality of a black person in the South" at the time of the Civil War, Casey said. That person's ancestors might have been living in the South for 150 years before the war.

In such a case, he said, "You may be a Southerner by force, but you are a Southerner."

Historians have long held that black Southerners, free or slave, did not serve the Confederacy as soldiers, but worked instead as teamsters, laborers, cooks and personal servants.

If those black men took up weapons in battle, this official version of history goes, it was because of circumstances and self-defense, not because they believed in the Southern cause.

But recent scholarly works—many by African-American academics—have alleged a historical understatement and even a cover-up of blacks' real participation.

Casey, who earned a degree in history from Presbyterian College in South Carolina, said his reading over the past few years leads him to believe that tens of thousands of blacks, slave and free, fought for the Confederacy.

Their motivation, he believes, was not to support slavery but to support what they saw as their country—the South—and to improve their own lot in life.

"You would fight to gain status. Because you know that even if you lose, you're still one of the brothers in arms," Casey said. "You're fighting to make your life better."

Casey's persona as a re-enactor is a free black cabinetmaker from eastern Tennessee, able to read and write, with a wife and a child at home.

But he has a real-life link to the Confederacy as well—one he always vaguely knew about but pinned down only in recent years.

Casey grew up in Cross Anchor, S.C., in the 1960s and '70s. It was an area full of Caseys, black and white.

He and his siblings knew they had a white great-grandfather, a man who had never married their American Indian/African-American great-grandmother even though they had six children together.

A family photo of the couple's son Barney Casey shows a bulky man in overalls with lank gray hair and white skin. He's Willie Casey's grandfather.

Willie Casey was well into adulthood when he decided to research the white side of his family.

In the course of his genealogical effort he came across the Civil War record of one Pvt. Martin Luther Casey, a South Carolina soldier killed in 1862. That man was the older brother of Casey's great-grandfather.

Being a collateral relative of a Civil War soldier qualified Casey for membership in the SCV. He's twice been elected aide-de-camp of the local group.

His acceptance into the organization doesn't surprise him. "Most people will welcome you according to how you treat them," he said.

Mr. Qualls,

We attended your Blue Gray Ball September 22, and thought it was really great. The music and food were excellent and everyone was very friendly. . . . I have added the web address for photos of the Galveston event we attend, in case any of you might like to check it out.

Thanks

Clarence & Anna Coulston  
Belton, TX 76513

[http://www.galvestonhistory.org/Dickens\\_Photos.asp](http://www.galvestonhistory.org/Dickens_Photos.asp)

(cont. from page 22)

The SCV denounces racism and has vehemently fought the usurpation of the Confederate battle flag by the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups.

“These are guys who are trying to remember their ancestors in a positive manner,” he said. And that’s what he wants to do, too.

Still, Casey is often asked to explain himself—not to his fellow re-enactors or SCV members, but to people who just can’t understand where he’s coming from.

“People say to me, ‘Do you support slavery?’” he said.

“I say, ‘No. I support preserving Southern history and telling it the way it is.’”

[http://fred411.com/News/FLS/2002/062002/06302002/654553/index\\_html?page=1](http://fred411.com/News/FLS/2002/062002/06302002/654553/index_html?page=1)



Willie Levi Casey Jr. of Spotsylvania re-enacts as a Confederate private with the 6th North Carolina State Troop. Casey’s unit participated yesterday in a re-enactment of the 1862 Battle of Beaver Dam Creek.



Willie Casey (second from right) says people don’t understand why he joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

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***Death of Jefferson Davis Remembered - The Christmas of 1889 was a sad time in the South.***

By Calvin Johnson Jr. Staff

December 6th, is the 118th anniversary of the death of a great American Hero—Jefferson Davis.

The “Politically Correct” would have you forget the past...But do not forget the history of the men and women who made the USA great.

**Caution, this is a family friendly story to be shared.**

The Sons of Confederate Veterans have declared 2008, the “Year of Jefferson Davis.” Remembrance events will include the re-opening of “Beauvoir” on Jefferson Davis’ 200th birthday—June 3, 2008. This was Davis’ last home that was damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum will be rebuilt and re-open about two years after the house. Beauvoir is located on the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast. See more at:

[www.beauvoir.org](http://www.beauvoir.org)

The New York Times reported the death of Jefferson Davis;  
New Orleans, December 8, 1889—Quote

“A careful tally of the visitors shows that about 40,000 persons, mostly women and children, viewed the remains today. This crowd included, in solemn and respectful attendance, all conditions of Whites, Blacks, ex-Confederates, ex-Federals, and even Indians and Chinamen.” —Unquote

Davis’ Death was also the page 1 story in Dixie;

December 1889, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution; ——Quote

“The Great Chieftain passes over the river...and rests with Jackson under the shade of the trees. The hearts of a great and loving people, crushed by the death of a great leader. The Hero of hard-fought fields in Mexico. The peerless Statesman in Federal Councils. Jefferson Davis is no more!!!” — Unquote

## Who was Jefferson Davis?

Jefferson Davis graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, served valiantly during the War with Mexico, served as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce, served as United States Senator from Mississippi and was President of the Confederate States of America.

Jefferson Davis was a Christian father and husband. He and wife Varina were blessed with seven children who were; Margaret, Jeff, Jr., Varina Anne, Bill, Joseph, Samuel and their adopted African-American son—Jim Limber.

During November, 1889, Jefferson Davis left his home to attend to family business at Brierfield Plantation. On his way through New Orleans the weather turned colder and he was exposed to the rain and cold. He came down with a severe cold and bronchitis that was further complicated by Malaria.

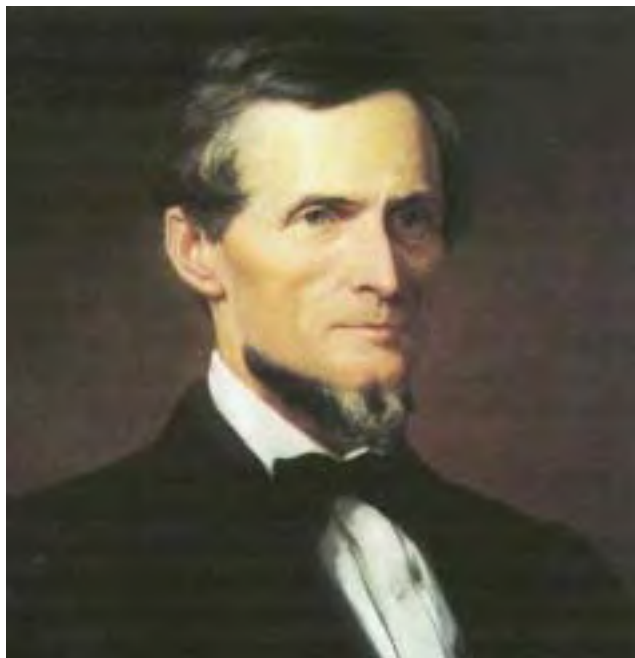
Milo Cooper, a former servant of the Davis family, traveled a great distance to be by Davis’ side. It has been written that when Copper entered Davis’ sick room in New Orleans, he fell on his knees in tears and prayed God would spare the life of Jefferson Davis and bless his family.

Varina was by her husband’s side when Jefferson Davis died at a friend’s home on the morning of December 6, 1889.

All New Orleans’s newspapers led with praises and tributes that echoed throughout the South; —Quote

“Throughout the South there are lamentations and tears; in every country on the globe where there are lovers of liberty there is mourning; wherever there are men who admire heroic patriotism, dauntless resolution, fortitude, or intellectual power and supremacy, there is 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!” —Unquote

The mortal body of Jefferson Davis lay in state at the City Hall of New Orleans from midnight on December 6th to the 11th, 1889. The US and Confederate flags hung from the walls.



It is written that two hundred thousand people lined the streets of New Orleans when the funeral procession carried Davis’ body to Metairie Cemetery for temporary burial.

On December 13, 1889, the New York Times reported the Davis Funeral being the grandest ever seen in the South. The Sermon at Metairie Cemetery was delivered by Bishop Thompson of Mississippi. Bishop Gallaber delivered a brief sketch of Jefferson Davis’ life...And a Church Choir sang an old time favorite “Rock of Ages” to end the service.

### Lest We Forget!!!

<http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=204067&c=11>

Jefferson Davis Bicentennial Birthday Committee

Bertram Hayes-Davis

Great Great Grandson Chairman

14 Springdowns Way

Colorado Springs, CO. 80906

## PRESS RELEASE

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**The Jefferson Davis Bicentennial Committee announces an event to be held in Montgomery, Alabama on Friday, February 15, 2008. This event will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday of President Jefferson Davis. At this event, Bertram Hayes-Davis, the great great grandson of Jefferson Davis, will be representing the Davis Family Association in honoring his birthday. The schedule is as follows:**

**1:00 PM Photo opportunity on the west portico of the Alabama Capital Building where Jefferson Davis was inaugurated. Bertram Hayes-Davis will place his hand on the Bible held by Howell Cobb's (President of the Confederate Congress) descendant.**

**1:30 PM Showing of a 14 minute 1914 silent film of a re-enactment of President Davis' inauguration. Held in the Capital Auditorium, introduced by Bob Bradley, curator of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Remarks by Bertram Hayes-Davis, with a preview of the new 8 hour documentary just completed on Jefferson Davis. Unveiling of two new acquisitions of the First White House of the Confederacy; a Jefferson Davis pocket watch and a portrait of Varina Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis.**

