



TRAVELLER

Award Winning Publication of the General Robert E. Lee
Camp, #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN
Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry
DEO VINDICE!

March 12, 2018



CAMP MEETING

March 12, 2018

Speaker: Dore Dorris

**Topic: "Celebration Plans For
Germantown's Black Confederate"**

**7:00 p.m. at the at the Germantown
Regional History and Genealogy Center**

Don't miss our next meeting!

The St Albans Raid



Main Street, St. Albans, Vermont just before the raid. Lt. Bennett Young stayed in the "Tremont House Hotel," shown across the road.

The war was dragging painfully on to its ultimate conclusion when in 1864 a small band of Confederate troopers launched a surprise attack on St. Albans in Vermont, robbing and burning the small town in an attempt to strike terror into defenseless civilians throughout the north. The daring raid is one of the lesser known chapters of the war. Historian James Fouts says, "It's kind of the backwater of Civil War history, it's the northernmost Confederate land action during the war but

it takes place way the heck up in Vermont, which is 500 or 600 miles away from where the major scene of the action was taking place down in Virginia and farther south. It catches people a little bit by surprise that Confederates were active as far north as Vermont." The Confederacy was 'returning the compliments' of numerous Northern raids into the South when 21 year-old Confederate Lieutenant Bennett Henderson Young was the officer commanding the raid. Young claimed that a band of Union troops raided and plundered his Kentucky town and committed an "outrageous insult" on their women, in particular a woman he planned to marry. This is related in a book by Oscar A. Kinchen, "Daredevils of the Confederate Army. The story of the St. Albans Raiders." So horrific were the young woman's injuries that she died a few weeks later. This vile act 'galvanized' and prompted a vengeful and deeply hurt Bennett Young to enlist in the Confederate Army.

Young was born in Nicholasville, Kentucky. His birthplace is now on the National Register of Historic Places. He was 18 when he enlisted as a private in the Confederate 8th Kentucky Cavalry, a unit that became a part of General John Hunt Morgan's legendary cavalry command. Captured in Morgan's 1863 raid into Ohio, Young was able to escape to Canada in the Autumn of that year and headed back south via Nova Scotia and Bermuda. He proposed Canada-based raids on the Union as a means of building the Confederate treasury and forcing the North to protect their northern border as a diversion. Young was commissioned 1st Lt. and returned to Canada, there he recruited other escapees to participate in the 19 October 1864 raid on St. Albans, Vermont, a quiet town 15 miles (25 km) from the Canada-US border. Canada had been on a permanent war footing with the North that threatened invasion as early as the beginning of the war. "Young and his recruits had official approval from the Confederate Government to launch raids against St. Albans and other northern towns. Bennett Young was actually encouraged or ordered, if that's the word you want to use, to enlist a

group of men, no more than 20, which he did in order to pull off raids across the northern border, Bennett Young actually enlisted 23 young men into what he called the '5th Company, Confederate States of America Retributors'-James Fouts." All the troopers were officially mustered in as Confederate soldiers with the intent to commit mayhem across the northern border.

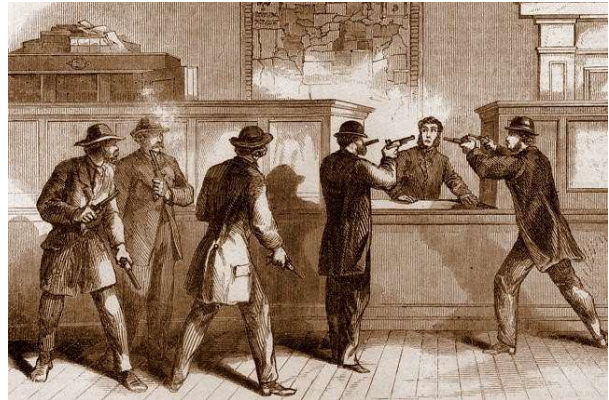
Even though he still yearned for revenge, a fact written on his face in the above picture, Young kept his head and remained focused on the strategic values of destroying valuable northern resources, seizing plunder for the Confederacy and forcing the Union to divert soldiers from Southern battlefields to protect their far flung northern frontier. It was a strike designed to bring fear to those parts of Northern States that hitherto felt safe, simply by their geographic obscurity. The raiders chose St. Albans for their first attack because it was located so close to the Canadian border. According to the St. Albans Raid Commemoration Committee, St. Albans was then an attractive and busy commercial and manufacturing center with a population of some 2,000. Over the course of ten days, between 18 and 22 Confederates in disguise arrived in small groups from Canada. The 'soldiers' in fact should be seen more as spies as they blended in with the local population making notes of the town's banks and horse stables. Passing himself off as a charming ministry student, Young even received a personal guided tour of the Vermont Governor's Mansion from the First Lady herself. Here was a chance to abduct her but his principles kept him focused on the bigger picture.



Raiders compel hostages to swear an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy

It was 3 pm on 19 October 1864 when the raiders confronted townsfolk outside a hotel and announced their true identities and intentions. Young boldly announced, "I take possession of this town in the name of the Confederate States of America." Pistol-wielding Confederates wore civilian clothing during the raid rather than Confederate uniforms, much like the Great

Train Robbery in the South by Union men. The raiders divided into groups with one assigned to hold residents hostage on the Village Green, while others robbed three of the town's banks. One raider is quoted as saying at the Bank of St Albans, "We are Confederate soldiers detailed from General [Jubal] Early's army to come north to rob and plunder, the same as your soldiers are doing in the Shenandoah Valley and in other parts of the South, we'll take your money and if you resist, we'll blow your brains out." In his book Kinchen describes how the raiders forced their prisoners to swear an oath, "...to uphold the Confederacy and its beloved President, Jefferson Davis and never to do anything to the injury of the Confederate cause, nor to spread alarm of the raid until their captors were well out of town."



The scene inside one of three robbed banks

At the Franklin County Bank, raiders locked an employee and patron in a vault. A resident who happened to enter the First National Bank tackled one of the raiders to the ground but surrendered only when the Confederates drew pistols on him. "We represent the Confederate States of America," one of the raider's declared. "We have come to retaliate for the acts committed against our people by General [William] Sherman. You have got a very nice village here, and if there is the least resistance, we'll burn it to the ground."

While the banks were being robbed, Young and other raiders patrolled the town's main thoroughfare where they captured as many townsfolk as could be found. They gathered the hostages on the Village Green to prevent them from informing nearby factory workers of what was happening. The Confederates shot an elderly man who refused to surrender and another who tried to stop Young from stealing a horse, neither wounds proved fatal.

The raiders departed with their loot, stolen horses and saddles, Lt. Young ordered his men to set fire to various buildings, using a chemical concoction of highly flammable liquid called "Greek Fire." By the time the band of raiders left, flames were spreading along

buildings and frenzied villagers were hurriedly gathering their own firearms to chase after the Confederates. A crowd of townsfolk, led by a recently discharged Union Captain George Conger, succeeded in wounding two or three of the Confederates during their escape. On their part Confederates shot and killed one civilian; ironically, according to Kinchen, the only fatality of the entire raid, a worker from out of town who had a reputation for sympathizing with the Confederacy. The Greek Fire only destroyed a single woodshed with minor damage to others but a burning bridge helped Confederates stay ahead of pursuers and escape back across the border into Canada. Greek Fire is a combustible compound emitted by a flame-throwing weapon, used to set light to enemy ships. It was first used by the Greeks besieged in Constantinople (673–8). It ignited on contact with water, and was probably based on naphtha and quicklime.



Six of the 21 Confederate raiders in 1864, the leader, Lt. Bennett Young, is seen seated on the right

According to the Commemoration Committee, the Confederates were estimated to have stolen \$208,000 of which only \$87,000 was later recovered. Fouts estimates, “That \$208,000 would be about \$3.2 million today, it was a considerable sum of money.” The raid certainly achieved its main objective, spreading widespread panic along the Union’s northern border and shook the citizens out of their complacency.

While some would see this as heroic payback, according to Historian James Fouts, “This was a terrorist raid, really, it scared the pants off of people in St. Albans.” There is that interesting old wart again, when does a raid during a war become terrorist? It depends what side you are on but should be viewed in the light of what the North delivered to the South. While civilians near the Canadian border feared more raids, they never came. Much like the Great Train Robbery, the raid resulted in little impact on the outcome of war. It did however remind the North that what you do in the South can be done in your North. American Vigilantes crossed the border and captured 14 of the Confederates within 24 hours, turning them over to Canadian authorities.

Jurisdiction became a hot issue and when they stood trial in Canada none were convicted or extradited, Canadian Judges believed the defendants acted as war combatants. Fouts says, “During his trial Bennett Young never showed any remorse, he seemed quite proud of what he did.”

It was later claimed by some residents that Young enjoyed taunting his victims in St. Albans in the days following the raid but in spite of his reasons for waging war, he seems to have behaved with remarkable gallantry and showed courtesy to the St. Albans community. He later sent payment for his stay at the Tremont House Hotel thanking his host as well as posting a letter informing residents, “You may now lower your hands.” The bitterness over the tragedy that struck home in Kentucky went with the war.

At war’s end, Lt. Young was one of many Confederate officers not immediately pardoned by President Andrew Johnson’s amnesty, however his fellow raiders were allowed to return home. Faced with grim prospects should he return, Lt. Young left America and spent time studying law and literature in Ireland and at the University of Edinburgh. When amnesty was eventually granted in 1868 he went back to the United States where he became a prominent attorney in Louisville, Kentucky. His philanthropic works were many, Young founded the first orphanage for blacks in Louisville, a school for the blind, and did much voluntary work for the poor. He also worked as President of the Louisville Southern Railroad, wrote and published books and was National Commander of the United Confederate Veterans. Mr Fouts says, “Young didn’t publicly speak about the raid a great deal, unless it was among his Confederate veterans, the guys that would understandably know what he was talking about and certainly know the situation in which he found himself.”



Bennett Henderson Young, as Commander of UCV was made a General. He proudly wears his uniform in this picture late in life. He died in Louisville, Kentucky in 1919.

DID YOU KNOW?

by Beecher Smith

WIVES WHO WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

From his book *Civil War Curiosities*, the late Webb Garrison reports two incidents of wives whose dedication went above and beyond the call of duty:

“Novelist Martha Caroline Keller, author of *Love and Rebellion*, described a pair of Confederates she believed to have been at Gettysburg. One of them, a ‘dreaming boy who fought with tiger fierceness,’ lay beside an older soldier. Instead of sleeping, ‘this strong manly warrior’ remained awake to ‘guard the sleeping youth.’

“Their comrades considered them to be father and son. Actually, Keller wrote, ‘This fair young son is the man’s wife.’

“Some of the men of the Twenty-sixth North Carolina Regiment noticed that Sam and Keith Blalock seemed to have an unusually close relationship. When questioned, Keith explained that they were old friends who had grown up in the same town and were distantly related.

“It was months before officers discovered that Sam’s real name was Malinda. When Keith signed up to fight the Yankees, his wife put on men’s attire and went with him to war.”

END

source:

Garrison, Web. *Civil War Curiosities*, “Chapter 4: Wives Did More Than Knit Socks,” Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1994.

Upcoming Events Calendar

- Aril 7th Park clean up day at Ft Germantown
- April 8th Shelby County History Festival at Hillwood Hall / Davies Manor
- May 5th. Pleasant Hill Cemetery Memorial Service



The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640 Sons of Confederate Veterans

Go to our website:

<http://www.tennessee-scv.org/camp1640/>

Or visit our Facebook pages at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BluffCityGraysMemphis>

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| Eugene Callaway | John Cole |
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| William C. Wilson | |

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Help Save General Forrest



The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to remove the Forrest Equestrian Statue from Forrest Park and to dig up the graves of General Forrest and his wife MaryAnn from beneath the statue.

The SCV and the Forrest family descendants must raise money to fight the city in this second attack on General Forrest. We need your help.

Help us to save the graves and monument of General Forrest

Can you, or your camp or Division donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

Please sign me up as a supporter. No membership fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contribute through PayPal at our ally at : www.citizenstosaveourparks.org

Please donate to our cause: Amount \$ _____ check number _____

Forrest Park Defense Fund

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124

COLLECTOR'S

FORREST COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Solid bronze

\$ 10 each — All proceeds go to

Parks Defense Fund

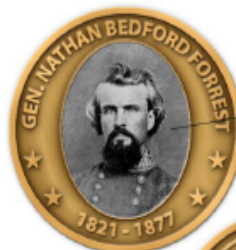
Contact: Harry Adams, Forrest Camp 215

harryadamscsa@gmail.com

\$10 each, plus \$1 each for shipping. Send your check to

Save the Parks

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124



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The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans

and

The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,

Order of the Confederate Rose

P.O. Box 171251

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Steve M. McIntyre, Editor

Next Camp Meeting ** March 12, 2018

Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN