



The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293

Sons of Confederate Veterans ** Brentwood, Tn ** February, 2012

Reinventing Confederate Landmarks?

(Note: You'll read more than one disturbing, or at least annoying, remark in the article below. Please read the editorial comments which follow it...)

New Orleans --- Inside Louisiana's Civil War Museum, battle flags line the walls. Uniforms, swords and long-barreled guns fill museum cases beside homespun knapsacks, dented canteens and tiny framed pictures of wives that soldiers carried into battle.

In the back, there's a collection devoted to Jefferson Davis, onetime president of the Confederacy, complete with his top hat and fancy shoes at the spot where his body once lay in state.

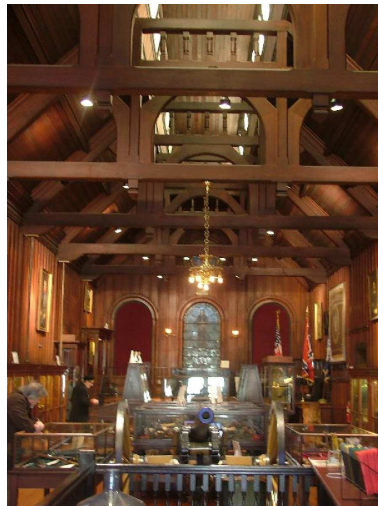
It's all housed in a little red stone building next door to the bigger and much more heavily visited Ogden Museum of Southern Art and near the National World War II Museum. Yet 150 years after the Civil War, the little museum finds itself struggling - like others in the North and South - to make changes and stay relevant for new generations.

For some museums, that means more displays on African-Americans or exhibits on the roles women played as combatants and spies. For others, it means adding digital maps and electronic displays to engage tech-savvy youth. Or it may simply mean adopting a wider, more holistic approach to the war - without taking sides.

But high costs mean it's not always easy for museums to update their exhibits, curators say. And some

potential visitors - and their dollars - are kept away by the perception that Southern Civil War museums are one-sided - or even racist.

"It's a challenge on several fronts. One is getting enough money for it," said John Coski, historian and library director at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va. "Most have recognized the need to make the transition to a more modern perspective, but for some that's a struggle. Especially in the South,



there are still strong feelings about some of these museums."

Louisiana's museum (interior photo above) opened in 1891 under the name Confederate Memorial Hall: The Battle Abbey of the South. The combative name was dropped in the 1960s and today it's seeking a "more inclusive, broader" perspective, museum curator Patricia Ricci said. It has been invited to become affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, which will further spur the effort to show-case a more modern interpretation of the war.

"I think we will add some information on the Union effort here," Ricci said. "And we will probably make some other additions with it. It always comes down to money, and we never have enough."

Today, the museum has the second largest collection of Confederate artifacts in the nation. Visitors can view the uniforms of eight Confederate generals from Louisiana, rare swords and rifles, more than 125 original battle flags and rare photographs.

Ricci, the museum's curator of 31 years, notes that fewer people have visited the museum with each decade since the 1950s. But the 150th anniversary of the war offers hope that a tide of new visitors will arrive. Attendance in December was up by 800 people over 2010, Ricci said.

The 150th began in April with the commemoration of the first shots fired at Fort Sumter in Charleston, S. C. It will end in four years with remembrances of the Confederate surrender at Appomattox in Virginia.

For now, the Confederate Museum draws just a fraction of the visitors who flock to bigger museums nearby, averaging about 16,000 people a year. That's down from some 20,000 visitors before Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

The museum's main revenue source is the \$7 fee collected from each visitor, leaving it forever scrambling to make ends meet. Many of the artifacts are in need of

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Samuel Davis

Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, February 23rd Woodson Chapel Church of Christ, 7:00 p.m.

Camp News & Notes

February is Recruiting Month!

From our Lt. Commander-in-Chief, whose duties include promoting retention and recruiting:

There is no better month than February to push recruiting - as an individual, as a Camp, or as a Division.

The National "Proration" membership policy makes February the very best month to recruit new members to our organization! Check the "explanation" of the program at:
<http://www.scv.org/pdf/proration.pdf>.

Become familiar with it and use it! Reinstating former members are also eligible for the prorated dues structure which is another incentive to sign up our former members living in your community.

There is no better time for a new recruit or a former member to get the "best bang for his buck!" This means that for a total of \$50.00, he will be paid in full until July 31, 2013, and receive nine issues of the Confederate Veteran magazine and membership privileges.

The prorated dues amount decreases on May 1st as our fiscal year winds down and so do the additional benefits. Now is the time to do it!

Divisions, Camps or possibly individual members may even want to offer to pay the proration fee as an additional incentive to recruitment. Now is the time to begin Camp and Division recruiting contests, as there is no better time to recruit or to simply give that gift membership that you always meant to give.

If you don't make use of this great recruiting tool you're missing the very best opportunity we have to offer during the year

"Every ONE, Recruit ONE!"

Let's DOUBLE the membership of the Sons of Confederate Veterans!

Confederate Calendar

February 23rd ~ ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at Woodson Chapel Church of Christ, 7:00 p.m. The Church is adjacent to the Oglesby Community Center on Edmondson Pike, 1/2 block South of the intersection of Edmondson Pike and Old Hickory Blvd.

March 22nd ~ ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at Woodson Chapel, 7:00 p.m.

April 20th - 22nd ~ ~ 2012 Tennessee Division Reunion at Dover, hosted by the Ft. Donelson Camp #249. See the latest *Forrest Escort* (our division newsletter) on next month's *Courier* for registration details.



Future Camp Meeting Programs

Lt. Commander Ronnie Townes already has our meetings this year full of interesting speakers and informative programs. Here's the list, which is, of course, subject to change....

Feb. 23rd - Ed Butler: Southerners Have Nothing to Apologize For

March 22nd - Rick Warwick: Confederate Reunions in Franklin

April 26th - Tim Prince: Confederate Rifles

May 24th - Camp Show And Tell

June - Camp Picnic

July 26th - Randy Bishop: Tenn. Battlefields and Battlefield in Adjoining States

Aug. 23rd - Dr. Michael Bradley: Forrest's Fighting Preacher

Sept. 27th - Dennis Lampley: Baxter Artillery Company

Oct. 25th - Gene Andrews: Fort Pillow

November - No Meeting

Dec. 6th - Division Commander Mike Beck: Sub. To be announced

..."reinventing" continued...

restoration; the building needs a new slate roof and still hasn't added handicapped facilities.

"We have to be very frugal," Ricci said. "I look at the World War II museum, which gets millions of visitors, and wish we could get just part of that."

Some visitors do stumble upon the museum after visiting the others nearby - and are surprised by its scope. "It's a very important part of our history," said Rose Adams, 47, visiting from Dallas. "This is a wonderful display, full of such interesting things. I just happened on it after going to the World War II museum."

Interest in the Civil War got a huge boost in 1990 with the airing of Ken Burns' PBS documentary on the war, still the most-watched public television series ever.

"One of the interesting things that the series did in the North was it really provided a sense of ownership of the Civil War, which had been since 1865 the province of the South," Burns said. "We ceded the interest generally to the South, which is unusual, because it's usually the winners who write the history, not the losers."

But he notes museums that may have once been shrines to one side or another are adapting new kinds of displays exploring the war from new angles. "A lot of that is changing and getting more centered on the war and not a distorted idea of it," Burns said. "Museums have started to interpret a more holistic look of the war."

In Charleston, the National Park Service has worked to make anniversary events more hospitable to blacks, offering events featuring Gullah story tellers and basket weavers, discussions of slavery and programs with re-enactors portraying black units that fought for the North. Gullah is the culture of the descendants of slaves who live on the region's sea islands.

Later this year the Charleston Museum mounts an exhibition about Robert Smalls, the slave who



... "reinventing" concluded...

commandeered a Confederate transport vessel and piloted it past Southern batteries to the blockading Union fleet. He later served five terms in Congress from South Carolina.

Still, the feeling that Southern museums dedicated to the war are racist is a lingering problem, said president and CEO of the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va., Waite Rawls.

"It's still one of the greatest challenges Confederate museums face, and we are all working on it," he said. "Unfortunately, the Confederate flag was used as a symbol of white supremacy in the civil rights era. We got hit with a double whammy of the 1860s and the 1960s." ~ article by Mary Foster, Associated Press

[**Editor's Note:** It seems that some venerable Confederate institutions are willing, if not eager, to accommodate viewpoints and exhibit interpretations which are at odds with the narrative we know to be true. From a business perspective, this may be a necessity to attract today's dumbed-down, politically correct visitors because, unfortunately, without their patronage these museums will close to everyone, including those of us who visit them for the right reasons. In light of this situation, it becomes incumbent on all of us to support the SCV's capital fund drive to open and maintain a state-of-the-art **Confederate** museum at Elm Springs. There will be no "accommodation", no "holistic" interpretations, no Gullah basket weaving. Only the true story of the Confederate soldier and why he fought will be presented. Which is as it should be. The day when the SCV may be the only organization willing and able to tell the truth may not be far off, unfortunately. We must be ready to do what needs to be done. The fund has already reached almost \$200,000.00 in pledges and donations. We need more.

For information on the SCV's Confederate Museum project, or to donate, visit scv.org on the internet or contact any camp officer. ****

Tennessee Real Son Passes Away

James Brown Sr., 99, of Tellico Village, one of the last real sons of a Confederate veteran, died January 28th in a Farragut nursing home, his son, James Brown, said Saturday afternoon.

James Brown Sr.'s father, James H.H. Brown, served in the 8th Georgia Infantry's Company K and fought throughout the Civil War. Mr. Brown would've turned 100 on Valentines's Day.

Norman Shaw, founder of the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable, recalled meeting Mr. Brown. "It is definitely a direct connection to the past when you can say this gentleman's father fought in the Civil War," he said. "We call them real sons and real daughters of Confederate veterans."

James Brown said his grandfather was 71 when his father, James Brown Sr., was born in 1912. "My Dad and I are so lucky to be alive," James Brown recalled.

James H.H. Brown joined the Confederate army at the beginning of the Civil War and fought in 19 major battles, including Manassas, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, Campbell Station and Fort Sanders.

"He made it to the end at Appomattox with the surrender of Lee and then he walked back home," James Brown said. "He was wounded twice and, back then with the medical situation, he could've had a leg lopped off and bled to death."

James Brown said his father was 11 when James H.H. Brown died. He said his grandfather wasn't bitter with former Union soldiers.

"I always remember about my grandfather telling my dad he had nothing against Yankees," James Brown said. "They were good men and he was a good man. It was just something they had to do."

Brown Sr. also had a daughter by a second wife. Mr. Brown lived in Tucson, Ariz., for 19 years and was close to his daughter's family, his son said.

Mr. Brown had lung cancer two years ago and had treatment. His

son said Mr. Brown's health began to deteriorate quickly in the past few weeks.

"At 100, everything starts to wear out. He went very quietly. He went in peace, comfortable without pain," his son said. "He had a ton of friends who came down to see him the last couple days. He was a popular man, a real country gentleman. He enjoyed people and they enjoyed him."

President Tyler's Grandchildren Still Survive...

Former President John Tyler, born 221 years ago, still has two living grandchildren. The one-term president isn't a well-known historical figure; he's probably best remembered for helping to push through the annexation of Texas in 1845, shortly before leaving office.

So, how is it possible that a former president who died 150 years ago would still have grandchildren alive today? As it turns out, the Tyler men were known for fathering children late in life. And that math is pretty outstanding when added up:

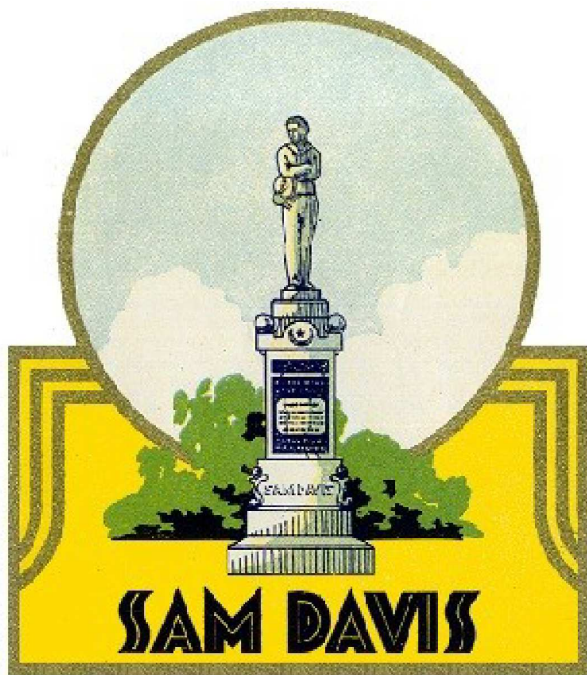
John Tyler was born in 1790. He became the 10th president of the United States in 1841 after William Henry Harrison died in office. Tyler fathered Lyon Gardiner Tyler in 1853, at age 63. Then, at the age of 71, Lyon Gardiner Tyler fathered Lyon Gardiner Tyler Jr. in 1924 and four years later at age 75, Harrison Ruffin Tyler. Both men are still alive today. That means just three generations of the Tyler family are spread out over more than 200 years. President Tyler was also a prolific father, having 15 children (8 boys and 7 girls) with two wives.

Some context on Tyler's progeny

Jane Garfield (granddaughter of James Garfield) is 99, making her the oldest living grandchild of a former president, even though Garfield took office 40 years after Tyler.

Former Ambassador John Eisenhower is the oldest living presidential child, turning 89 this past August.





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"I was captured at Foster's and sent to Pulaski. I was to start the next morning with papers that San Davis was captured with. My name was on these papers. Shaw had written it out, and said in the letter that I was to carry the papers out, and he did not re-write them, but sent the papers by Davis.

Well, I jumped out of the 2nd story window**, after trying to bribe the Guard... onto a 12 foot pavement and into a two-foot ditch. There were eight guards standing there during the day, and I don't know how many was there at night, but one was standing at the corner of the jail when I jumped out of the window. He was looking the other way, and when I hit the ground I lay down in the ditch - it seemed to me for about five or ten minutes, but I reckon it was just about that many seconds. Finally I raised up a little and looked at the guard, he was standing in the same position at the corner of the court house. He was either asleep or a little hard of hearing and did not look around." -- **Coleman Scout Billy Moore, who got clean away....**



** Of the Giles County Court House, where Sam Davis was also being held. Moore was not allowed to see Sam while he was being held.

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