

Official Newsletter of the DILLARD-JUDD CAMP 1828 ~

# HIGHLANDER

Putnam  
County  
Tennessee

# DISPATCH



VOLUME XVI NUMBER 2

Sons of Confederate Veterans

MARCH, 2014

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello Compatriots and friends of Dillard-Judd camp # 1828. I hope y'all are enjoying these new temperatures we are having. I'm ready for spring. Our 150th Anniversary "Battle of Dug Hill Remembrance Ceremony" was a good affair. I believe there were 8 camps of the Brigade represented, various OCR chapters ( who decorated the 5 known Veteran's grave with battle flags & Captain Ferguson's grave with the OCR wreath), and UDC ladies present. We had 9 riflemen on the honor guard (all Highland Brigade members), Tommy Phillips played Taps. I spoke just a little. Ken Tyler spoke about the battle & Champ Ferguson. There was some difficulty in hearing Ken. He didn't speak loud enough. If I'd have known, I'd gotten Larry Gunnels of the Gainesboro camp bring his P A system. There were numerous visitors, one even from Nashville. Overall, it was a great day to remember the successes of the Confederate soldiers of our area on 22 February 1864....The OCR ladies Tea on the 8th of March, at Pat Butler's house was a success. We men had a great time too. We got to "sample" all the fixins the ladys made. Sure is nice to be associated with so many ladys who honor & respect our ancestors....Coming up next month (26 April, 1 p.m.) there will be a Memorial service for the 6 Confederate soldiers who were gunned down & killed at the Officer House 150 years ago this month, at the Conley Cemetery in Overton County....Also, on the 17th & 18th of May the re-enactment of "The Affair at Travisville", near Byrdstown, Tn will happen. Do try & come to watch if at all possible. My reenacting unit will be there (Co. E, 43rd Tn Infantry) & some are coming all the way from Southern Ohio (copperheads), Virginia, South east Ky, & Cumberland Gap to help put it on. Should be a good 1st armed conflict of the War in Tennessee reenactment (1861)....Don't forget to support the Tn Division & buy an SCV license plate for your vehicles, "Buy A Tag, Save A Flag", & use your Kroger gift cards issued by the Division. I hear our scheduled speaker has cancelled & our replacement speaker will be a great treat to hear. We've heard him before on other subjects. Hope to see you at Shoney's Rest. on South Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville, at 6 p.m. to eat, & 7 p.m. when our monthly meeting starts. Deo

Vindice, Mike Williams, Commander (931) 310-9176

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**17 March, 2014** Monthly meeting of the Dillard-Judd Camp. Eat at 6pm with program at 7pm. Shoney's on South Jefferson. Frank Scarpino, from Knoxville, is to speak. If you haven't yet, think about the idea of the camp sponsoring a student to attend the Abbeville Institute this summer for a week of scholarly lectures on the WBTS and the old South.

**11-13 April, 2014**- Tennessee Division Reunion. Union City, TN. Highlights include optional visit to Dixie Gun Works and Banquet speaker Col. Tom McKenney, author of Jack Hinson's One Man War. Contact Bill Foster at (731)-693-4469 or Jimmy Williams at (731)-693-3465.

**21 April, 2014**- April Dillard-Judd meeting

**17-18 May, 2014**- Re-enactment of Affair at Travisville.



**1861-1865**

**THE SESQUICENTENNIAL**

Early March, 1864 brought about a very interesting but little discussed event. On 1 March, 1864, Curtis Lee, the son of Robert E. Lee, turned back a force of 500 cavalry under the command of Ulric Dahlgren. The union force was 2 miles west of Richmond, VA. The next day, Fitzhugh Lee, the nephew of Robert E. Lee, trapped the same union forces of Dahlgren after a raid on Richmond. Dahlgren and 109 of his men were killed. Later that day, 2 March, William Littlepage, a 13 year old boy, was going thru the pockets of the dead union soldiers. On the body of Dahlgren, the boy found a small notebook with two pages on official union army stationery. The boy gave these papers to a local teacher who was a member of the Virginia home guard. The papers turned out to be signed orders directing Dahlgren and his men to assassinate President Davis and his staff and to burn the city of Richmond.

The papers made their way through the chain of command quickly and by 4 March were read by President Davis. The papers were published in the Richmond newspapers on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March and also spread about in Europe to try and show the barbarous nature of the Union campaign against the South. The Union immediately denied the papers and denounced them as forgeries, spread by the despicable Southerners to discredit the virtuous north.

After the surrender of the CSA, in April of 1865, the contents of the Confederate government offices were carried back to Washington. The Dahlgren papers were in the documents that were carried back. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton ordered that the Dahlgren papers be delivered to him personally and they have not been seen since. Fortunately, photographs of the papers had been made and those images were spread overseas prior to the surrender and were thus not destroyed.

Controversy about the truth of the whole matter has clouded the events, but recent study of the images support the Southern story—that Dahlgren and his men were on an assassination mission. Some students of the event even speculate that John Wilkes Booth was so enraged by the story that he began to formulate a plan the pay the north back. However, that is just speculation with no solid proof.

In other matters, 9 March was the day that U. S. Grant was promoted to Lt. General and given command of all active Union forces. Shortly after that, General Henry Halleck asked to be relieved of duty.

During the last half of March, Nathan B. Forrest began a raid into western Tennessee and by 24 March he and his men had seized Union City, in the northwest corner of Tennessee.