

Intelligence Service Europe

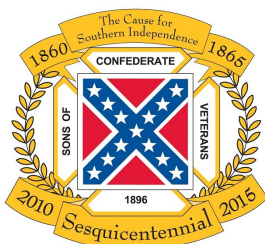
SCV Europe Camp #1612

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Commander's Letter

Compatriots and friends of our Camp!

Again the last two months have passed by in flying speed. And much news are to report. The good news is that Associate Stefan Slivka has successfully overcome a heavy heart surgery and is riding in the saddle again. The sad news is that our Italian Compatriot and lone fighter for the Southern Cause, Peter Rossi, has left us forever. He is still present, with his ancestors, watching us from Heaven, like Ulrich von Borcke, who died on liver cancer a few months before the first Heros von Borcke ceremony in Poland, is doing.

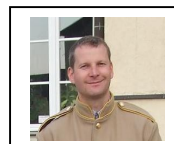
To ensure the Confederate dead are not forgotten we do find, mark and take care of their graves, in our case, in Continental Europe. In the Confederate Veteran magazine you could recently read our Page grave monument restoration project in Rome has been noticed in America. This month's South Carolina Division newsletter has also included a donation appeal. The notice is being spread and I am confident, dear Camp fellows, we will achieve next year a fine re-dedication of the grave monument with a large number of attendants. Don't forget funding is the key factor and our Camp should be most generous in that. We are the few, the proud, their only hope in Europe.

Especially now, in springtime, so many people like to make a stroll, to start a voyage to historic places. The Page monument in the Roman Cemetery, among other many famous graves, what a great opportunity to take a breath of History, next year, during the re-dedication!

Now I would like to come to a certain issue. Every time I have a look at History books, the press or TV I see again and again the American war between the North and the South being defined as a "civil war". That hurts my bowels! I want to see this disgraceful fact to be changed; a new definition must become common. Please read my article about this important issue.

You will find in this June issue many interesting articles, brought together by our contributors and our ardent American correspondent. So take this ISE, make yourself comfortable and enjoy it!

Achim "Archy" Bänsch
Commander



Adjutant's Dispatch

Your help is needed!

Dear Camp Members and fellow Descendents (both SCV and non-SCV)
General Lee once said "Duty is the sublimes word in the English language.
Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less."

My Confederate ancestor is buried in Texas, but I live in Germany. I cannot care for his grave myself, but I know that the local SCV Camp there is doing so. Here in Europe, we also have Confederate graves, often with no one to care for them. I think our task is pretty clear, isn't it!

So, if you have seen my article on page 59 of the May/June Confederate Veteran, you know that we are working to restore the impressive but deteriorated tomb in Rome, Italy of Captain Thomas Jefferson Page*, C.S. Navy, (Commander of the C.S.S. Stonewall*) and of his son, Major T.J. Page, Jr., C.S. Army. (*See the Wikipedia articles).

We are a small camp with very limited resources, but we have help. Through Jeff O'Cain of South Carolina (who was at our ceremony in Rome last year), Bragg Bowling of Virginia and Kelly Barrow (our national Lieutenant Commander-in Chief), we are getting support from our Compatriots in the US. The General Executive Council has pledged up to half - \$7000 – of the total cost of the project, if we can raise the rest.

We have contacted Camps in the US to raise funds. Together with the GEC money, we now have over \$10,000 of the \$14,000 needed. But we must close the gap and that is getting harder! South Carolina has responded magnificently. Other areas have not been so forthcoming. Maybe we need to show that we really mean what we say. How? By contributing our own money!

Archy, Raphael and I have all pledged our support for the Captain and his son. And you? Won't you also help? If we called and asked you to come out next Saturday and spend a day cleaning up a Confederate grave, you would come, wouldn't you? Well, you and I can't actually clean up Captain Page's tomb. But we can make it happen. What is a day of your work worth? Give that amount (more if you can, less if necessary) and the workers at the Cemetery can do the work we cannot do.

Our people stateside are sending their contributions to the SCV South Carolina Division where it is kept in trust. I have established a designated bank account for SCV matters, which Commander Archy Bänsch can monitor. (You will receive a receipt and a Certificate of Appreciation and be mentioned in our Roll of Honor.) When all the funds have been collected, they will be transferred directly to the Non-Catholic Cemetery which can then carry out the restoration.

So, why not do your part (even if you are not an SCV member) and contact me today. Email me at cmclvhs@aol.com, saying "Yes! I want to help!" I will then give you more details and answer any questions.

(Stateside readers should contact Stateside Coordinator Jeff O'Cain at jocain@sc.rr.com)

Men, this great project is our project. Others have supported us. Now it time for us to do our part.

Help us make true the statement – We care for our Confederate veterans wherever they may lie!

Confederately yours,



Chris McLarren

Adjutant and Page Project Officer



EDITOR'S NOTE

Sadness about the great loss the death of Peter Rossi represents for our Camp has been already expressed, but read the obituary about this great "Rebel in Italy", a man who accomplished so much in defending the Southern Cause, both in Italy and Europe, and has left behind so many mourning friends. The memory of Peter should encourage people of good will to make donations for the Page tomb restoration in Rome. Read Jeff O'Cain's eulogy in the obituary. So many American SCV Camps are donating, it's definitely time for European Confederate-friendly groups to wake up. Peter started it, now let's respond!

Coming to the other content, read the important Commander's announcement: the Sesquicentennial brought the time to finish using the term "American Civil War" in every European country and to return to the historically correct definition "War between the States". It would be really great if we could achieve that!

June 1861 is the month of the first great Confederate victory: First Manassas. Stefan Slivka writes a four-page article about this encounter. Stefan recently went through very delicate hearth surgery but came out well, much to our satisfaction! It does good to have him again contributing to the ISE.

Susan Fiorentino, the lady we met during the Cross of Honor marking ceremonies at Capt. Page's funerary monument in Rome, has joined the UDC! Again the good spirit of Peter Rossi was critical in this.

France has a special weight in this issue. Correspondent Nancy Hitt writes about a Southern heroine from Kentucky who became a French noblewoman: Antoinette Polk, Baronne de Charette. Read the amazing story of how General Nathan Bedford Forrest presented her the flag he had captured from a Union command and see the photograph of that flag today!

More great news! The grave of Captain Van der Stucken has been marked with a Cross of Honor. Read how our allies from the CHAB made it finally possible to honor this forgotten Texan grave in Belgium we had reported about last year.

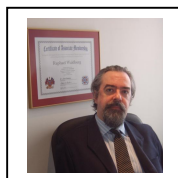
Don't miss the info about Bertil Haggman's Guerrilla-blog! A very interesting place where you can leave your comments and thoughts. Compatriot Haggman is a renown expert on WBTS Irregular Warfare, his work is first-class. And he announces his next electronic book to start coming out right this month!

For the first time the Educational Movies section presents a motion picture already months before it is launched in European cinemas. See Mike Shumaker's extraordinary review of "The Conspirator", about the judicial murder of Mary Surratt. We'll have to see that movie! It is expected for October.

The Camp Library is offering an absolute classic: "Co. Aytch", the war memoirs of Samuel R. Watkins in the Army of Tennessee. A must read, served to y'all for free.

Enjoy the issue!

Raphael Waldburg-Zeil, Editor



A COMPATRIOT WENT TO HEAVEN



Last May 9th Compatriot Pierluigi "Peter" Rossi was called to the Lord. Funeral took place May 12th at the church of Arancio, Lucca; a letter of condolence from Europe Camp #1612 was read during the service. Burial took place in the local cemetery of Massa Pisana, close to his home where he spent the last 28 years of his life.

Peter was descendant of Cpl. Dominico Rossi, who rode with Nathan Bedford Forrest. Beside his full membership in the SCV Capt. James W. Bryan Camp #1390, Lake Charles, Louisiana, he used to work close both with us and the English brothers of the John Low Camp #2161 in Scarborough, England.

Peter lived for the Cause he had in his hearth; always enthusiastic and full of ideas. His enthusiasm and initiative led to the grave marking ceremony our Camp held with other SCV, UDC, DAR and USNL attendants at Captain Thomas J. Page's tomb in Rome. Peter had been the very first to put a little battle flag at the grave already in spring 2008 and took some pictures, which were shown in the October 2008 issue of his Camp's newsletter "The Calcaseu Greys". Peter initiated the ideas for other long-term Europe Camp projects, like the Von Massow memorial stone in America to remember that German who rode with Mosby's Rangers.

Peter is the author of the Charge of General S.D. Lee in Italian as it appears in our Camp homepage.

Rest in Peace, Peter. Lest we forget.



OUR REBEL IN ITALY, good-bye eulogy from Jeff O'Cain



Peter and Jeff in Rome at the Page grave monument

Sadly the Sons of Confederate Veterans has lost its lone Italian Compatriot, Pierluigi Rossi! I sit with tears streaming having personally lost the most unwavering, unyielding and resilient Confederate spirit I have ever met. Standing tall for his g-g grandfather, Cpl. Dominico Rossi, all alone in Italy, know that "Peter" manned our outpost in there accomplishing feats of unparalleled measure. A short list of his accomplishments were:

1. Individually identified 1,600+ of the 1,800 Italians who sailed to the Confederacy in 1861 mustering into Confederate service as the 1st Louisiana Italian Guard.
2. Established a complete Confederate museum at the fortress at Civitella del Tronto.
3. Sponsored a youth soccer team named "The Rebels" whose banner and uniforms were the ANV flag.
4. Was the originator of the need to honor CSN Capt. Thomas Jefferson Page in Rome.
5. Made a soft and quiet suggestion to me of the urgent need to restore the deteriorating Page grave site in the Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome.
6. Traveled often to England to assist and support the John Low Camp in Liverpool.
7. Proudly announced at every occasion his pride in his Confederate cavalry ancestor Cpl. Dominico Rossi who rode with Nathan Bedford Forrest surviving the War and is buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Memphis, TN.

While there are many more accomplishments, Peter was instrumental in organizing many annual Confederate memorial events in Italy especially amongst the Carlists there.

Peter's son Paul, who I haven't met, sent me the email from Peter's email account. I am so thankful for his immediate courtesy of notice as I would have been literally devastated to find out much later. I frequently exchanged emails with Peter until a few weeks ago and now I know why. I will forever miss this most incredible man and inspiring Confederate so very far from the Southland. I will now on his behalf increase my personal efforts to finish the important work he so quietly and effectively began, the restoration of CSN Capt. Thomas Jefferson Page's grave site in Rome.

So when we gather again in Rome for the rededication of Capt. Page's grave site, know that Pierluigi Rossi's spirit will be there with us, and we WILL pay special honor to him for accomplishing so much to literally fulfill his obligations to *The Charge*. Rest assured he gave the SCV a very polished and highly regarded image as our "**Rebel In Italy**" as he so often referred to himself. He was so very proud of his Confederate kepi wearing it to every event he attended. The photos are from our gathering in Rome last April.

I will truly miss my friend and Compatriot, this incredible man who impressed me so and gave me needed inspiration to continue his work for Capt. Page.

Jeff O'Cain



Now together in Heaven: Peter puts flowers on Capt Page's grave



The War Between the States was not a civil war! By definition, a civil war is a war between two opposing political factions of the same country which are fighting for complete control and domination of the entire country's government. The Confederate States merely wanted to leave the Federal Union peacefully. They had no intention whatsoever of conquering the North and controlling the entire country from Washington. If we continue to allow people to refer to this war as the "American Civil War" we will be participating in the subversion of the noble reasons for which our ancestors took up arms to defend their lives, homes and culture from Northern aggression.

If we continue to use the term "Civil War" we are encouraging the general public to believe that the war was fought only because of the South's obsession with maintaining slavery and to destroy the Constitution, which is a bald-faced lie. What is called the "Civil War" was a Yankee euphemism for Northern aggression leading to erase State sovereignty within the Old Union and to destroy Southern culture in order to create one "Yankee-Nation". The only correct term to define that conflict is **War between the States (WBTS)**, because it was such, a war between the American States.

The argument about why the war wasn't a "Civil War", do also apply about calling Southerners "rebels". Remember Northern historians and politicians wrote the history of this war. They were determined to block the writing of the true history of the war by Southerners and they succeeded. It was they who first called us "rebels" against the Government and referred to this war as "the War of the Rebellion". Our ancestors were not rebels; they were loyalists and patriots. They were loyal to the Constitution of the United States.

After 150 years the use of the term "American Civil War" in any European language, either written or spoken, ought to be abandoned. Definitely and forever. Dear readers of the ISE from outside the SCV, especially if you're "Civil War" buffs or re-enactors, please do no longer use this term, We do not seek "political correctness" but historical truth. It would be great to see that reflected in every serious newspaper and every Confederate-friendly website throughout Europe. It's time to act.



Achim "Archy" Bänsch
Commander

FIRST VICTORY. Battle of First Manassas July 21, 1861



By Stefan I. Slivka, Associate member, Slovakia

STRATEGIC SITUATION

Americans in the North, and in the South, welcomed the war with a show of patriotism and with wishes of its early end with their side being a winning one. In the North politicians, reporters, and general population demanded early invasion and conquest of the South. Even though professional officers of the Army warned against premature use of the force, President Lincoln had to bow to public opinion which called for action. When commanding General Irwin McDowell unhappy with the pressure put on his shoulders said: "This is not an Army, it will take time for it to become one", Lincoln answered: "True, we are green, but Confederates are green too".

At the same time General P.G.T. Beauregard was organizing Southern forces near the Manassas railroad station, only 50 kilometres distant from Washington D.C. In this place 22.000 Confederates manned 15 kilometres long defensive line along the creek called Bull Run running generally in the Northwest - Southeast direction. Not far from this place, in the Shenandoah Valley 18.000 strong Union army under General Robert Patterson was watching movements of another Confederate force 12.000 strong commanded by General Joseph E. Johnston. Patterson's task was to prevent joining of the two Southern forces when attack from Washington comes.

When the main Union army, 35.000 strong, up to that time the largest assembled in the North America, finally left the capital city on July 16, 1861, Beauregard knew about its move a day in advance thanks to Confederate agent Mrs. Rose O`Neal - Greenhow. Coded message arrived into general's hands hidden in the hair of the pretty, young Southern lady who was able to leave Washington and to find the General's headquarters. Federal soldiers marched into battle slowly and without discipline, reminding a casual observer of a large group of civilians enjoying their Sunday outing. Men were stopping to rest at will, leaving ranks to pick up blackberries growing along the route, to fill up their canteens, or simply to visit their friends marching with other units. For this reason, and also because the weather was extremely hot, it took them two full days to reach Centreville where the army was given a "deserved" rest

Now, in the second half of July, the stage was set for the first major battle of the War between the States, which Confederates named Battle of Manassas, and Unionists Battle of Bull Run.

Southern command took an advantage created by slow moving Union army and their stop in Centreville, by disengaging General Johnston's force from its guardian Patterson. Johnston left his lines on July 18, first by marching to Piedmont Station, and then for the first time in military history boarding railroad trains to continue to Manassas. Even then, Confederate movement took some time, so that some units were still on the way when the battle was joined. Johnston left behind a brigade of cavalry covering his movement from Patterson, who did not learn about enemy's disappearance until July 20. By then, it was for him too late to influence the outcome of upcoming battle.



THE BATTLE

As if to compensate for this unfavourable turn of events, Mc Dowell prepared a brilliant plan of attack of which even Napoleon would not be ashamed: part of the army will demonstrate against the Confederate right wing concentrated by the Blackburn Ford, while another part will feint the main attack against the Southern left wing located near the bridge over Bull Run. A third detachment, 12.000 strong, will cross the creek by Sudley Springs, far away from any Confederate presence and attack unguarded flank and rear of their left wing. This double envelopment of enemy's one wing is a rare but effective event. Had it been executed by more seasoned veteran troops, chances for a success would have been great.

As it happened, when the battle started on Sunday, July 21, 1861 at five in the morning, the third detachment was delayed in its movement by 3 hours. While the first two divisions were demonstrating and feinting attacks as planned, movement of the main attacking column was observed by Southern signal station operators. They could see far in the North huge clouds of dust stirred by thousands of feet and reflection of the sun from thousands of bayonets. Element of surprise was thus lost, but Confederates had no force available nearby to stop this host. Most of their army was concentrated on the opposite

end of their line in preparation to execute Beauregard's own plan, to attack the Federal left wing. In the mid-morning the situation of the Confederate left wing looked hopeless.

Against the approaching third column they could send only units led by Colonel Nathan G. Evans later reinforced by a brigade of General Barnard E. Bee. When additional Federal units started crossing the Bull Run in an effort to help the third column, defender's lines were breaking up. Around noon, Southerners were in full retreat up the slope of Henry Hill.



Generals Beauregard and Johnston were busy shifting existing units and also directing units arriving from Shenandoah to the endangered left wing. One of these reinforcements was a fresh brigade of five Virginia regiments led by Thomas J. Jackson, a former professor at the Virginia Military Institute. The brigade took a position on the crest of Henry Hill from where retreat would be difficult if not impossible. As Bee's and Evans' shattered troops were retreating in confusion, Bee yelled to his men: "Look! There stands stands Jackson like a stone wall. Reform your lines behind the Virginians!" Although Bee was mortally wounded and died the next day, he is forever known as a godfather of later famous General "Stonewall" Jackson.

Sometimes after 1 p.m. Federals briefly stopped their attack to align their lines, and moved two batteries (Rickett's and Griffin's) closer to the fighting, from the Dogan Ridge to Henry Hill. Then came a critical and a turning point of this battle, when two of the guns from Griffin's battery were advanced forward without infantry support. This move attracted an attention of a blue-clad regiment standing nearby. Federal officers were not concerned, for blue was their colour. Surprised they were, when the regiment (33d Virginia) opened a deadly fire on them. Confederates dressed in blue for the lack of other uniforms subdued battery crews and turned the cannon on their previous owners. A short time later, Southerners captured also Rickett's battery, initiating a bitter fight for the guns lasting for over one hour during which time they changed hands several times. Eventually, the guns remained in Confederate possession. Around 4 p.m. arrived to the battlefield the last forces from the Shenandoah: the Brigades of Colonels Elzey and Early. So reinforced, the Southern command

ordered a counter attack along the whole line. Grudgingly, the Northerners were forced to retreat from positions for which they had fought so hard.

Battle was being observed from surrounding hills by many politicians and other civilians coming from Washington. They brought with them picnic baskets full of delicacies and bottles of Champagne for a victory celebration. When it became clear, that there would be no such celebration, they started leaving in their coaches, using a single bridge over the Bull Run. There they collided with retreating army units, creating chaos. When a lucky cannon shot disabled one of the vehicles, blocking the bridge, chaos had turned into panic among both civilians and soldiers. For the Army, up to now the orderly retreat had turned into a rout. Mixed groups of troops and picnic goers were arriving in Washington until next morning.



THE OUTCOME

Confederate President Davis arrived at the battlefield by the rail from Richmond before fighting was over. As a former officer, he showed lively interest in progress of the battle. General "Stonewall" Jackson also came to headquarters, prepared to follow up on the victory, and demanded five thousand fresh troops with whom he would take Washington and force the war to an end. Unfortunately, there were no fresh forces nearby. Capital city was there for an easy taking not only that night, but for the whole week after the battle. Confederates were confused in their victory, as much as were Unionists in their defeat, and this opportunity was passed over. In comparison with later battles, this battle produced relatively few casualties. Union lost 460 killed, 1124 wounded and 1312 captured and missing. Confederates reported 387 killed, 1582 wounded, and 13 captured and missing. The importance of this battle lies in actions which both governments took after it had happened:

President Lincoln asked Northern states for 500 thousand volunteers, this time for 3 years of duration. The day after the battle, hero of the western Virginia

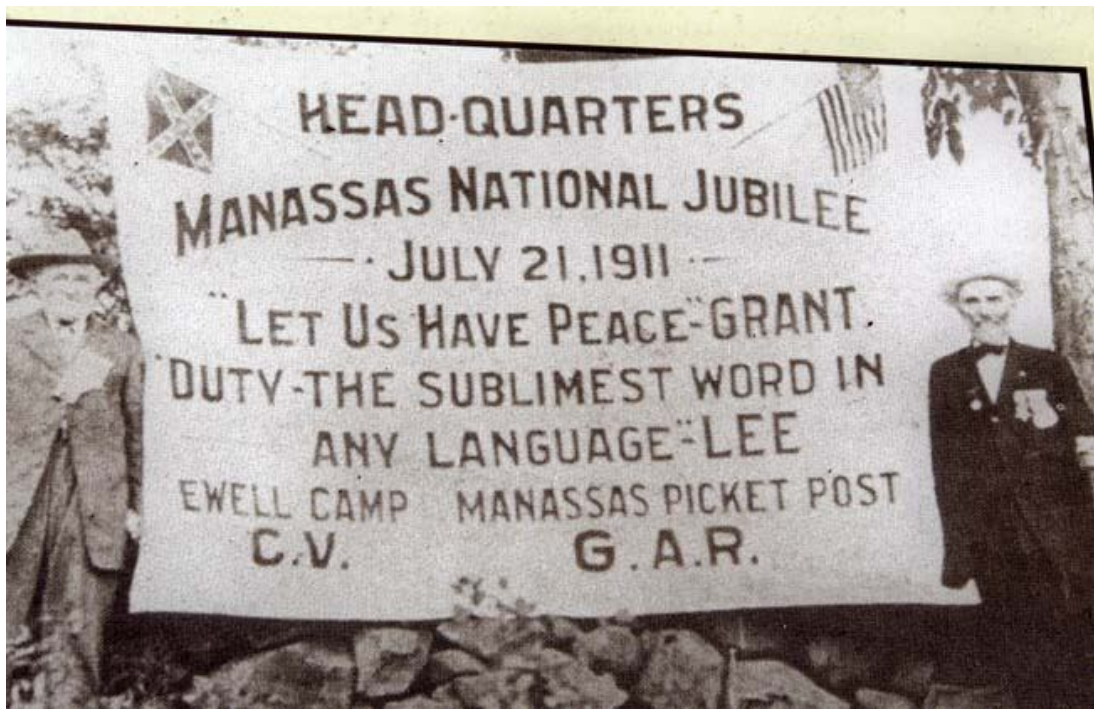
campaign General Mc Clellan, was called to Washington where he received command of all federal troops in the East. Southern states after their first victory were at the peak of their self confidence and believed that one Confederate soldier is worth ten Unionists.

While the Union was preparing for a hard and long war by mobilizing all forces possible and by raising her industrial output, the Confederacy was sitting for the next few months on the laurels of her victory.



THE REBELS BAYONETING OUR WOUNDED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, AT BULL RUN.—(See Page 222.)

The beginning of war-propaganda: “The Rebels bayoneting our wounded on the battle-field at Bull Run“, as published in Harper’s Weekly August 17, 1861



1911, fifty years of First Manassas: brotherhood and peace among Confederate and Union veterans. The men who fought the War had a better mutual understanding and respect than people have towards the South today
ANTOINETTE AND NATHAN, OR THE GIRL AND THE GENERAL

By Nancy Hitt, ISE American Correspondent, with information provided by Bob Duncan, Director Maury County Archives, TN

"A true story about a young Maury County girl who became a French Baroness whose most treasured possession was the flag given for her heroism..."



**Antoinette Polk, Baronne de Charette,
with her son Antoine in the early 1880's**

I love Mule Day in Columbia, Tennessee, for several reasons. I adore mules, Southern cooking and Tennessee hospitality. I even own one of those hybrids, an old mule named Mathew. The name Mule Day implies a one day event, but it a yearly celebration that lasts for several days with fun for everyone. I jokingly tell folks that they have not really lived if they have never been to Mule Day!

This year Mule Day was held from March 31st through April 3rd, 2011. I had made tentative plans to drive down to Columbia and had ordered their colorful catalogue of events weeks in advance. Due to various circumstances, I did not attend this year's Mule Day. Before disposing of their fine brochure, I decided to read all the articles it contained. One paragraph on page 8 stood out from the rest:

"A young lady, Antoinette Polk, made a heroic ride from Columbia to her home in Ashwood to warn her friends and family that the Federal troops were headed their way. She, no doubt, saved some lives that day. For her efforts, she was presented a battle flag by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. This flag has been restored and is back in Maury County after years in Switzerland and France. It's an interesting story." At the bottom of the page was listed the telephone number for the Maury County Convention and Visitors Bureau in Columbia, Tennessee.

In order to learn more about this Tennessee heroine, I took to the internet and found a lovely photograph of Antoinette Polk, Baronne de Charette. The name suggested that she married into a European family.

In addition, I found an article written by B. L. Ridley for the 1896 *Confederate Veteran* about various heroines of the War. Antoinette Wayne Van Leer Polk was the full name of our heroine. She was related to Major General Anthony Wayne of Revolutionary fame.

According to Ridley, *"She was not fully grown when she took this famous ride. After the war she went abroad with her father and mother and finished her education in Europe. The health of her father, Andrew Jackson Polk, having failed when in the Confederate Army, he grew worse and died in Switzerland. Miss Polk had a most brilliant young ladyhood abroad. Principally in Rome, where she was beloved by the Princess Margarite, and universally admired. She married a distinguished French soldier of the old regime, the Marquis de Charette de la Contrie, like herself, of heroic stock, and has her home in France. She has one son, a youth of great promise."*

From a 1909 *New York Times* article with the heading *French Marquis Weds Miss Henning*, there were many details about Antoinette's son, Antoine de Charette, and his wedding to a Kentucky horsewoman named Miss Susanne Henning. She was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. James Williamson Henning. John B. Castleman was in attendance.

I was soon able to get in touch with Bob Duncan, the Director of the Maury County Archives. From Bob's research I learned that their Paris-born daughter, Susanne de Charette, married Brigadier General Ronald Van Stockum. This granddaughter of Antoinette Polk had made her home at Allen Dale Farm in Shelby County, Kentucky.

Per Mr. Ridley: *"They talk about Sheridan's ride but let me tell of one that strips it of its grandeur the famous run of Miss Antoinette Polk, displaying a heroism worthy of imperishable record. She was on the Hampshire Turnpike, a few miles from Columbia, Tenn., when some one informed her of Federals contemplated visit to her father's home on the Mt. Pleasant Pike five miles across—said pikes forming an obtuse angle from Columbia. She knew that some soldier friends at her father's would be captured unless they had notice, and in order to inform them, she had to go across the angle that was barricaded many times with high rail and rock fences. There was no more superb equestrienne in the valley of the Tennessee and she was of magnificent physique. She had a thoroughbred horse trained to her bidding. The young lady started, leaping the fences like a reindeer, and came out on the pike just in front of the troopers, four miles from home. They took after her, but her foaming steed was so fleet of foot, that she got away from them in the twinkling of an eye, and saved her friends from capture."*



In recognition of this heroic ride, General Nathan Bedford Forrest while stationed in Columbia in 1863, presented Miss Polk with the battle flag already mentioned in the Mule Day report. Naturally, I felt the flag would have been a Confederate flag, but it was not. The flag presented to this young lady was a Federal flag taken when General Forrest captured the entire command of Colonel Abel Streight during a raid in Alabama. About that action we can read this excerpt:

"Nathan Bedford Forrest had the look of a hungry wolf. His dark eyes flashed with predatory delight at Streight's predicament. His whole bearing told Streight that Forrest had him in the palm of his hand. As they talked, Streight could see the road behind Forrest as it crested a hill and then descended again into the tree line. An endless procession of Confederate cavalry and artillery crossed the hill and descended menacingly into the woods. Streight soon realized that there was no fighting his way out this time – Forrest had him heavily outnumbered. He asked the general just how many artillery pieces he had with him. Forrest, without even looking, replied, "Oh, I guess those are all that kept up." Streight made a heavy-hearted decision to surrender, and Forrest had him deposit his weapons and animals in one field and move his men to an adjacent field. Only then did the Confederates appear from the trees and they rode immediately to separate Streight's men from his weapons. It was then that Streight realized that Forrest had only about 200 men with him. He had ridden those 200 men and one cannon around and around the hill to give the impression of a huge army. Furious at being hoodwinked by so puny a force, Streight demanded that Forrest return his weapons to him so that they could fight it out. Forrest patted him on the back and smiled his wolfish grin saying, "Ah, Colonel, you know all is fair in love and war!" Outsmarted and now humiliated, Streight slumped his shoulders and marched off into captivity with his entire command.

Forrest gathered up all the captured gear and loaded it into wagons, but one souvenir he kept for himself. It was Abel Streight's command flag.

That flag made its way back to Maury County where General Forrest presented it to young Miss Antoinette Polk in appreciation for her now famous ride to save his men. Over a year later Abel Streight would have one last chance to recover his lost flag. He and some of his fellow prisoners managed to make a daring escape from Richmond's Libby Prison by digging a tunnel. He then threaded his way back to his old home in Pennsylvania and freedom.

He was soon back in the Union army; this time commanding an infantry brigade. His new command marched with John M. Schofield during their contest with John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee in the fall of 1864.

What he did not know, as he marched straight through Maury County, both coming and going, is that his old command flag that he had lost to Bedford Forrest in Alabama was hidden away in a young girl's bedroom only a few miles from his route of march."

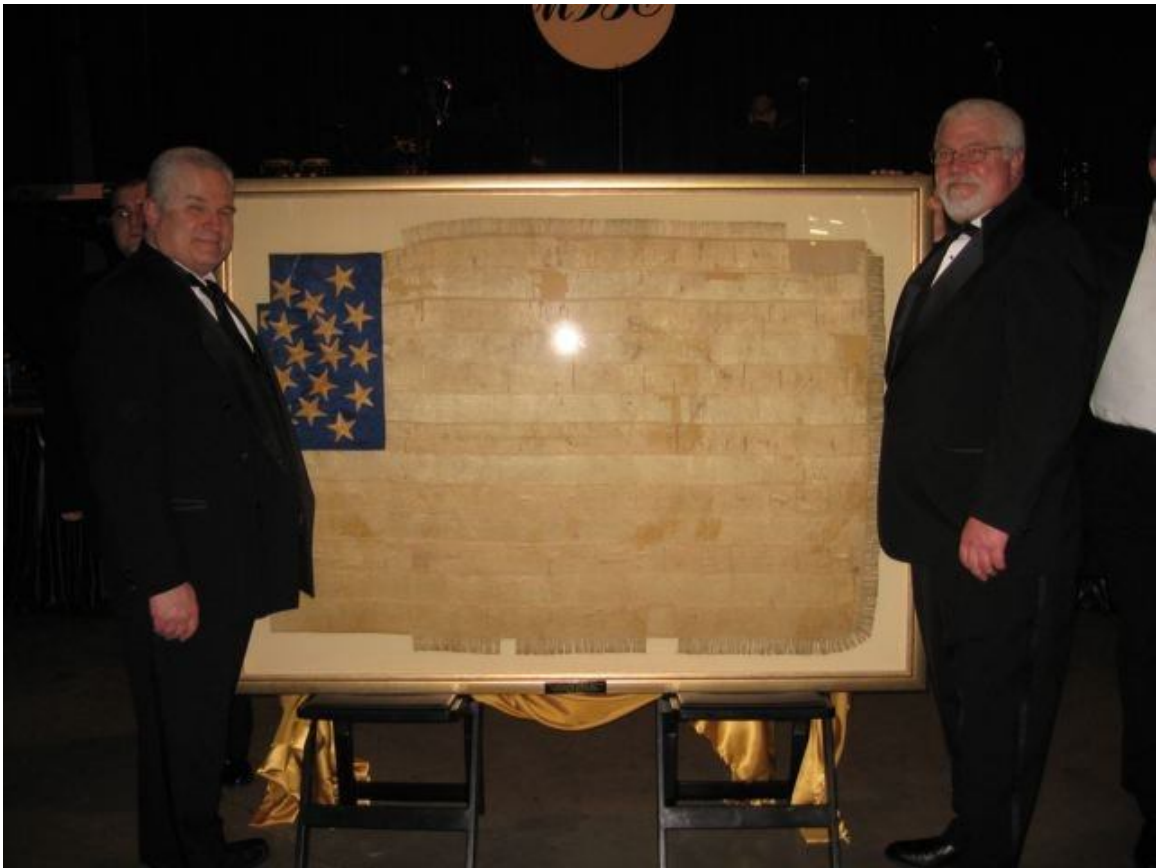
That same flag had been to Switzerland while the Polk family resided there. It had been displayed at the French home where Antoinette lived outside of Paris. Finally, after years and miles of travel, the flag was back in this country with her granddaughter and family.

In 1999, due to the generosity of the Van Stockum family, that fragile piece of our history was returned to its home. Susanne de Charette Van Stockum donated the flag to the people of Maury County. Over a period of years the Maury County Archives were able to raise the necessary funds to have the flag restored and encased in a glass frame.

Many thanks are due to Bob Duncan for his assistance and Southern hospitality. Bob gathered and recorded many of the facts and photos contained in this report. He would be glad to show you the Streight/Forrest/Polk flag next time you visit Columbia, Tennessee.

In modern parlance you might say that General Forrest truly "punked" Federal Colonel Streight in a masterful act of war. With outnumbered forces, that devil/genius Forrest tricked Colonel Streight into surrendering his entire command along with his reputation.

You just never know where interesting War tales are to be found and waiting to be retold. . .



Frame preserving the Confederate war trophy as photographed in 2007.
Left and right, the two great-grandsons of Antoinette.

Presentation text reads as follows:

"Donated to the people of Maury County by Susanne de Charette Van Stockum (1915-2000), of Allen Dale Farm, Shelby County, Kentucky, wife of Brigadier General Ronald R. Van Stockum, USMC (Retired) and grand daughter of General Baron Athanase de Charette and Antoinette Polk, Baronne de Charette"

Editor's note: This amazing story proves once more Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest was not only a bold warrior, the "Wizard of the Saddle", but also a chivalrous Gentleman able to honor and tribute a young girl's heroism.



A TEXAN GRAVE IN BELGIUM:
CAPTAIN VAN DER STUCKEN FINALLY HONORED WITH THE
SOUTHERN CROSS OF HONOR

Information provided by: Hubert Leroy (CHAB), Nancy Hitt (ISE)

Captain Frank Van der Stucken, Co. F, 1st Texas Volunteer Cavalry, is buried in Antwerp, Belgium. We reported about it about a year ago, including photos of the family grave plot and a biographical sketch of him during the WBTS, where he led his company under exceptional difficult circumstances (see ISE April/May 2010, pages 9-11). We had expressed our fears it would be most difficult if not impossible to achieve a grave marking ceremony. But our brothers of the Confederate Belgian Historical Association of Belgium (the CHAB) again made it possible! Hubert Leroy spent a full year preparing this operation. He had been provided with a Cross of Honor by ISE Correspondent Nancy Hitt, our Camp Angel who usually does the necessary paperwork and research operations in America for Europe Camp #1612 and has provided almost every Southern Cross on a Confederate grave in Europe!

The contacted descendant of Frank Van der Stucken was Miguel Ruiz de Arcaute, he had become a member of the Belgian CHAB, but died last August 1st 2010. He was full SCV member in the extinguished old Europe Camp and it is very sad his illness and age finally made it impossible to join the ranks again. Rest in peace (see below):



Necrology by Hubert Leroy from August last year, remembering both Compatriot Arcaute and past C-i-C Bernard E. Eble

Compatriot Arcaute was waiting for the good moment to gather his children and talk to them of the Southern Cross. But unfortunately, although often reminded of this, time has passed and Miguel died before he could do it. After a few months in order to respect the mourning, Hubert Leroy could contact his children and explained the importance of such a grave marking ceremony.

His oldest daughter gave final authorization for an honor ceremony on Captain Van der Stucken's grave. So last Tuesday, May 10th, the Belgian CHAB went to Antwerp to put the Southern Cross on the grave of this Texan Confederate from Belgium. 6 CHAB members went to the ceremony, sadly no family descendants from Capt. Van Der Stucken did attend and unfortunately neither did any member/associate from our Camp. Sometimes it is even more difficult coordinate members from all around Continental Europe as people can imagine. However, the Confederate Cause can rely on organisations like the CHAB to fulfill the Charge much like the SCV does. In words of Hubert Leroy:

"Once more this allows us to say that those who served the Cause are still not forgotten and this wherever in the world they rest."



The Van der Stucken grave plot adorned with the Texas and 1st CSA flags and the Battle Flag with a representative Cavalry sword. The Cross of Honor is placed on the left site, where Frank rests. From left to right: Daniel Frankignoul (president of CHAB), Hubert Leroy (CHAB Coordinator Officer), Dominique (Nick) Decler (CHAB Secretary General)

Grave location information: Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, lies 57 Km north of Brussels, the Belgian capital. The cemetery itself is located in Wilrijk, a suburb of Antwerp. From the Bistplein in front of the railway station in Wilrijk follow the Kleinsteenweg road until you arrive at the ring road. Turn right and follow the ring road for 100 meters to the first set of traffic lights and turn left. Go under the flyover and continue straight on over the dual carriageway into Jules Moretus Lei. Follow this street for one kilometre and the entrance to the Municipal Cemetery is on your left. Capt. Van der Stucken is buried in a big family grave. After entering the area, ask for the exact location at the cemetery office. Opening times, 08:00 to 16:30 every day.

HENRY WIRZ HONOR CEREMONY, MAY 14, 2011

(Photographs provided by G. Elliott Cummings, Past Cmdr Maryland Div. SCV)

Last Saturday, May 14, the annual grave memorial ceremony for Captain Henry Wirz took place at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Washington D.C.



Grave site of Captain Henry Wirz

Among the different speakers were Commander ANV B. Frank Earnest, who pointed out his own Swiss-German origins, past Chaplain-in-Chief SCV Fr. Anderson, who defined Henry Wirz as a true Christian martyr and of course, Colonel Heinrich Wirz (right), Swiss army (ret.), the descendant of Henry Wirz, who was especially proud of the men who keep the memory of his ancestor high and honored. Five wreaths were presented by different Camps and organisations on the Wirz grave. Flowers were also brought by Fr. Anderson to the grave of Mary Surratt, who rests nearby.





The Color Guard. Rick Benson is second from left

The Maryland Division Honor Guard giving a volley fire salute underlined the dignity of the act. Living historian Rick Benson, who re-enacts Henry Wirz (see past issue of the ISE), also attended the ceremony as part of the color guard.



Past Chaplain-in-Chief Fr. Anderson called Capt. Wirz a true Christian martyr

Afterwards a formal dinner was held in Sikesville, MD to honor both Capt. Henry Wirz and the 209th birthday of Confederate Major General Isaac R. Trimble. This dinner was hosted by SCV Maj. Gen. Isaac R. Trimble Camp #1836.

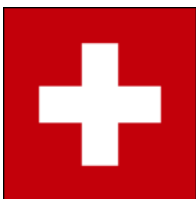


ANV Commander Frank Earnest also attended the ceremony

A journalist team from Switzerland was present during the ceremony, channel DRS2, Deutscher Rundfunk Schweiz (German Swiss Broadcasting), they brought later in their website the short report as: "Schweizer Kriegsverbrecher in den USA geehrt" (Swiss war-criminal honored in the USA). It included a short interview with Col. Heinrich Wirz and some excerpts from speeches in English. Capt. Wirz was partially exonerated, but today's SCV was put in very bad light. It seems again political correctness has won; see original report (in German):

<http://www.drs2.ch/www/de/drs2/sendungen/drs2aktuell/2643.bt10179510.html>

The main reason of our existence is to preserve the content of The Charge in Europe. We will continue our fight against ignorance, prejudice and hate.



BATON OF CONFEDERATE HERITAGE IN ITALY **HANDED OVER**



By Susan Fiorentino, Rome (UDC General Robert Edward Lee Chapter #2127, Oklahoma City)

This year I submitted an application to UDC knowing all along I had Confederate ancestors. When the SCV came to Rome for the Thomas Jefferson Page ceremony I went into high gear! I was in attendance at the ceremony when two questions were asked of those present: are there those here who have Confederate ancestors and are there those here related to the Page family? I replied yes to both, if the Page common ancestor was Col. John Page of Williamsburg and Jamestowne through his daughter. They were not sure which Page was the ancestor of T.J. Page. (My mother and her two sisters all joined Colonial Dames XVII Century with Col. John Page as the ancestor.)

No one at the SCV ceremony seemed to believe my responses but Peter Rossi! He gave me a Confederate flag, which today proudly stands over my computer. He was the motivating factor to actually join UDC.

When I returned home, I pulled out all my genealogy records to find my CSA Patriot. The one I knew for certain, on my mother's line, because my family has an oil portrait of him wearing his Confederate uniform, has a too common name - William Francis Martin and therefore, would be difficult to prove from this distance in Italy, with multiple similar names/initials and services all through the South. So I switched to my father's family and found an uncommon name of an ancestor and of the age who might have served with the CSA. Bingo!

My UDC friend in Oklahoma - Mary Duffe, President of General Robert Edward Lee Chapter #2127, activated the Registrar Justine Gore and the First VP Libby Hays. They documented my Patriot with multiple entries: from enlisting July 26, 1861 and subsequent year's services; to being in a Camp outside Petersburg, Virginia, Feb 20, 1865; first serving with the 13th Regiment Alabama Volunteers who later merged with the North Virginia Army under General Ambrose P. Hill.

My Confederate Patriot was my great-great-grandfather - Hiram Strong Whitman.
Whitman is my maiden name. His name will grace my UDC ribbon!



Susan Fiorentino with her UDC membership certificate. Behind her, a wonderful piece of American quilt, part of the exhibition in the US Embassy to Italy, Rome.

Susan performed her duties, not only as UDC member, but as exemplary American patriot every Daughter of the Confederacy always has been, and honored WWII American graves in Italy on Memorial Day. For the first time, a special Southern grave received love and specific honors that day. Read the following:

Dear Jeff,

Today I went to the Memorial Day Services in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy. I placed a floral bouquet on the grave site of your grandfather. I have a pic and will send it - just let me know.

Ambassador to the Holy See Miguel Diaz was the prime guest speaker. Also Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr, USN, Commander of the Sixth Fleet (and so many other titles and responsibilities that I am overwhelmed!)

After the ceremony I visited with Ambassador Diaz and his wife Miriam. I asked him to please place his remarks on internet so my friends in the States can share in his thoughts. He said he would ASAP.

UDC was mentioned in the oral program and was represented with a large floral wreath which I arranged with the American Battle Monuments Commission in Paris France. ABMC gave me permission to contact them as needed since their communication system is closed to the general public.

I know SCV will plan to return to Rome with the completion of the Thomas Jefferson Page restoration but please consider this re-dedication to be held the weekend of Memorial Day. SCV would then have 2 important events to draw in more US participants.

Dixie Hugs, Susan Fiorentino

E-mail from Jeff O'Cain to our Camp:

Gentlemen,

I am just now in receipt of a wonderful message from Susan Fiorentino in Rome! She informs that she placed a floral bouquet on my grandfather Sgt. Ludwig Fuchsel's grave site in The Sicily-Rome American Cemetery where he is buried having die during WWII at Anzio in 1943.

Know that I met Susan at the Sons of Confederate Veterans' Cross of Honor dedication to Capt. Page last April 2010. She has since joined the UDC and serves now as the president of the Rome Chapter of the US Navy League. She told then she would add his name to the special list to be individually honored each Memorial Day from now on. There are over 7,800 Americans buried there.

WOW! What an honor! I am really happy and moved to tears this Memorial Day to know that he, so far from home in a foreign land, could be so honored in my behalf. As a direct result of my connection to CSN Captain Thomas Jefferson Page I am so very fortunate now to have my grandfather specifically honored on Memorial Day for the very first time in 68 years!

Susan's suggestion to coordinate the rededication [note:of the Page monument] with Memorial Day next year is a very worthy suggestion!!!

Jeff



**Sgt. Ludwig Fuchsel's grave site in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery.
Sgt. Fuchsel was KIA 1943 at Anzio.**



A RE-ENACTOR AND HIS HORSE



by full member Tom Landgraf

Last February 2 bad news were confirmed. I had noted that "Lucky" my Tennessee Walker and favorite horse, was to founder sometimes, causing me to feel concerned, even alarmed. The veterinary told me after an x-ray examination that Lucky had a joint disorder in which cracks form in the articular cartilage and the underlying subchondral bone (Osteochondritis dissecans), the result is fragmentation of both cartilage and bone and the free movement of these little fragments within the joint space, causing pain and further damage. It demanded surgery. The medic said the operation would be complicated, costly and risky. And it would take at least three or four months to see if the horse could be made fit again or if we had to make a painful decision about Lucky!!

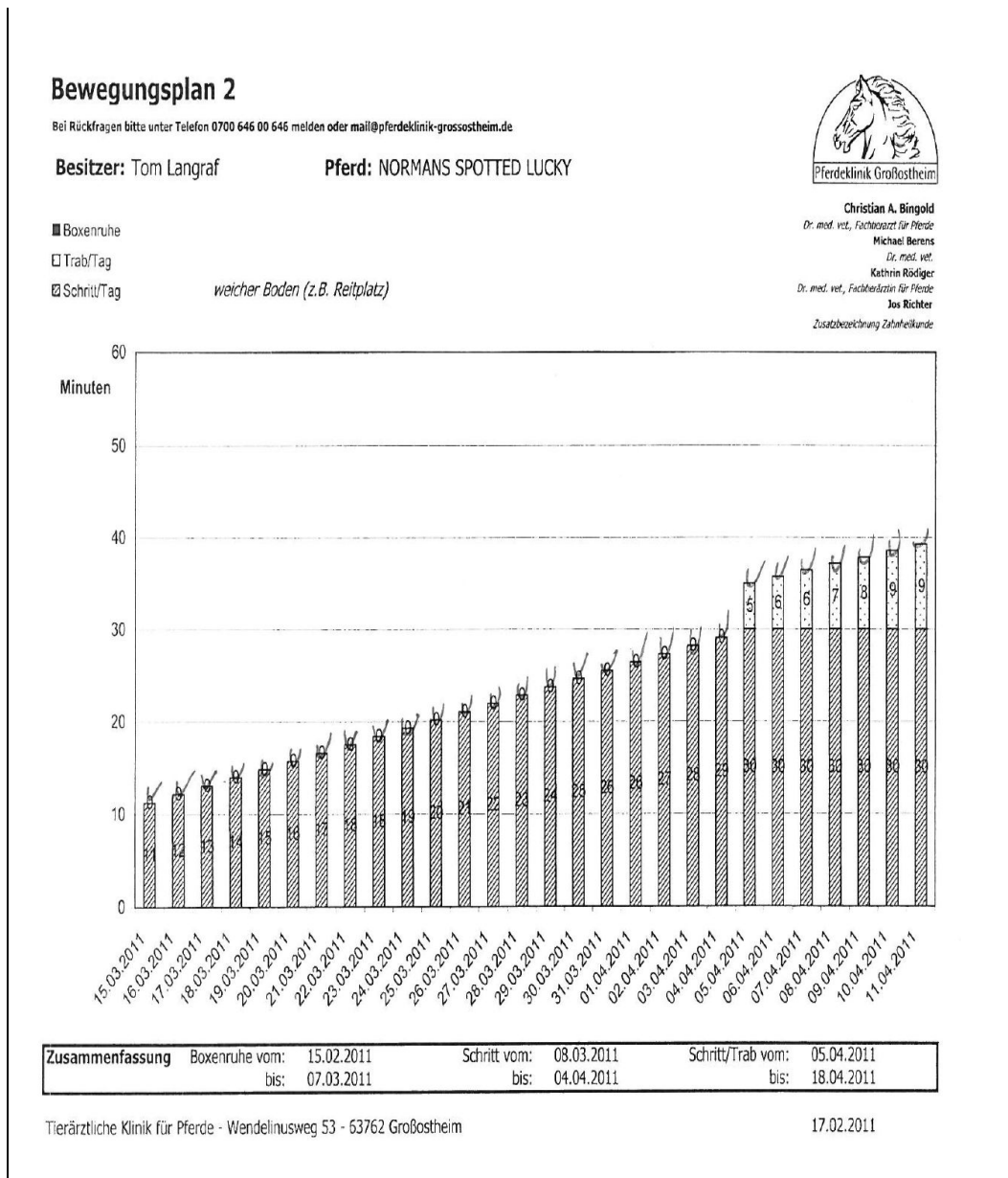
My sorrow was deep. I immediately felt the drama of losing a companion in battle, by a bullet or an artillery shell, but here was the same, done by a little bone fragment to a fine re-enactment horse, who was with me in so many battles, a nature guide rider, above all, my friend with faithful eyes. And then I made a decision: as a true Rebel I would fight for my horse!



Young Lucky, photographed before the joint disorder started

About 3000 USD was the cost of the surgical intervention, some 400 USD more for medicines and special treatment. This was hard for my pocket to bear, but I would do everything for my friend. And today I can tell all the Camp brothers full of pride and happiness that the surgery was A SUCCESS.

After awakening from anesthesia, Lucky recognised me and started to nicker. It was not easy to tell a horse to keep quiet and still during the first weeks! The bone fragment has been removed, but the fight is not finished. We are now in the post-treatment and recovery phase. Lucky needs special movement exercises every day. Now we can walk 45 minutes a day. First he could only walk, then we started short trot and I am confident we will achieve full recovery and I will have my Lucky (to me, the best re-enactment horse ever) in full action on the battlefield again.



A carefully designed re-habilitation plan for Lucky. Starting from 10-minute to 40 minute walks within the 2nd month. In the first month only walks from 3 up to 10 minutes were allowed. Tom was a fatherly caring friend all the time.



Veterinarian taking the stiches out



Walking exersize with Lucky, every step closely watched

Editor's note: The entire Camp looks forward to see Tom and Lucky riding again as perfect binomial and the pride of Europe Camp in re-enactments throughout Europe!

EUROPE CAMP AT THE 1ST HISTORICAL MILITARY WEAPONS REENACTMENT FIRING IN TARRAGONA, SPAIN

By John Polo, SCV-MC



Advert poster of the event. Depicted is a reenacting WW II German soldier with a breech-loading Mauser K98 Infantry rifle.



John Polo with a reenacting USMC Gunnery Sergeant at a regalia stand

Last April 10th a very special comparative contest took place in Amposta, near Tarragona, Northwestern Spain; a firing of historical and reenactment weapons ranging from the 20th Century far back to the beginning of musketry. Unfortunately we had no muzzle-load muskets at all in the contest! Anyway, we had 64 riflemen in attendance and much fun with their different weapons. My choice was a Henry Big Boy cal. 44. Magnum. This rifle is hardly a historical reenactment rifle of the Confederate Army, but accounts do exist relating occasional use of 1860's Henry models by Confederate units. It is told that the bodyguards riding with President Davis from Richmond to Danville in April 1865 were armed with Henry lever-action rifles. Beside any legends, I had good results with my rifle. Henry Repeating Arms advertising says of the Big Boy: It's big, brutal, and beautiful. And such it was, indeed!

Once again I had a splendid opportunity to wear my Gray kepi and the SCV-MC Bedford-Forrest T-shirt. The glorious battle flag was also with me. After the firing, several sellers displayed desks with a variety of regalia from every historical epoch you can imagine. The day ended with a spectacular barbecue for all the participants, a great opportunity for proselytism of the Confederacy, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and what SCV Europe Camp stands for.



**John firing his Henry lever-action rifle in kneeling position
note the supportive wooden bench has been removed**

Bertil Haggman's blog on Irregular Warfare, 1861-1865



Full member Bertil Haggman

**My rifle, pouch, and knife!
My steed! And then we part!**

(Paul H. Hayne, *The Mountain Partisan*)

Guerrillas, Bushwhackers, Partisan Rangers in uniform: everything related to Irregular Warfare during the War between the States, from Mosby's Cavalry to Missouri Guerrilla bands. From the Eastern front to the West, this blog by Bertil Haggman covers every topic of what we would call today not only "Guerrilla" but also "Special Operations forces". Even beautiful Partisan poetry! And "irregular" were also the executions without trial of Confederate soldiers who had fought in uniform, that issue is also covered. This blog is an important gain for everyone interested in this fascinating theme.

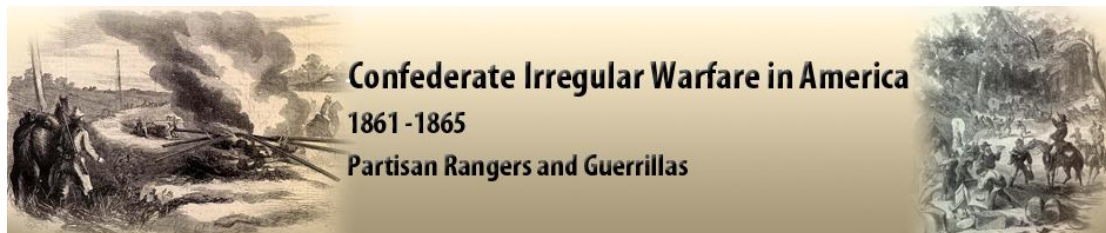
As usual, Com Patriot Haggman keeps the level of his work very high and interesting alike. His essays are a thoroughly researched and analysed work. And it's an interactive place: you can leave your public comments and send your opinions and analysis to the author through this website.

See more information about Bertil and his work in our Camp's homepage:

<http://scveuropecamp.jimdo.com/author-and-writer-compatriot-bertil-haggman/>

We are especially proud of our member's initiative to share his essays with the whole SCV and WBTS-interested community in the Internet.

Don't miss that place! Read the essays, leave your messages, participate!



<http://grayguerrillas.wordpress.com/>

Book Manuscript soon to be published on Bertil's blog:

**“CONFEDERATE IRREGULAR WARFARE, 1862 – 1865.
A HANDBOOK”**

The research for this book began in the 1990s, when I concluded that there was no extensive work published in the United States (or elsewhere) that specifically covered the irregular Confederate forces during 1861 to 1865 of Partisan Ranger units (from 1862) and the Guerrilla commands of the South.

The introduction in the manuscript is a short history of Confederate irregular warfare followed by 17 chapters with a short description of as many units and commands in different states and territories as possible. Hundreds of units and commands have been identified.

The manuscript is organized in chapters for each state of the Confederacy (as well as one for California, one for the Indian Territory and one for Confederate units, which comprised companies from more than one Confederate state). At the end of each chapter there is a bibliographic note. A full bibliography is also included at the end of the manuscript. The total number of pages is about 500.

It is my opinion that the irregular units and commands of the Confederacy played a decisive role in the war 1861 – 1865. This war was not only a mighty clash of large armies. Many Confederates in the spring of 1861 would have liked to fight as guerrillas. As during the American Revolution guerrillas could help defend against invading armies. They could distract Union armies from their primary objectives, injure morale of the enemy and force him to detail defensive forces for the protection of railroads and river traffic.

I won't publish the whole book manuscript at the same time, instead sections will be published electronically from beginning to end as blog contributions starting in June 2011. I have chosen the Sesquicentennial of the WBTS 1861 to 1865 to introduce this work on Confederate Irregular Warfare electronically to the public.



THE PREACHER'S CORNER

From "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas á Kempis

Thomas Hemerken von Kempen, or Thomas á Kempis as he is known in English today, wrote what is essentially a spiritual diary of thoughts.

Thomas, born about the year 1380, was educated by the Brethren of the Common Life, that Confraternity was not an order of monks, the members took no vows; their first aim was to cultivate the interior life, and they worked for their daily bread. The houses of the brothers and sisters alike occupied themselves exclusively with literature and education, also with preaching. Thomas was moved to join the community and was ordained priest. His career thereafter was devoted to practicing the counsels of spiritual perfection and to copying books for the schools. From both pursuits evolved his "Imitation of Christ". Regarded as one of the best works to elevate the Christian spirit, it was one of Jefferson Davis' favorite books while in prison in Fortress Monroe.

"Avoiding False Hope and Pride", Book I, Chapter VII;

VAIN is the man who puts his trust in men, in created things!

Do not be ashamed to serve others for the love of Jesus Christ and to seem poor in this world. Do not be self-sufficient but place your trust in God. Do what lies in your power and God will aid your good will. Put no trust in your own learning nor in the cunning of any man, but rather in the grace of God Who helps the humble and humbles the proud.

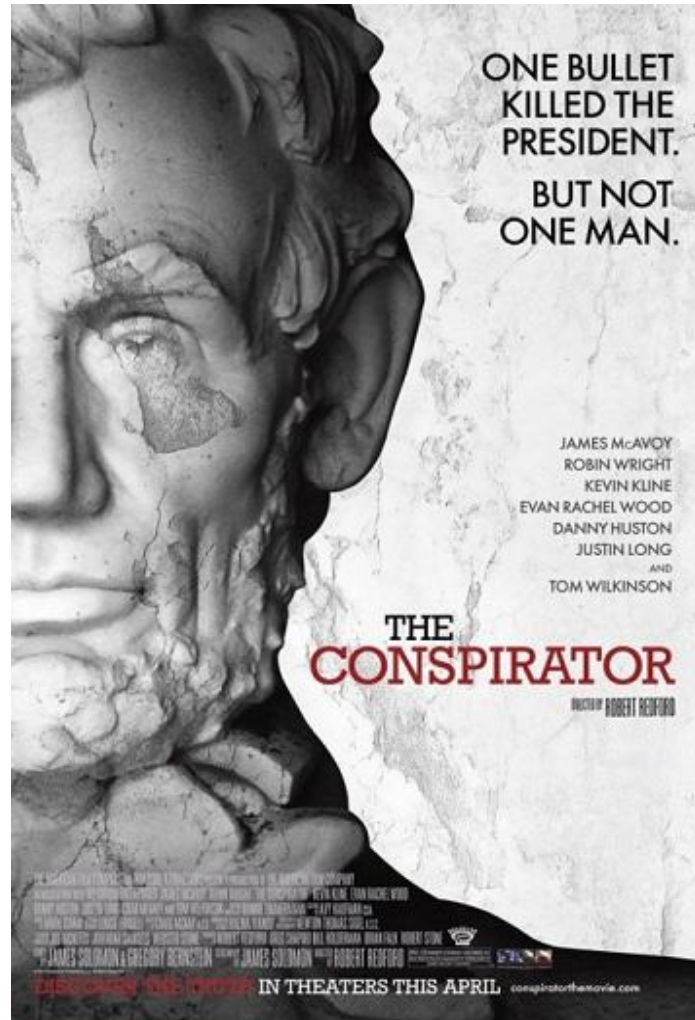
If you have wealth, do not glory in it, nor in friends because they are powerful, but in God Who gives all things and Who desires above all to give Himself. Do not boast of personal stature or of physical beauty, qualities which are marred and destroyed by a little sickness. Do not take pride in your talent or ability, lest you displease God to Whom belongs all the natural gifts that you have.

Do not think yourself better than others lest, perhaps, you be accounted worse before God Who knows what is in man. Do not take pride in your good deeds, for God's judgments differ from those of men and what pleases them often displeases Him. If there is good in you, see more good in others, so that you may remain humble. It does no harm to esteem yourself less than anyone else, but it is very harmful to think yourself better than even one. The humble live in continuous peace, while in the hearts of the proud are envy and frequent anger.



EDUCATIONAL MOVIES

THE CONSPIRATOR (2010)



By Michael Shumaker, SCV Frank Stringfellow Camp #822

What should one make of a movie that *The Washington Post* (a liberal newspaper) and *National Review* (a conservative magazine) both dislike? What those two publications and others object to is the negative portrayal of the victorious Yankee government in 1865. As America embarks on the 150th anniversary of the War for Southern Independence, anything which questions the politically correct view that the North was good and the South evil is certain to be attacked. Additionally, politically conservative elements in the United States see director Robert Redford's new movie, *The Conspirator*, as a commentary on the military tribunals of Moslem terrorists at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Redford is a well-known liberal.

Two conservative acquaintances of mine, separated by hundreds of miles, echoed what National Review deplored about a supposed analogy to Guantanamo. The movie ends by quoting the 1866 Supreme Court ruling that barred military tribunals for civilians when civilian courts are available. Anyone familiar with classic propaganda films, such as, *Potemkin*, *The Battle of Algiers*, and *The Lion of the Desert*, will not find the Guantanamo parallel glaringly obvious. This writer strongly recommends watching *The Conspirator*.

When Mary Surratt first meets her young defense lawyer, she describes herself as a “Southern, a Catholic, and a mother.” As a young Maryland farm girl, she lived on land that is now part of Andrews Air Force Base, which is home to the President’s airplane: Air Force One. She attended a school run by the Sisters of Charity connected with St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia. St. Mary’s still stands and is the second oldest Catholic church in Virginia. During her time at this school, Mary Jenkins converted to Catholicism. At her confirmation she took as her patron, St. Eugenia, and frequently used that name.

In 1840 Mary Jenkins married John Surratt. They resided on a farm in the southern part of Washington, DC, where their three children were born. In 1852, John purchased land and partially-paid for the building of a two-story structure home that also served as a tavern, inn, and post office. In August 1862, John Surratt died. This accounts for why Mary dresses in black throughout *The Conspirator*. His death left Mary facing a crushing financial debt. She rented out the tavern, inn, and farm and moved into a home her late husband had acquired in Washington, DC, and began to operate it as a boarding house.

The Conspirator omits all the above background, touching only on Mary’s efforts to regain financial solvency. However, it does make frequent references to her Catholicism and includes one historically accurate, negative reference toward Catholics by a young, Yankee female. Before and during the War, the South welcomed Roman Catholics while the North did not. Ku Klux Klan activities in the 1920s and the massive influx of European Catholic immigrants into the North during Reconstruction have obscured these facts.

The movie opens on an unnamed battlefield covered with Union dead and wounded. A slightly wounded Capt. Frederick Aiken, struggles to keep a Yankee friend conscious, until stretcher-bearers find them. Only after reading a review did I discover that the comrade was one of his two fellow officers and lawyers who appear throughout the rest of the film. The scene foreshadows the determination Aiken will exhibit in trying to save Mary Surratt from a vengeful Federal government.

The scene shifts to fireworks exploding in the night sky over Washington, DC, on April 14, 1861, Good Friday. The audience then sees various conspirators taking up positions to assassinate Vice President Johnson, Secretary of State Seward, and President Lincoln. After John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln at Ford’s Theater (which is a tourist attraction now), the body of the wounded president is moved across the street to a private home. Secretary of War (what we would call the Secretary of the Army) Edwin Stanton arrives and takes charge in the house.

On April 17, police arrested Mary Surratt at her boarding house on H Street in Washington. It has become a Chinese restaurant today, but a historic marker posted next to the front door reveals the building's past. The film then shows her imprisonment, refusal to help the Federal authorities locate her missing son, John Surratt (the conspirator of the title), her trial by a military tribunal, and execution by hanging on July 7, 1861. By way of flashback we learn that her son, John, became involved with John Wilkes Booth, a famous actor, and leader of a plot to kidnap President Abraham Lincoln prior to the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. He left Washington days before the assassination.

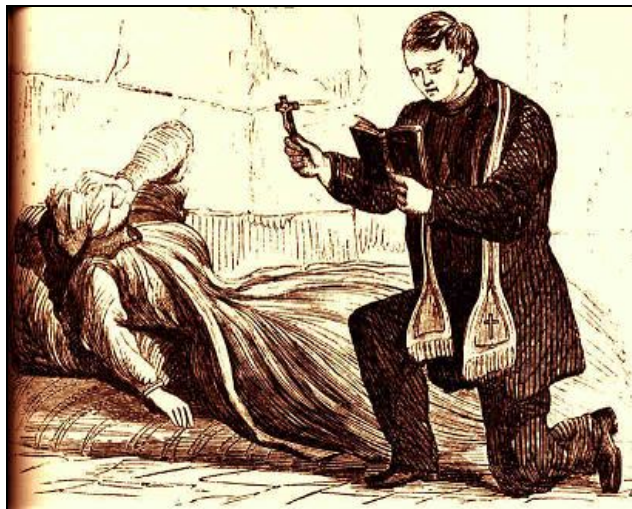
The historic district of Savannah, Georgia, substitutes for 1865 Washington, DC. After her arrest Mary Surratt is taken to an unnamed prison. Fort Pulaski near Savannah, served this role in the movie. Curiously, *The Conspirator* never identifies where Mary is imprisoned. Perhaps that is because she was initially imprisoned at the Old Capitol Prison annex, but was transferred to the Washington Arsenal on April 30, 1865. The shift in prisons had no bearing on the outcome of the story as told in the film and would have necessitated finding a second historic prison. After Union forces captured Fort Pulaski in 1862, it served as a prison for Confederate officers starting in October 1864. The Immortal 600 spent a bitter cold winter in the fort living on meager rations; 18 died. The U.S. Supreme Court took the place of Old Capitol Prison on the east side of the U.S Capitol. The Washington Arsenal became Fort Leslie J. McNair; there one can see a marker commemorating the site of the hanging of Mary Surratt and three others convicted and hanged for the conspiracy, George Atzerott, Lewis Thornton Powell, and David Herold.



Comparison between real Mary Surratt and actress Robin Wright.

Mary Surratt was the first woman executed by the Federal Government. She was buried at the Washington Arsenal. The requests of her daughter, Anna, for her body were denied until February 1869, when it was moved to a Catholic cemetery in northeast Washington, DC. Her tombstone simply reads: "Mrs. Surratt." Mount Olivet Cemetery is the final resting place for her and another Confederate martyr: Maj. Heinrich Wirz, CSA, Commandant of Camp Sumter, Andersonville, Georgia. 91 meters from her grave lies that of John Lloyd, who rented her property in Maryland and whose testimony probably condemned her.

The movie moves at a good pace and is quite interesting. Some facts are compressed or omitted because the director deemed them minor. The scene of the moat around the Old Capitol Prison confused me, until I recognized it as Fort Pulaski. Because the movie focuses on Mary, the other captured Lincoln conspirators are shown in the same courtroom, but none of their trials. There is no reference to Mary's oldest son, Isaac, who served in the Confederate Army in Texas. A scene of John's room at the boardinghouse shows a cross rather than a crucifix on the wall. The movie never explains that John Surratt went to New York before the Lincoln assassination or that he found sanctuary with a Catholic priest in French-speaking Canada during his mother's trial. It omits reference to his service in the Papal Zouaves and how the U.S. Government captured him in Alexandria, Egypt. Near the end of the movie, John's refusal to accept his mother's Rosary from Aiken seemed implausible. Fr. Walter, spiritual advisor to Mary, appears often in the movie, however, the failure to have him wear a Roman collar is inexcusable. He is never shown giving her absolution or kissing a crucifix on the scaffold. His final words to her are in English, when it would have been a blessing in Latin. The movie omits the final words of Lewis Powell on the scaffold proclaiming Mary's innocence.

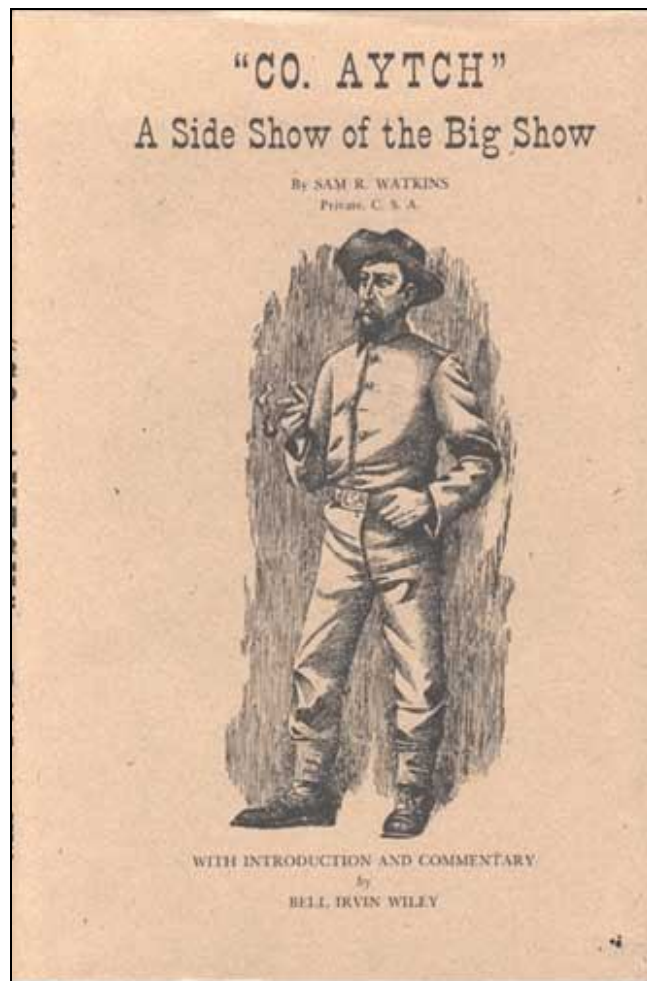


Mary Surrat receives spiritual consolation while in prison, the movie fails to show Catholic procedures in this

The Maryland Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans remembers her execution and that of Maj. Wirz, every May and places flowers at both graves. At the May 14, 2011, remembrance ceremony, Col. Heinrich L. Wirz, Swiss Army (Ret.), the major's great-grand nephew, addressed 50 people (**Editor's note**: see report in this pages). Afterwards, flowers were laid at the graves of Maj. Wirz and Mrs. Surratt; separated by a distance of about 500 meters. Several speakers at the remembrance ceremony commented favorably on *The Conspirator*.

CAMP LIBRARY

“Co. Aytch”, War Memoirs of Samuel R. Watkins



The *Chattanooga Times* newspaper wrote on Oct. 1, 1900:

Eighteen years ago, the first edition of this book, "Co. H., First Tennessee Regiment," was published by the author, Mr. Sam. R. Watkins, of Columbia, Tenn. A limited edition of two thousand copies was printed and sold. For nearly twenty years this work has been out of print and the owners of copies of it hold them so precious that it is impossible to purchase one. To meet a demand, so strong as to be almost irresistible the Chattanooga Times has printed a second edition of 2000 copies, which to soldiers of the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of the Cumberland, between whom many battles were fought, it will prove of intense interest, serving to recall many scenes and incidents of battle field and camp in which they were the chief actors. To them and to all other readers we respectfully commend this book as being the best and most impersonal history of any army ever written.

Now in 2011, one hundred eleven years later, Watkin's book has been re-edited many times. We just want to recommend it to our readers in the same way the Chattanooga Times did and offer it to you as e-book (157 pages Word.doc).

Contact the editor and receive it for free: partisanranger@swissmail.com

Intelligence Service Europe

Bi-monthly electronic newsletter.

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Submissions must be in Microsoft Word or text file and e-mailed to partisanranger@swissmail.com

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