

~ Official Newsletter of the DILLARD-JUDD CAMP 1828 ~

HIGHLANDER

Putnam
County
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DISPATCH



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Sons of Confederate Veterans

May, 2007

SLAVERY and the WAR

“Refutation of Slavery as the Major Cause of the War” will be the topic for Frank Scarpino’s program for our May meeting. In a time when the advocates of political correctness insist on perpetuating the myth that the South seceded from the Union in order to preserve the institution of slavery, a program that dwells on the truth of this matter is one that no member should miss.

Frank is an associate member of the Longstreet-Zollicoffer Camp #87 in Knoxville. It would be very difficult to find a more avid supporter of “the truth” than Frank. His ancestors immigrated to the U.S. after the WBTS and thus he does not have an ancestor that fought in the service of the Confederacy. He is a retired policeman from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He moved to Knoxville several years ago to live near his daughter and grandchildren.

As a young man, Frank became interested in the “War”. He quickly learned that the story he learned from reading old accounts of the WBTS did not match what he was taught in history class. Frank has been an avid student of the War for many years and has learned a mountain of facts and trivia that few people can match.

Frank has served as Program Director for Camp #87 for several years. He is an official Tour Guide at the Confederate Memorial Hall (Bleak House) in Knoxville. Four times he has been the Grand National Champion of the AmericaOnLine Mason-Dixon online CW trivia competition. He has also served as the Host for this competition and has originated the games and prepared the questions for other players. He is a registered speaker for the SCV Speakers Bureau for the Tennessee Division. Recently he served as editor for historical accuracy and wrote the forward for Dr. David Chaltas’ new book entitled Poetry of the Civil War, Poems of a Bygone Era”.

Come join us at the Golden Corral on 22 May, 2007, Interstate Drive in Cookeville, 6PM for supper and 7PM for the presentation and meeting.

Confederate Decoration Day

June 3 is Confederate Decoration Day in Tennessee. This day is observed because it is Jeff Davis’ birthday. This year, 3 June is the first Sunday and Camp #1828 will observe the holiday with a ceremony at the Cookeville City Cemetery. Members of the UDC, OCR and the SCV will join together to remember the service and sacrifices of our Confederate ancestors. The program will start at 2PM, Sunday, 3 June, 2007 at the Confederate Memorial in Cookeville City Cemetery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19, 2007- Memorial service for Ezekiel L. Watson, 1:30PM at the Woods Cemetery in Warren County, TN. Contact Steve Marcrom if you wish to help with the Honor Guard.

May 22, 2007- Monthly meeting, 6PM supper, 7PM meeting. Golden Corral. See cover.

June 3, 2007- Confederate Decoration Day, 2PM. Confederate Memorial at the Cookeville City Cemetery.

June 10, 2007- Texas Rangers hold a ceremony to honor their fallen brothers at the Officer House near Monterey, Tennessee. Program begins at 1PM. Op Walker to give history of the incident at the Officer House. To get to the Officer House, leave Monterey on Route 84 toward Livingston. Go about 4 miles and go PAST a sign for Ray's Cemetery and then turn right on the NEXT road (past the Ray's Cemetery sign). Go about 3 miles on this road and the Officer house will be on your left.

June 26, 2007- Regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral. Details later.

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.

FORREST PICNIC

Mark your calendars for the Forrest Picnic in July. Steve Marcrom is working on details. 21 July will be the day. Location for the picnic has not been finalized. More details to be given later. Bring friends and family for a potluck lunch with hamburgers and hotdogs provided. This is a great time to get to know your compatriots in the Highlands area of the SCV.

OUR HISTORY

This month, Michael D. Williams of Cookeville, a new member of the camp, shares with us the story of his ancestors. Mr. Williams did not have much information on his ancestors until he began visiting the camp meetings. Ed Butler encouraged Mr. Williams to take his ancestors back as far as he could and then Ed got the information to Knox Martin who found 7 Confederate ancestors for Mr. Williams in just a few days of research.

Mike Williams' Great-Great-Great Grandfather was Thomas Gaw. Thomas enlisted in Company "H" of the 22nd Tennessee Infantry Battalion on 2 October, 1862 at Mill Creek. Details of the next few months are sketchy, but he shows up again in early 1863 with his cousin Andrew Jackson Gaw with Company "B", 4th Tennessee Cavalry. Thomas seems to have gone AWOL from the infantry to join the cavalry.

It is not surprising that the Gaw cousins seemed to stick together. There were several double first cousins in the family. In Overton county in the mid 1800's, three Rutledge sisters and one Rutledge brother married three Gaw brothers and one Gaw sister. In all the four couples had at least 28 children, all of whom would have been double first cousins to each other.

In addition to Thomas' cousin Andrew J. Gaw, other cousins were brothers Arkley and Vandover Gaw. They both joined Hunter's Missouri Cavalry Regiment. They were both captured and both ended up in Alton Federal Prison in Illinois. Arkley died in prison 11 November, 1864 of anemia and Vandover died December, 1864. Arkley and Vandover had two other brothers. Shadrack Gaw joined Company "I" of the 25th Tennessee Infantry as a private on 30 July, 1861. Shadrack died of fever in camp at Tupelo, Mississippi in July, 1862. Armel Gaw enlisted in Company "D" of the 22nd Tennessee Infantry in December, 1862(?) in Murfreesboro. Records are again a bit sketchy but it appears that Armel gained the rank of Sergeant. He may have gone AWOL from the 22nd but later ended up in the 25th, according to his Civil War Census record.

One other relative in the Gaw family was Francis Marion Gaw, brother of Andrew Jackson Gaw. Francis enlisted in Company "D" of the 25th Tennessee Infantry Regiment on 11 October, 1861. He was discharged due to disability on 10 September, 1862.

Even the family members that did not go off to war suffered during the War. Family tradition is that Federal raiders came thru and stole all the stored food and livestock from the family farms. The families had to scrap by on what food they could forage.

