

~ Official Newsletter of the DILLARD-JUDD CAMP 1828 ~

HIGHLANDER

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DISPATCH



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APRIL MEETING

The Dillard-Judd Camp 1828 of the SCV will meet on the regular night, the fourth Tuesday, which this month will be Tuesday, 27 April, 2010. The meeting will be at the Putnam County Library, on Broad Street, at 7PM.

We are honored to have Compatriot Scott Guthrie, Commander of the Hamby Camp, #1750 from Crossville, as our speaker that night. His topic will be "The Glory Hour", an hour by hour account of one day in the battle of Shiloh. Commander Guthrie has spoken to us before and is an enthusiastic student of the War and is an avid re-enactor as well.

Please invite a friend or even a member who hasn't been to a meeting lately. This will be a good time to invite friends or family to see what the SCV is about. The recruiting contest is over but we will always welcome new members who love the South.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23, 24, and 25, 2010- Tennessee Division Reunion, hosted by the Benjamin F. Cheatham Camp 72 of Manchester, Tennessee.

May 15, 2010- After discussion at the March meeting, we decided to hold a Spring Shooting Match at Bend of the River. Competition will be with black powder guns, but come and shoot whatever you have.

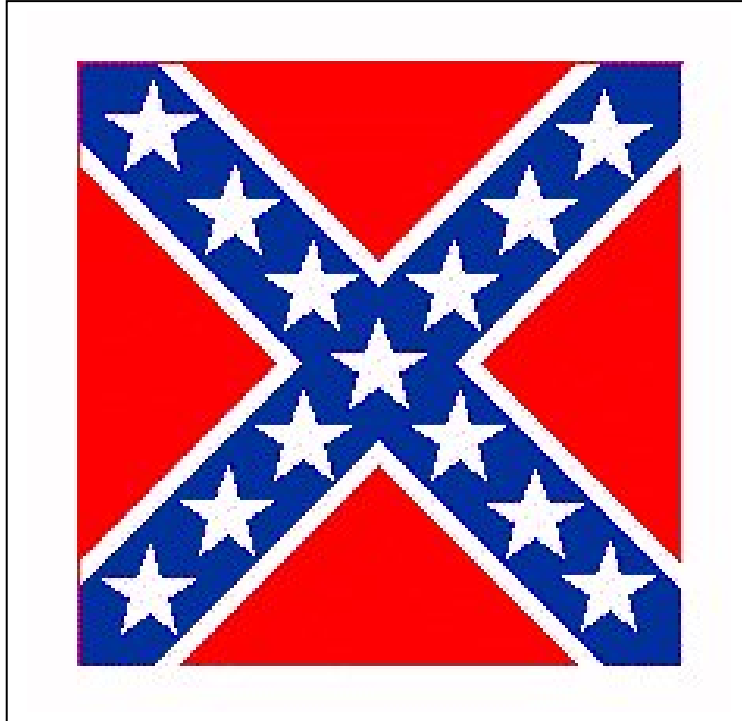
May 25, 2010- Regular monthly meeting of the Dillard-Judd camp.

The division web address is www.tennessee-scv.org/. The Dillard-Judd web site address is www.tennessee-scv.org/Camp1828/index.htm.

MARCH MINUTES

The Dillard- Judd Camp met 23 March, 2010. Adjutant Todd was not present to give a report. In discussion of the Camp calendar, Dr. Barnes suggested that we have a Spring Shoot at Bend of the River. After discussion and consultation with the calendar, we decided on 15 May, 2010 at 8AM. Competition will be with black powder, but members and guests can bring and shoot any weapon they wish. There will be a charge (usually \$5) to use the range.

The main speaker for the evening was Brigade Commander Michael Wilson, who asked for input on the planning for the 150th anniversary of the War Between the States. Dr. Op Walker from Monterey, and Commander Guthrie plus another member of the Crossville camp came as well. No final decisions were made, but a full scale re-enactment would be a major undertaking. A dinner theater/play and a cemetery walk sounded more appealing to reach the general public as well as being more logistically reasonable.



150 YEARS AGO- SETTING THE STAGE

The next several years, especially 2010 through 2015, will be special times of remembrance for these will be the 150th anniversary years for the War Between the States. However, the events of 1860 did not happen in a vacuum. There were political and social events that set the stage for what happened with the elections of 1860 and the reactions to that election. Let's look back to 1860, 150 years ago.

The Democrat National Convention was held in April, 1860, in the town of Charleston, South Carolina. By this time, the party was deeply divided over how to address the question of slavery in the territories. The Dred Scott decision by the US Supreme Court in 1857 held that slavery was constitutionally protected in all federal territories. The hardcore Southern Democrats or "Fire Eaters" wanted the platform of the party to affirm the Dred Scott decision. The front running candidate, Stephen Douglas of Illinois, preferred the policy of Popular Sovereignty or the idea that the residents of each territory could decide for themselves whether to allow slavery. The dispute over this plank of the platform split the convention, with the Fire Eaters walking out. With 50 Southern delegates gone, no candidate could amass the number of votes needed to be declared the candidate of the convention.

The two factions of the Democrat Party later held independent Conventions, both in Baltimore, Maryland, and elected two slates of candidates for the general election. Stephen Douglas, senator from Illinois, was the nominee of the main Democrat Party and John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, the sitting Vice President, was the nominee of the Southern or Breckinridge Democrats. This split in the Democrat party almost guaranteed the election of the Republican nominee, Abraham Lincoln.

The Republican Convention was held in Chicago in May, 1860. The initial front runner was William Seward of New York. However, because of old political baggage, the established candidates could not amass the needed number of votes and so, on the third ballot, Abraham Lincoln was selected as the Republican nominee. Lincoln was thought to be a good speaker and was considered a moderate. Also, being from Illinois, he could help to bring in votes from the Western states. The Republican platform included antislavery positions as well as protective tariffs, which were strongly opposed by the Southern states. As a consequence, the Republican candidate did not even bother to get on the ballot in 8 of the 9 traditionally Southern states. Lincoln was on the ballot in Virginia, but only carried 1% of the votes. Thus, Lincoln was elected by Northern and Western states. He seemed completely unconcerned about the positions and interests of the South; indeed, he was viewed as openly hostile to the Southern concerns. In some of his earlier speeches, Lincoln had indicated that there was no way to compromise with the South on the question of slavery and that the "rightness" of the antislavery position would provide the "might" to overcome Southern opposition. Thus the stage was set for Southern secession upon Republican election.