

~ Official Newsletter of the DILLARD-JUDD CAMP 1828 ~

HIGHLANDER

Putnam
County
Tennessee

DISPATCH



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Sons of Confederate Veterans

January, 2007

LEE-JACKSON BANQUET

As is our tradition, the January meeting will be our Lee-Jackson Banquet. This year, we will meet at the Cookeville Community Center. The date for the evening will be 20 January, 2007, with the meal starting at 6 PM. Meat and drinks and paper goods will be provided. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, pot-luck style. Period dress or coat and tie encouraged but not required.

Retired Tennessee Tech history professor and author, Calvin Dickinson will be one of our speakers. In addition, Jennie Ivey, local newspaper columnist and author, will be on the dais to add to the presentation. Cal and Jennie have co-authored books and are currently working on another, with the subject being teen-age Tennessee soldiers in the War Between the States. They would be eager to learn of any of our ancestors who fought as teens in the WBTS.

The winners of the Dillard and Judd awards will be announced. New officers will assume their duties that night as well.

The Cookeville Community Center is on Carlen Drive, about ¼ mile north of Highway 70. The Center is behind the EMS building and directly west of Avery Trace Middle School.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 27, 2007- We resume regular 4th Tuesday night meetings at the Golden Corral. Dinner at 6pm if you wish and meeting starting around 7pm.

KROGER CARDS

Commander Bradley reminds us that using our Kroger gift cards is a painless way to support the SCV. Kroger gas is generally very competitively priced and 5% of our gas and grocery purchases these days would bring in a lot of revenue for the organization.

LET ME KNOW

I am coming up on two years as newsletter editor. If there is something that you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. Also, I need your histories about your ancestors for the “Our History” section. These stories, handed down from our parents and grandparents, will be lost if not recorded. I don’t need polished scholarly theses, just your notes about what your ancestor did in the war. Don’t let our forefathers be forgotten. Drop me a note at jmckinneymd@charter.net or talk with me at some future meeting. Thanks for your help.

OUR HISTORY

This month is the 200th anniversary of the birth of General Robert E. Lee. In honor of this great man, we will preempt the series of histories of our members’ ancestors and devote this space to a brief biography of General Lee.

Robert Edward Lee was born 19 January, 1807 in Virginia. His father was Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee, who was an important figure during the Revolutionary period of American history. Light Horse Harry Lee served as an officer in the Revolutionary War, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, a member of the Congress of the Confederation (the national

congress before the present Constitution), governor of Virginia, and member of Congress (after the adoption of the present Constitution). He wrote the description of George Washington as “First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen”. Thus, Light Horse Harry is famous in his own right.

Robert E. Lee followed his father’s example and set out to become an officer in the military. He studied at West Point and graduated with honors. His initial duties as an officer were with the Corps of Engineers. His impressive work during the Mexican War won him promotions and high praise from General Winfield Scott, who called R.E. Lee “... the greatest military genius in America”. By 1852, Lee was appointed superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point, where he served till 1855. He was then transferred to the Texas frontier where he served as a Lt. Col. in the cavalry. He happened to be home on leave in the Washington area (Arlington) when the John Brown rebellion occurred in 1859 and he was assigned to arrest Brown and restore order.

When the storm clouds of the War Between the States developed, Lee was called home. Lee did not favor succession and was opposed to slavery, long before the war having freed the slaves that his wife had inherited (compare this attitude with that of Union General U. S. Grant, who owned and worked slaves on his farm in Missouri before the war. Details of Grant’s slave involvement are obscured now). He hated to see the Union disrupted, but felt that Virginia was fighting for the same principles as the young colonies had in their succession from England. President Lincoln offered Robert E. Lee the command of the Union army for the War Between the States. Lee, though conflicted, could not bring himself to fight against his relatives, neighbors and home. He thus decided to resign his commission in the Union Army.

Robert E. Lee started his Confederate service as military advisor to Jeff Davis in 1861. Lee did not take command of the Army of Northern Virginia until General Joseph E. Johnston was wounded on 31 May, 1862. Lee led the Southern forces with great skill but was overwhelmed by superior numbers and supplies. He surrendered to General Grant 9 April, 1865.

After the war, General Lee applied for reinstatement of his citizenship. He did not include an Oath of Allegiance as he did not know that one was required. When he became aware of this, he sent in a notarized Oath, but it was “lost”. The Oath was found in the National Archives in 1970. In 1975, Senate Joint Resolution 23 was signed by President Ford, and General Lee’s citizenship was restored.

In August, 1865, General Lee accepted the position as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. Under his leadership, the college grew in size and reputation. Lee held this post until his death on 12 October, 1870. He is buried on the grounds of the school, which was renamed Washington and Lee University after his death.