

Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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Commander's Letter

Today I was sitting in my work room and looking outside the window. What did I see? I saw a landscape trying to "shake off" the winter. The snow, which we had this year more than enough, is melting away. Everything awakes slowly to life again, spring is coming.

Also our Camp awakes from the winter rigidity. We are planning many things for this year. I also wish to all the members of the Camps that all of your "things to do" can be achieved.

In the last two months several things happened, thus we had enough information to use for our new edition of the ISE. I am proud of my editor and correspondent and their laborious detailed work which made possible that we have on the end an interesting edition! I wish y'all an exciting reading time.



Commander Achim Bänseh

EDITOR'S NOTE

In 1886 the former Chief of Confederate Naval Intelligence in Europe, James Dunwoody Bulloch, uncle of future President Theodore Roosevelt, wrote full of hope in his memoirs: "At some future day, when the actors have passed away, a true and impartial history of the great Civil War and its causes will be written, for it was too notable an event to remain as a mere item in the course of God's providence. Then the truth, and the whole truth, will appear, and the world will be surprised to learn how much the South has been misrepresented, the motives and doctrines of her public men distorted, and even the private life and social habits of her people caricatured for political purposes." (See, "The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe", London, 1888, reed. Sagamore Press, 1959, p. 349).

Well, all the actors, the witnesses of the truth, have long passed away and the "true and impartial history of the great Civil War and its causes" seems to be more distorted than ever! It will be up to the SCV to preserve the truth, faithful to the Charge of General S. D. Lee, because if we don't who will? In our humble Newsletter we will try to do our small part in this great work, especially to enlighten European readers during the Sesquicentennial years.

150 years ago, on February 18, 1861 Jefferson Davis gave his inaugural address to the Congress and Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America; because of its importance we reproduce the entire speech in five pages of this issue.

A unknown fact is revealed in this issue! Read about the previously not known dress sword of Heros von Borcke and see amazing pictures of it! Also you can read about how our American correspondent Nancy is promoting Moses Ezekiel, including his European phase, within SCV Camps. There are news about General Mercer from Georgia. And Compatriots from a Mississippi Camp have contacted us is a very interesting matter, too.

What a great DVD for educational purposes we can recommend! It is already circulating among our full members. We present "The Christian Warriors" it creates fascinating interest, believe me.

The SCV Chief-of-Staff, our good friend and ally Chuck Rand, who attended in person and commanded the salute firing reenactors at the Heros von Borcke grave marking and first honor ceremony, got his MA degree in History, congratulations, Chuck!

Tom Landgraf represented the Camp in a reenactor's anniversary celebration in Germany, his Confederate ancestor received a special honor mention.

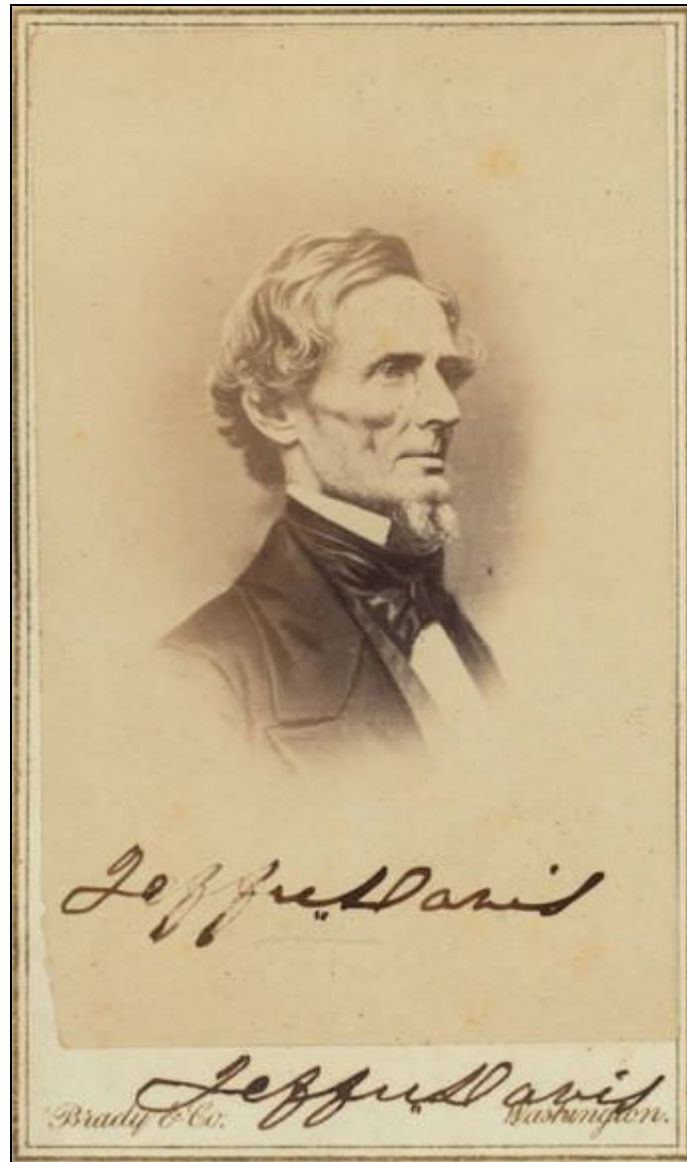
And all our usual stuff is inside this issue. Most recommended in our Camp Library is a booklet from the early 1920's with a lot of valuable answers for the Sesquicentennial. Order it for free from the Editor. And please remember past offers from our Camp library are still available and can be ordered too.

Enjoy this issue and make sure you have enough powder, bullets and your bayonets fixed! Defend the truth, defend your heritage, and defend the South!!!

Raphael Waldburg-Zeil
Editor

150 YEARS AGO:

**Inaugural Address of the President of the Provisional
Government of the Confederate States of America.
Montgomery, Alabama, February 18, 1861**



Gentlemen of the Congress of the Confederate States of America, Friends, and Fellow-citizens: Called to the difficult and responsible station of Chief Magistrate of the Provisional Government which you have instituted, I approach the discharge of the duties assigned to me with humble distrust of my abilities, but with a sustaining confidence in the wisdom of those who are to guide and aid me in the administration of public affairs, and an abiding faith in the virtue and patriotism of the people. Looking forward to the speedy establishment of a permanent government to take the place of this, which by its greater moral and physical power will be better able to combat with many difficulties that arise from the conflicting interests of separate nations, I enter upon the duties of the office to which I have been chosen with the hope that the beginning of our career, as a Confederacy, may not be obstructed by hostile opposition

to our enjoyment of the separate existence and independence we have asserted, and which, with the blessing of Providence, we intend to maintain.

Our present political position has been achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations. It illustrates the American idea that governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them at will whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established. The declared purpose of the compact of the Union from which we have withdrawn was to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity;" and when, in the judgment of the sovereign States composing this Confederacy, it has been perverted from the purposes for which it was ordained, and ceased to answer the ends for which it was established, a peaceful appeal to the ballot box declared that, so far as they are concerned, the Government created by that compact should cease to exist. In this they merely asserted the right which the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776, defined to be "inalienable." Of the time and occasion of its exercise they as sovereigns were the final judges, each for itself. The impartial and enlightened verdict of mankind will vindicate the rectitude of our conduct; and He who knows the hearts of men will judge of the sincerity with which we have labored to preserve the Government of our fathers in its spirit.

The right solemnly proclaimed at the birth of the United States, and which has been solemnly affirmed and reaffirmed in the Bills of Rights of the States subsequently admitted into the Union of 1789, undeniably recognizes in the people the power to resume the authority delegated for the purposes of government. Thus the sovereign States here represented have proceeded to form this Confederacy; and it is by abuse of language that their act has been denominated a revolution. They formed a new alliance, but within each State its government has remained; so that the rights of person and property have not been disturbed. The agent through which they communicated with foreign nations is changed, but this does not necessarily interrupt their international relations. Sustained by the consciousness that the transition from the former Union to the present Confederacy has not proceeded from a disregard on our part of just obligations, or any failure to perform every constitutional duty, moved by no interest or passion to invade the rights of others, anxious to cultivate peace and commerce with all nations, if we may not hope to avoid war, we may at least expect that posterity will acquit us of having needlessly engaged in it. Doubly justified by the absence of wrong on our part, and by wanton aggression on the part of others, there can be no cause to doubt that the courage and patriotism of the people of the Confederate States will be found equal to any measure of defense which their honor and security may require. An agricultural people, whose chief interest is the export of commodities required in every manufacturing country, our true policy is peace, and the freest trade which our necessities will permit. It is alike our interest and that of all those to whom we would sell, and from whom we would buy, that there should be the fewest practicable restrictions upon the interchange of these commodities. There can, however, be but little rivalry between ours and any manufacturing or navigating community, such as the Northeastern States of the American Union. It must follow, therefore, that mutual interest will invite to good will and kind offices on both parts. If, however, passion or lust of dominion should cloud the judgment or inflame the ambition of those States, we must prepare to meet the emergency and maintain, by the final arbitrament of the sword, the position which we have assumed among the nations of the earth.

We have entered upon the career of independence, and it must be inflexibly pursued. Through many years of controversy with our late associates of the Northern States, we have vainly endeavoured to secure tranquillity and obtain respect for the rights to which we were entitled. As a necessity, not a choice, we have resorted to the remedy of separation, and henceforth our energies must be directed to the conduct of our own affairs, and the perpetuity of the Confederacy which we have formed. If a just perception of mutual interest shall permit us peaceably to pursue our separate political career, my most earnest desire will have been fulfilled. But if this be denied to us, and the integrity of our territory and jurisdiction be assailed, it will but remain for us with firm resolve to appeal to arms and invoke the blessing of Providence on a just cause.

As a consequence of our new condition and relations, and with a view to meet anticipated wants, it will be necessary to provide for the speedy and efficient organization of branches of the Executive department having special charge of foreign intercourse, finance, military affairs, and the postal service. For purposes of defense, the Confederate States may, under ordinary circumstances, rely mainly upon the militia; but it is deemed advisable, in the present condition of affairs, that there should be a well-instructed and disciplined army, more numerous than would usually be required on a peace establishment. I also suggest that, for the protection of our harbors and commerce on the high seas, a navy adapted to those objects will be required. But this as well as other subjects appropriate to our necessities have doubtless engaged the attention of Congress.

With a Constitution differing only from that of our fathers in so far as it is explanatory of their well-known intent, freed from sectional conflicts, which have interfered with the pursuit of the general welfare, it is not unreasonable to expect that States from which we have recently parted may seek to unite their fortunes to ours under the Government which we have instituted. For this your Constitution makes adequate provision; but beyond this, if I mistake not the judgment and will of the people, a reunion with the States from which we have separated is neither practicable nor desirable. To increase the power, develop the resources, and promote the happiness of the Confederacy, it is requisite that there should be so much of homogeneity that the welfare of every portion shall be the aim of the whole. When this does not exist, antagonisms are engendered which must and should result in separation.

Actuated solely by the desire to preserve our own rights, and promote our own welfare, the separation by the Confederate States has been marked by no aggression upon others, and followed by no domestic convulsion. Our industrial pursuits have received no check, the cultivation of our fields has progressed as heretofore, and, even should we be involved in war, there would be no considerable diminution in the production of the staples which have constituted our exports, and in which the commercial world has an interest scarcely less than our own. This common interest of the producer and consumer can only be interrupted by exterior force which would obstruct the transmission of our staples to foreign markets - a course of conduct which would be as unjust, as it would be detrimental, to manufacturing and commercial interests abroad.



The Capitol Building, Montgomery, Alabama

Should reason guide the action of the Government from which we have separated, a policy so detrimental to the civilized world, the Northern States included, could not be dictated by even the strongest desire to inflict injury upon us; but, if the contrary should prove true, a terrible responsibility will rest upon it, and the suffering of millions will bear testimony to the folly and wickedness of our aggressors. In the meantime there will remain to us, besides the ordinary means before suggested, the well-known resources for retaliation upon the commerce of an enemy.

Experience in public stations, of subordinate grade to this care and disappointment are the price of official elevation. You will see many errors to forgive, many deficiencies to tolerate; but you shall not find in me either want of zeal or fidelity to the cause that is to me the highest in hope, and of most enduring affection. Your generosity has bestowed upon me an undeserved distinction, one which I neither sought nor desired. Upon the continuance of that sentiment, and upon your wisdom and patriotism, I rely to direct and support me in the performance of the duties required at my hands.

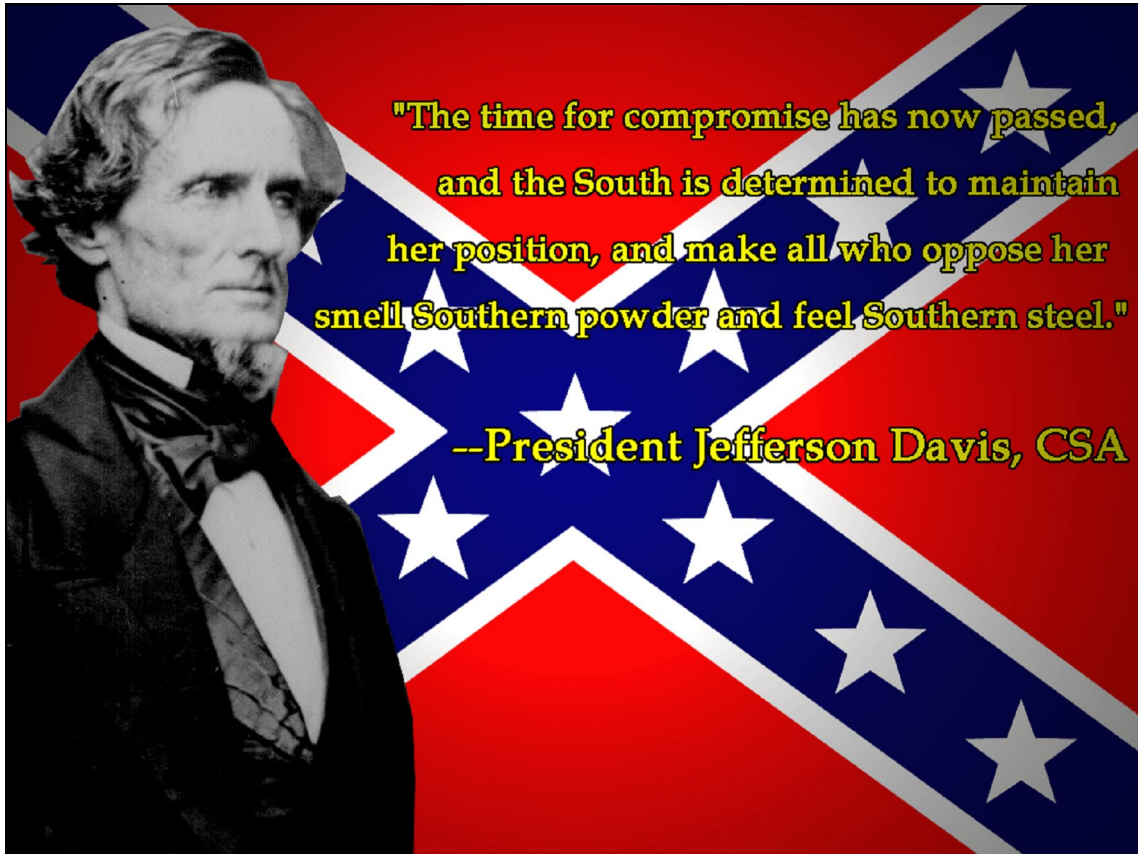
We have changed the constituent parts, but not the system of government. The Constitution framed by our fathers is that of these Confederate States. In their exposition of it, and in the judicial construction it has received, we have a light which reveals its true meaning.

Thus instructed as to the true meaning and just interpretation of that instrument, and ever remembering that all offices are but trusts held for the people, and that powers delegated are to be strictly construed, I will hope by due diligence in the performance of my duties, though I may disappoint your expectations, yet to retain, when retiring, something of the good will and confidence which welcome my entrance into office.

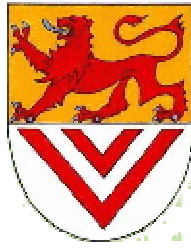
It is joyous in the midst of perilous times to look around upon a people united in heart, where one purpose of high resolve animates and actuates the whole; where the sacrifices to be made are not weighed in the balance against honor and right and liberty and

equality. Obstacles may retard, but they cannot long prevent, the progress of a movement sanctified by its justice and sustained by a virtuous people.

Reverently let us invoke the God of our fathers to guide and protect us in our efforts to perpetuate the principles which by his blessing they were able to vindicate, establish, and transmit to their posterity. With the continuance of his favor ever gratefully acknowledged, we may hopefully look forward to success, to peace, and to prosperity.



The search for the grave of Emanuel Pfeifer, gallant Confederate soldier from Mississippi, in Bad Bergzabern



Bad Bergzabern city seal



Mississippi State flag

A new endeavour for our Camp! It seems more and more Confederate grave sites are appearing throughout the European Continent. In the first week of January Commander Bäsch got this interesting e-mail from the Commander of SCV Camp # 235:

Greetings,

I am a fellow SCV member from Mississippi, USA and in need of help in finding the grave site of a former Confederate soldier in Germany. I have been researching our Mississippi Confederates and came across the following story in the 1917 Lincoln County (yes, Lincoln) Times:

Death of E. Pfeifer - The Times Picayune (New Orleans) of Tuesday morning contained the following: "A wireless message was received by Leon Pfeifer, 3305 St. Charles Ave., Monday telling of the death in Bergzabern, Germany of his father, E. Pfeifer. Mr. Pfeifer was born in Germany eighty-three years ago and came to this country many years ago. He was an American citizen, but returned to Germany three years ago to visit his daughter, Mrs. Herman Schwartz...Besides Leon Pfeifer; he is survived by another son, N.P. Pfeifer, 1510 St. Charles Ave., and a daughter, Mrs. E.B. Hyman, of New York."

The above is sad news for the many Lincoln County friends of Emanuel Pfeifer, gallant Confederate soldier, and for a long time, one of the leading merchants of Brookhaven. When he decided to retire from business life, it was with the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. The last years of his life were spent in the homes of his children...His last trip to Germany was undertaken with the expectation of spending a year with his daughter, Josie, but the visit was extended by reason of the war....

I would surely appreciate any assistance you may be able to give me. I don't know if there are any more Confederates in your country, but it would be grand to locate his burial location and place a U.S. government provided Confederate grave marker there, if it is allowed. Congress passed a law allowing the CSA veterans the same benefit of a marker as any other US soldier.

I look forward to hearing from ya'!!! Best wishes to all,

Wilson Farnham
Commander, SCV Camp 235, Brookhaven Light Artillery
Brookhaven, Mississippi
USA

We promptly answered Commander Farnham that we will do our very best in finding this grave and to provide Emanuel Pfeifer, gallant Confederate Veteran, with a VA marker stone. As Bergzabern is not just a city but a collective municipality (German: Verbandsgemeinde) of more than 20 little towns, finding the exact location of the cemetery where Pfeifer was buried will be a bit more complicated than expected.



Area map with some of the little towns surrounding Bad Bergzabern

As it has happened in similar cases, we will have to work close with the responsible cemetery administration officials there, their help will be critical. Research is on the way to find out more details and we will keep the readers well apprized on the results. By the way, Bad Bergzabern is the town where our Commander initiated his Law Enforcement instruction to join the Federal Police after leaving the German Navy!

Here is some information about Emanuel Pfeifer's Confederate Army Records provided by SCV Camp #235:

When the War Between the States began, Emanuel joined the Covington Rangers, which becomes Company I of the Seventh Mississippi Infantry in the Confederates States Army. Emanuel Pfeifer's company was enlisted in Confederate service at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi on September 27, 1861. He served as a clerk or orderly on extra duty in various staff departments of Polks Corps from May 06, 1862 to March of 1863 under orders from Col. Hamilton Mayson. On August 01, 1863 he was transferred to Confederate Field and Staff personnel where he attained the rank of Commissary Sergeant. Emanuel's last roll record is for August of 1864.



MORE ABOUT GENERAL MERCER'S ALLEGED GRAVE SITE



In the December issue we reported about our research on Brigadier General Hugh Weedon Mercer's alleged resting place in Baden-Baden, Germany. The Georgia Division SCV has already shown interest, reprinting our article in the Division's newsletter, *The Georgia Confederate*. Some correspondence and a Memorandum by the Lt. Div. Commander brought nothing new to the research. We will keep the reader well acquainted of possible further developments in this.

Reproduced below is a picture of Stacy Doty, Chairman of the Bonaventure Cemetery Historical Society, who helped us so much in our research, together with Nancy Mercer Gerard, General Mercer's great-great niece, taken in Bonaventure Cemetery standing at his alleged grave there. Nancy is the family member who expressed the family's belief that the General was never returned to Georgia.



Nancy and Stacy standing behind the VA marker stone of General Mercer. It is still doubtful that he is resting there

HEROS VON BORCKE'S DRESS SWORD DISCOVERED

By Nancy Hitt, ISE American correspondent

Anyone who has read anything about Heros von Borcke learned that he carried a massive sword with a Damascus blade. This famous sword due to the generosity of Heros von Borcke was given to the state of Virginia and today is in the possession of the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia.

Although Heros does not mention a second sword in any of the books he wrote after the War, it was common practice for military officers to maintain two different styles of swords. One sword would be used for dress and certain official ceremonies, while another would be for actual field use.



At first, grip and guard of the Heros von Borcke dress sword look like a standard Cavalry saber

While we know that Heros traveled from Europe to the South to offer his services to the Confederacy, his transport blockade runner had been held for inspection by the enemy. Apparently, during the hours they spent upon his ship, Heros' baggage was overlooked or exempted for unknown reasons.

There was an article in the September/October 2010 edition of *The Southern Cavalry Review* which sparked my curiosity. A sword had recently been sold to the Texas Civil War Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. This sword had been a presentation from Heros von Borcke to J.E.B. Stuart. Upon contacting the museum in order to further investigate this claim, they informed me of who they purchased the sword from. As

surprising as it may seem, I actually knew the collector who sold them the J.E.B. Stuart sword.

In order to gather more information, I made contact with this individual and to my surprise, learned that he had another Heros von Borcke sword in his collection! It seemed impossible, but the following photographs clearly show who owned this magnificent dress sword and where it was manufactured and even the approximate time period.

This German-made sword was produced in the Eisenhauer works in Solingen, Germany. The pommel contains the von Borcke historic coat-of-arms and can be used as a wax seal for documents. This is the reason the crest appears to be reversed. The letters of F and R under the crown signify "Fredericus Rex." King Frederick William IV was the Prussian ruler from 1840 to 1861 which would be the correct time period when Heros was serving in the Prussian Army. The most impressive identification is the photograph which clearly shows the name of the sword's owner on the blade, Heros von Borcke. Two, it is true!



Name of Heros von Borcke on the blade, close to the heft of the sword



“Eisenhauer” and “Damaststahl” on the opposite side of the decorated blade, identify both the Solingen bladesmith and the quality of the steel manufactured



Among the different motives on the richly decorated blade there is the Prussian eagle and the King's crown



Interesting detail: on the pommel of the presentation sword there is cast the Von Borcke family coat-of-arms. This version can be used as wax seal if necessary.

Yes, it is truly amazing that after all these years have past that this invaluable artifact still remains in safety and security for the descendants of Heros von Borcke to someday hold in their own hands as their brave ancestor did so long ago. Eckhard von Borcke was able to hold his great grandfather's field sword while visiting the Museum of the Confederacy together with J.E.B. Stuart IV (see ISE August/September 2009).



**ISE CORRESPONDENT NANCY HITT GAVE A PRESENTATION ON
MOSES EZEKIEL TO THE COMPATRIOTS OF JOHN HUNT MORGAN
CAMP # 1342 IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

Last December 11, 2010 during the monthly meeting of the local SCV Camp in Louisville, Nancy Hitt gave an interesting presentation of one of the South's most famous artists, Moses Ezekiel. His extensive European past, covered recently in the pages of this Newsletter, was part of the presentation. She centred the stuff in Ezekiel's work in Kentucky, of course, and giving a deeper insight to his wide creation.

Her speech was accompanied by a poster board with photographs of the two different Thomas Jefferson bronze statues, the Hickman Gateway, and Ezekiel's famous statue of Stonewall Jackson at VMI. Also included was a photograph of the Adolfo de Bosis crypt at Verona Cemetery near Rome, the crypt which was designed by Ezekiel himself, was his first resting place before being moved to Arlington National Cemetery, where he rests beneath his most famous creation: the Confederate Memorial.

Our Compatriots from the John Hunt Morgan Camp learned a lot from the European research work of our Correspondent and we are proud to have her in a most fruitful relation with us for benefit of all the Southern Cause!



Nancy talking to the Compatriots of the John Hunt Morgan Camp during her presentation in the South Park Country Club

OUR FRIEND CHUCK RAND OBTAINED HIS MASTER DEGREE IN HISTORY

He was among the first ones who joined us in the Heros von Borcke grave site marking project. He was a great Chief of Staff to past CiC McMichael and continues in this capacity with new CiC Givens. We remember right now that prior to these posts of maximum responsibility within the SCV he had already served as Historian-in-Chief. Right in 2010 he was bestowed the Jefferson Davis Chalice, the SCV's highest award for its full members.

Here is his e-mail for all his close friends, reproduced with pride in the ISE. Compatriot Rand is always close to us and to the Charge, he is an elite Southerner and American:

"Many of you know that I began a Masters Program in History six years ago. This past Saturday (December 18th) I graduated from the University of Louisiana at Monroe with my Masters Degree.

As you may imagine I am glad to have worked my way to the degree but I am also glad to have completed the degree. Thanks to those to have supported me in this endeavour.

I would like to share this image with you. As chance had it the local newspaper took my photo at graduation. The photo shows me moving my tassel from the right side of my cap to the left when the degrees were conferred on the master's candidates.

Merry Christmas

Chuck"



Master degree in History Robert Rand III moving the white tassel as described in the text.

TOM LANDGRAF IN A REENACTING ANNIVERSARY

Last year, Saturday December 3rd, an interesting reenacting memorial took place in Dietersheim near Würzburg, Germany. As always our best reenactor, full member Tom Landgraf, was there representing the SCV. Seriosity in reenacting has been a mayor interest in the policy of our Camp during the last years and Tom is the best leading personality in this. His Cavalry group has become legendary throughout Continental Europe in the last decade. In the October/November issue we had a report on the 10th anniversary of his group.



Rare image of Sgt. Landgraf in his full dress uniform

The event was organized by the Staunton Artillery e.V., under command of Mayor Schmitt, a serious Confederate reenactor group which celebrated their 20th anniversary!

The event started with a greeting cocktail and small talk among the guests. After everybody had taken a seat Major Schmitt held a short address, followed by toasts for the Confederacy, President Jefferson Davis, General Lee, the Confederate Artillery and the Cavalry (especially to Forrest's horsemen, often enough re-enacted by Tom and his group). He felt most honored as Tom's own Confederate ancestor was remembered with a special toast: Private Andrew Landgraf, 1st Battalion, Georgia Sharpshooters.

A most copious buffet with typical Southern dishes was offered; little gifts in "Confederate socks" made the delight of the attendants (means grey socks with Cavalry, Infantry and Artillery color piping, see the picture).



Confederate Christmas sock, in dark Gray and Cavalry color

Afterwards St. Barbara, the Patron of Artillery was remembered and a look at different reenactment events throughout the year and memory of the dead was held. A PowerPoint presentation with lots of pictures of different activities was shown. Barn dance with good music, Bavarian beer and Bourbon whiskey made the evening perfect. In fact, it made the night very long!



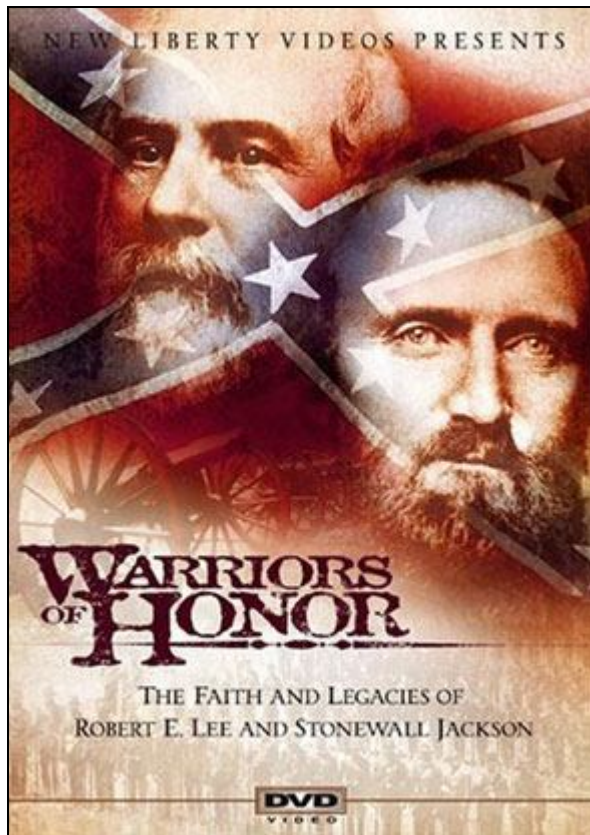
Staunton Artillery e.V., (<http://www.staunton-artillery.de>)



Tom in campaign dress preparing a raid

By the way, it must be told in public that Major Schmitt's wife said it was "the very first time I saw Sgt. Landgraf in a neat, cute, clean dress uniform"! Tom always looked like a true Confederate horse soldier in the field: smelling like a horse himself, mixed with the aroma of powder smoke and sweat! Such is our best reenactor, ride first with the most, Tom! First of the best!

WARRIORS OF HONOR:
THE TRUE LEGACY OF TWO SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN



**A documentary on the Christian faith of Generals
Jackson and Lee.**

"Finally, a documentary that is willing to speak plainly about the Christian faith of Jackson and Lee. It is a beautiful and accurate account of two great Southern leaders and of a war that forever changed our country."

Steve Wilkins, Author, Historian.

The Revolutionary War made America free and independent. Less than one hundred years later a bloody War divided it. Most Americans believe that Southerners fought to preserve slavery; however a much deeper divide existed between the North and South. Two drastically different cultures had emerged on the American landscape. This 80 min. documentary in English only places the war in its historical and cultural context using the same formula as Ken Burn's "Civil War".

The film refutes myths and answers important controversies. It guides the viewer through the causes and the major battles of the War between the States while providing insight into the lives of two stalwart men who fought for the South. Both were masterful generals, brilliant strategists and, above all, faithful Christians: Robert Edward Lee and Jonathan Jackson. The faith of these "*Warriors of Honor*" governed their lives on and off the battlefield, and their legacies continue even today.

See about General Lee's struggle between to serve the Union or defend his invaded native Virginia, watch him while leading the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in all of its victories till the bitter end in April 1865, beard with greatest dignity, and the aftermath years until his death.

Learn about how much Christian faith ruled the military virtues and brilliant strategies of Lieutenant-General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, who died of his wounds in June 1863.

The film includes additional interesting bonus segments:

- Slavery - 9 minutes
- Sam Davis - 5 minutes
- The Palmyra Incident - 7 minutes

The production has been made available to the full members of our Camp on DVD, read about their feedback in the following pages. Every interested person can see it on youtube, just look for "Warriors of Honor (Robert E. Lee & Stonewall Jackson Story)".

"God's Will ought to be our aim and I am contented that His designs should be accomplished and not my own." - **General Robert E. Lee**

"My religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to be always ready, no matter when it may overtake me. That is the way all men should live, and then all would be equally brave." - **Lt. Gen. Thomas Jonathan Jackson**



Lee and Jackson at Chancellorsville, June 1st, 1863



WARRIORS OF HONOR: MEMBERS FEEDBACK



Here we reproduce some of our reader's comments after watching the recommended DVD and some reviews from internet sites:

Gregory T. Little

I found "Warriors of Honor" to be a documentary worthy of anything I've seen, for instance, on "History," a broadcast from which I have many DVD documentaries. The narration was better than several narrators I've heard. Fortunately, I've just recently purchased a "region free" DVD player, as the DVD is in the NTSC format.

I felt the material was presented in a way that revolved around the theme of Lee and Jackson's faith, without sounding fanatical or dogmatic, which has been problematic with some articles in the SCV's "Confederate Veteran." The material concerning Lee was in particular enlightening and very informative. The treatment of Jackson was also fascinating, but I had already learned a lot about him through the documentary, "Still Standing: The Stonewall Jackson Story."

The additional specials were very educational, in particular the Palmyra story (although the scenes of the execution and thereafter was defective on my DVD and not playable).

The overwhelmingly best thing about "Warriors of Honor" DVD is that it has been produced without the deceit and censorship of "political correctness," which obscures the truth all too often with more generally distributed documentaries concerning the War for Southern Independence.

Stefan I. Slivka:

Misfortune, nobly borne, is a fortune

While viewing DVD "The Christian Warriors", writer of this little essay was reminded of the above motto. It was posted for many years above his desk in his workplace in Cincinnati, Ohio. It is believed that motto originates from the Roman Emperor, General, and Philosopher Marcus Aurelius. It is known, that the same motto was much later adopted by General Robert E. Lee.

I believe that both, Lee and Jackson, took this wise motto to their hearts, and they were guided by it in the time of adversity. They did not complain, did not blame others, they accepted responsibility for their decisions. Jackson also accepted his fate on that Sunday, when he saw his wife and his daughter, for the last time. Lee forgave those who disappointed him with their performance, as Ewell at Gettysburg, A.P.Hill at North Anna, and Pickett at Five Forks.

We must also remember that both were mortal men with their virtues and also with their shortcomings. Jackson was also a strong disciplinarian, and too secretive in his plans, sometimes hindering coordination with his subordinates. And Lee... Had he only listened to Longstreet's advice at Gettysburg, maps of the North America, and of the World, could have been different today.

Although "The Christian Warriors" tend to idealize both generals, I believe that this DVD stands in a stark contrast from other presentations by which the American public will be bombarded in the politically correct mainstream media during these Sesquicentennial years.

Chris McLarren

"Warriors of Honor" is an excellent general biography on the lives of "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E. Lee. It is told from our Southern point of view (and presumes some pre-knowledge of the War) intertwining their lives, especially reminding us of the vital role the Christian religion played in their lives (and probably in the lives of our ancestors,too).

As the title tells us, this is a paean to these two men. There is no word of criticism and it overlooks their flaws. But the makers of the documentary surely did not intend to deliver an in-depth, scholarly study of two military leaders, but to make an inspirational film.

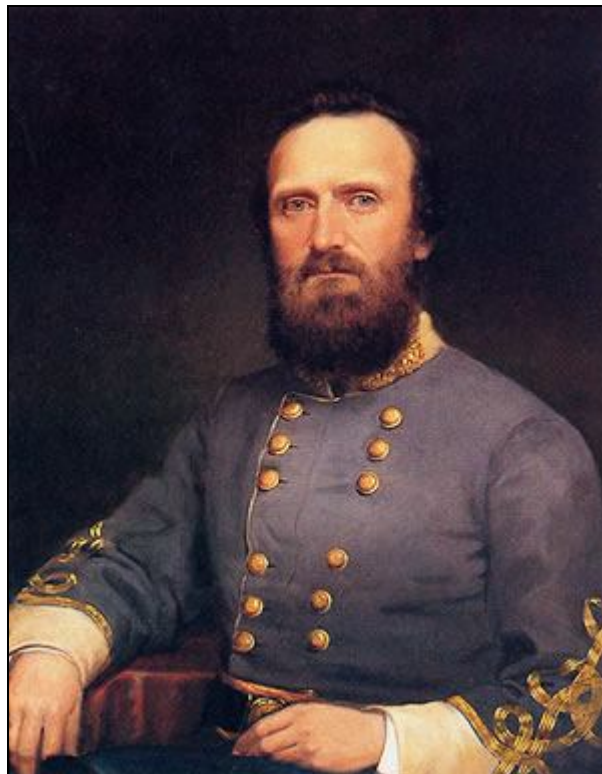
This is not a scholarly piece of historical study, but I found very insightful the authors' characterization of the conflict in America as the clash of two cultures: the North was a society which, even before the War, was increasingly calling for a centralized state, while the South clung to the individualist tradition of their fathers and rejected "big" government (a split which, looking at a present-day "Tea-party" political map, to my mind, continues to this day.)

The disc also includes several additional short films. The one on Slavery is highly recommended: accurately pointing out the racism of the North and dispelling the myth that Yankees fought to “free the slaves”. Really good!

The main film reminds us why, 150 years later, we can unreservedly revere Lee and Jackson and should want to emulate their example. I must tell you there are some stories which bring a tear to the eye when we remember that these are our people.

It reminds us of what the words “noble”, “Christian” and “gentleman” should mean. If all men were as noble as these, the world would be a much better place.

The disc is especially useful in explaining to “outsiders” why, unlike Lincoln, Robert E. Lee still deserves to be one of the most beloved Americans who ever lived.



Robert Wagner (from a website):

An honest look at 2 of the greatest leaders in American History. They were men who and understood the human condition and sought to glorify Christ in all they did. These generals show us that it is not clout, reputation, or prestige that make a great leader, but humility, love for others, and dependence on Christ. It is tragic that no school in America would ever include this in their curriculum. Even the short featurette's on Slavery and Palmyra are well done. Great quote from the opening section, "A people that are ignorant of their past are a people that are ripe for deception and manipulation"

THE PREACHER'S CORNER



The Prodigal Son, Luke 15, 11-32

This is one of the best known parables of Jesus. It is told in the Gospel of Luke. It is, in fact, a self-portrait of God's endless mercy and forgiveness. It is taught to little children in primary school, but in these times of sin and evil it is good to remember it, because Jesus not only spoke for teenagers...

We shall concentrate in three mayor aspects of this parable for a full understanding of Jesus' message:

1. The behaviour of the son.
2. What his father may have felt.
3. How the son returns.

1. The youngest son of a wealthy father wants to enjoy his "liberty" and to abandon his family to taste the pleasures of the world using his father's money. (*"And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me"*, Lk 15, 12).

2. The father understands for sure his son is driven by passion and fever for lust to discover the world in an immature, adolescent way. We may believe his heart suffered a lot because he was full aware that he probably was to lose his son, both in physical and spiritual way. In fact, the son quickly dissipates the money and comes close to starvation (Lk 15, 13-17).

3. Rembrandt, the Dutch painter, has created a wonderful painting representing the attitude of the ragged, repentant son, now full aware of his sins, against God and his own family (*"And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son"*, Lk 15, 21), asking to be treated as the most simple hireling (*"make me as one of thy hired servants"*, Lk 15, 19) and at the same time the happiness of the already forgiving father (*"his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him"*, Lk 15, 20).

Such is the overflowing love of God towards a returning sinner. God's grace is so great that it is even sometimes hard to believe compared to the life we live on earth, especially in this times. But Jesus is the son of God, the Christ. And as believing Christians we can be absolutely sure of two things:

- **We should never be afraid to ask for forgiveness**, coming to Jesus as the prodigal son in repent did to his father because:
- God the Son has unlimited grace for us **no matter what we've done**. Just repent, go to him, ask for mercy and change your life as sinner. He will forgive anyone if he knows they are repentant.



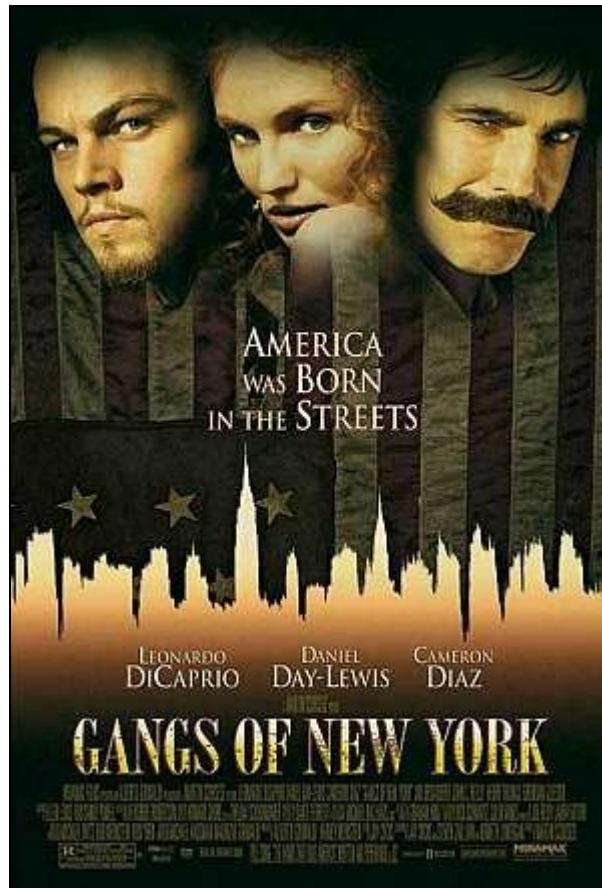
The return of the prodigal son. Painting by Rembrandt.
(© Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg)



EDUCATIONAL MOVIES

“GANGS OF NEW YORK” (2003)

"New York, for example, like London, seems to be a cloacina of all the depravities of human nature."
Thomas Jefferson to William Short, 1821



Plot synopsis: A big melodramatic motion picture by director Martin Scorsese. In 1846 little boy Amsterdam Vallon (Leonardo DiCaprio) saw Nativist gang leader Bill “The Butcher” Cutting (Daniel Day-Lewis) killing his father (Liam Neeson) during a street battle between rivalising gangs. Grown up to manhood in 1863 he comes back to take revenge on the murderer. This will prove more difficult as expected in the miseries of lower New York, controlled by The Butcher’s gangsters, corrupt cops and ruthless Yankee politicians. Pickpocket and burglar Jenny Everdeane (Cameron Diaz) appears in Amsterdam’s life and becomes his partner and lover. The draft riots of 1863 will overwhelm friend and foe. But Amsterdam will get his bloody revenge after all.

Analysis: Besides the main plot, DeCaprio’s seek for revenge, his love story with Cameron Diaz and the portrayal of New York’s misery in moral and social standards it is of our interest that it accurately shows the city’s working class violent opposition to Lincoln’s politics during his war of aggression against the South. Why the poor man’s fight in the rich man’s war? It also shows the immigrant “cannon-fodder” politics of the Lincoln Administration: In a scene some Irish who have just arrived in the U.S. are told to sign one piece of paper that grants them citizenship and immediately afterwards another one that enrolls them in the Union Army

(listen to the Irish song text during the scene!). They are completely unaware of their fate and where they're to be sent ("Where we goin'?", "I heard Tennessee", "Where's that?"). Thousands of them were wasted in the battlefields, exactly as the Negro Troops of the USCT Infantry would be. Most revealing: in a scene, the same ship which takes immigrant soldiers in blue, discharges piles of coffins.

The climax of the movie is the New York City draft riots of July 1863. The government began enforcing Lincoln's conscription law, accurately depicted in a newspaper headline in the film as "The First Federal Conscription Law." The wealthy class of capitalist industrialists and bankers who were the backbone of the Republican Party saw that conscription would spare their own male children by allowing them to buy one's way out of the draft for \$300. This led to violent protests against the inequity of the rich man's war. A young draftee confronts one of Lincoln's conscription enforcers by screaming into his face, "Who the hell has \$300?!" "Who the hell has \$300?!" But victims of conscription were determined to oppose that unjust law, and in July 1863 four days of extremely violent rampage broke out.



DiCaprio, Diaz, together with Day-Lewis they play the leading parts, but really interesting in this movie is the historical surrounding

Although Lincoln's "Emancipation Proclamation" farce was directed only to declare freedom of the slaves in States "in rebellion" against the Federal Government, the draft protesters thought it was now a war to free the slaves and vented their hatred for Lincoln on the helpless black people of New York City. There are scenes in the movie of black men being beaten to death and lynched, which is historically accurate. Gunships are also shown bombarding the parts of the city where the rioting was taking place (in the movie this shelling even interrupts the Butcher's and Amsterdam's final showdown).

Just as realistic is the scene with Federal troops firing indiscriminately into the crowds. Hundreds of unarmed draft protesters, including women and children, are

shot down by volleys and shown lying dead in the streets. This really happened, but most Americans have never heard of it (Europeans even less, naturally). An eyewitness to the riots was Colonel Arthur Fremantle, the British emissary to the Confederate government who happened to be heading back to England at the time from the Port of New York. In his memoirs *Three Months in the Southern States*, Fremantle wrote of the riots:

“The reports of outrages, hangings, and murder, were now most alarming, the terror and anxiety were universal. All shops were shut: all carriages and omnibuses had ceased running. No colored man or woman was visible or safe in the streets, or even in his own dwelling. Telegraphs were cut, and railroad tracks torn up. The draft was suspended, and the mob evidently had the upper hand. The people who can't pay \$300 naturally hate being forced to fight in order to liberate the very race who they are most anxious should be slaves. It is their direct interest not only that all slaves should remain slaves, but that the free Northern Negroes who compete with them for labour should be sent to the South also.”

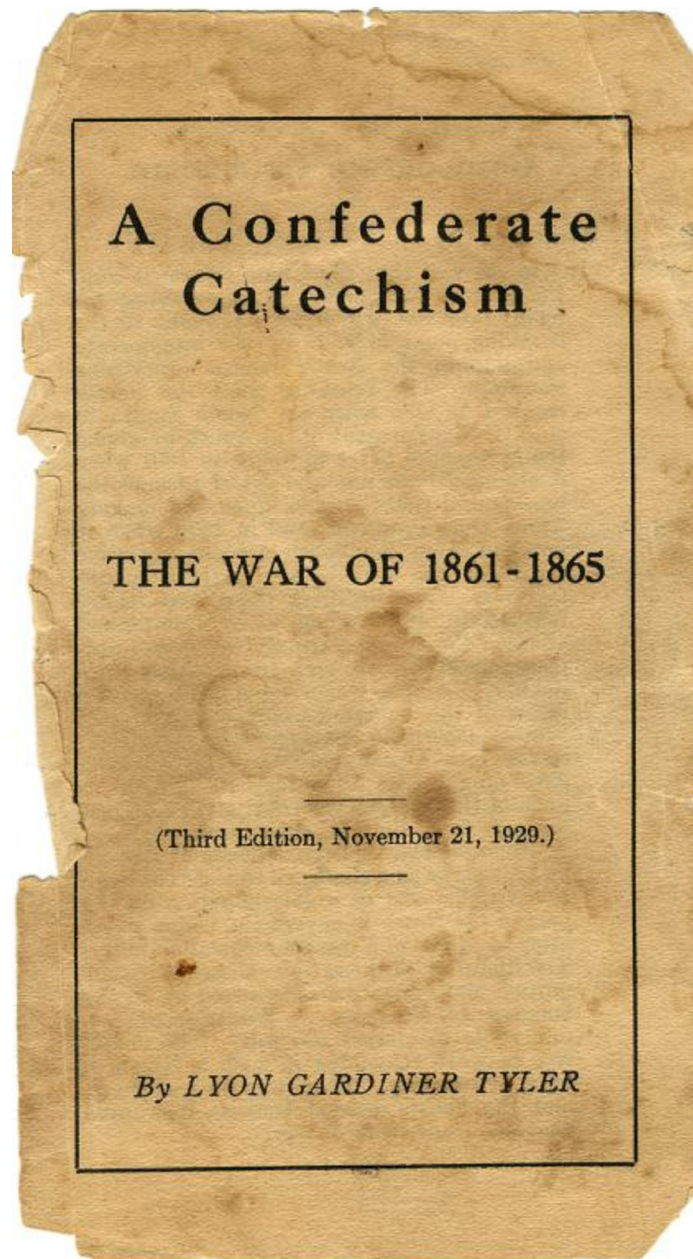
The voice of Amsterdam comments the death scenes: “In the end, they put candles on the bodies so their friends, if they had any, could know them in the dark. The city did this free of charge. Shang, Jimmy Spoils, Hell-cat, McGloin, and more. Friend or foe, didn't make no difference now. It was four days and nights before the worst of the mob was finally put down. We never knew how many New Yorkers died that week before the city was finally delivered.”

"Gangs of New York" goes not deep enough into Northern racism and the essence of Yankee politics which were to be transported to the South during Reconstruction (“Remember the first rule of politics. The ballots don't make the results, the counters make the results. The counters! Keep counting!”), but it will have to be regarded as one of the most politically incorrect movies of the first decade of our century. At least it may help to re-activate the people's curiosity about the true history of Lincoln's war of aggression during the next 4 years.



Always ready for a fight: Bill “The Butcher” and his Nativist gang.

CAMP LIBRARY



Written in 1929, the educational 12-page booklet "Confederate Catechism" contains accurate answers to questions like: Was secession the cause of the War? Was slavery the cause of secession? Did Lincoln save the Union? Did the South as alleged in the Gettysburg Address fight to destroy popular government throughout the world? And other interesting thoughts most valuable today!

Order it from the Editor for free, as always: partisanranger@swissmail.com



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