

~ Official Newsletter of the DILLARD-JUDD CAMP 1828 ~

HIGHLANDER

Putnam
County
Tennessee

DISPATCH



VOLUME IX NUMBER 9

Sons of Confederate Veterans

September, 2007

Was Sherman a Terrorist?

The September meeting is set for Tuesday, 25 September, 2007 at the Golden Corral Restaurant on Interstate Drive. In addition to the business meeting, we will have a guest speaker. Compatriot John Avery Emison is a sixth generation Tennessean. He was born and raised in Crockett County. His ancestor, William Ahab Johnson, served in the 18th Tennessee Cavalry, Company I, which surrendered with General Forrest in Gainesville, Alabama on 10 May, 1865. Another ancestor, the Honorable William Waightsill Avery, served in the First Confederate Congress from North Carolina. Compatriot Emison was educated in the South and West and received the Ph.D. degree in Resource Geography from Oregon State University in 1979. He is writing a book based on U.S. Supreme Court decisions that were the law of the land in 1860. The thesis of the book is that the Southern states had every right to secede in 1860—that it was Lincoln's counter-revolution to overturn the principle of 'consent of the governed' that was illegal. The tentative title of the book is "Lincoln uber alles". Emison is an avid shooter, gun owner, and dove hunter

Compatriot Emison will speak on the topic of Sherman's march to the sea. He will explore whether Sherman's actions in the war meet the definition of "domestic terrorism" under the 2001 USA Patriot Act.

Plan to meet at 6PM for a buffet meal, with a special group price, followed by the meeting and speaker at 7PM.

Re-Enactments

There are two upcoming re-enactments in our area. Both promise to be educational and entertaining. The "Civil War Educational Bivouac" is sponsored by The Borderlands Foundation. There will be an educational program for school children Friday, 21 September 9AM till 6PM. Exhibition battles are Saturday 3PM and Sunday 2PM. Events will be located in a field adjacent to Highway 111 in Byrdstown, TN at the West Main Street junction. You can get more info at www.theborderlands.org.

The next weekend there is a re-enactment at Somerset, Kentucky. The events will happen at the Mill Springs Battlefield, 8 miles west of Somerset, Kentucky. On Saturday, 29 September the re-enactors will engage in The Battle of Dutton Hill and also The Fight for the Cornfield. On Sunday, the Dawn Attack in the Fog and the Fight of the Split Rail Fence will be staged. There is a nice museum on the property with professional exhibits. More information can be found at www.millsprings.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22, 2007- Blue and Gray Civil War Costume Ball. 399 Old Spencer Mill Road, Burns, Dickson County, Tennessee. Social hour 5PM. Grand March 6:30PM. Ed Butler says it is “a great big time”.

September 25, 2007- Monthly meeting at the Golden Corral. See front page.

FUND RAISER FOR DILLARD-JUDD

Shortly before his death, Walter Anderson traded his prized replica Colt 1851 Revolver to his nephew Wendell Pike. Walter used this pistol in Honor Guard ceremonies numerous times. After Walter's death, Wendell volunteered to give this gun to the camp to offer as the prize for a raffle to raise money for Camp 1828. Some of the money raised will be given to the Division in response to Dr. Bradley's challenge to raise \$100,000, to be used for Heritage ADVANCE, not just defense.

Tickets for the raffle will be on sale from Dillard-Judd members over the next six months, with the drawing planned for the Lee-Jackson Banquet in January, 2008. Tickets will be available at our monthly meetings. See also the flier enclosed with this newsletter.

The members of the camp are indebted to Wendell Pike for his generous gift.

DUES DUE

SCV national and camp dues are payable now (as of 1 July, 2007) and will be considered delinquent at the end of October. Why not write a check now and get this little chore out of the way. Total due is \$35 but you could add a donation toward the \$1000 challenge that Commander Bradley issued to the camps. Address your payment envelope to:

Dillard-Judd Camp 1828
Sons of Confederate Veterans
P. O. Box 205
Cookeville, TN 38506-0205.

Thanks

OUR HISTORY

Recently, Calvin Dickenson, retired Tennessee Tech Professor, let me borrow a folder of letters labeled "Civil War Letters, Smith County". I am not sure of the name of the collector, but most of the letters are related to James B. Hale. The letters provide an interesting insight into the lives and thoughts of the time. Here is an example. (There is very little punctuation)

Mr. J. B. Hale, Home Smith Co. Tennessee, Sept. 15, 1861

Sir, it is with the most profound pleasure I learn that you were all well and enjoying yourselves as well as the hardships of camp life would permit. This beautiful Sabbath morning finds us all well...our crops are fine, very fine the rains set in just in time to save our corn, my new ground looks like a cane break and the ears are fine and large. My hogs are in fine order...I have just bin to Nashville and disposed of my last bacon at 20cts per lb. There were three wagons went down with us and Wash McGee was in the crowd and John went with him to get his passport to his regiment. We gave him some mail for his journey and left him on Thursday in Nashville. Everything in Nashville is very high espeshially (sic) coffee and salt...The news from Kentucky is not promising for Secession...if we could get Kentucky we would have as much Territory as I want and we could whip the Yankees...You told me that you could go into battle with as much calmness as you could write a letter, I have no doubt that being out on campaign tour disperses a great deal of the fears of battle....You cannot imagine the difference in this section of the country since you left here the by-paths have almost grown up for want of travel I was astonished myself the other day when going down in the Denny settlement and to Uncle Henry Ward's in many places where the road used to be kept perfectly clean the grass has almost covered it up the mill and post office road are most traveled now the boys are gone and the girls must be lonesome.....Well next Sunday is the fourth of September but we have no camp meeting we will have a protracted meeting I wish you boys could be there. We will miss you so much though providence has cast your lots in a distant land, but I hope not to remain long I trust that He will cast a barrier in the way of the Northern aggressors and bring them to their sober senses and cause them to cease their unholy aggressions upon us and seek a treaty with us by which peace may be made and our county left in peace and our friends returned to their peaceful avocations of life which is all we ask. It seems that Heaven has smiled upon us so far in our efforts to maintain our independence for which we should be profoundly grateful (sic) to the great ruler of human events whose eyes are ever upon the writeous (sic) and whose ear is ever open to their cries who has promised that the writeous (sic) should not be trampled under foot....It would seem that the Yankees had received some very good lessons by this time they have not gained a single victory worth naming but have lost several battles. We are in expectations of some thing from Washington daily I would not be at all surprised to hear that they had taken Washington at no time or that you had whipped them out in West Va. And may the boys of Smith County be spared is my sincere desire you must look over bad writing and must write to me soon write me as long a letter as you can and give me as good a detail of your adventures as possible so good by for the present I remain your friend

J. B. Ward