

Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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Commander's Letter

Again it's time, a new year is coming close. Christmas time is also coming in short. As an "old soldier" my thoughts are this times always grateful with the men fulfilling their duty and who cannot be with their beloved ones at home. My own experience has taught me that to serve protecting freedom of the people means a lot of sacrifice. It can be a loss at the front of combat, or the suffering of having a family member far away from home these days.

It's not easy. But God gives help and a strong faith is always helpful to stand these times. My thoughts are with all the men who have given their lives this year to protect the most precious thing we have: our freedom. As Commander SCV Europe Camp #1612, this is also a commendation to protect and to preserve the memory of the ones who did that time ago, also to protect an undistorted vision of History and to preserve it to future generations.

Our Camp has recruited a new full member this year; his name is Josef „Jup“ Grisedieck. As you know it is difficult to find Compatriots around here, far away from America, who can accomplish the requirements for full SCV membership. For that reason it is of special satisfaction to me to have convinced Jup to join. Long before he had shown a great interest in the War of Northern Aggression. An interesting part of his family history is that the origins of the Griesedieck Brewery, of renown in America, are in his family homestead. He's still living in the first house where the brewery started. From here, several Griesedieck brothers immigrated to America.

A heavy task of our Camp was this year to fund the restoration of the Page funerary monument in Rome, Italy. Unfortunately, although a great part of the money needed has been collected, funding has become sluggish. As it is an international project, with participation of American SCV Camps, our Camp and the GEC of the SCV, I want the readers of our ISE to make a generous donation to this cause. You know, contact is Adjutant McLarren.

To us it is a special honor task to protect, restore and take care of solitary Confederate graves in Europe, so the entire world can see the SCV honors the fallen heroes of the South on American soil and abroad. No one shall be ever forgotten or left alone!

Always with a Rebel Yell, hooah, and forward! I wish to all our members, their families and to every reader a blessed, merry Christmas and a happy successful New Year.

Achim "Archy" Bänsch
Commander



EDITOR'S NOTE



Raphael Waldburg-Zeil

Again it's Christmas time; Christmas in the first year of the Sesquicentennial 1861 - 2011 and January the beginning of 2012 - 1862. We close this year with our most important project still unfinished: funding the Page tomb restoration in Rome together with so many other SCV Camps in America, especially South Carolina, and the General Executive Committee of the SCV. If you want to help funding the most important Confederate funerary monument in Europe and make it shine like new in 2012 we must remember you that we're still in need of donors to complete the total amount. **Help now, this is the most important SCV endeavor during the Sesquicentennial in Europe!**

The other big event this year was the November 22 presentation at the San Pablo University of Madrid of the first extensively researched book about Pius IX, Jefferson Davis and the nexus of faith among all believing Christians of the South against Liberal Yankeedom. The original papal letter to President Davis, both in original handwriting and correct Latin transcription, translation and its analysis was introduced. A representative of the Papal Nuncio attended.

Our Camp finishes this year with a big loss, Peter Rossi went to the Lord. He was one of the most active members in the whole SCV, on both sites of the Atlantic. It was much to him that the Page tomb restoration in Rome was started. But there was success in recruiting: Josef Griesedieck has joined Europe Camp as full member! Read about his ancestor and Josef's motivation to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans. While good men continue to stand up and decide to join the ranks, the Charge of General S.D. Lee will be fulfilled!

Christmas time makes us think of snugness at home, cuddly draped in a warm quilt, doesn't it? Our contact in Rome, Susan Fiorentino (UDC Oklahoma), writes about the American quilt, including some beautiful samples. Patriotism was a major theme before, during and after the WBTS, and women both North and South expressed it in their quilts. A Varina Davis quilt from the Museum of the Confederacy is shown. Also Nancy Hitt sent pictures of quilts made by her mom. Altogether, this gives a good view of American popular culture, dating from the eighteenth-century and which continues today.

Tom Landgraf and *Lucky* ride again! Read about his particular battle-noise training method for re-enactment horses. *Lucky*, Tom's warhorse, gives example of success.

Another Confederate grave in Europe has a VA headstone. Captain G. Lavizzo, Louisiana Militia, has been provided his granite marker thanks to the initiative of Peter Rossi and the paperwork, as always, of our correspondent in America, Nancy Hitt. Read about how we solve the problems we sometimes meet in Europe to properly honor a grave due to specific national laws.

November is the month of Wirz memorials. We include the speech of our past-Commander, Swiss army Col. Heinrich Wirz during the Memorial Service in honor of both Henry and Elizabeth Wirz, Saturday, November 19 in Fuller Cemetery, Linton, Kentucky. Thanks to correspondent Nancy Hitt, Henry Wirz' last letter to his family is also reproduced.

Have a look at Bertil Haggmann's educational movie review: "True Grit" in the 2010 version, seen with Southern eyes.

May I especially recommend our Camp Library's offer in this issue: the recollections of Lt. Randolph H. McKim, a private soldier who rose from the ranks to achieve an officer's Commission. And I would like to remember that every offer in electronic books is still available to every reader for free. And please browse past newsletter issues to find important educational stuff in our Camp's library. Only printed books are exclusive to full members, with limited lending time.

Well, the ISE staffs wishes you a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and all the best for 2012. Nancy sent us a portrait of Ellis Harper as Santa's Reindeer dog. Have fun these holidays and start the New Year with the blessing of God and strengthen by Him.



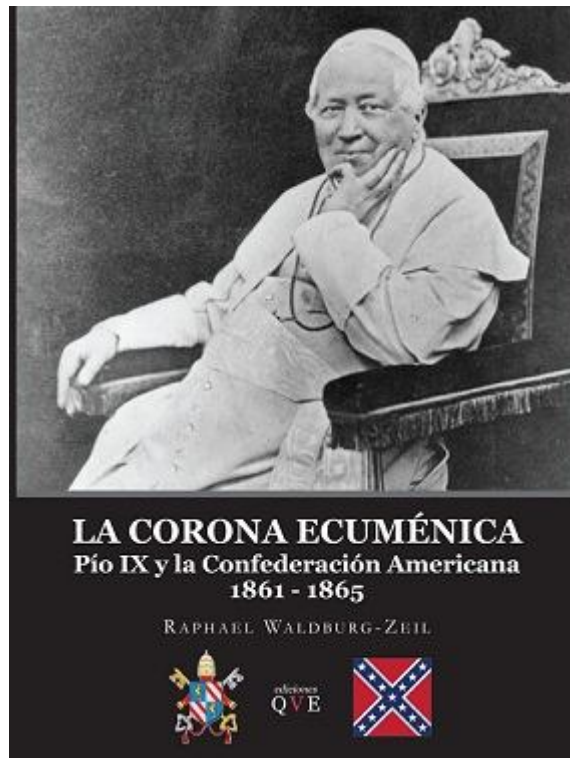
NEW FULL MEMBER !!!



SCV Europe Camp #1612 welcomes a new full member! Josef Griesedieck of Germany, descendant of Private William T. Miller (Müller), Co. C, 1st Missouri Cavalry and a nephew of the famous founder family of the Griesedieck brewery in St. Louis, has recently received his membership certificate, handed out by our Commander. We are very happy to have Josef in our ranks and invite him most cordially to write about his motivation to join the duties and tasks of fulfilling the Charge given to the SCV. Welcome, brother!



**BOOK "THE ECUMENICAL CROWN" PRESENTED IN
SAN PABLO UNIVERSITY MADRID, SPAIN**



- Includes reproduction and analysis of the original handwritten letter in Latin of Pope Pius IX to Jefferson Davis, not seen in original for more than a century.
- Deep portrait of the religious, economical and social realities of the antebellum South. Slavery in America.
- Northern hate and Southern Christian brotherhood: American attitude towards Catholicism before, during and after the War.
- Religious reactions in the North and the South to growing Liberalism and Nationalism during the 20 years prior to the War.
- The essence of "Abolitionism" exposed.
- Papal correspondence with the Catholic Bishops of New Orleans and New York during 1862.
- Analysis of the 1863 secret report to Rome from the Bishop of Louisville, Kentucky, unmasking the Northern war of aggression.
- Rome's support to Confederate Secret Service activities in Ireland.
- The spiritual life of Jefferson Davis in prison.
- The Pope and the Lincoln murder conspiracy: Rome and the true story of John Surratt.

These are only a few contents of the 522-page hardcover book published in Spanish "La Corona Ecueménica. Pío IX y la Confederación Americana, 1861-1865", QVE Publishers, which was presented November 22 in the Aula Magna of the University San Pablo CEU, one of Spain's foremost Catholic universities. Professor Alberto Bárcena Pérez of the San Pablo University, Dr. Amadeo Rey Cabieses, professor of the Royal Academy of History and Genealogy, and the author himself, Raphael Waldburg-Zeil, introduced the contents with almost 200 people in attendance. Among them, a large selection of historians of the Church, clergymen and Monsr. Angelo di Paulis, Secretary of the Papal Nuncio to Spain. The author had sent a copy to Rome through the Nuncio and was bestowed an Apostolic Benediction from Pope Benedict XVI for his work! A congratulation letter from Archbishop Angelo Becciu came from the Vatican Department of State (the Papal letter to President Davis is a unique document and the Vatican Secret Archives had no copy of the message. The author had made it possible for Rome to obtain a copy from the Library of Congress, Washington DC, where it was kept but forgotten since 1920 and had never been read by historians, who had always worked on the translations of the Official Records).

At 19:30 Dr. Cabieses, from the Royal Academy of History, started the presentation introducing the young priest Giovanni Maria Mastai-Ferreti, later to be elected Pope, and his 1834 journey to the recently created independent republics of South America where he met the face of Liberalism as the very essence of their false "freedom" in the worst sense of the French Revolution. Besides being an open-minded Pope, Pius IX learned there the necessity which came up later, of fighting the upcoming Garibaldi and Lincolns of the time.

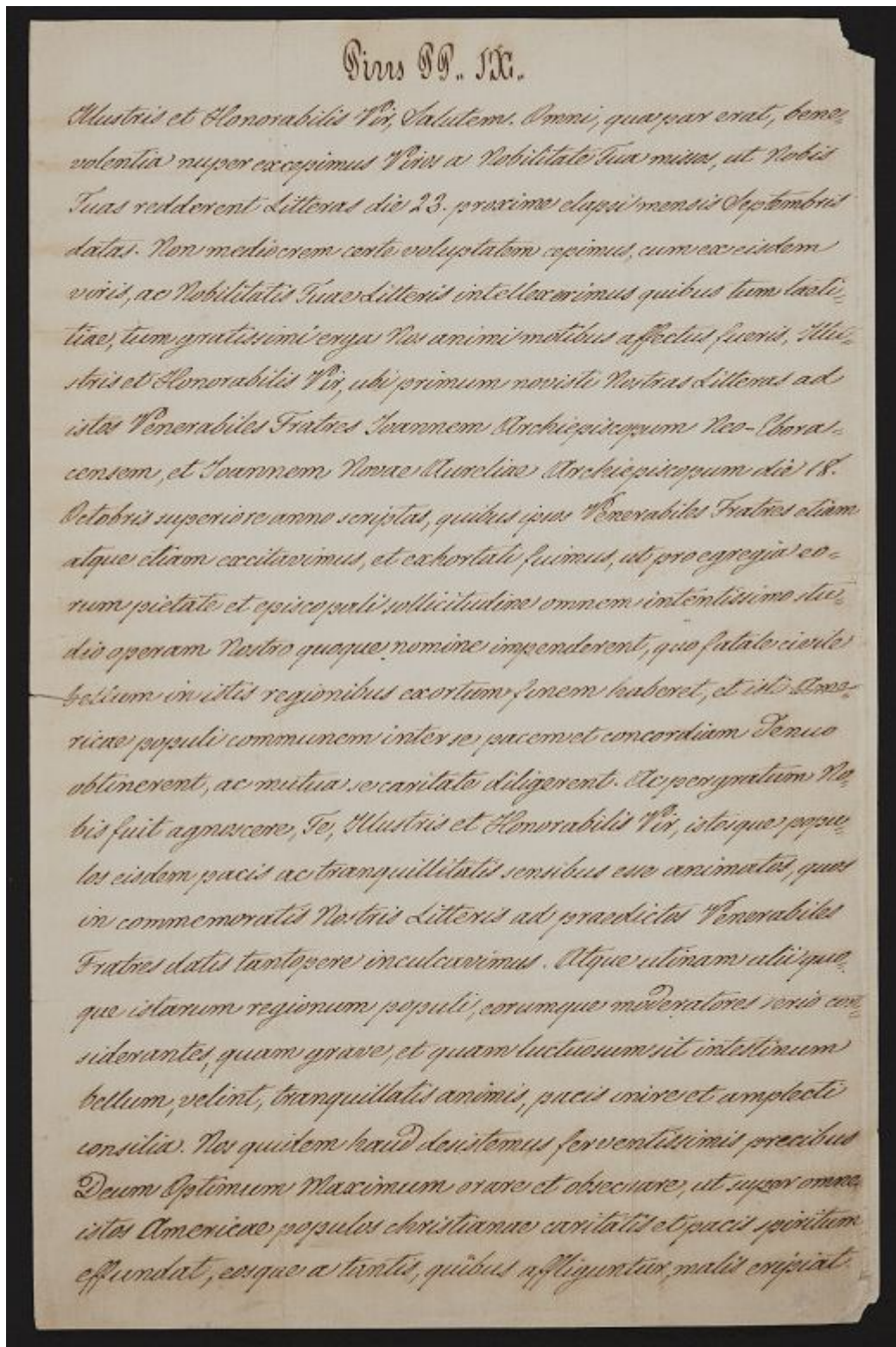
Professor Barcena made an excellent resume of the entire book, recommending it as a true guide to the American conflict from the 1830s to the 1870s, from a religious point of view and a struggle between good and evil.

To better explain to the reader what the old Union was and what was being defended in 1861, the book first goes back to the figure of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, signatory of the Proclamation of Independence for Maryland in 1776, and his motives from a Catholic point of view. From the very beginning of the United States to emerging nationalist Yankeedom in the 1830's the author explained the origins of America, the original Union, and the menace as it was felt in the South, from federal Unionists, with a nationalist ideology mixed with Liberalism and other modern evils. Several quotes of Frank Conner's book "The South under Siege" were used (the Camp Library has this book available as hard-copy to our full members).

Much to the surprised audience, the everyday and legal realities of Slavery were revealed, differences with old Roman slavery, Middle-Ages servitude, etc. Abolitionism was stripped of every historical lie regarding philanthropy and spirit of freedom, to reveal the real ideological identity of this movement; racist, anti-Catholic and anti-Southern (including the biblical Christian faith of Southerners).

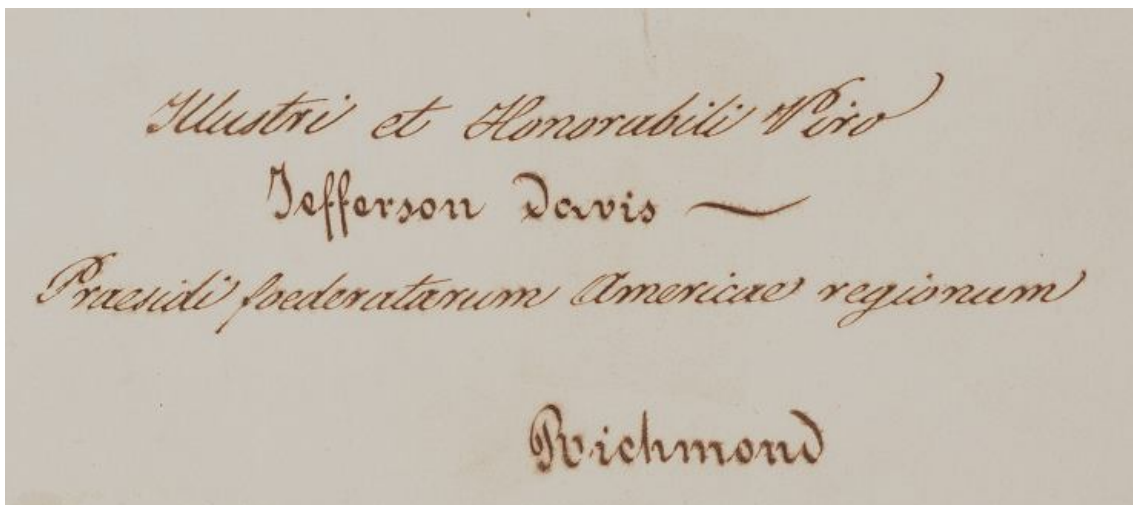
The communication with Southern and some Northern bishops, together with Bishop Spalding's secret dissertation, made the Pope to understand well that the American War between the States was fought under the banner of nationalism, "fraternity", equality, socialism, "progress", and atheism and that the

ideological fundaments of the French revolutionary experience was being exported onto America exactly as it was in the Italian peninsula during that time. Raphael Waldburg spoke about how he researched and found the original handwritten letter of Pope Pius IX and how it was possible that more than a century of American historians have been working only on the two existing translations in the Official Records and not on the original document, which was made available to the readers for the first time in this book and has a weight that needs further explanation for the ones who don't study the entire book.



First sheet of the handwritten letter of Pius IX to Jefferson Davis

The Papal letter in Latin is actually a perfect mixture of endless love in sincerely felt brotherhood for the Christians of every denomination in the South and a hope for peace coming from the North, and at the same time, a careful diplomatic contact with the Confederacy – without actually recognizing her. Pope Pius IX never addressed Davis as "President of the Confederate States of America", but as "*President of the federated American regions*". Interesting is that the Pope writes only of "American regions" divided, acknowledging Jefferson Davis as President of some regions (means the South), while expressing the hope that "the other regions" (means the North) may find a way in peace to solve the problem of having some states ("regions") seceded. Only a versed Latin scholar is capable to present the message of the Pope in English as it really was. Lincoln is not even mentioned once, neither as President of the USA nor leader of the "other regions". We're now looking for a scholar to produce an English version of the book.



Writing on the original envelope handed out by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Antonelli to Confederate envoy Ambrose D. Mann in Rome. Note the Latin writing "Praesidi foederatarum Americae Regionum".



Left to right: Author R. Waldburg, introductory speaker Vice Rector Martinez, Dr. A. Cabieses, Royal Academy, Professor A. Barcena, San Pablo University

After commenting the chapter of the spiritual life of Jefferson Davis while imprisoned, the author introduced the Lincoln murder conspiracy and the alleged links to Rome and the story of John Surrat, including evidence of his innocence little noticed before. Interesting is that all the theories and Lincoln murder conspiracies ended 1963 with the assassination of JFK, Americas first Catholic President, and were never re-activated since.

The years of anti-Catholicism immediately after the War between the States were analyzed, also how the Constitution protected freedom of religion in America even in the dark hours of Reconstruction.

The presentation ended at 21:30 with strong applause. For almost one hour the act was prolonged, having the author to sign some 70 books attending a large crowd. All in one, it was a great night of enlightenment, lead by Europe Camp #1612, about the Good and the Evil, the North and the South, the truth and the lies about America, the Revolution, Secession, Southern values, liberal Yankeedom and the attitude of ecumenical Pope Pius IX towards his Christian brothers of non-Catholic denominations ("by beloved separated brothers!").

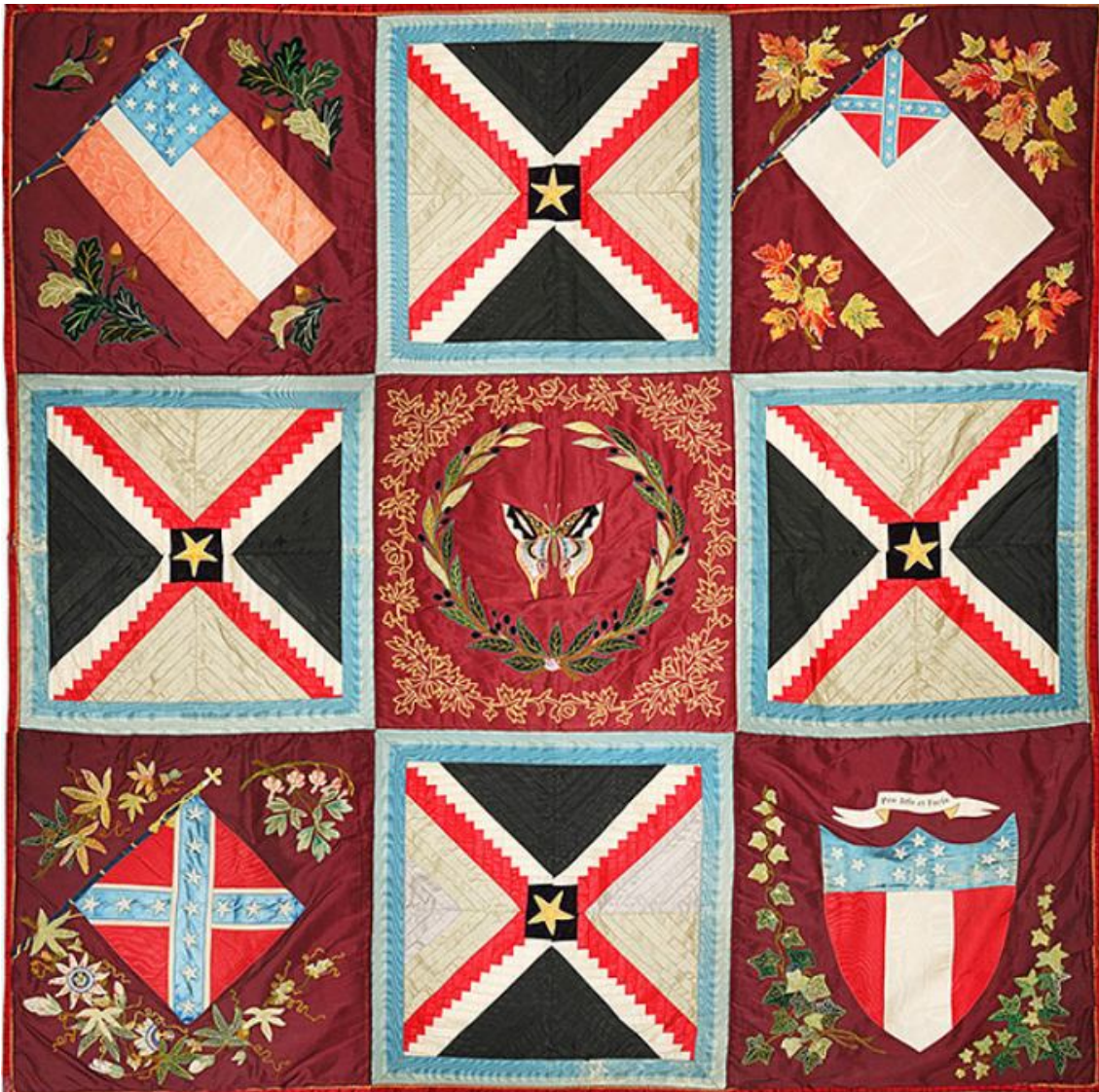


THE AMERICAN QUILT IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES



Compiled by Susan Fiorentino, Europe Camp contact Rome, Italy.
Member UDC General Robert E. Lee Chapter #2127, Oklahoma.

The First Lady of the Confederacy, Varina Howell Davis, stitched a stunning patriotic quilt in the early 1870s. In 1925, the quilt was given to the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia by Varina Davis Hayes Webb, granddaughter of the maker. It is a nine-square patchwork of silk and wool, then dress fabrics, embroidered, filled with cotton, backed with silk and bound together with a binding of red silk. A block construction technique called "log cabin" is used in the black and ivory blocks. It was stitched by both hand (note the excellent buttonhole stitch) and machine; with a sewing machine during this period giving importance, as the owner was innovative and affluent enough to own one.



The quilt's small dimensions 50.75 x 52 inches and subject matter indicate it was meant as a showpiece, a statement and not for warmth on a bed. Mrs. Davis' quilt pattern is apparently original, a pattern not mass-produced and her designs held symbolic meanings:

- The oak leaves: the long-lived evergreen growth and dignity of the Confederacy.
- The ivy the faithful loyal binding together of a warrior people.
- The passion flower and bleeding heart ? The suffering heroines of the Southern Cause and people.
- The olive branch of the peace of the future to a cause that lost but held its victor's crown of peace (see the figure on top of the Confederate Monument in Arlington National Cemetery by Moses Ezekiel, a Confederate Veteran, Rome, Italy. This monument was funded by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and dedicated in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson.
- The butterfly in the center the flying soul of the Confederacy, beautiful and immortal:



- On the corners are two national flags of the Confederacy (3rd National is omitted) and the Battle Flag. The shield on the lower right includes the colors of the Confederate States.



Margaret English Dodge of Brooklyn, New York wore her Union colors proudly, making at least three known bedspreads based on the American flag, all stitched during the Civil War era. The "Eagle Bedspread" made about 1864, all in cotton with a painted eagle and appliquéd stars, contains a shield which is also painted. Margaret, in her eighties for these quilts (1781-1873) probably relied on her son's fame as a painter of miniatures, to add value to her quilts and recognition for her son, John Wood Dodge (1807-1893). The third quilt, apparently like the one shown here but in silk, was displayed at the Brooklyn Sanitary Fair of 1864 and was given to President Lincoln. He responded with a letter offering "my most cordial thanks for the beautiful present transmitted by you." Perhaps the gift of a quilt to President Lincoln was meant to serve as a reminder of the family's lost land in Tennessee and that Mrs. Dodge might want Lincoln to know that her son left his home place in Tennessee to return to the North as a loyal Unionist. Was she hoping for the family's land's retribution? Lincoln's quilt, the silk one, has disappeared and today, its whereabouts are unknown.



The second quilt, by Margaret Dodge, Peterson's Magazine Flag Bedspread, was made according to a free pattern (the first time a color pattern was published) which appeared in Peterson's Magazine in July 1861, shortly after the war broke out. This magazine, like "Godey's Lady's Book," was a women's periodical with fashion, fiction, household advice, craft patterns and decorating tips. Both magazines had both avid North and South readers and both magazines were reluctant to divide half their readership. The quilt's center, filled with thirty-four stars, the number of stars in the Union from 1861 (when Kansas was admitted) until 1863 (when West Virginia was accepted into the Union as a new state, the thirty-fifth). The border contains forty-four appliquéd stars. Another quilted version of this popular design is found in the Smithsonian collection with a Union general's name stitched into each of the stars.



Both these bedspreads were handed-down in the Dodge family and were given to the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, Washington DC by two sisters. Quilts such as these with patriotic themes were made and exhibited in events such as the United States Sanitary Commission fairs and sold to raise funds for troops. Both North and South used quilts for raising funds. Quilting bees and gatherings brought women together to share news and to honor their friends' and family's service. While this quote below describes a Northern event, it was undoubtedly duplicated throughout the South:

"We had a patriotic quilting party a few weeks since, in the open air under the shade of some maples from whose pendant boughs the stars and stripes gaily fluttered in the breeze, while beneath were twenty quilts in process of completions by the loyal women of our city, young, middle aged and aged." - "Correspondence by C.C. Mason" "Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal," September 21, 1864.

In Prince George's County, Maryland, the home of the "Garden Maze Floral Wreath" quilt, there was great sympathy for the South. It is not hard to understand why. Despite the sectional division within Maryland, Prince George's County in 1861 was part of the South. It had a plantation economy and a population that was more than half slave. There was virtually no abolitionist sentiment there - in the presidential election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln received just one vote from the entire Prince George's County! The leaders of the social and public life - the old gentry - were all slaveholders and very much Southern-oriented. When it became evident that Maryland would not secede from the Union, scores of young men went south to fight for the Confederacy.

This sympathy for the South did not necessarily mean that Prince Georgians wanted Maryland to secede, however. Prince George's County was a conservative place and secession was a radical step. Furthermore, county citizens could be sure, located so close to Washington, that their county would be turned into a battleground if Maryland did try to secede.

There were Southerners in the county who advocated secession, but three times they were defeated at the polls by more moderate forces. The sentiment of the voters seemed to be: let the South go in peace, but we will stay in the Union.

There were no battles in Prince George's County during the War, although the Union Army was always present, guarding the rail line, marching through the countryside and watching from the forts around Washington DC. Can you imagine the affect this constant "watch" must have had on Prince George's women? Surely quilts were stitched in Prince George's County for their family serving in the Confederacy and carried into battle. The very act of creating a quilt - from its inception of the design, to the cutting of fabric and then stitching blocks together which could also include elaborate and pains-taking hand embroidery would be a mental break, a refreshing interval, a way for the creators to forget, just for a while, their troubles and concerns of a war, all around.

The "Garden Maze Floral Wreath" appliqued quilt by Martha Ann Gibbons Turner (1792-1868) who lived in Prince George's County, Maryland survived the chaotic war times. It appears to have been stitched with new, coordinating fabric and carefully planned - destined to be a family's keepsake. With its dark blue background to represent the upper heavens and flora tastefully stylized and placed, the quilt could be viewed from any side. A small white bow in the center adds interest to the overall composition. The wide, floral, printed border is a technique even today's quilter employ to increase the size of a quilt to fit a bed.



Martha Turner's husband, John Turner, was a prosperous planter, with twenty-eight slaves and real estate worth \$13,000, then a considerable sum in 1850 - which has today's purchasing power of \$374,000.

John's status in the community led him to testify as a character witness for Dr. Samuel Mudd, stating Dr. Mudd was not a Southern sympathizer and had treated John Wilkes Booth for humanitarian reasons and not political ones. John Turner's testimony was not enough to prevent Dr. Mudd's conviction and subsequent imprisonment.

The "Victorian Crewelwork Bedspread" stitched between 1850-1870 whose maker and exact US provenance are unknown, is a fine example of the Victorian era's love of gardens and nature. With the acceptance of botany for women to pursue, while the discourse on the formal education of women was still debated, women produced an enormous quantity of floral-themed quilts and bedspreads or counterpanes. This bedspread (not quilted) has a background of white cotton squares set on point, with an added border of leaves carefully placed on a vine with red berries. All the decorative stitching is in wool, an echo to the previous century's Jacobean-styled embroidery. Curiously in the border's lower left corner, one green leaf is missing from the repetitive design. Where the overall harmony and execution of design is so carefully planned, this leaf's omission must also have been planned. Along with the flower a bouquet, the addition of grape bunches is of interest. Grapes, such as these, were first brought to neighboring Virginia in 1773 from Tuscany, Italy by Filippo Mazzei and planted at his home-place, "Colle", adjacent to Monticello, the home of his friend Thomas Jefferson.



Many a curious device and many a beautiful picture are to be traced in the well selected and well arranged colors in piecing quilts. Some spend their ingenuity

in imitating flowers, "a pink, a rose, a sunflower, or a myrtle wreath", some prefer a cluster of bright colors, and form a flower-pot, or a wreath of various vines, and some try to imitate the stars above and piece beautiful bright patches, and set them in white or blue, in imitation of the upper sphere (see, "My Patchwork Quilt", by Mary Hall, "Arthur's Home Magazine," March 1863).

Contemporary quilters and historians interested in the WBTS period will appreciate Barbara Brackman's blog <http://civilwarquilts.blogspot.com/> which is filled with free block patterns to stitch including instructions, along with historical images/photos and notations. Reproduction Civil War fabrics can be found on internet and in quilts shops in the United States. Please note that black and gray are colors not found in cotton quilts of this period; black dyes were available for silk and wool only and used in the fabrication of clothes.

Author's note: For the creation of this article, I am indebted to my friend, Alden O'Brien, the author of "Historic Quilts of the DAR Museum," and Curator of Costume and Textiles, DAR Museum; Diane L. Dunkley, Museum Director and Chief Curator, DAR Museum; Stephanie Livingston, Associate Registrar/Assistant Curator, DAR Museum. All these professionals have been supportive of my article and in sharing their expertise with me and therefore, with you the reader. For additional info on these and other historic quilts please read: "Historic Quilts of the DAR Museum." The images of the quilts from the Daughters of the American Museum are published in this Newsletter with kind permission of the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, Washington DC.

Editor's note: SCV European Camp is appreciative to the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia for permission to publish and inclusion of the quilt by Varina Howell Davis and to our Correspondent Hancy Hitt for sending the private quilts made of her mother.



**Harriet Powers (1837-1919) one of the best-known southern African American quilt makers
© Smithsonian Institution**

Home pictures of two beautiful contemporary American quilts provided by Nancy Hitt (made by her mother):



**Memorial Service in honor of Henry and Elizabeth Wirz,
Saturday, November 19th 2011, Fuller Cemetery, Linton,
Kentucky**

Address by Heinrich L. Wirz, Colonel (Ret.) Swiss Army
Great-grandnephew of Captain Henry Wirz, A.A.G., C.S.A.
Past Commander, *SCV Europe Camp #1612*
Alabama Honorary Colonel
Aide-de-Camp / Life Member *The Order of the Stars & Bars*
Member *Society of The Order of The Southern Cross*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Confederate Compatriots and American friends,

Five years ago I had the honor to be the guest-speaker here at Fuller Cemetery at the dedication ceremony of the grave-marker of Elizabeth Wirz-Wolfe, the wife of my great-granduncle Captain Henry Wirz, Assistant Adjutant General, Confederate States Army – the unfortunate commandant of Camp Sumter prison in Andersonville, Georgia. Let me shortly summarize the main experiences concerning the War of Secession and my ancestor which I was fortunate to make during my travels through your beautiful country in recent years.

In 2006 the US-trip together with my Aide-de-Camp, Florian A. Strahm, leads us first to Natchez, Mississippi. There we attended a grave-marker dedication for Cora Lee Wirz, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Wirz-Wolfe. Later on we reached Cadiz, where the indefatigable so called Confederate Angel, Nancy Hitt, had discovered the grave place of Elizabeth Wirz here on this cemetery. Therefore we attended a memorial service at Cadiz Christian Church and a second grave-marker dedication ceremony together with some of you who are present today. Do you remember this touching event, taking place under freezing conditions?

Two and a half years ago, in May 2009, I had the opportunity to attend the 100th anniversary commemoration of the Wirz-monument, erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1909. As a guest-speaker along with Mr. Ben Willingham, Chief of Staff MOS&B, I followed an invitation by Mrs. Sybil Willingham, UDC Second Vice President.

My last trip to the United States and on the traces of the War of Secession, including Captain Henry Wirz, was in May 2011 – again together with my A-d-C Florian A. Strahm. The main objectives were to research in the National Archives, to attend the annual Captain Henry Wirz Memorial Service at his burial site on Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington, D.C. In addition we visited the direct descendants of Captain Wirz's attorney, Louis Frederick Schade, in Scotland near Point Lookout, Maryland. By the way: At this location there had been a terrible Union prison camp, and recently local Confederate organizations established an impressive Confederate Memorial Park.

From there we travelled on to Richmond, where we visited the Museum of the Confederacy and Hollywood cemetery, where C.S. President Jefferson Davis and C.S. Major-General J.E.B. Stuart along with many other Confederates are buried.

The trip then leads us to Salisbury, North Carolina, where Ed and Sue Curtis showed us the site of the former Confederate prison camp. Did you know that the commandant of this prison, Major John H. Gee, had been accused of almost the same so called war-crimes as Captain Henry Wirz and was also tried by a Military Commission? But there was the difference of life and death: Major Gee was found not guilty and released in 1866, whereas Captain Wirz was – as the result of a scandalous show trial – was found guilty and executed on 10th November 1865.

Further on we drove to South Carolina to meet with the lawyer and former United States Army Justice Advocate General's corps officer, Glen W. LaForce, who had published the famous and trailblazing article "*The trial against Captain Wirz – A national disgrace*" in the periodical "Army Lawyer".

Eventually we arrived in Americus, where James Gaston and his wife Nancy generously hosted us for the remaining week on their farm. During this time we visited the new Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia, and met with former FBI Special Agent and history professor Dr. Fred R. Ruhlman in Pine Mountain. He is the author of the book "*Captain Henry Wirz and Andersonville Prison: A Reappraisal*", which is based on his PhD dissertation. He had also made an effort for vindication by turning in a Petition for Posthumous Exoneration to the U.S. Pardon Attorney in July 2006. Unfortunately this paper has not (yet) been answered and seems to have disappeared in the bureaucracy of the government.

Another side trip leads us to the Nash Farm Battlefield just south of Atlanta where Cassie and Kelly Barrow as well as the staff of the local museum were our very much appreciated guides.

Back in Andersonville we browsed through the library of the National Historic Site in order to complete the extensive bibliography for our source documentation on Captain Wirz, Camp Sumter prison and the trial in Washington, D.C., which is currently in work. By the way: We have so far discovered 25 dissertations and master thesis on these topics and also found out, that Henry Wirz's last letter to his attorney, Louis F. Schade, was auctioned for more than \$ 14'000 in 2002.

Did you know that the weapon collection at Andersonville National Historic Site contains an original LeMat revolver? We had the chance to hold this unique weapon in our own hands – of course protected with gloves. Such a heavy double-barrel hand-gun was carried – amongst others – by C.S. Generals P.G.T. Beauregard, Braxton Bragg, J.E.B. Stuart and of course – Captain Henry Wirz.

Finally I thank all of you for being here today to remember the tragedy of a Southern martyr and hero.

My special thanks go to George Copeland for organizing this memorial service today and to everybody who has contributed to this.

God bless our two so called Sister Republics, the United States of America and Switzerland!

With best Confederate regards,

Heinrich L. Wirz



Last letter from Captain Henry Wirz to his family

Old Capitol Prison, Washington, D.C., Nov. 10, 1865

My dearest wife and children

When these lines reach you, the hand that wrote will be stiff and cold. In a few hours from now I shall be dead. Oh, if I could express myself as I wish – if I could tell you what I have suffered when I thought and the children! I must leave you without means to live to the miseries of a cold cruel world. Lize, do not grieve, do not despair; we will meet again in a better world. Console yourself, think as I do that I die innocent. Who knows better than you that all these tales of cruelties and murders are infamous lies, and why should I not say it?

A great many do call me hard hearted, because I tell them that I am not guilty – that I have nothing to confess. Oh, think for a moment how the thought that I must suffer and die innocent, must sustain me in the last terrible hour, that when I stand before my Maker, I can say “Lord, of these things you know I am not guilty. I have sinned often and rebelled against Thee. Oh, let my unmerited death be atonement”. Lize, I die reconciled; I die, as I hope, as a Christian. This is His holy will that I should die, and therefore let us say with Christ “Thy will, oh Lord, be done.”

I hardly know what to say. Oh, let me beg you do not give away to despair. Think that I am going to my Father, to your Father, to the Father of all, and that there I hope to meet you. Live for the dear children. Oh, do take good care of Cora, kiss her for me. Kiss Susan and Cornelia, and tell them to live so that we may meet again in the heaven above the skies. Tell them that my last thought, my last prayer, shall be for them.

You ask me about Cora’s schooling. My dear wife, you must do now as you think best. In regard to your going to Europe, I would advise you to wait until you hear from there. I have written to my father; if he should be dead, my brother, I hope, is still alive. I send you his address. You had better get a certificate of our marriage – also of Cora’s birth, and have them approved before a magistrate. If you should go to Europe you will need them. I shall hand this letter to Mr. Schade, who will send it to you, with some other papers and books. This is all I can leave you; but no, I can leave you something more, something better – my blessing. God bless you and protect you. God give you what you stand in need of and grant that you all so live that when you die, you can say: Lord, Thou called me, here I am! And now farewell, wife, children, all. I will and must close; farewell, farewell. God be with us.

Your unfortunate husband and father,
H. Wirz.

Note: A transcript of this letter with handwritten remarks from Hans Georg Wirz (grand-nephew of Captain Henry Wirz, father of Heinrich L. Wirz) is located in the Wirz family archives, Zentralbibliothek, Zürich, Switzerland. This letter was published in several American newspapers, for example in the “New York Times” from November 13, 1865. It is not known, if the original still exists.



REENACTMENT HORSE TRAINING: BATTLE NOISE



by full member Tom Landgraf

Let me start telling everyone that Lucky, my Tennessee Walker who had to undergo surgical treatment and a complicated recovery exercises program (see ISE Jun/Jul 2011, pages 29-32), has almost fully recovered and I look forward to have my horse in action again in 2012.

Lucky replaced my beloved old warhorse Whiskey, who has become a bit too old to continue in full use for reenactments and now enjoys his retirement. Lucky has revealed himself an excellent reenactment horse from the very beginning, most suitable for cavalry training and battle reenactment.

One of the keys in training a useful horse for reenactments is to get the animal used to every kind of battle noise; handguns being fired by the rider himself close to the horse's ears, musket volleys at close or medium distances, heavy cannonfire, massive yelling, etc. Having a horse the natural tendency to flee any danger while being easily stricken by panic, a good control training is necessary for a reenactment-horse as it was for every cavalry horse time ago.

I have developed a simple and very effective first-step training system for horses to make them accustomed to noise: by using the bird-repellers of the extensive vineyards of Dolgesheim, where I live. Bird-repelling machines work with sound effects, from simulating cries of predators up to acoustic distress sounds. A more direct system is used near my home: sudden shots. This method is most effective against birds, especially starlings (a plague for the wine-growers in my region), but only until the birds have become used to it, thus, the sounds (reaching from a rifle fire to a 6-pound gunshot) are fired into the air on an irregular sequence.

As said, the method is simple: you take the horse or horses for a lone walk or a group ride through the vineyard or beneath the area. Neither you nor your horse will ever know the moment when a shot is fired. Perhaps even several simultaneously. At the beginning of the training a horse might show signs of stress and nervousness. Slowly, step by step, confidence in the rider and calmed nerves grow and the animal soon will be fully able to follow orders even "under real fire". During a reenactment further training is coming close to a bird-repeller machine and to stay a while. You can measure the coolness of your warhorse by the way he does stand the shots.

The picture below shows Lucky totally calm and quiet during a shot while Filou, the other horse, is jerking a bit. To obtain advantage from these bird-repellers was a cheap and most effective training method to bring horses to become used to sudden loud noises, an essential first step in the drill for a reenactment horse.



Sgt. Tom Landgraf on his horse Lucky and Cpl. Jan Gass riding Filou



Same scene, immediately after the bird-repeller has fired a shot at ear-level of the horses. Note Filou has jerked a bit while Lucky stands totally calm

In addition to this training I like to do something legal but rather unusual in Germany: mounted hunting. Armed with a real shotgun I shoot doves and foxes, both are moving targets which require perfect horse domination. In Germany it is strictly forbidden to open fire on animals from a car, even in your own hunting ground, but it is permitted from a coach or while mounting a horse. Thus, I enjoy hunting while giving additional training to my horse



**VA MARKER STONE OF CAPTAIN GIUSEPPE LAVIZZO
(1821 – 1877), LOUISIANA MILITIA, NOW IN PLACE**



We had reported of how ISE Correspondent Nancy Hitt had obtained a VA marker stone needed for the grave of Capt. G. Lavizzo, commanding Co. I, 6th Regiment of the Louisiana European Brigade (see ISE October/November 2010, p. 33). Peter Rossi was once more, the original instigator of this endeavour to mark another Confederate's forgotten grave. The first week of November, Mr. Pierre-Phillipe Andrieu, direct descendant of Lavizzo, reported the headstone is in place after some bureaucratic problems with the city administration. Europe Camp is looking forward to provide Capt. Lavizzo with the honors he deserves. Unfortunately, a regulation in France forbids any re-enactors in foreign uniforms giving volley salutes, so together with the SCV CiC our Commander is now working out a nice alternative to be reported about in the next issue!



THE PREACHER'S CORNER



Baby Jesus adored by the Shepherds, B. E. Murillo, 1668

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Christmas prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson



EDUCATIONAL MOVIES

TRUE GRIT (2010)



Synopsis: Following the assassination of her father by hired killer Tom Chaney, 14-year-old farm girl Mattie Ross sets out to capture the murderer. To aid her, she hires the toughest U.S. marshal she can find, a man with "true grit," Reuben J. "Rooster" Cogburn, a former Confederate Guerrilla. Mattie insists on accompanying Cogburn, who's drinking, sloth, and generally reprobate character do not augment her faith in him. Against his wishes, she joins him in his trek into the Indian Nations in search of Chaney. They are joined by Texas Ranger LaBoeuf, who wants Chaney for his own

purposes. The unlikely trio find danger and surprises on the journey, and each has his or her "grit" tested.

Analysis (by full member Bertil Haggmann): "True Grit" is a remake of a 1969 movie of the same name starring John Wayne. The movie was based on a 1968 novel by Charles Portis also called *True Grit*. I will focus on two prominent characters from the book/movies, Reuben J. "Rooster" Cogburn and LaBoeuf (pronounced "La Beef"). In the 1969 movie, John Wayne played Cogburn and Glen Campbell of country music fame played LaBoeuf. For the 2010 remake, Jeff Bridges portrayed Cogburn and Matt Damon took on the role of LaBoeuf. The movie was directed by the Coen brothers.



Rooster Cogburn: John Wayne in 1969; Jeff Bridges in 2010

Rooster Cogburn is a U.S. Marshal and LaBoeuf is a Texas Ranger. In the film, the two men have a dispute over their respective roles in the War between the States. Cogburn served in the Trans-Mississippi Theater under William Clarke Quantrill as a member of an irregular fighting unit that claimed to support the Confederacy. LaBoeuf on the other hand served as regular soldier in the Eastern Theater, in the Army of Northern Virginia, famously commanded by Robert E. Lee. Quantrill and his men conducted small-scale raiding operations against Union forces in Missouri and Kansas, but their brutal tactics and disregard for military discipline drew the ire of many Confederate military leaders. LaBoeuf argues in the film that his role in the War was justified because he was a regular soldier, while Cogburn was nothing more than a bushwhacker. Cogburn defends his role in the war and his leader, going so far as to refer to him as "Captain" Quantrill, even though his rank in the Confederate military is disputed.

If you love Western films, you have probably realized that many characters in these movies fought during the WBTS (Editor's note: we're showing that fact in our reviews). It was in the war that men like Cogburn and LaBoeuf learned to fight and shoot effectively on horseback. Real-life Wild West men like Cole Younger and Frank & Jesse James rode with Quantrill, and it was during that time that they honed their riding and shooting skills. Quantrill's men regularly practiced when not in combat, and as a result they were able to achieve success over superior forces. The end of the War was not necessarily the end for these former guerrilla fighters.

Jesse James and his gang in particular carried on their raiding style and helped to define the Wild West period. These men did not simply turn up in the West and start robbing at will; they were former soldiers who had extensive combat training.



The exchange between Cogburn and LaBoeuf was probably a lot more entertaining for me than it was for the rest of the audience, but it was a nice touch that added a great deal of historical context to an already impressive film. The more I study the War between the States, the more I find out just how many elements are connected to the war and its legacy. "True Grit" serves as another link between the Wild West and the "Civil War" and how modern Americans choose to portray the people of that time period. Hopefully the success of "True Grit" will inspire a resurgence of Western films, and the public can see just how connected the American West and the War between the States truly are.

Below is a compared conversation between Cogburn and LaBeuf, taken from the scripts of the 1969 and 2010 versions:

True Grit (1969). LaBoeuf and Cogburn:

La Boeuf: I was told in Fort Smith that you rode with Quantrill and that border trash. I heard that Quantrill and his men were not soldiers at all but a bunch of murderers and thieves.

Cogburn: I heard the same thing.

LaBoeuf: I heard they murdered women and children.

Cogburn: I heard that too and it is a damned lie. Which side were you on?

LB: I served with General Kirby Smith. I am not hanging my head when I say it, either.

C: I don't like your conversation about Captain Quantrill.

LB: Captain? Captain of what? A bunch of thief's?

C: Young man, if you want trouble I'll oblige you. Otherwise. Leave it alone.

True Grit (2010), LaBoeuf and Cogburn:

Cogburn: What side were you on?

LaBoeuf: I was in the Army of Northern Virginia, Cogburn, and I don't have to hang my head when I say it!

Cogburn: If you had served with Captain Quantrill. . .

LaBoeuf: "Captain" Quantrill indeed!

Cogburn: You had best let this go, LeBoeuf!

LaBoeuf: Captain of what!

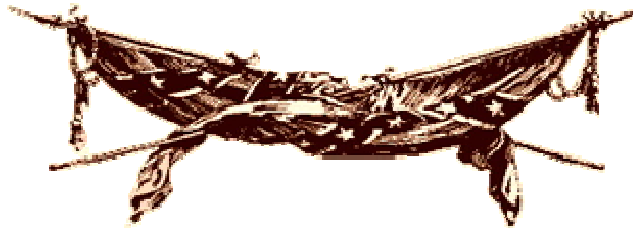
Cogburn: Good, then! There are not sufficient dollars in the state of Texas to make it worth my while to listen to your opinions, day and night. Our agreement is nullified-- it's each man for him!



Hardcore Southerners, different style: Cogburn, LaBoeuf



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A SOLDIER'S RECOLLECTIONS

*LEAVES FROM THE DIARY
OF A YOUNG CONFEDERATE*

WITH AN ORATION ON THE MOTIVES AND AIMS
OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE SOUTH

BY

RANDOLPH H. McKIM

LATE 1ST LIEUTENANT AND A. D. C., 3D BRIGADE, JOHNSTON'S
DIVISION, ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

"QUAEQUE IPSE . . . VIDI"

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1910

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