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**Intelligence Service Europe,
Year IV, Issue 2, Apr. / May. 2011**



Commander's Letter

Hello to my compatriots and friends on both sides of the pond! Many activities to preserve and remember our confederate heritage in Europe are on the way since the last two months. Above all, the fundraising project for the preservation of the grave monument of Capt. Thomas J. Page and his son in Rome goes on very well. So many American Camps and friends already made a donation! And it is an ongoing process! It's up to us (to you) to beware that special part of confederate history in Europe. Across the pond our comrades held the "President Jefferson Davis Inauguration Sesquicentennial Feb. 18th 1861 - Feb. 19th 2011 in Montgomery, Alabama. I am envious that I could not be there in person - but I certainly was in spirit as every member of the Europe Camp! This were only two little comments...see our ISE for more information's!

And Folks: we gonna have a new full member! More details soon!



Commander Achim Bänsch

EDITOR'S NOTE

In this issue we have again a variety of most interesting stuff for you. April 1861 has the firing on Fort Sumter as the highlight; as this key event is still being presented as the start of the War by the South we must put a focus on it. It's not time for cheap revisionism but to have a look at the facts. Read the article by Frank Conner about. And remember Frank provided us for free his book "The South under Siege" which is available to full members in our Camp library.

A typical American way to teach History is the Living Historian, a person who reenacts the persona of a famous man of the past and speaks to you like a time-traveller would about himself. It's our honor to introduce two renown Living Historians portraying figures linked in some way to Europe: Wayne Jones as Major-General J.E.B. Stuart, Heros von Borcke's great friend, and Rick Benson as Swiss-born Captain Henry Wirz.

American Correspondent Nancy Hitt writes about a Confederate seal-press she found on Bermuda Island two years ago. It was brought there by an English blockade-runner but not sent further to Southern shores, thus it never reached the Confederate Government to be put in official use. Her pictures show a piece of History in brand-new condition! And if the February issue introduced the unknown dress sword of Heros von Borcke, this issue shows pictures of the sword presented by Heros to his friend General Stuart. What an impressive blade it is! The pictures were sent to us by the Texas Civil War Museum, which has it on public display since last January.

Our serious reenactor survey continues. The 8th North Carolina State Troops from Germany has pretty close links to us. They took part in the honor ceremonies for Heros von Borcke in Poland twice and our Camp Adjutant is an honorary member there. OIC Cpt. Christian H.A. Letz writes about his unit.

And Tom Landgraf rides again! He sent us his report of this year's reenactment of a winter encampment a few days too late for the February issue, but now here it is and with pictures! Tom's yearly Winter Camp has become famous because the participants have to endure the real hardships of the historical epoque it is set in. Read about the newest idea to fine reenactment inaccuracies and the luxury of an 1861 camp kitchen.

Very important: we are privileged with a new superb guest writer, Lewis Regenstein from Atlanta, Georgia. He extensively reviews a brand-new documentary on Jewish soldiers in Union and Confederate Armies which was released just six weeks ago. Lewis is a descendant of General James Longstreet's chief commissary officer, Major Raphael Jacob Moses.

Bertil Haggman has created a new blog: <http://grayquerrillas.wordpress.com/> you can't miss it if interested in Irregular Warfare during the WBTS. By the way, the Camp Library offers you a piece of fascinating reading: "The Life of Cole Younger, by Himself". It includes all his life and times as a Missouri Guerrilla.

Enjoy this issue and let me know if you have ideas for further improvements!

FORT SUMTER: HOW ABRAHAM LINCOLN STARTED THE WAR OF NORTHERN AGGRESSION TO PROTECT HIS OWN POLITICAL CAREER

by Frank Conner



The North's Republican party came out of nowhere in 1854, formed from the wreckage of the Whig party (the Northern Conscience-Whigs), and from the Free-Soilers and the Know-Nothings. It opposed slavery, and it demanded a powerful national-government which would subsidize Northern industrialization. The new Republican party grew very rapidly. Not surprisingly, its key bankrollers were Northern capitalists--financiers, shippers, industrialists, etc. Two of its founders and strongest political-leaders were Salmon P. Chase (first a senator and then a governor); and William H. Seward (also a governor and a senator).

At the 1860 Republican convention in Chicago, Chase and Seward were the favoured candidates. Abraham Lincoln was a dark horse. In national politics, he had served only in the House of Representatives, and only for one two-year term--1847-49: he had left Congress 11 years earlier! Lincoln had only three things going for him: he was considered a political lightweight, who could easily be manipulated by the powerbrokers; he himself was from Illinois, so the convention hall was located on his own stomping-grounds; and both he and his campaign manager--David E. Davis--were extraordinarily-adroit politicians.

In 1860 the vast majority of the Republicans did not want war. But the relatively-mild Seward had earlier coined several phrases which led many to believe mistakenly that he was a warmonger. And if Seward might possibly lead the country into war, the hot-head Chase would probably do so. Lincoln the unknown murmured soothing words of peace--which went down well. Meanwhile, he and Davis manipulated that convention behind the scenes in ways that would make today's dirty-tricks advocates turn green with
Consequently, Lincoln won the Republican nomination. envy.

There were two factors about the Republican campaign in the election of 1860 which disturbed the Southerners so badly that Southern states subsequently seceded:

First was the Republican-party platform for 1860. Basically, the Northern capitalists wanted the U.S. government to tax (only) the South deeply, to finance the industrialization of the North, and the necessary transportation-net to support that. In those days, there was no income tax. The federal government received most of its revenue from tariffs (taxes) on imported goods. The Southern states imported from England most of the manufactured goods they used, thus paid most of the taxes to support the federal government (the Northerners imported very little).

Second, the Republican party--unlike any of the other big political-parties that had come along--was purely a regional (Northern) party, not a national party. If the Republicans somehow managed to gain control of Congress AND the White House, they would then be able to use the federal government to enact and enforce their party platform--and thus convert the prosperous Southern-states into the dirt-poor agricultural colonies of the Northern capitalists. And given the 19th-century trends in demographics, the Southern states would never be able to reverse that process. The intent of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution would then have been subverted completely: the Southern states would no longer be governed with the consent of the governed--but instead bullied mercilessly by the Northern majority. Why, then, remain in the Union?

Meanwhile, the numerically-far-stronger national Democratic-party was busy self-destructing over the issue of slavery. So when the 1860 election-returns came in, it turned out that the Republicans had won the White House, and substantial majorities in the House and the Senate. When that message sank in, Southern states began seceding from the Union--beginning with South Carolina on 20 December 1860. Several of them said that the main issue was the protection of slavery, but that was strictly for local consumption by people who did their thinking solely in terms of simple slogans. The Southern legislators could do their math; thus they knew full well that the only truly-safe way to protect the institution of slavery would be for the Southern states to remain in the Union and simply refuse to ratify any proposed constitutional-amendment to emancipate the slaves. For slavery was specifically protected by the Constitution, and that protection could be removed only by an amendment ratified by three-quarters of the states. In 1860 there were 15 slave states and 18 free states. Had the number of slave states remained constant, 27 more free states would have had to be admitted into the Union--for a total of 60 states--before an abolition amendment could be ratified. That was not likely to occur anytime soon. But with the Southern states seceding, the issue of slavery could then be settled by force of arms at any time.

After the Republicans gained control of the presidency and the Congress following the 1860 elections, eleven Southern states eventually seceded from the Union--specifically to avoid becoming the helpless agricultural-colonies of the Northern capitalists. This move took the Northern capitalists completely by surprise. The South was like the little boy who was forever crying "wolf." Southern states had been threatening to secede ever since the Tariff of Abominations and the days of Calhoun; the North no longer took those threats seriously. But with the South now gone, there would be no federal funding to industrialize the North--because the Northern citizenry would certainly never agree to be taxed to pay for it.

And far worse than that, the many, many Northern-capitalists who had been earning fortunes factoring the Southern cotton-crop, transporting the cotton, and buying the cotton for New England textile-mills now faced financial ruin. The South normally bought its manufactured goods from Britain, anyway. Now, as a sovereign nation, the South could easily cut far better deals with the British financiers, ship owners, and textile mills to supply the South with all of the necessary support-services--leaving the Northern capitalists out in the cold.

This was all Lincoln's fault! If he hadn't been elected, the South wouldn't have seceded; and the Northern capitalists would not now be in this mess.

So as President-elect Lincoln prepared to take over the presidency, he was in a world of hurt. He had the trappings of office--but not the powerbase to support him safely in office against the slings and arrows of his outrageous political-enemies. Both Seward and Chase had well-established powerbases (financial backers, newspapers, magazines, personal political-organizations, friends in Congress, etc.). Both of them badly wanted Lincoln's job. Both of them merely awaited the first opportunity to spring a political trap on him; then subject him to deadly public-ridicule; and thereafter cut him off at the knees.

Given time, Lincoln--who would, after all, occupy the presidency--could weld together a formidable powerbase of his own; but right at the beginning of his term he was perilously vulnerable. He MUST now have the support of the Northern capitalists.

Lincoln was a Whig masquerading as a Republican, because that was now the only game in town. He didn't care anything about the slavery issue; he preferred to temporize with the abolitionists. But he couldn't temporize with the Northern capitalists. He would have to drag the South back into the Union immediately, or he'd (figuratively) be shot out of the saddle and discredited very quickly; then Seward or Chase would really be running the country; and Lincoln could forget all about being re-elected in 1864. That was unthinkable. But there was no way Lincoln or anyone else in the Republican party could possibly talk the Southern states back into the Union at this stage of the game; so he would have to conquer them in war. (He assumed it would be a 90-day war, which the Union Army would win in one battle.)

If you read Lincoln's first inaugural-address with any care at all, you'll see that it was simply a declaration of war against the South. It was also filled with lies and specious reasoning. In 1787, the official government-charter for the U.S. was the U.S. Constitution. In writing it, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 (some of the most-canny politicians in the country) had pointedly omitted from it the "perpetual union" clause which had been a main feature of the unworkable Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union--the U.S.-government charter which had preceded the Constitution.

Under the Articles, no state could secede lawfully unless all states seceded simultaneously. But the Constitution--which Lincoln had just taken an oath to uphold--did not contain that clause (or any other like it); so any state could secede lawfully at any time. And the Southern states did secede lawfully. Honest Abe flat-out lied when he said that was not so in his inaugural address; and he subsequently used his blatant lie to slaughter 623,000 Americans and Confederates--primarily in order to perpetuate himself in political office.

Lincoln had said he would go to war to "preserve the Union." But in order to start the war, he would somehow have to maneuver the South into firing the first shots, because Congress did not want war and would not declare war of its own volition. The most-likely hot-spot in which Lincoln could start his war was Charleston Harbour, where shots had already been fired in anger under the Buchanan administration. But the newly-elected governor of South Carolina, Francis Pickens, saw the danger--that Lincoln might, as an excuse, send a force of U.S. Navy warships to Charleston Harbour supposedly to bring food to Maj Anderson's Union force holed up in Fort Sumter. So Gov Pickens opened negotiations with Maj Anderson, and concluded a deal permitting Anderson to send boats safely to the market in Charleston once a week, where Anderson's men would be allowed to buy whatever victuals they wished.

(This arrangement remained in effect until a day or so before the U.S. Navy warships arrived at Charleston). Maj Anderson wrote privately to friends, saying that he hoped Lincoln would not use Fort Sumter as the excuse to start a war, by sending the U.S. Navy to resupply it.

Before his inauguration, Lincoln sent a secret message to Gen Winfield Scott, the U.S. general-in-chief, asking him to make preparations to relieve the Union forts in the South soon after Lincoln took office. Lincoln knew all along what he was going to do. President Jefferson Davis sent peace commissioners to Washington to negotiate a treaty with the Lincoln administration. Lincoln refused to meet with them; and he refused to permit Secretary of State Seward to meet with them.

After Lincoln assumed the presidency, his principal generals recommended the immediate evacuation of Maj Anderson's men from Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor--which was now located on foreign soil. To resupply it by force at this point would be a deliberate act-of-war against the C.S.A.

It turned out that Lincoln's postmaster general, Montgomery Blair, had a brother-in-law, Gustavus V. Fox, who was a retired Navy-captain and wanted to get back into action. Fox had come up with a plan for resupplying Fort Sumter which would force the Confederates to fire the first shots--under circumstances which would make them take the blame for the war. Lincoln sent Fox down to Fort Sumter to talk with Maj Anderson about the plan; but Anderson wanted no part of it.

Lincoln had Fox pitch the plan to his Cabinet twice. The first time, the majority said that Fox's plan would start a war and were unenthusiastic about it. But the second time, the Cabinet members got Lincoln's pointed message, and capitulated.

Meanwhile, Congress got wind of the plan. Horrified, they called Gen Scott and others to testify about it; Scott and the other witnesses said they wanted no part of the move against the Confederacy in Charleston; and nor did Congress. Congress demanded from Lincoln--as was Congress's right--Fox's report on Maj Anderson's reaction to the plan. Lincoln flatly and unconstitutionally refused to hand it over to them.

Lincoln sent to Secretary Cameron (for transmittal to Secretary Welles) orders in his own handwriting (!) to make the warships Pocahontas and Pawnee and the armed-cutter Harriet Lane ready for sailing, along with the passenger ship Baltic--which

would be used as a troop ship, and two ocean-going tugboats to aid the ships in traversing the tricky shallow harbour-entrance at Charleston. This naval force was to transport 500 extra Union-soldiers to reinforce Maj Anderson's approximately-86-man force at Fort Sumter--along with huge quantities of munitions, food, and other supplies.

The Confederacy would, of course, resist this invasion--in the process firing upon the U.S. flag. The unarmed tugs would, of necessity, enter the harbour first, whereupon they would likely be fired upon by the C.S.A., giving Lincoln the best-possible propaganda to feed to the Northern newspapers, which would then rally the North to his "cause."

Lincoln sent orders for the Union naval-force to time its sailing so as to enter Charleston Harbour on 11 or 12 April. Next, Lincoln sent a courier to deliver an ultimatum to Gov Pickens on 8 April, saying that Lincoln intended to resupply Fort Sumter peaceably or by force. There was no mistaking the intent of that message.

Lincoln had set the perfect trap. He had given President Davis just enough time to amass his forces and fire upon the U.S. Navy. But if Davis acquiesced instead, Lincoln need merely begin sending expeditionary forces to recapture all of the former Union-forts in the South now occupied by Confederate forces; sooner or later Davis would have to fight; and the more forts he allowed Lincoln to recapture in the interim, the weaker would be the military position of the C.S.A. As a practical matter, Davis was left with no choice.

Accordingly, the C.S.A., when informed that the U.S. Navy was en route, demanded that Maj Anderson surrender the fort forthwith. Anderson refused; Beauregard's artillery bombarded Fort Sumter into junk (miraculously without loss of life during the bombardment); and Anderson then surrendered with honor intact. The U.S. Navy arrived during the bombardment--but because elements of the force had been delayed for various reasons, did not join in the fight. The Navy was allowed to transport Anderson's men back to the U.S.

Thereafter Lincoln wrote to Fox, pronouncing the mission a great success. Lincoln ended his letter by saying, "You and I both anticipated that the cause of the country would be advanced by making the attempt to provision Fort Sumter, even if it should fail; and it is no small consolation now to feel that our anticipation is justified by the result:

Now Lincoln had his excuse for a war (assuming that he continued to lie his head off about it--which he did); but there was still no reason for him to believe that Congress would declare war against the South on his say-so.

In fact, there was every indication that they would not. So instead of obeying the Constitution and calling Congress into emergency session and asking them to declare war and to call up an army (which only Congress could do, under the Constitution), Lincoln simply declared war and called up an army himself--by naming the C.S.A.'s defence of its sovereignty in Charleston Harbour an "insurrection" against the U.S. government.

Lincoln did not call Congress into session until several months later--when his war had progressed so far that Congress could not then call it off, but as a practical matter would have to rubberstamp it. So Lincoln started the War of Northern Aggression virtually single-handed.

Without vulnerable dark-horse Abraham Lincoln assuming the presidency in 1861, I do not believe we would have had a war. Nobody wanted one except Lincoln and a few rabid-abolitionists and some Northern-capitalists whose fortunes were threatened. I consider Lincoln a megalomaniacal sociopath whose like we have not yet seen--and I pray we never will see.



Fort Sumter in 1861 (Harper's Weekly).

Beginning at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, the Confederates bombarded the fort from artillery batteries surrounding the harbor. Although the Union garrison returned fire, they were significantly outgunned and, after 34 hours, Major Anderson agreed to evacuate. There was no loss of life on either side as a direct result of this engagement, although a gun explosion during the surrender ceremonies on April 14 caused two Union deaths. The shelling of April 12 in no way can be compared with the massive bombardments of the Fort by Union floating batteries during the brutal siege of Charleston during the War. Most significantly, certain authors like to illustrate articles and books with images of those attacks, but representing them as the April 12 shelling.



Living Historian:

Richard A. Benson as Captain Henry Wirz



Rick Benson as Capt. Wirz during a living-history session

Rick Benson as Henry Wirz:

I had always enjoyed the Civil War period of American History. My business travels took me all over the country. Whenever and wherever I traveled, I would check my Civil War reference books to see if there had been any Civil War related activities close to the areas I would be in. If there were, I would make every effort to attempt to visit the site(s). However, with the time requirements for raising a family, plus all their extra-curricular activities, it left very little time for me to personally get involved in any Civil War activities. When our children finished college, and they were essentially on their own, I decided to attempt to scratch my Civil War itch.

I initially decided to get into reenacting after visiting several Civil War reenactment events. My initial choice was to portray Confederate General P.G. Beauregard. I had heard that in reenacting, you should select an individual that is similar in physical stature. The reason I initially selected Beauregard was because of his stature, and that I liked what I had previously read about him. Beauregard was right in the epicenter of initial Confederate military activities. When South Carolina seceded, the Governor placed this Louisiana native as Commander and Chief of the Charleston,

SC military defences. When negotiations failed to get the Union soldiers to vacate Fort Sumter, General Beauregard was in charge of these Charleston defences that fired the 1st official shots of the Civil War on April 12, 1861. I was looking forward to doing more research into his background and talked with an individual about reenacting General Beauregard, and he informed me that I would have to join a unit Beauregard was associated with, and that the members of that unit would then have to vote and “approve” my portrayal of him. I had no idea what units Beauregard was associated with, if these units were located locally, or if not, where they were located. Thus, my interest in portraying General Beauregard cooled.

The next individual I seriously considered portraying was Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens. I had visited his home in Crawfordsville, GA twice. The Superintendent of this facility was very pleasant, and very knowledgeable. She personally gave me a tour of the plantation, and the museum. Since Stephens was a civilian, my thought was that I would not need any “approvals”, or “recommendations” to portray him. Physically I was larger than him, and much healthier. Alexander Stephens was 5’3”, and about 130lbs., and sickly. I then started to get books from our local library on Alexander Stephens. I was not aware of the extent to which he and Confederate President Jefferson Davis did not get along. In fact, Alexander Stephens became so disenchanted with his position and treatment by Jefferson Davis, he left the Confederate Capital in Richmond, VA, and just went home to Crawfordsville, GA. Thus, my reenacting Alexander Stephens looked like it could be done in 20 minutes, or less!

I had stayed in touch with my Junior High School Social Studies teacher Jack Lane, who also had a major interest in the Civil War era. When I told him about the above, he suggested that I consider Capt. Henry Wirz, as he was an interesting individual. I had visited the Andersonville site, and had enjoyed it. Stature wise, I was similar to Wirz, plus there would be no “approvals” required, as Henry Wirz had been transferred from the 4th Louisiana Infantry, to report to Brigadier General John Henry Winder whose command dealt with POW administration. To the best of my knowledge, there are no reenacting units for POW administration. The more I read on Captain Henry Wirz, the more interested I became. I then started networking and talking with people from around the country and decided to take my portrayal to Andersonville.

When I first spoke with the Supt. at Andersonville, he requested that I send them some information on what I would be proposing to present to the visitors at this National Historical Site. They were concerned that I actually knew something about Capt. Henry Wirz, plus they did not want to possibly get involved with somebody that was going to mis-represent history. Also, their career could have possibly been put in jeopardy. When I first arrived at Andersonville, one could easily sense their apprehension, as they had not heard my presentation. After my initial presentation, the Supt. came over and related something to the effect that “he had been running the *Andersonville Revisited* event for 18 years, and had never had an individual portraying Capt. Henry Wirz before”. He then went onto say that “he did not realize how much they (Andersonville National Historic Site) had missed, by not having a Capt. Henry Wirz before”. Based on his statement, I believe it is reasonable to state that to the best of my knowledge, I am the only individual in the country portraying Capt. Henry Wirz. This statement was subsequently confirmed by other governmental historical site Superintendents.

It was about November of 2009 that somehow I got the name and phone number for your North American Correspondent Nancy Hitt. I contacted Nancy then, and she almost immediately called me back. She had been deeply involved with locating and marking the actual gravesite of Capt. Henry Wirz wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth Wirz is buried in a small private cemetery, close to Cadiz, KY, which is in Southern KY. Ironically, Nancy is also good friends with another associate of mine at our Salt Creek Civil War Round Table here in Northern IL. Although I have never had the pleasure of meeting Nancy personally, we communicate via email weekly on both Capt. Henry Wirz related topics, plus other Civil War related information dealing primarily with Kentucky. I consider Nancy a good friend, and an excellent source of information!



**Only known photo of Capt. Wirz.
Note the sash worn over his shoulder**

About the photos in this article

In the only known photograph of Capt. Henry Wirz you will note that he is in full beard, and I am clean-shaven. You will also note that he wears a "sash" over his frock coat, and I do not. Please allow me to explain the reason for the differences. First, I will address the "sash". This only known actual picture of Capt. Henry Wirz was taken in France in 1863 when Capt. Wirz was back in Europe for surgery. To the best of my knowledge a "shouldered sash" was not in use at all by the Confederate Army. I have been advised that this was a part of some European military dress uniforms. Since this picture was taken by Capt. Wirz more for vanity, it is my belief that he allowed this embellishment to be added at the suggestion of photographer.

Next is the "beard" aspect. Capt. Henry Wirz, and his escort guard was taken by train from Macon, GA to Washington, DC for the Trial by Military Commission.

The newspapers published Capt. Henry Wirz actual train schedule, including routes, departure dates, arrival times, etc. He was severely beaten in the 1st stopover in Chattanooga, TN. In Nashville, TN, he was almost killed when he was being transferred from rail to a steamboat that would take him to Louisville, KY . The last portion of the trip was from Louisville, KY to Washington, DC via train. He was able to obtain civilian clothes from friends in Louisville, and dispose of what was left of his torn up uniform, plus he shaved. With this "disguise", he was able to blend in, and escape notice the balance of the trip. I maintain that this "is the time frame I am currently in", as I put on my presentations.

There is a minor charge of \$150.00 per day for my services. I would be proposing to make myself available for the entire day(s) for your event. If you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

My contact information is as shown below:

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aka Capt. Henry Wirz
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Picture of Camp Sumter POW camp, Andersonville, Ga



Living Historian:

Wayne Jones as Major-General J.E.B. Stuart



Wayne Jones as impressive as General Stuart was

Introductory note: Wayne Jones is a retired Senior NCO with the US Army. After his Army retirement in 1990, he started a very successful business in the Golf Industry. He worked with many different public and non-profit organizations in their marketing and management services. In 2006, he closed his business and retired. Wayne is an active SCV member. He has held offices as Adjutant, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, and 3rd Lieutenant Commander. He is the Commander of the Brigadier General Barnard E. Bee Camp # 1575 and the 5th Brigade Lt Commander for the SC Division. In 2010, he was awarded the *General Robert E. Lee Meritorious Service Award* for unselfish service to honor his ancestors. In 2011, he was awarded the *General's Award* by General R. M. Hardy, Commander of Hardees Corp of Reenactors for his service and support to their organization. Wayne has spent the past five years doing extensive research and study on the Life and Times of Major General James Ewell Brown Stuart. He now travels and presents his personal observations, thoughts, and understandings of General JEB Stuart at Living History Presentations, dinners, and ceremonies throughout the US. He is part of a larger organization known as **Our Reflections of Yesterday.**

Reflections and Decisions

I am often asked why James Ewell Brown (JEB) Stuart? What made you chose to portray his persona? Why do you think you are able to do this so easily? These are not hard questions to answer. The answers to the questions are simple and straightforward: doing General Stuart's persona is one of the hardest things I have ever done. I hope you will have a better understanding of my answer and the persona after I have had the opportunity to explain. You will have the opportunity to see the Reflections and Decisions I made as I chose the story of this great man and tried to understand his character so that I could relate to the choices he made in his life. These choices ultimately affected each of us and in turn changed our lives.

In my search for a method to share my Southern Heritage, I had been searching for quite some time for a character to portray. Being an old military man, I felt that trying to assume the persona of a military general was a little too bold. To presume that I could be a General was a role that I felt uncomfortable with at the time. The Generals I had seen were men of statue and grace. They were special men with special talents and I could not see myself in that place. I studied the Plantation Owner, the Banker, the Politician, and many more, but none of these seemed to speak to me. Then I started looking at lesser-known officers and tried to see how they came to the many decisions that made them who they were. I found a few that I felt would work, but I needed more information and background.

My wife, Pam, and I took a vacation, went to Virginia, and travelled to some of the locations that these great men had lived. Then on a fateful day at a small Confederate Museum in Front Royal, VA, she said, "Why don't you portray him (while pointing to a distant picture of many of our Confederate Generals), you kind of look like him?" "Which one" I asked. "That one," she said every time I asked for more clarification and trying to find the one, she was pointing to. The man she was referring to was the great Cavalry Leader of the Army of Northern Virginia, Major General James Ewell Brown Stuart. Little did she know that he had been a favourite of mine for many years. I had read his life story repeatedly and almost knew it by heart, but never in a million years would I have dreamed of assuming his persona.

You could say that the rest was history, but that is too easy. There are so many people and books that I need to acknowledge for the assistance they have given me in this endeavour. To the many Generals I work with, but especially to General Lee and General Jackson, I am forever grateful. They showed me how to communicate with the public and to teach our heritage to a new generation, eager to learn the truth. We do not teach old teachings from the old history books, but the true story that we have had to dig out of the many volumes of dusty books. They taught me that we can make a difference and we must continue to teach or our heritage will never be passed to future generations. I also discovered that I must continue to learn, or become stagnant with time.

I must constantly challenge myself or become complacent. Moreover, the most important lesson; knowledge is a wonderful thing to have, but an even more wonderful thing to share. Then, while reading about our second fight for independence, my wife Pam found the character of Flora and immediately bonded with her ideals, Christian morals, and decided that, she would support me by being not only my real wife, but also the important one in this role. How much more perfect could this be?



That is how I made the decision to assume the character of JEB Stuart. Now I would like to share with you some of the more important aspects of my journey. This journey would include the many books I have read and the ones I continue to read that have given me insight into the man. The following are but a few of the books, but are some of the most important sources that gave me the real understanding of the man that we know as General James Ewell Brown Stuart. They have allowed me understand JEB and why he made some of the decisions in his life. These books allowed me to look into his very soul.

God's Will Be Done, The Christian Life of J. E. B. Stuart, by Tom Perry

Ascent to Glory, The Genealogy of J. E. B. Stuart, by Tom Perry

"To Die Game" General J. E. B. Stuart, by Patrick Brennan.

JEB Stuart, by Capt. John W. Thomason, Jr.

Bold Dragoon, The Life of J. E. B. Stuart, by Emory M. Thomas

JEB Stuart, The Last Cavalier, by Burke Davis

Memiors of the Confederate War for Independence, by Heros von Borke

War Years with JEB Stuart, by LTC W. W. Blackford, C.S.A.

I Rode With Jeb Stuart: The Life And Campaigns Of Major General J. E. B. Stuart, by H. B. McClellan

Plenty of Blame to Go Around, Eric J. Whittenberg and J. David Petruzzi

Then there is a special thanks to Tom Perry (www.freestateofpatrick.com). *God's Will Be Done, The Christian Life of J. E. B. Stuart* was one of the first books I read and the one that I constantly go back to as a source document. It is the heart and soul of the foundation of my Persona of JEB Stuart. Then to gain even more insight into JEB and Flora, I read *J. E. B. Stuart's Birthplace, The History of Laurel Hill Farm*.

The encouragement Tom gave me the first time I did a JEB Stuart presentation meant a great deal to me. Then in May of 2010, Tom took me on a personal tour of Patrick County and showed me the intimate side of JEB that I could not get from a book. Tom has been a constant source of information and inspiration as I continue my study of JEB Stuart.

From this work was born the "The General and His Lady". This is a business model that Pam and I started to allow us to travel and present the story of JEB and Flora (www.thegeneralandhislady.com). However, we are only two of the many Living Historians that are part of a much larger group called Our Reflections of Yesterday. We all endeavour to portray the person in history we represent as accurately as possible. Each persona is a product of many hours of research and development. While some of our associates have striking and sometimes eerie qualities of their persona, we all strive to present a professional representation, befitting the great person in history we have chosen to emulate. Should you decide to visit our web site (www.ourreflectionsofyesterday.com), we hope you will find the site informative and useful. Please be patient with us as we strive to bring you information and history on the pages of the website. Should you at any time find errors, please let us know, for we are continuing to learn and grow.

Our mission is to honor our ancestors by emulating and perpetuating the honorable values and principles that characterized the brave men and women who lived during turbulent time in our Nation's history. We strive to continue to promote goodwill throughout the nation and beyond its borders, by researching personas, offering presentations at events such as Living History Events, Reenactments, schools, and civic organizations. We shall embrace our cultural diversity without regard to race, religion, nationality, or cultural background, while celebrating the uniqueness of the time when families were torn apart and brother fought brother. Through our organization, we offer a glimpse into the past, as we seek to provide role models for all to consider, while teaching the history of the personas and the era we portray.

The General and His Lady continue to provide a valuable medium for the public through our activities to honor our ancestors that lived during mid nineteenth century. We maintain a strong connection with a core of committed members who dedicate their time, talents, and resources to meet our goals and accomplish our mission. Our organization offers a glimpse into the past and provides role models for all to ponder. We strive to provide leadership in our communities and serve as examples to the young and old by encouraging them to carry forward the customs and traditions of other like-minded groups and organizations.

Therefore, you see I found a place and a person I could relate to. From there I built a foundation of understanding the man, the history, and the circumstances that he endured. Finally, I tried to fashion my life after his and emulate his virtues in all that I do. Sometimes, I actually feel the spirit of JEB as I present his life and times. I would never attempt to say that I am in any way as great a man as he was, but I am only a humble servant trying to carry his message to the world. I would like to think that in all that I do; I only honor one of the greatest Cavalry Officers to serve the Army of Northern Virginia. With all of this work I think I can now understand the decisions he made and can reflect back on how he became the great General he was. And as I tell the many that ask me why I chose JEB Stuart, we do not necessarily pick the persona - it picks us.

HEROS VON BORCKE'S PRESENTATION SWORD TO GENERAL STUART

The Texas Civil War Museum, which opened in 2006, has a special piece on display since last January: the sword presented to Major-General JEB Stuart by his great friend and aide-de-camp, then Major Heros von Borcke in early 1863.

The impressive blade is made in Germany and of the same quality as Hero's own sword. It is double-edged in the first 12 inches, which makes it a terrible thrusting weapon. What makes this saber so special is that although the blade is of German origin, the hilt and also the scabbard were designed and assembled by Mitchell & Tyler in Richmond, Virginia. Though the beautiful finish of the saber's hilt, it is not a dress sword but a fighting blade of exceptional quality and as we might say: a token of friendship among kindred spirits like Stuart and von Borcke, who melted together to defend the Southern cause.



**The sword is on display since January this year
© Texas Civil War Museum 2011**



**Close-up of the beautiful hilt of General Stuart's sword
© Texas Civil War Museum 2011**

We are most indebted to the Museum for sending us these pictures and want to remember it's always worth a visit. Wayne Jones told us "I had the opportunity to visit the Civil War Museum in Fort Worth, TX in January of this year. It is a wonderful tribute to the War Between the States and a must see by everyone that is in the area and has the time."

Any trip from Europe to Texas should include a visit there:
<http://www.texascivilwarmuseum.com/>
for any questions ask:
questions@texascivilwarmuseum.com



ROB SEELYE STUDIO R1

Wayne Jones as General Stuart visiting the Texas Museum in January this year with Mrs. Martha Van Schaick, President General of the UDC



A CONFEDERATE SEAL PRESS IN BERMUDA

By Nancy Hitt, ISE American Correspondent



For several years I have wanted to visit the island of Bermuda. Confederate high-jinks took place in Bermuda during our struggle for freedom in the 1860s as blockade runners sailed out of there in daring attempts to dash into southern ports. Tourist information described Bermuda as being a warm and exotic dot of land that still retains remnants of British Colonial culture.

My particular interest was to actually look upon the original Confederate press which had been manufactured in London and left behind in Bermuda since 1864. I had learned years ago that the press was on display in a museum on the island. The Confederate silver seal made it through the blockade after the fourth attempt. Due to the weight of the press, it was left behind after the third try at slipping through the blockade. The original seal is now in the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia.

I made travel plans to be away from Louisville during Thanksgiving as I did not want to spend the holiday at home. I booked an airline flight to Bermuda for Tuesday, November 25, 2008, returning on Saturday, November 29, 2008.

The internet contained rave reviews about the Salt Kettle House and its owner. This cluster of cottages with kitchens was priced just right for my pocketbook and sounded conveniently located to the main town of Hamilton. I took that internet advice and booked up for four nights.

I was lucky to have read those kind reviews about Salt Kettle House as the facility was just grand, not fancy but “homey” under the direction of the efficient and gracious English-born owner, Hazel Lowe. During my short stay, Hazel assisted me with maps, bus and ferry schedules, suggestions about restaurants and sights of interest.

After making my reservations for the trip to Bermuda, I learned that the Confederate press on display at the Bermuda National Trust Museum located in St. George’s was a Victorian reproduction of the original press. This detail was confirmed by a telephone call to the museum staff before my departure.

This museum was once the old Globe Hotel. It was purchased in 1951 and was opened in April, 1961, as a Confederate museum exactly 100 years after the War began. In 1996, the current display was installed and entitled, “Rogues & Runners: Bermuda and the American Civil War.” This museum is a must for southern visitors to Bermuda.

The original Confederate press had been sold at auction in 1888 to a Mr. John S. Darrell. It was still privately held by someone in Bermuda. This made me quite curious. Would I be able to actually find the original Confederate press and see this rare object?



Upon arrival at the small light-orange colored airport, my fellow travellers and I were greeted by a three-piece Black band, Christmas decorations, a portrait of Queen Elizabeth and a motorized Santa Claus waving his hand at us.

The charming taxi driver, Mr. Harris, was holding up a sign with my name printed upon it. Hazel had arranged for him to meet me upon my arrival. He drove me to the Salt Kettle House and proceeded to give me a brief history lesson about Bermuda.

The island is a fantasy of colors as most all of the buildings are constructed of coral blocks covered over with a pastel tinted plaster. Homes, government buildings, buses, restaurants, almost everything is painted in lovely pale shades of blues, greens, pinks, oranges and purples.

The vegetation upon Bermuda is similar to that in Florida and best of all, there are no native snakes or Alligators. There were no natives living upon these craggy islands when the English began to settle Bermuda in the 1600s.

There are reportedly a total of 365 islands which make up this island chain, but most are just tiny rocky juts rising from the ocean floor. These coral outcroppings of land are actually the top of an extinct volcano. Bermuda is only 21 miles in length and is similar to the Florida Keys in that several bridges were built to connect the larger islands.

Water ferries will take you to Hamilton, the Dockyards or St. George's. This is a convenient method of transport on Bermuda.

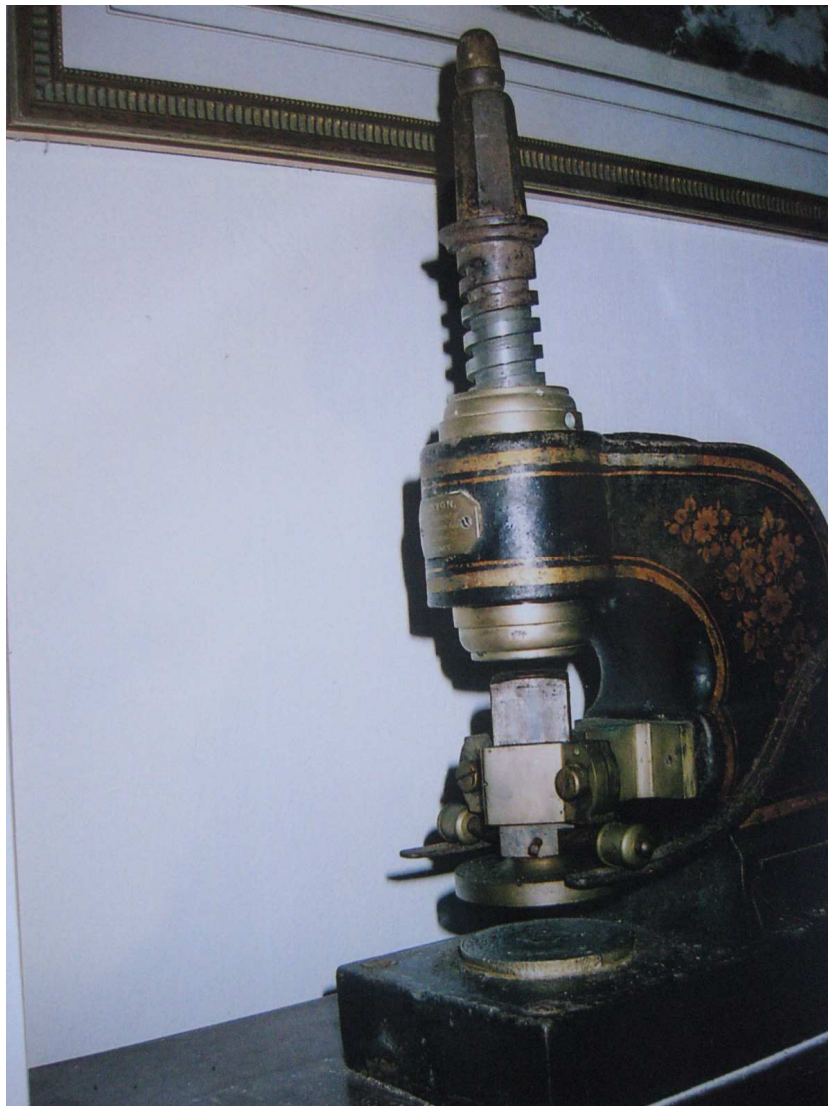
Some of the ferries will transport bicycles and scooters as well. The ferry that often picked me up at the Salt Kettle ferry stop was appropriately named "Georgia." I was never able to ask the ferry pilot about the origin of this name.



I felt sure that upon such a small island, it would be likely that someone would know who owned the original Confederate press. With the assistance of several local folks, I was able to contact the right people.

On Friday evening, a female family member collected me at the Salt Kettle House in her car. She drove me to her home where I was allowed to touch and photograph that invaluable historic relic of our honored past. It was exciting to be shown so much hospitality and to be in the presence of that unique piece of Southern history.

During our War for Southern Independence many of the island residents of Bermuda supported the South and today they retain a significant part of our Southern history. We can feel confident that our old press is beloved, revered and secure in Bermuda. It will be retained safely in the hands of the current owners and descend to their children. To my great satisfaction, this Southern mystery has been successfully resolved!



THE 8TH NORTH CAROLINA STATE TROOPS INFANTRY REENACTORS



By Capt. Christian Letz, O-i-C

About the 8th NC State Troops Inf.Reg. We were founded seven years ago and now our strength is 20 men; women are also allowed to serve as nurses or cantinieres, ensuring the supply with food in the field.

At the beginning, most of our members were just Western-Hobbyists (Cowboys, Trappers, etc.) but the sooner or later they all found out that reenacting a unit of the Great American War between the States suited them best. The "founding fathers" of the 8th NC were my son Hannes Letz and myself. Looking back to him and how much money he spent at the age of just 14 to obtain his basic equipment it makes me feel pride to see that he has developed himself into a pretty good reenacting soldier.

Some of his very young friends joined us and I can remember well how other people pointed at us during the 1. Wildflecken Reenactment in 2006, the first time the 8th NC "saw the elephant" and said: Look at Letz and his soldier-kids!

I have always maintained with time and enduring spirit it's possible to develop a fighting unit; right now our men are aged 21 to 51 years and they all are battle-proven veterans from many reenactments. The 8th NC is already known in Europe beyond the frontiers of Germany.

Why did we found the 8th NC? After all my research on the American "Civil War" I had reached full awareness which side to choose and I decided to honor North Carolina and to wear the uniform their State Troops.

Among the reasons was the fact that Virginia was not always leading the way and if you note that more than 30% of the casualties among Southern soldiers were from North Carolina, I think this State should be honoured most.

Right now we are raising 3 Companies. Co. A in Thüringen, Co. B in Sachsen-Anhalt and Co. F in Brandenburg-Berlin.



Gyzin, Poland, September 2010. The most pro-Confederate town in Europe



Our Camp Adjutant in uniform with the men of the 8th North Carolina



Well-equipped North Carolina state troops reenacting the first winter of the war



Close-up of the 8th NC men in the field

I regard it as very important to maintain strict uniformity, avoiding the hodgepodge usually associated to Confederate units. In Hollywood movies like "Gettysburg" there is little uniformity shown among Southern soldiers. Upon my research, many Regiments had been recently clothed before the Pennsylvania campaign. Well, much more interesting things you can find in our homepage, including pictures and two videos: www.8thnorthcarolina.de



Infantry and Artillery in action



Volley fire!

We would like to come to Gettysburg in 2 years and take part in the great 150. Anniversary, marching and fighting there side-by-side with our comrades from North Carolina. We are funding the endeavour already and hope to be able to get enough money for that.

My best regards to all the Southern reenactors in America! Take care and stay well.
Cpt.Christian Letz, 8th NC



WINTER CAMP REENACTMENT 2011: “MUDDY HILLS 1861”



By full member Tom Landgraf

My reenactment group had the annual Winter Camp last February, giving life to an 1861 encampment. Friday afternoon all the thirteen participants arrived and we had a nice greeting, lots of hot coffee cans helped against the cold, after dinner we had some whisky. Then I read the orders and instructions for this weekend. Temperatures were not as low as in other Winter camps, about 32 F, freezing cold but not enough to avoid humidity. From a personal point of view I prefer lower temperatures of even 5 F to better reenact cold and hardships.



Camp established. Unlike other camp events the problem was not the snow and extreme temperatures, but the mud and the rain.

I can truly say that this year's camp was one of the best about fitting all the historical requirements. It had been agreed to establish a kind of immediate cash-desk to pay the fines for committing contraventions against authenticity, (i. e. like smoking a filter-cigarette). Especially during the first evening a nice amount came together, but afterwards people got used to the reenactment feelings and everything went well. We got truly immersed in time. (Afterwards the money from the fines was donated to a local kindergarten.)

Saturday morning started with the roll call. Then we took care of our horses and had a big breakfast with bacon and eggs. After the luxury-beginning for our stomachs, we started with drill-exercises, both dismounted and on horse-back. Skirmish tactics were also taught and trained.

After spending half the day exercising in wet and cold, my men received a surprise: camp luxury as unexpected. Pieces of game were not very usual for meal of the troops, but I decided to reenact such a culinary delicacy as it would have been prepared in the Camp's kitchen. I made a dish called in German "Aufbruch" for the men. Part of innards like liver, heart and kidneys were broiled in a big pan. Some bacon slides had been roasted together with onion rings and garlic before, then the innards included. Deglazed all with some beer, salt and pepper was added.

The ready meat dish was served to the hungry men together with slices of brown-bread. At first, they seemed indecisive to try that, but after tasting it, some even licked the pan after ending the meal! A real luxury for a Confederate winter-Camp even in 1861, indeed!



Meat, bacon, the men had unexpected delicacies for meal, even for a winter camp in 1861. . .



. . . and gallons of coffee to drink.

After meal there was another event later to become rather unusual in the Confederate Army: a regular pay-out following the roll-call, including a request to donate for the Church (remember the many chapels of different denominations erected in the Petersburg area in the forthcoming years, all paid and build by the soldiers themselves).



Relaxing at the camp fire

Late afternoon the wife of a local farmer appeared (reenacted by Kirsten, my own wife) and brought some food. Eggs, bread, some lard, sausages, but also matches and cigars for sale the men could buy with their hard-earned dollars. So much opulence and prosperity was seldom the case in a Winter encampment, but it was 1861 and the men had fun with it while experiencing a lot of comradeship. That evening a last special reenactment occurred. After supplying the horses we sat at the camp fire and a mail-call took place: every man could read out a letter from home. That brought us closer to the feelings of those brave men in the trenches during the winter in the War years.



Reading letters from home at candle-light

Sunday morning we stroke the tents. After breakfast it was time to leave, as many of us had long driving times before arriving home. How sad that this weekend was over much too soon!

Next year our annual winter camp will take place on January 20-22, 2012.

For information contact me: Tom.Landgraf@gmx.de

<http://www.rheinhessen-raids.de/index.html>



THE BATTLE FLAG DRAPED ON GIRL IN GERMAN TV SHOW

Just last week, in the TV musical contest DSDS, the German version of "American Idol", aired on prime time by the channel RTL, one of the participants wore a miniskirt dress, draped with a see-through Confederate battle flag over it. In America, there would have been a large controversy. Can you imagine a girl singing while draped in the "Rebel flag"? We know of similar cases in America which caused tremendous controversies.

And again we saw in Europe things are different: no controversy at all! Beside the possible discussion if it is a matter of good taste to use the glorious flag (and what it stands for) in such a frivol manner in TV singing-girlies contest, we acknowledge the fact that the flag is seen in Germany just as a piece of American popular culture, exactly as it should be in entire America today.



German contest participant Nina Richel with her miniskirt-dress covered with a diaphanous battle flag and singing "Every time we touch" surrounded by male dancers. © RTL 2011

We must acknowledge another fact: the use of the flag on her dress didn't give the girl strength and courage; after ending her song she collapsed live on screen upon "to much stress" and afterwards retired from the contest. The Confederate battle flag is definitely only for the brave, and not suitable as bikini pattern, thong or miniskirt dress. . . think of it.

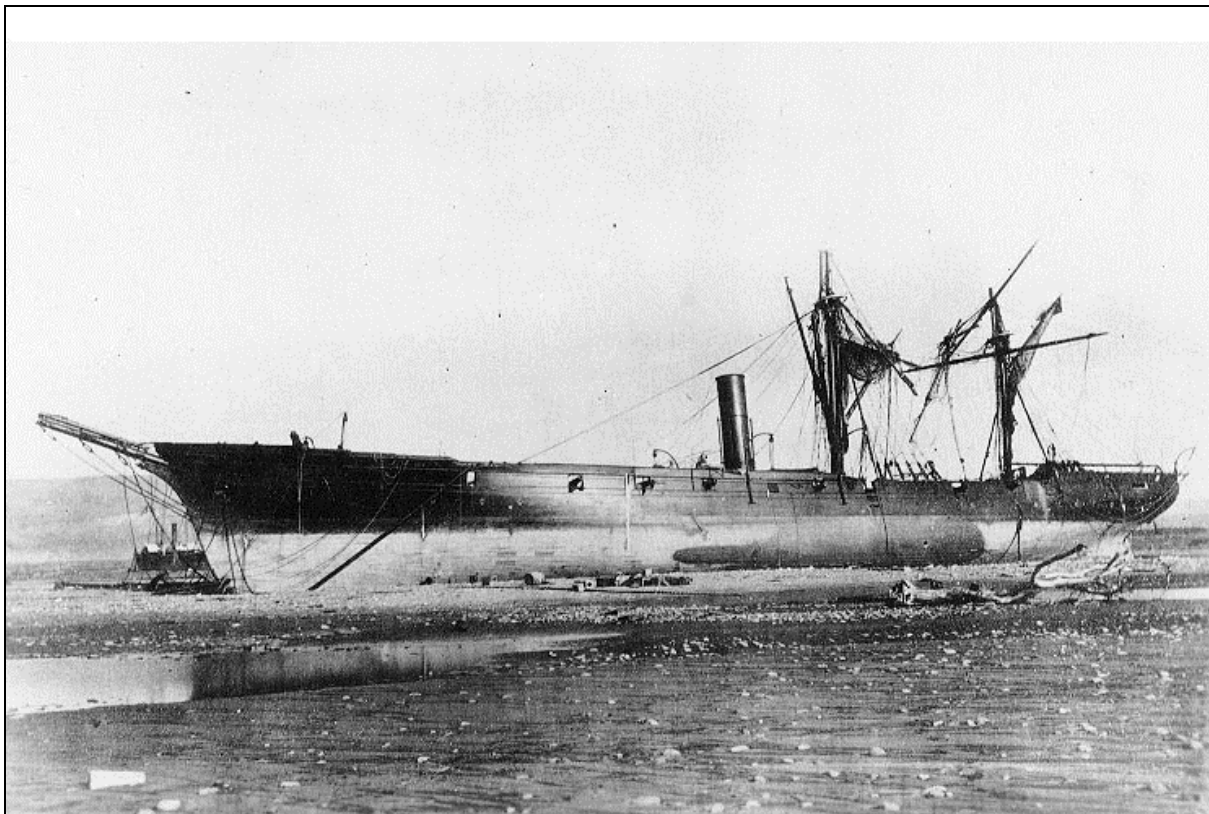
To see the performance (collapsing not included) use this link:

<http://www.rtl.de/medien/unterhaltung/superstar/dsds-kandidaten/13716-a0c3e-82cf-15/dsds-2011-nina-richel-singt-everytime-we-touch.html>

THE TSUNAMI THAT STRANDED THE INTENDED CSS TEXAS

The recent Japan earthquake and devastating Tsunami have shocked the world. Spectacular images of fishing trawlers being taken away together with cars and even complete houses could be watched on TV. It was the first time such a catastrophic event was shown live and in full detail to the world. The wave even reached shores as far as Hawaii and California. Thus, many people think these events are catastrophic happenings of modern times. But Tsunamis are older than mankind. And such terrible devastations have already taken place hundreds of years ago. One of such events was the 1868 earthquake which occurred near Arica, Chile (then part of Peru). That seismic activity generated a Tsunami that was noted across the Pacific, but most of the associated damage concentrated along the coasts of southern Peru (now northernmost Chile). One of the victims of the Tsunami was a warship which had been build in Europe for the Confederate Navy: the CSS Texas.

The *Texas* was intended for but did not join the CSN. In February 1864 Secretary of the Navy Stephen R. Mallory, writing James D. Bulloch, CS Naval Intelligence Chief in Europe, directed that four corvettes to be called *Louisiana*, *Mississippi*, *Texas* and *Georgia* had to be build in France. Two of them, camouflaged under the names *San Francisco* (presumably the *Texas*) and *Shanghai*, at the yards of Dubigeon & Sons at Nantes; their engines were fabricated by Mazeline of Le Havre. When the French Government stopped their sale to the Confederacy due to Union diplomatic pressures, Peru bought the Nantes corvettes. The intended *Texas* was renamed "America" and while anchored in Arica Bay, the Tsunami disaster occurred on August 13, 1868. The wave arrived at Arica 73 minutes after the earthquake and with a 16 m height it took the ship almost a mile into the mainland. There it was photographed the day after. The monster wave took most of the ridding but caused little damage to the hull of the ship. What a wonderful sea-raider this robust vessel would have been!



EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTARY

JEWISH SOLDIERS IN BLUE & GRAY



Official summary: Coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, JEWISH SOLDIERS IN BLUE & GRAY is a first-of-its-kind film that reveals the little-known struggles facing American Jews both in battle and on the home front during the nation’s deadliest war. Narrated by Oscar-nominated screenwriter John Milius, JEWISH SOLDIERS IN BLUE & GRAY explores the sacrifices Jews made as they defended both the Union and the Confederacy.

Analysis: (by Lewis Regenstein): Jonathan Gruber's new documentary film reveals for the first time in any documentary I know of a subject that has been largely kept out of the history books, movies, and television programs: the virulent hatred of Jews in the Union government and military during the American Civil War – or, as it is more accurately known, The War Between the States. Movies, television programs, and history books tell us that the “Civil War” was waged by the virtuous Union forces, against the cruel and evil Confederacy, over the issue of slavery.

Indeed, it has become common to see the Confederate battle flag compared with the swastika, and the South compared to Nazi Germany. But those who fought in this war, and those affected by it, know that it was the other side that commonly

committed war crimes. Indeed, while the South fought a war that was gentlemanly and honorable by the standards of those times, the North regularly engaged in persecution and atrocities against civilians, most of which have been conveniently cleansed from the history of those times.

Gruber's film, now being shown at film festivals and select locations in America, begins with an account of Union Commander Ulysses S. Grant's infamous General Order # 11, of December 17, 1862, expelling all Jews "as a class" from his conquered territories in Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

A few months earlier, on 11 August, General William Tecumseh Sherman had warned in a letter to the Adjutant General of the Union Army that "the country will swarm with dishonest Jews" if continued trade in cotton is encouraged. (Sherman, in a letter written in 1858, had described Jews as "...without pity, soul, heart, or bowels of compassion...").

And Grant also issued orders on 9 and 10 November 1862 banning southward travel in general, stating that "the Israelites especially should be kept out... no Jews are to be permitted to travel on the railroad southward from any point. They may go north and be encouraged in it; but they are such an intolerable nuisance, that the department must be purged of them".

As a result of Grant's expulsion order, Jewish families were forced out of their homes in Paducah, Kentucky, Holly Springs and Oxford Mississippi, and a few were sent to prison. When some Jewish victims protested to President Lincoln, the Attorney General Edward Bates advised the President that he was indifferent to such objections, "myself feeling no particular interest in the subject."

Nevertheless, on 4 January, 1863, Lincoln had Grant's odious order rescinded, but by then, some Jewish families in the area had been expelled, humiliated, terrified, and jailed, and some stripped of their possessions.

On 21 January, Union General-in-Chief Henry W. Halleck wrote to Grant to explain the rescission of the order, stating that "The President has no objection to your expelling traitors and Jew peddlers, which, I suppose was the object of your order; but as it in terms proscribed an entire religious class, some of whom are fighting in our ranks, the President deemed it necessary to revoke it." Captain Philip Trounstein of the Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, being unable in good conscience to round up and expel his fellow Jews, resigned his army commission, saying he could "no longer bear the Taunts and malice of his fellow officers... brought on by ... that order."

The officials responsible for the United States government's most vicious anti-Jewish actions ever were never dismissed, admonished or, apparently, even officially criticized for the religious persecution they inflicted on innocent citizens. Other instances of this widespread Yankee bigotry are described in detail by Bertram Korn "American Jews and the Civil War" (1951) and Robert Rosen, in his authoritative work "The Jewish Confederates"; and by other historians of the era.

They recount how Jews in Union-occupied areas, such as New Orleans and Memphis, were singled out by Union forces for vicious abuse and vilification.

In New Orleans, as recounted in the film, the ruling general, Benjamin "Beast" Butler, harshly vilified Jews, and was quoted by a Jewish newspaper as saying that he could "suck the blood of every Jew, and ...will detain every Jew as long as he can." An

Associated Press reporter from the North wrote that “The Jews in New Orleans and all the South ought to be exterminated. ..They run the blockade, and are always to be found at the bottom of every new villainy.”

Meanwhile, in the South, Southern Jews were playing a prominent role in the Confederate government and armed forces, and “were used to being treated as equals,” as Rosen puts it, an acceptance they had enjoyed for a century-and-a-half.. Dale and Theodore Rosengarten, in “A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life,” observe that in 1800, Charleston had more Jews than any city in North America, and many were respected citizens, office holders, and successful entrepreneurs. Some referred to the city as “our Jerusalem”; and Myer Moses, my maternal family patriarch, in 1806 called his hometown “...this land of milk and honey.” And so it seemed.

Some 3,000 or more Jews fought for the South, practically every male of military age. Many carried with them to the front the famous soldiers’ prayer, beginning with the sacred prayer, the “Shema,” written by Richmond Rabbi Max Michelbacher, who after secession, had issued a widely-published benediction comparing Southerners to “the Children of Israel crossing the Red Sea.”

Many Jewish Confederates distinguished themselves by showing, along with their Christian comrades, amazing courage, dedication, and valor—and all enduring incredible hardships against overwhelming and often hopeless odds.

Some find it peculiar that a people once held in slavery by the Egyptians, and who celebrate their liberation every year at Passover, would fight for a nation dedicated to maintaining that institution. (The Israelites later *owned* their own slaves, rules for the proper treatment of whom is set out in the Bible.)

But while slavery is usually emphasized, falsely, as the major if not sole cause of the War, Confederate soldiers felt they were fighting for their homeland and their families, against an invading army from the North that was trying, with great success, to kill them and their comrades, burn their homes, and destroy their cities. And anyone with family who fought to defend the South, as over two dozen members of my extended family did, cannot help but appreciate the dire circumstances our ancestors encountered, and understand the reasons they were fighting.

Near the end of the War, my great grandfather, Andrew Jackson Moses, one of the five Moses brothers who fought from beginning to the end of the War, participated in a deadly dangerous mission as hopeless as it was valiant. The date was April 9, 1865, the same day that Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. Having run away from school at sixteen to become a Confederate scout, Jack rode out as part of a hastily-formed local militia to defend his hometown of Sumter, South Carolina.

Approaching rapidly were the 2,700 men of Potter’s Raiders, a unit attached to Sherman’s army which had just burned Columbia and most everything else in its path, and Sumter expected similar treatment.

Along with a few other teenagers, old men, invalids, and wounded from the local hospital, Sumter’s 158 ragtag defenders amazingly were able to hold off Potter’s battle-seasoned veterans for over an hour and a half at the cost of a dozen lives. Jack got away with a price on his head, and Sumter was not burned after all.

But some buildings were, and there are documented instances of murder, rape, and arson by the Yankees, including the torching of our family's 196 bales of cotton.

The Moses brothers' well known uncle, Major Raphael J. Moses, from Columbus, Georgia, is featured near the end of Gruber's film. He was General James Longstreet's chief commissary officer and was responsible for supplying and feeding up to 50,000 men (including porters and other non-combatants). Their commander, Robert E. Lee, had forbidden Moses from entering private homes in search of supplies during raids into Union territory, even when food and other provisions were in painfully short supply. And he always paid for what he took from farms and businesses, albeit in Confederate tender—often enduring, in good humor, harsh verbal abuse from the local women.

The film describes how Moses ended up attending the last meeting and carrying out the last order of the Confederate government, which was to deliver the remnant of the Confederate treasury (\$40,000 in gold and silver bullion) to help feed, supply and provide medical help to the defeated Confederate soldiers in hospitals and straggling home after the War—worn, hungry, often sick or wounded, shoeless, and in tattered uniforms. With the help of a small group of determined armed guards, he successfully carried out the order from President Jefferson Davis, despite repeated attempts by mobs to forcibly take the bullion.

In stark contrast and in violation of the then-prevailing rules of warfare, the troops of Union generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan burned and looted homes, farms, courthouses, libraries, businesses, and entire cities full of defenseless civilians (including my hometown of Atlanta) as part of official Union policy not only to defeat but to utterly destroy the South. And before, during, and after the War, this Union army (led by many of the same generals, including Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, and Custer) carried out massacres of Native Americans in what we euphemistically call "The Indian Wars", including the slaughter of helpless old men, women, and children in their villages. The eradication of the Plains Indians from 1865 through 1866, for example, was carried out to seize land for the western railroads. So the Union army was hardly the forerunner of the civil rights movement, as many would have us believe.

The valor of the Jewish Confederates and the other Southern soldiers, and the blatant anti-Semitism so prevalent in the North, form a nearly forgotten chapter of American history. Even many Jewish historians seem to be embarrassed by the hatred of Jews in the top leadership positions in the government of President Lincoln, whom they so idolize, and it has not been considered "Politically Correct" to bring up the subject in this day of constantly reiterated demonization of the Confederacy, and worshipful reverence for Lincoln, his brutal generals, and his oppressive government.

But while Gruber's film lets the chips fall where they may in describing the anti-Semitism of Lincoln's military, it ultimately absolves Lincoln himself of responsibility for this bigotry, specifically Grant's expulsion order. But the available evidence points the other way, suggesting that if Lincoln did not know about the order beforehand, he did shortly thereafter, and may have even approved of it.

Lincoln is portrayed with the usual reverence, and the viewer is treated to a series of Lincoln accolades by his admirers who insist that he would never have tolerated any such thing, when, in fact, he indisputably did.

Nevertheless, Gruber, who heads Black Eye Productions in Silver Spring, Maryland, has broken new ground with this film. He has created a landmark work that will permanently influence the way people write and think about the War and Jewish history in America .

The film is scheduled to air on public television stations around the United States at the end of 2011, and should stir up a great amount of interest with so much newly-revealed information on the War, since it seems to be the first and only documentary to delve into the controversial subject of bigotry and anti-Semitism in the Union during the War.

A DVD of the film can be ordered from the website www.civilwarjews.com.

You can contact Lewis Regenstein at: Regenstein@mindspring.com



**Plaque on the Jewish Confederate Monument,
Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia**



THE PREACHER'S CORNER



(Extract from a preaching by Jimbo Richeson, chaplain for Levi's-Barr's Artillery Battery re-enactors, styled 'Co H.')

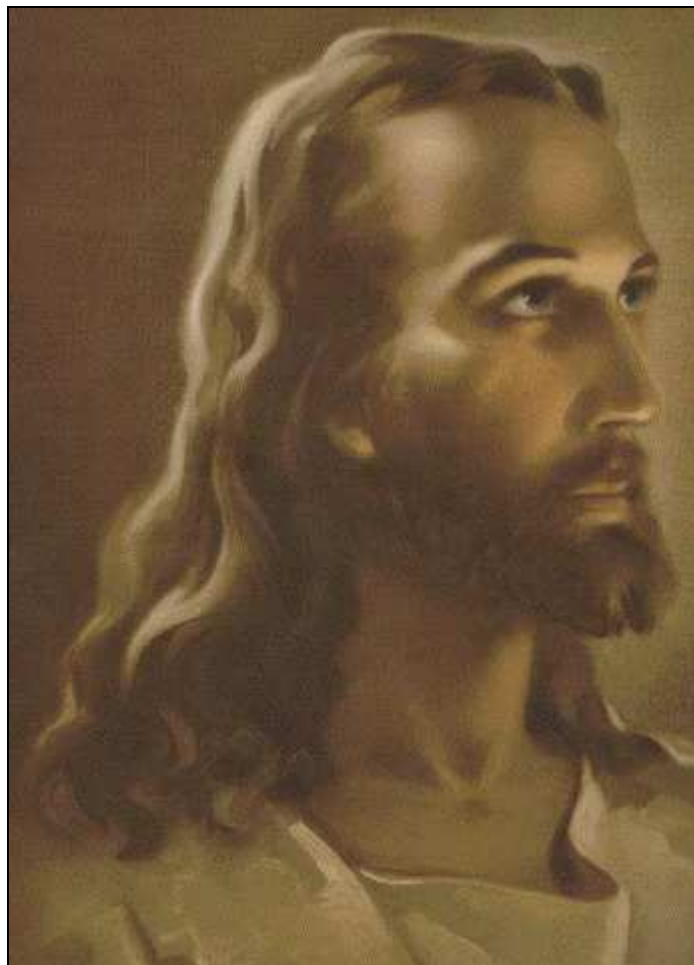
In true and Biblical Christianity the traditional values that many of our Southern kinfolk routinely modeled, those ideals that made the South a bastion of stability, order, civility, and chivalry, are discoverable in Scripture as mandates for life and living in the here and now. Our Lord, Commander, and Leader, thus, establishes for us the achievable criteria of the rarefied life rooted in eternity.

“Private and public life are subject to the same rules; and truth and manliness are two qualities that will carry you through this world much better than policy, or tact, or expediency, or any other word that was ever devised to conceal or mystify a deviation from a straight line.” (So said Robert E Lee). In the theological war waged on the South by the nefarious and avaricious Yankee, aping a false sense of religiosity, largely informed by the Jacobin caricatures of the French Revolution, and English liberalism, manhood was subjugated beneath the jack-boot of the ever pragmatic and expedient Victor. That victory enthroned statist secularism, in its multifarious forms, as the nouveau religio-philosophical basis for self-identification, with all the intolerance characteristic of this mind-set. Christian childlikeness was the first casualty of the ruthless cheat of Reconstruction, wherein that mind-set through the regimentation of State education, was ever thereafter propagandized as the dicta required by the hobgoblins of statist paganism.

That War was waged to beat the 'South' out of the Southron, and many have succumbed. But notice that it is an on-going war; that their victory is by no means solid nor complete. Lee's capitulation at Appomattox was not the end of Christian manhood, but rather a clarion call for more consistent exemplification thereof. Instead of bowing before the 're-education' imposed by the Victors, rather let us hasten to appropriate the example of our human-divine Beau-Ideal, and thus, rescue his surpassing chivalry, exemplifying practical and fervid Christianity from neglect and ingratitude (not to mention the false theology obscuring our traditional Southern

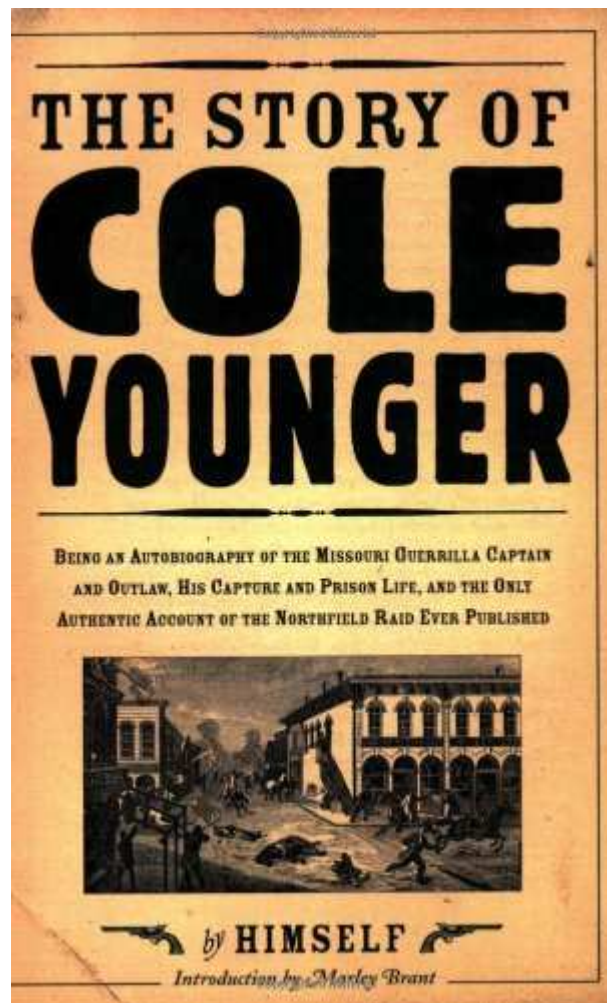
religious sensibilities) by deep and conscientious renunciations of Yankee caricatures of manhood and personal identity.

Scripture shows us the way. Let us be men by embarking on that way, remaining undismayed by the personal cost to ourselves, thus leading our homes, families, and churches to a renaissance of chivalry, and the gamut of Christian gentility, namely, the real thing of Heaven, and not its depraved counterfeit! This might mean for some of us painful transformation of character, beseeching God for a sanctified will with which to will the will of God, refusing the cop out of taking the easy way out of disagreeable situations requiring a deeper, fuller demonstration of gallant manhood than we've dared imagine heretofore. Christian manhood does, however, demand audacity, bold daring, and intrepidity. Let us dare to be the unique people God has predestined us to be! And, so, being reconciled to God, who *Himself is Truth*, we may the better find the path to reconciliation with our fellows. Yet, never in obeisance to unscriptural and un-Christian errors! Rather, may God bless our honest and scrupulous commitment to truth in all its implications and ramifications; and may He help us to yield to His sole prerogative to define to us, and through us, who we are *and must be*, even as disclosed in His incontrovertible Word.



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The Story of Cole Younger, by Himself (1903)



The title of this book says it all. But the text part of the title in the original publication of 1903 also tells a lot: “Being an Autobiography of the Missouri Guerrilla Captain and Outlaw, his Capture and Prison Life, and the Only Authentic Account of the Northfield Raid Ever Published”.

Cole Younger tells his story and his particular views of all the dramatic events he was involved in, including his opinions on many controversial themes. This is fascinating reading, indeed. A book suitable for everyone interested in Missouri Guerrillas, Old West Outlaws and the personal motivations of a man who fought the Yankees even beyond the War.

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