

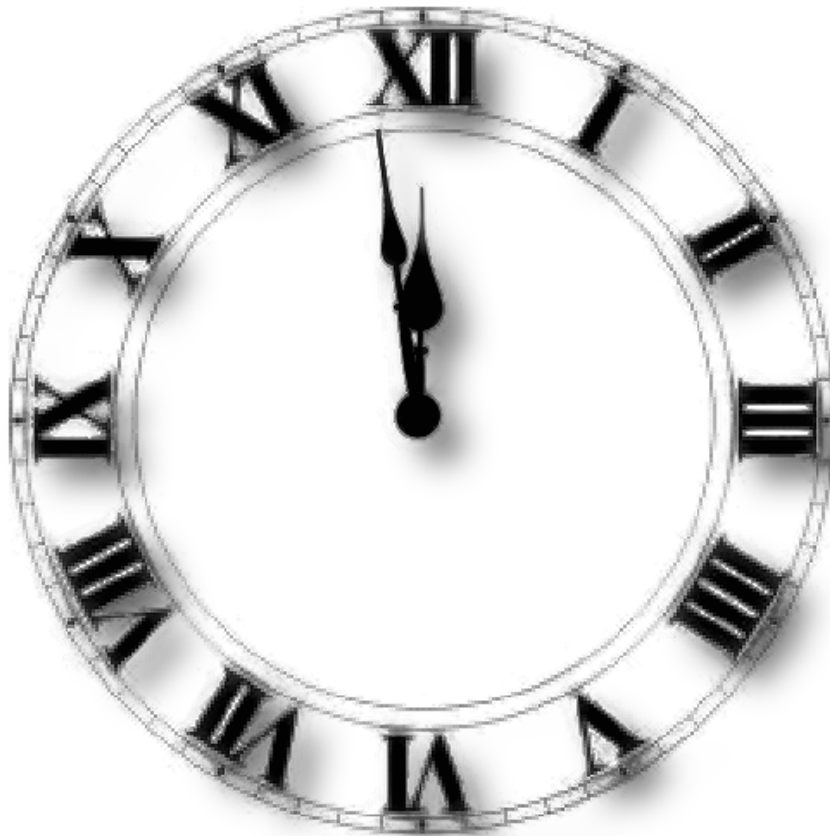
Patriotic & Progressive™

THE WEBFOOT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION IN THE INTEREST OF

CONFEDERATE VETERAN DESCENDANTS AND KINDRED TOPICS

Official Organ Of The
Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Announcement

Nominations for Camp officers were made on November 20th, 2007. ALL positions are open and elections are to be held on December 18th, 2007 with seats being taken on January 16, 2008.

The following individuals were nominated for the following positions:

Commander

Jason Boshers

Jack Taylor

Adjutant

James 'Jay' Smith

Joe Shannon

Lt. Commander

Greg Atwell

Quartermaster

David Walker

Judge Advocate

Charles Bates

Mail in ballots was proposed by Commander Lovett for those who cannot attend the meeting at the December 18th meeting. If you cannot attend, please send in your choice for office to the following address.

Sam Watkins Camp #29

c/o 701 Sugar Bend Drive

Columbia, TN 38401-6001

Members in arrears may NOT vote until payment of 42 dollars is made (37 dues and 5 dollars reinstatement fee) on or before December 18th.

MUSEUM SKIRMISH—12/12/07 TAKEN FROM FREDERICKSBURG.COM

THE CIVIL WAR LIFE MUSEUM is a nice little museum in Massaponax that hopes to be a nice big museum near Spotsylvania Courthouse, an aspiration partly hinging on its fledgling campaign to raise \$12 million over the next five years. The current museum, which features interesting exhibits and artifacts, a 3-D theater, a gift shop, and other attractions, is a labor of love on the part of its owners, and who can be against love?

But Spotsylvania supervisors shouldn't themselves get inordinately mushy over the local museum. Love is blind, but county leaders should see clearly the bright possibilities presented by the relocation of part of the high-cachet Museum of the Confederacy to Chancellorsville. They should do what they reasonably can to hasten the move--even if Terry Thomann, the Civil War Life Museum's director, isn't exactly welcoming this perceived competitor with a cannon salute and belles in hoop skirts.

After all, the huge expansion of Mr. Thomann's museum, now in the hands of a fundraising foundation, may be a go, a slow-go, or a no-go. The failure of Doug Wilder's National Slavery Museum to so far get much philanthropic traction, even with Bill Cosby kazooing it, is instructive. The Museum of the Confederacy, on the other hand, is well-established (in 1896), scholarly (Lee biographer Douglas Southall Freeman cut his teeth there), and growing. Of its 3,900 members (all 50 states, 13 countries), 1,100 joined within the last year or so, and its revenues have jumped 30 percent in the last year alone to more than \$2.1 million. Its only stubbed toe is visitation--down due to engulfing development in downtown Richmond. That's why the museum wants to split into a multisite "system," including a building at Chancellorsville.

Good Mr. Thomann suggests that the Confederate museum move under his new roof (if his own museum ever moves under it), but, in terms of status, that's like the Fredericksburg Museum & Culture Center inviting the Smithsonian as a lodger. Anyway, would Mr. Thomann feel contaminated by the MOC presence? He claims, after all, that the term "Confederacy" carries the baggage of slavery. But the MOC isn't necessarily any more "pro"-Confederate than the Holocaust Museum is "pro"-Holocaust. Its name states a fact, not an opinion.

Merging museums as though they were A&W Root Beer and Long John Silver's strikes no one as a sound idea except the weaker party who fears he cannot vie with the stronger. The Civil War Life Museum should have more confidence. Its theme differs from that of the Museum of the Confederacy, which in Richmond steers patrons to the Civil War Visitor Center and other related sites. The extra visitors the MOC would bring to this area would increase not only battlefield visitation but also, more than likely, attendance at all similar venues. There's enough history in these parts for everybody.



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Nov 20th Minutes

On Tuesday Nov. 20th 2007, the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 assembled for the eleventh official meeting of the year. Camp meeting focused on nominations for camp officers for the 2008 year.

7:03PM- meeting called to order by Camp Commander, Kenneth Lovett. Meeting begins with prayer. Following prayer, the Camp gave the honorary salute to the Camp Confederate flag and pledge to the U.S. Flag

Lovett ask for motion that camp accept minutes for previous meeting. Greg Atwell makes motion—no objections.

7:05PM—Adjutant Jack Taylor gives finance report and balance of all camp funds and states that no other source of income other than dues had been received. Atwell asks about camp pins and if there may be some way of reaching out to another audience for their sale. Taylor gives numerous ideas on their sale. No objections made on camp finances.

7:08PM—Long discussion is made on the camp by-laws as they are written. Main question was that if they could be re-written to give the camp Adjutant less duties so that the work load could be dispersed amongst the camp leadership. After numerous exchanges of ideas the camp moved to nomination for camp officers for the 2008 year with the following. Notations were as follows,

Commander:

Jason Boshers

Jack Taylor

Adjutant:

James ‘Jay’ Smith

Joe Shannon

Lt. Commander:

Greg Atwell

Quartermaster:

David Walker

Judge Advocate:

Charles Bates

7:38PM—Lovett instructs Taylor to make note of the nominations and proposed a ballot mail in for those who could not attend the December 18th meeting.

Christmas Supper:

Camp discusses the 6th annual Army of Tennessee Christmas Supper and proposed December 8th as the best time for the event. Volunteers spoke up with how they could contribute the event, how many guests would be present and what they could bring as far as a side item.

7:59PM—motion made to adjourn; meeting adjourned.

A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS

What was Christmas like at the time of the Civil War? Did the Victorians have their hearts filled with Joy with all the decorations, lights and celebrations as we do today? Some research was in order. For the Soldier both North and South, his thoughts would be on family and friends at home. In camp and at the front, his mind and conversation was filled with memories of Holiday's past with loved ones. This would include the celebrations and the decorations. I'm sure they still had the active duties of soldiering like drill and guard duty, but research also shows that they also played "Rounders" (baseball) and had special meals as the Commissary permitted and supplied. The First Lady Mrs. Lincoln even raised funds plus donated food and alcohol from her personal stores at the White House for use in the hospitals in Washington City for the wounded soldiers "to brighten their day". This was especially true in December 1862 at the time of the Battle of Fredricksburg. She arranged for Christmas dinners of duck, turkey, chickens, ham and fresh apples to be delivered on Christmas Day and even visited the hospitals to ensure that the unscrupulous Hospital Stewards and surgeons did not get the best of the goodies.

O Christmas Tree

On the home front, would there have been a Christmas Tree? Chances are the answer would be yes. The first Christmas Tree in America is recorded as being erected in Cleveland Ohio in 1851. The decorations for the tree would have been homemade and very simple. Popcorn balls and strings of popcorn as well as dried fruits and nuts, perhaps mixed with wax, paper and spun glass ornaments are some examples of what would have been used. . Also some colored ribbon and candles would have been used to help decorate the tree. Ornaments might be shaped like angels, doll faces, the Christ Child and animals. All would have been handmade. The tree would sit on a tabletop with unwrapped presents placed under them. Keep in mind that the candles on the tree would only be lit once (and then only for a few minute due to fire hazard). A bucket of water would be kept close by and one of the children would be responsible for watching for fire. In addition to the tree, the entire house would be decorated with

greenery such as fir, pine, holly, ivy and mistletoe. No house was considered festive without the fragrance of greenery!!

"Here We Come A Caroling"

Yes, Christmas Carols would have been sung at home and in camp. Songs such as Silent Night, Oh Come All Ye Faithful, Hark The Herald Angels Sing, and Deck the Halls were very popular. Other songs such as It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Away in a Manger, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, We Three Kings, and Up on the Husetop were all written in the 1850's. I can almost hear Soldier voices both North and South singing these songs, praising the Saviors birth and longing for home and family. Perhaps for one brief moment for them there was "Peace on Earth Goodwill toward Men" as fighting would cease for Christmas. As they sang and celebrated the Savior's birth, perhaps they longed for a new invention (1844) the Christmas card from loved ones at home. So as the Christmas Season comes each year, may we pause for a moment and reflect on how our ancestors would have celebrated. For more information, please refer to the book " We Were Marching on Christmas Day" by Kevin Rawlins. What a wonderful source of information to enlighten on traditions at the time of the Civil War.

A Christmas wish to you and yours,

"I AM ... AN AMERICAN FLAG"

By: Robert Wilhelm /S.C.C.M.R. S.C.V. CAMP 1858

(THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG)

I wonder sometimes when my enemies attack me if they realize they are attacking an American Flag. Not the banner of a foreign nation, not a symbol held in foreign hands, not the standard of those born on foreign soil, but a true American Flag. When they vilify me, they vilify a part of America which fought against King George in the Revolutionary War, the Kaiser in WWI, Hitler, Tojo, & Mussolini in WWII, Choi Yong-kun in Korea, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, and Osama Bin Laden in the Middle East.

Yes, the American South represented by brave Southern Americans has fought in every American war since 1776, and yet I (their American symbol) have been targeted for eradication by a minority of my fellow citizens. They desire to wipe me from the face of American history as if I never existed, for they despise me.

George Washington was a Southern American from "The Old Dominion", his state is represented by one of my stars. Virginia is her name, and the "Father of America" held allegiance to her above all else. The same state that gave us Washington gave us Robert E. Lee, and his duty to Virginia was no less. In fact, if Washington was an American Patriot so was Lee, and yet I (the American Flag of General Robert E. Lee) have been drug through the dirt of ignorance like no other American symbol before me. Drug through the dirt of ignorance by Americans ... who refuse to study Southern history, are too lazy to read untainted text books, too weak to investigate for themselves my true meaning. Drug by those who have let liberal brainwashers do their thinking for them.

These poor misguided fools want me dead, gone, forgotten, and buried. However for every one of me that has been brow beaten down ten fold have sprung up. They cannot kill me anymore than they can extinguish the stars in the American sky. I am eternal, for I am ... an American Flag ... I am the enduring symbol of your brave Southern ancestors who in 1861 fought against the tyranny of being invaded and ground under the boot heels of Federal oppression. I am no more a symbol of American slavery than "Old Glory", for it was under that Yankee standard that the majority of African slaves were imported. I fly for the common Confederate Soldier and his dedication to American duty as he saw fit to perform it. I am no more or no less American than he was. To erase me ... you must first erase him, and erasing American heroes is something this great country shall never do. So my Southern compatriots, never, ever, be ashamed of me. Be proud, fly me always and never fail to remember that ... I am ... an American Flag.

SAM WATKINS CAMP LAPEL PINS! - Only \$7.50 each!
MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Please note that we still have camp lapel pins. For all of you that haven't purchased one or two, you really should do so. Once they are gone, it may be sometime before we do a re-order. They are only 7.50 each and are quite attractive. Furthermore, the sale of the pins benefit our camp.

These pins will be something that will forever immortalize who we are and will be something someone 100 years from now will be able to hold or see.

"Ought it not be a Merry Christmas?"

Even with all the sorrow that hangs, and will forever hang, over so many households; even while war still rages; even while there are serious questions yet to be settled - ought it not to be, and is it not, a merry Christmas?"

Harper's Weekly, December 26, 1863

Information for this article was drawn from "*We Were Marching on Christmas Day: A History and Chronicle of Christmas During the Civil War*" by Kevin Rawlings.

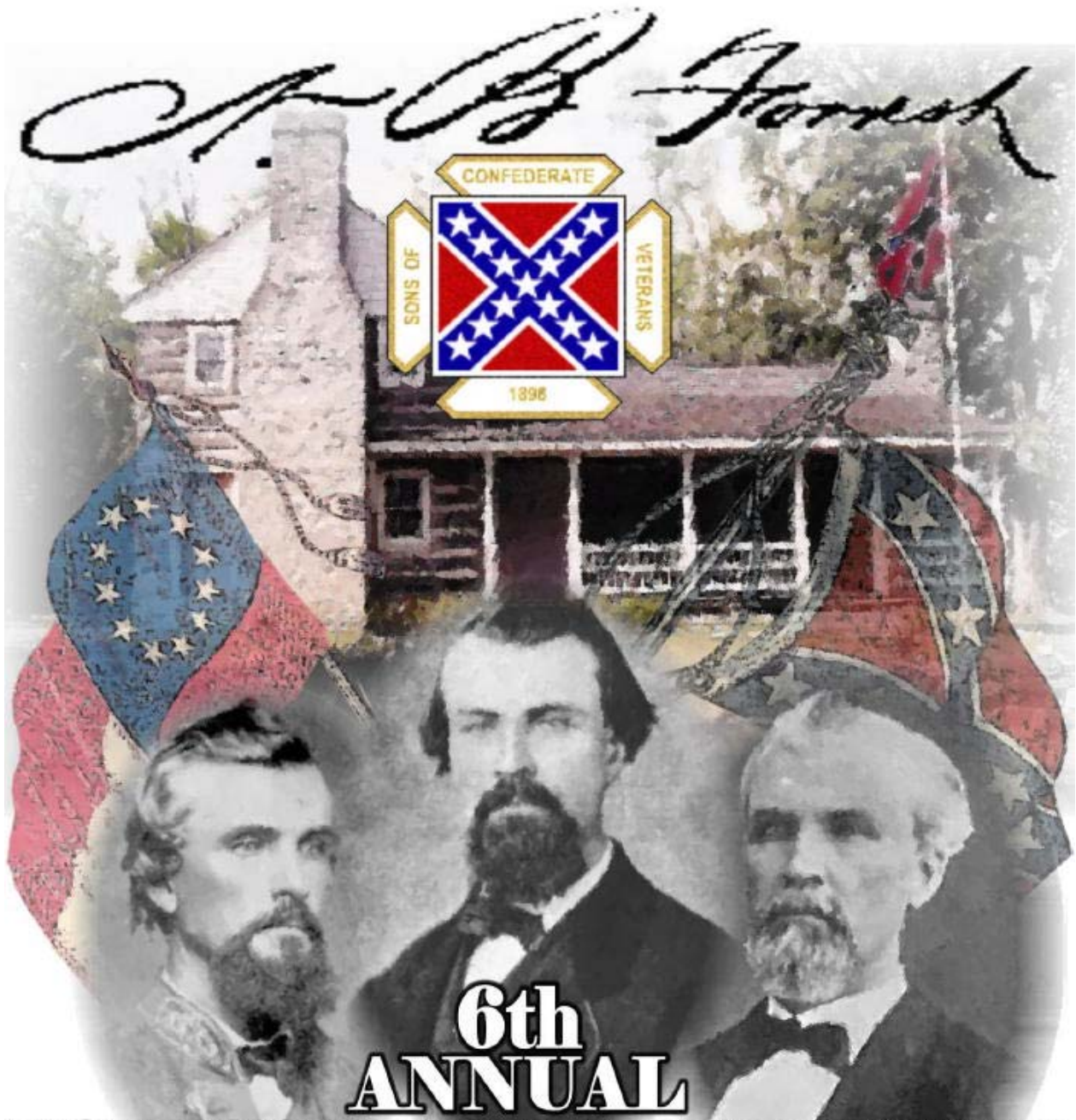
For a nation torn by civil war, Christmas in the 1860s was observed with conflicting emotions. Nineteenth-century Americans embraced Christmas with all the Victorian trappings that had moved the holiday from the private and religious realm to a public celebration. Christmas cards were in vogue, carol singing was common in public venues, and greenery festooned communities north and south. Christmas trees stood in places of honor in many homes, and a mirthful poem about the jolly old elf who delivered toys to well-behaved children captivated Americans on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line.

But Christmas also made the heartache for lost loved ones more acute. As the Civil War dragged on, deprivation replaced bounteous repasts and familiar faces were missing from the family dinner table. Soldiers used to "bringing in the tree" and caroling in church were instead scavenging for firewood and singing drinking songs around the campfire. And so the holiday celebration most associated with family and home was a contradiction. It was a joyful, sad, religious, boisterous, and subdued event.

Many of the holiday customs we associate with Christmas today were familiar to 1840s celebrants. Christmas cards were popularized that decade and Christmas trees were a stylish addition to the parlor. By the 1850s, Americans were singing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Away in a Manger" in public settings. In 1850 and 1860, *Godey's Lady's Book* featured Queen Victoria's tabletop Christmas tree, placed there by her German husband Prince Albert. Closer to home, in December, 1853, Robert E. Lee's daughter recorded in her diary that her father - then superintendent at West Point - possessed an evergreen tree decorated with dried and sugared fruit, popcorn, ribbon, spun glass ornaments, and silver foil.

Clement Clarke Moore, a religious scholar who for decades was too embarrassed to claim authorship of the 1822 poem, "A Visit From St. Nicholas," was now well-known for his tribute to Santa Claus. "Santa Claus" made his first public appearance in a Philadelphia department store in 1849, marking the advent of holiday commercialism.

For enslaved African Americans, the Christmas season often meant a mighty bustle of cooking, housekeeping, and other chores. "Reward" for these efforts was a suspension of duties for a day or two and the opportunity for singing, dancing, and possible brief reunions with separated family members. Further gestures of "goodwill" by masters who saw themselves as benevolent owners were small and the semi-annual clothing allotment. ————— **CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**



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By 1860, many worried about civil unrest, fearful this Christmas would be the last before the outbreak of war. An Arkansas diarist writes:

"Christmas has come around in the circle of time, but is not a day of rejoicing. Some of the usual ceremonies are going on, but there is gloom on the thoughts and countenances of all the better portion of our people."

Events proceeded quickly in 1861, hastening war. Abraham Lincoln became the 16th president of the United States in March and the bombardment of Fort Sumter occurred in April. Southern states seceded and the Confederates claimed their first major victory at the first battle of Manassas. For the shopkeeper or farm boy or student away from home for Christmas the first time, melancholy set in.

Robert Gould Shaw, then a 2nd lieutenant in the 2d Massachusetts Infantry, writes about guard duty near Frederick, MD. He would later earn fame as the commander of the heroic African American unit, the 54th Massachusetts.

"It is Christmas morning and I hope a happy and merry one for you all, though it looks so stormy for our poor country, one can hardly be in merry humor."

James Holloway, writing from Dranesville, VA tells his family that Christmas:

"You have no idea how lonesome I feel this day. It's the first time in my life I'm away from loved ones at home."

On the civilian front, Sallie Brock Putnam describes Christmas, 1861 in Richmond, VA.

"Never before had so sad a Christmas dawned upon us. Our religious services were not remitted and the Christmas dinner was plenteous of old; but in nothing did it remind us of days gone by. We had neither the heart nor inclination to make the week merry with joyousness when such a sad calamity hovered over us."

Yet Christmas 1861 also saw soldiers full of bravado, still relatively well fed and equipped, and eagerly anticipating Christmas boxes of treats from home. Often officers authorized extra rations of spirits and men engaged in greased pig-catching contests, footraces, jumping matches, and impromptu pageants dressed as women. Soldiers erected small evergreen trees strung with hardtack and pork. Some were excused from drills, although other references point to the need to haul logs and forage for firewood no matter what day of the year it was.

This sad year brought forth the war's impact full force with battles at Shiloh, Manassas, and Antietam, and campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley and the Peninsula. Many Fredericksburg, Virginia citizens were homeless or fled their town just prior to Christmas.

Harper's Weekly illustrator Thomas Nast, a staunch Unionist, is now depicting Santa Claus entertaining Federal soldiers by showing them Jefferson Davis with a cord around his neck. Abraham Lincoln would later refer to a politicized Santa as "the best recruiting sergeant the North ever had." More moderate illustrations show soldiers decorating camps with greens and firing salutes to Santa. Ironically, it was Nast who fixed Santa's home and toy workshop address at the "North Pole" "so no nation can claim him as their own."

Officers of the 20th Tennessee gave their men a barrel of whisky to mark the day. "We had many a drunken fight and knock-down before the day closed," wrote one participant. But there were other more somber occurrences recorded for Christmas 1862. One account tells of soldiers being forced to witness an execution for desertion and another grim letter describes how men firing their weapons in a funeral salute were mistakenly punished for unauthorized holiday merrymaking.

This year saw the battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg and the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. Thomas Nast portrayed Santa Claus in a patriotic uniform, distributing to Yankee soldiers to raise their morale. Southern parents were gently preparing their children that Santa Claus may not "make it through the blockade" to deliver presents this year. *Harper's Weekly* depicted a tender reunion scene of a soldier husband and father briefly reunited with his family during furlough.

Holiday boxes and barrels from home containing food, clothing and small articles of comfort were highly anticipated by soldier recipients. Depending on their duty assignment, Christmas dinner may have consisted of only crackers, hard tack, rice, beans and a casting of lots for a single piece of beef too small to divide. Those lucky enough to receive boxes from home could supplement a meager meal with turkey, oysters, potatoes, ham, cabbage, eggnog, cranberries and fruitcake.

One of the dreariest accounts of Christmas during the Civil War came from Lt. Col. Frederic Cavada, captured at Gettysburg and writing about Christmas 1863 in Libby Prison in Richmond:

"The north wind comes reeling in fitful gushes through the iron bars, and jingles a sleighbell in the prisoner's ear, and puffs in his pale face with a breath suggestively odorous of eggnog."

Cavada continued:

"Christmas Day! A day which was made for smiles, not sighs - for laughter, not tears - for the hearth, not prison."

He described a makeshift dinner set on a tea towel-covered box. Each prisoner brought his own knife and fork and drank "Eau de James" (water from the nearby James River.) Cavada reported he combed his hair for the occasion and further related that the prisoners staged a "ball" with a "great deal of bad dancing" during which hats were crushed and trousers torn. Sentries called "lights out" at 9 p.m.

The final wartime Christmas came as the Confederacy floundered, Lee's Army behind entrenchments in Petersburg and Richmond. Abraham Lincoln received a most unusual holiday - the city of Savannah, GA - presented by General William Tecumseh Sherman via telegram. Union and Confederate sympathizers were hoping this Christmas would be the last at conflict.

Johnny Green, of the 4th Kentucky's Orphan Brigade, expressed this sentiment:

"Peace on Earth, Good will to men should prevail. We certainly would preserve the peace if they would go home and let us alone..."

Green further reports he and his comrades received an unexpected and very welcome holiday:

"Our commissary sends word for each Orderly Sergeant to come to his wagon & he will issue one piece of soap to each man. This is indeed good news. Since the Skirmish began at Stockbridge Nov 15 we have not had a chance to wash any more than our faces occasionall & never our feet or bodies until now...."

Holiday season charity was not forgotten this year. On Christmas Day, 90 Michigan men and their captain loaded up wagons with food and supplies and distributed them to destitute civilians in the Georgia countryside. The Union "Santa Clauses" tied tree branches to the heads of the mule teams to resemble reindeer.

Many other units, however, were on the march, either trying to evade capture or pursuing the opponent for better position. Soldiers left in the squalid conditions of prison camps spent the day remembering holidays at home, as did others in slightly more comfortable settings. Confederate General Gordon, writing from his headquarters near Petersburg, wrote of fighting famine as well as General Grant:

"The one worn-out railroad running to the far South could not bring us half enough necessary supplies: and even if it could have transported Christmas boxes of good things, the people at home were too depleted to send them."

His wife, who was with him at headquarters, presented him with a most precious treat for Christmas 1864 - "real" coffee brought from home 'to celebrate our victories in the first years and to sustain us in defeat at the last.'

Moods were more bouyant in Washington and New York, where celebrants supped on substantial feasts and

attended the theatre.

The events of 1865 again influenced holiday celebrations. President Lincoln's assassination shocked the nation, but by mid-summer, the conspirators were hung or imprisoned for lengthy terms. War was ended and many soldiers had been mustered out of service. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution became law on December 18, 1865, abolishing the institution of slavery. Soldiers and civilians alike were ready to reunite with their families and again embrace Victorian holiday customs.

At the end of hostilities, commerce once again flowed southward, and goods filled Northern shops. Long-held holiday traditions were re-introduced, as ornamental greens and trees filled the markets and toys and other items went on display. Newspaper illustrations were of domestic and wintry scenes.

The final verse of a poem *By the Christmas Hearth* published in the Christmas edition of *Harper's Weekly* reflected the sentiments of many:

*Bring holly, rich with berries red,
And bring the sacred mistletoe;
Fill high each glass, and let hearts
With kindest feelings flow;
So sweet it seems at home once more
To sit with those we hold most dear,
And keep absence once again
To keep the Merry Christmas here.*

SCV Recognizes Congressman Virgil Goode

Virginia legislator receives prestigious Stephen D. Lee Award

The Sons of Confederate Veterans recognized one of the South's great patriots, Virginia United States Representative Virgil H. Goode, Jr. of Virginia's 5th District, December 5 during a special ceremony at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn @ Key Bridge in Arlington. Rep. Goode was presented the General Stephen D. Lee Award which is the SCV's highest honor for a non-member. The presentation was made by SCV Commander-in-Chief Christopher M. Sullivan .

Rep. Goode had been conferred with this award at the SCV's 2007 General Reunion in Mobile, Alabama.

"Virgil Goode earned this honor by conducting himself in office as our forebears and Founding Fathers would want their elected representatives to behave," said Army of Northern Virginia Councilman Brag Bowling in introducing Rep. Goode. "Congressman Goode has lived up to a conservative, states' rights vision of how the United States government should be run. With Virgil Goode, you know that he will represent you with honor, courage, dignity and sincerity."

"It would be hard to forget when Virgil Goode stepped up to the plate during the Lincoln statue controversy in Richmond by questioning the actions of the National Park Service," Councilman Bowling continued. "For this, he was criticized in the press but Virgil was proven correct in the long run."

In making the official presentation, Commander-in-Chief Sullivan praised Rep. Goode's commitment to "the permanent things." "Congressman Goode understands the importance of principle over popularity," Sullivan said. "He shows, everyday, that one doesn't have to sacrifice his ideals in order to be a success in Washington."

The occasion for the award was hosted by the Jefferson Davis Camp #305.

The Webfoot

Sam Watkins Camp #29

www.tennessee-scv.org/camp29

C/O 701 Sugar Bend Drive

Columbia TN 38401-6001

931-505-1889

scv29@charter.net

A personal and heartfelt thank you goes out to Lt. Commander, Bobby Joe Pendelton, II of the Scott County Clinch Mountain Rangers Camp #1858 in Gate City, VA.

Bobby was a great contributor to this issue of the Webfoot.

Merry Christmas Bobby!



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Next camp meeting to be held on Tuesday,
December 20th at 7PM! Time for elections!