

Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COMMANDER'S LETTER	1
EDITOR'S NOTE	3
ADJUTANT'S CALL	4
SECESSION IS ONE THING...	6
THE GIZYN REPORT	9
CAMARADERIE IN GRAY	13
FATHER RYAN TO GENL BUTLER	13
I'M GWINE BACK TO DIXIE	14



Commander Achim "Archy" Bänsch

Intelligence Service Europe, Year 13, Issue 1, January, 2020

Commander's Letter

After a wonderful Christmas time with my family I was always thinking about the man and women who are fulfilling their duty and who cannot be with their beloved ones at home. My own military and police experience has taught me that to serve protecting freedom of the people means a lot of sacrifice. 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 and women who have given their lives last year to protect the most precious thing we have - **our freedom.**

(cont'd)

As Commander of the SCV Europe Camp #1612, this is also a commendation to protect and to preserve the memory of the ones who did that a long time ago, also to protect an undistorted vision of History and to preserve it to future generations.

Our Camp recruited new full members last year! Their names are

Dr. G Jason Bell

(Ancestor: PVT Thomas Henry Basnight, Jr., Co A., 32nd NC Inf. Regt.)

Jürgen Bollin

(Ancestor: PVT William F Stivender, 1st SC (Hagood's) Inf Regt)

Steven Klein

(Ancestor: PVT Ludger Weber, Co.A. 3rd Reg. 2nd Brigade 1st Div. LA Militia),

Sebastian Neise

(Ancestor: PVT Martin Franz Heinemann, Co.D. 6th TX Field Battery)

Sven Niebler

(Ancestor: PVT Fred Nieder, Co.F. 2nd TX Infantry).

as well as the transfer in of long-time SCV Member **Fred Adolphus**

(Ancestor: Jim Cooper, Teamster, Army of Tennessee)

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 all now in our ranks.

Always with a Rebel Yell, hooah, and forward! I wish to all our members, their families and to every reader a good start into the New Year 2020.

Achim "Archy" Bänsch
Commander

Editor's Message

Compatriots, Friends of the South,

We are back! It has been a long while since we have sent you a newsletter- but our ancestors' memory is still there.

As we move into the New Year, I would like to turn our thoughts for a while to those who fought in gray, to pause and remember their courage and sense of right – for it may put courage in our hearts to do what is right here, right now, in the 21st Century.

In this issue, we have our usual reports of the Camp, but also --

Yankees often claim: Slavery (A) caused Secession (B) which caused the War (C). And therefore, the War (C) was over Slavery (A).

Not so fast, there! Other Americans may not see the trick, but we Southerners sure do!

A (Slavery) is not the cause of C (the War). That's a swindle. First you have to go from A to B. Then and only then can you move on to C.

I am always looking for clear, effective explanations of the above point. So I am pleased to include such a statement from Ryan McMaken of the Mises Institute. He succinctly makes the all-important distinction between Southern secession and Lincoln's war. He quite rightly points out something the enemies of the South glibly ignore: Secession may have been primarily about the preservation of slavery. The war certainly was not.

Here, too, are a report on the annual Commemoration Ceremony at Gizyn, Poland, a heart-warming story of modern-day solidarity and some soldier stories from the 1894 volume of *Confederate Veteran*.

And, as a final touch, the text to a 19th century song , which anyone who was ever a long way from home will understand.

So settle back, read about the Camp and then merge with your ancestor's world for a while.

Happy reading,

The Editor

Soldier Stories from the 1894 Volume of *CONFEDERATE VETERAN*
The Side of His Head Shot Off. – A company of cavalry of this section of Mississippi was on duty on the Tennessee River.

Privates John W. 'I', and a man named Gamble were on outpost picket.

It was night, dark and wet, and the reserve picket were making themselves as comfortable as possible, when two shots rang out, and following closely after the shots, they heard a horse coming rapidly down the road, and in a few moments Gamble retreated and reported that John W. T. was shot and the enemy was advancing. But in a minute or two another horse and rider came tearing in and John was the rider: He said: "Captain, I am shot."

The Captain asked him where, and he said: "The side of my head is torn off."

The Captain put his hand to John's head and felt it and said: "It is true." and sent him to the hospital. But when day came the wound on the side of John's head proved to be mud and water. The facts, as developed afterward, were that John and his friend had fired at a farmer's mule, and John's horse had thrown him and as he went off his carbine had slapped him on the side of the head, and as he hit the ground his head went in the mud and the water

He never relished this story, but it was true.



ADJUTANT'S CALL

by Chris McLarren

Europe Camp Adjutant.

2019 was a very fruitful year in terms of recruiting for the Camp. We presently have more members paid and certified than at any time since the re-founding of the camp in this century.

As Adjutant, it has been my pleasure to help our people document their connection with their ancestors and to strengthen the most important organization defending the good name of the Confederate people.

The Confederate soldier, sailor and Marine fought because his country was attacked by the United States, a foreign country. If they had not been attacked, there would have been no war. Instead, Southerners had to risk their lives and even shed their blood to protect their homes, their families and their democratically-elected government from foreign invaders.

Very American, actually.

We, the descendents of these men, honor them for their patriotism and their sense of honor and self-worth and we do not accept the rewriting of history to blacken their motives or whitewash the motives of their enemies.

We here in Europe are far from the cultural battleground in the United States, so it is difficult for us to contribute to the defense of Confederate heritage there. The easiest way is to simply stay a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Every member strengthens the SCV. Through Confederate Veteran magazine, we are reminded at least six times a year that we are descended from people who were part of a great and noble struggle and that we will not abandon their memory to those who want our ancestors to be forgotten.

Beyond remaining a member yourself, you could also recruit for the Camp, just as our Commander, Archy Bansch, has so successfully done. It is remarkable how many people in Germany actually have Confederate ancestors, if they look deeply enough. Encourage people to check their family histories if they could possibly have Confederate ancestors. If so, Commander Bansch may be able to help.

Chris McLarren

Camp Adjutant

Soldier Stories from the 1894 Volume of *CONFEDERATE VETERAN*

Stampede among Texas Horses at Rome, Ga. — A friend of mine, now living here, in the drug business, was stationed during the war at Rome, Ga. and tells this incident:

A Texas regiment of cavalry came in town and halted in front of the hotel, and the officers and most of the men scattered around town, but the majority of them remained mounted and took the easiest positions they could in their saddles, many of them sitting sideways with one leg thrown across the saddle. It was about dinner time, and the negro waiter came out with one of those Chinese copper gongs, and giving it one tremendous rap,, made it rattle with that nerve-shattering noise so well known to passengers at railway depots. The result was fearful. Horses reared, plunged, and, turning like goats, stampeded in all directions, leaving many riders on the ground, and creating more excitement than the fire of a Federal battery of six guns would have done. But after a few minutes the officer of the regiment came up to see what was the matter, and hearing the cause, told the proprietor of the hotel to hide his negro out, as his men would surely kill him if they found him. And sure enough in a few moments they came on the hunt for him; but the negro had been safely hid away, and was not seen any more during the stay of that Texas command.

Any soldier who met Texas cavalry during the war knew that they were superb riders, and to throw them was no easy matter; but this Chinese gong dismounted more of them than a charge on infantry would have done.

Guest Author:

Ryan McMaken ([@ryanmcmaken](#)) is a senior editor of the Mises Institute, a libertarian think tank and school located in Auburn, Alabama. He has degrees in economics and political science from the University of Colorado, and was the economist for the Colorado Division of Housing from 2009 to 2014. He is the author of [Commie Cowboys: The Bourgeoisie and the Nation-State in the Western Genre](#).

Southern Secession Was One Thing — and the War to Prevent It Was Another



08/24/2017 [Ryan McMaken](#)

<https://mises.org/wire/southern-secession-was-one-thing-%E2%80%94-and-war-prevent-it-was-another>.

There's an old saying that "[he who distinguishes well teaches well](#)." In other words, if one's going to talk about an important subject, one should be able to define his terms and tell the difference between two things that are not the same. This wisdom, unfortunately, is rarely embraced by modern pundits arguing about the causes of the American Civil War. A typical example can be found in [this article](#) at the *Huffington Post* in which the author opines: "This discussion [over the causes of the war] has led some people to question if the Confederacy, and therefore the Civil War, was *truly* motivated by slavery."

Did you notice the huge logical mistake the author makes? It's right here: "...the Confederacy, and therefore the Civil War...."

The author acts as if the mere existence of the Confederacy inexorably caused the war that the North initiated in response to it. That is, the author merely assumes that if a state secedes from the United States, then war is an inevitable result. Moreover,

she also wrongly assumes that the motivations behind secession were necessarily the same as the motivations behind the war.

But this does not follow logically at all. If California, for example, were to secede, is war therefore a certainty? Obviously not. The US government could elect to simply not invade California in response.

Moreover, were war to break out, the motivations behind a Californian secession are likely to be quite different from the motivations of the US government in launching a war. For the sake of argument, let's say the Californians secede because they couldn't stand the idea of being in the same country with a bunch of people they perceive to be intolerant rubes. But, what is a likely reason for the US to respond to secession with invasion? A US invasion of California is likely to be motivated by a desire to extract tax revenue from Californians, and to maintain control of military bases along the coast.

Thus it would be absurd to equate the motivations of the California secessionists with those of the advocates for the invasion of California.

To put it simply: an act of secession, and a war that may follow it, are *not the same thing*.

And yet we find that commentary on the Civil War repeatedly conflates secession with the Civil War itself as if they *were* the same thing.

Yes, Southern Secession was Motivated by Slavery

But before we go any further let's get this out of the way: the secession movement itself was obviously motivated by a desire to maintain slavery. This is easy enough to show because many Southern secessionists explicitly said so in their declarations of secession. In the South Carolina [declaration of independence](#), the entire second half of the document explains that the state is seceding because it fears the North will force emancipation on the country as a whole. The authors of the document denounce Northerners for electing a president who is "hostile to slavery" and for a "current of anti-slavery feeling" that allegedly pervaded the North at the time. What especially annoyed the secessionists was the North's refusal to [enforce the federal fugitive slave laws](#) against abolitionists who "encouraged and assisted thousands of our slaves" in escaping slavery.

The [Mississippi declaration](#) went even further, equating slavery with civilization itself, and claiming "a blow at slavery is a blow at commerce and civilization," and plainly states that "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery — the greatest material interest of the world."

In both of these documents, taxes and free trade are barely mentioned. Slavery was clearly at the heart of the matter, which is in part why British free-trade crusader Richard Cobden [rejected claims](#) that the South had seceded primarily over tax and trade concerns.

The *War*, However, Was Motivated by Other Factors

None of this means *the war* was motivated by slavery — or opposition to it. After the fact, opponents of slavery claimed the war was about emancipation, which it clearly was not, except in the minds of a small minority of radical Republicans. It was not until military victory was apparent that the Republican leadership began to press for nationwide emancipation in negotiations with the South.

Almost until the end, the war was motivated by a concern for preserving tax revenues, and by nationalism. In a North where few people were full-on abolitionists, very few were willing to run off and stop a bullet to end the institution of slavery. Even those who disliked slavery were not exactly rushing off to shoot people over the matter. New York attorney George Templeton Strong's [attitude in 1861](#) toward Southern secession was one of "good riddance." Referring to slavery as the "national ulcer," Strong concluded: "the self-amputated members were diseased beyond immediate cure, and their virus will infect our system no longer." Strong noted that his impression of Northerners was that they were granting "cordial consent" to Southern secession.¹

Those who were ready to call for war were more often animated by ideological views tied to defending "the Union," which many regarded as sacred, while the Northern policymakers themselves were concerned with the retention of military installations and with revenue concerns. The South provided a lot of revenue for the North, and the North wanted to keep it that way.

Years into the war, many Americans were still perfectly happy to come to a negotiated settlement with the South that allowed for the continuation of slavery. Indeed, in the 1864 election, the Democratic nominee, who promised to end the war without abolishing slavery, won 45 percent of the popular vote. (Voters in Confederate states were excluded, of course.)

Should the North have invaded the South to end slavery? That's a separate question, and one that is also totally distinct from the question of secession. Northern armies could have invaded the South *at any time* to force emancipation on the South. No secession was ever necessary or key to the equation.

Equating Secession with Slavery

The lack of precision used in equating the war, slavery, and secession, serves an important purpose for modern anti-secessionists. Their knee-jerk opposition to any

form of decentralization or locally-based democracy impels them to equate secession itself with slavery, even though secession can be motivated by any number of reasons. After all, secession was the preferred strategy of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison who as early as 1844 began preaching the slogan "[No union with slaveholders!](#)" In Garrison's mind, the North ought to secede in order to free northerners from the burdens of the fugitive slave acts, and to offer safe haven to escaping slaves.

Had such a scheme played out, and the South had taken military action to force the North back into the union, would we be hearing today about how the only appropriate response to secession is open warfare? One would certainly hope not.

1. It was Southerners themselves who eventually made it much easier for Northern politicians to call for war. In a show of totally unnecessary bravado, Southern artillery fired on Ft. Sumter in 1861, allowing Lincoln to claim that the South had started a war on the North. Obviously even this move by the Confederacy did not justify the wholesale invasion and occupation of the South. Given Sumter's location, the attack on the fort shouldn't even have counted as an act of war. Nevertheless, in terms of public perception, the South blundered badly and played into the hands of pro-war politicians.

[Contact Ryan McMakenTwi](#)

The Gizyn Report

Colonel Heros von Borcke was a Prussian cavalry officer who went to fight for the South. He became Chief of Staff to General J.E.B. Stuart. After the war he returned home, circa one hundred miles east of Berlin, which was then Prussia but is now Poland.

For years now, Europe Camp has conducted a memorial service for the Colonel in front of his mausoleum.

We have a report from two of the Polish organizers of the Civil War weekend at Gizyn, during which the ceremony takes place. The report was published in CIVIL WAR TIMES in February 2019 and is reproduced here through the kind permission of the authors.

Polish Ceremony Honors Heroes Count von Borcke,

Prussian Cavalrymen Who Fought for the South

By Piotr "Smednir" Narloch, Sergeant, 14th La. Infantry, (Polish Brigade) and

Marcia "Walter" Bialek, Private, 58th New York Regiment (Polish Legion)

edited by JoBordonare/Civil War Times



Giżyn is a small village located in northwestern Poland. For several years, thanks to the hospitality of its residents, and the passion of Polish American-Civil-War reenactors, Giżyn has become known for regularly held ceremonies pertaining to, and reenactments of battles of the Civil War.

Until recently, no-one in this town had ever heard of Colonel Heros von Borcke (1835 – 1895), a Confederate hero, and an officer who served on the staff of General J.E.B.Stuart, the renowned Army of Northern Virginia cavalry leader. No-one in town paid any attention to the decaying brick mausoleum overgrown with bushes that was the burial site of Colonel von Borcke.

The von Borcke family manor house was located in Giżyn, then part of Prussia, where Heros was brought up. Every year at the end of July, Giżyn becomes a secessionist village and is visited by reenactors wearing the blue and gray of the American Civil War. These reenactors come from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, and Sweden!

It is interesting to learn the many reasons that people in these various countries came to become Civil War reenactors. Each reenactor has his own reasons for becoming involved; for many, a primary motivation was the participation of their countrymen in the war. Sometimes, the reason for becoming involved was the result of meeting similar history enthusiasts and learning many details of the war's history and the weapons and uniforms that pertain to it.

An American Civil War reenactment has been occurring annually in Giżyn for 10 years. The event usually lasts from Thursday to Sunday. The event includes many combat reenactments as well as a ceremony at the mausoleum where reenactors, blue and gray, combined to pay tribute to Colonel von Borcke. The ceremony includes honorary volleys, speeches and the placement of flowers and wreaths. Plans for the next event include the placing of an event-long guard at a mausoleum. Each year of skirmishes are reenacted in the village of Giżyn and in the backwoods areas nearby.

Every year, the event's guiding focus is one of the important battles of the American Civil War. This year, episodes of the battle of Chickamauga were reenacted. The culmination of each event is a spectacular battle in front of a large audience. For several years, ramparts and field fortifications have been built near the camp areas that are then used during re-enactments of other battles of the Civil War. Among the guests at this year's re-enactment, two Americans deserve special mention. The first is Chris McLarren, Adjutant of the European Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Chris is a Marylander living permanently in Berlin. He usually does not participate in re-enactments of historic events but he always visits Giżyn in a Confederate captain's uniform in memory of his Confederate ancestor.

The other distinguished American visitor was Richard J Cicero, who portrays Confederate Colonel Heros von Borcke. Mr. Cicero is a member of a group of reenactors who portray Lee's Lieutenants in Virginia but he travels across the ocean each year to participate in the event at Giżyn.

The people of Giżyn are the reenactment hosts and provide the food for the reenactors. Between events they also take care of the mausoleum and the battle reenactment site. Villagers have helped with the fortification constructions over the years. Each year they invite local authorities and guests from nearby communities to the ceremony.

Participants at each reenactment experience that wonderful hospitality throughout the event. Every year, on the highest flagpole of the village, the flag of the Confederate States of America flutters in the wind. Reenactment participants appreciate the effort of the local authorities to preserve the mausoleum and the care taken to preserve the memory of the person who is undoubtedly the community's most famous historical figure.

Thanks to the active involvement of the inhabitants of Giżyn, Chris McLarren, Richard Cicero and the Polish and foreign reenactors, the mausoleum now has a chance of being preserved and rebuilt. Appropriate legal and administrative steps have been taken to secure the mausoleum and the adjacent area. The mausoleum has been added to the list of monuments and thus is now under the protection of Polish law.

Huge thanks for organizational effort are due to the members of the volunteer fire brigade and the women of the Country Housewives Club. Without their support and enthusiasm the event could not be undertaken.

This year's event, 'Gizyn 2018', was once again very successful. The number of participants has increased every year as news about it spreads through the units of American Civil War events in Poland and in other European countries. The organizers of the event are the 14th Louisiana Regiment and the 58th New York Regiment. The reenactor guests from other countries also contributed to the success of the event.

Biographical note:

Johann August Heinrich von Borcke was born on July 23, 1835, into an old, noble Prussian family. Following the family tradition, he took up military service in the Prussian cavalry. He left the service in 1861 to move to the Confederate States. Slipping through the U.S. Navy's blockade, he arrived in Richmond and began looking for a way to serve with the southern Army. Assigned as an adjutant to the staff of General J.E.B. Stuart, he became a valuable member of the Confederate cavalry. General Stuart and von Borcke developed a close friendship and working relationship. Both were inspired by and seemed to personify the cavalier tradition. Von Borcke proved himself in battle, as an adjutant and as a liaison to General Robert E Lee's staff. On June 19, 1863, he was severely wounded in a cavalry clash near Middleburg, Virginia, during the Gettysburg campaign. After a long convalescence, he managed to return to duty but he did not recover enough to perform the duties of a cavalryman and serve in the field. The Confederacy rewarded von Borcke with the promotion to Colonel and also the praise of the Confederate Congress. In the spring of 1865 Colonel von Borcke was sent on a diplomatic mission to London, where he was to represent the "right and noble cause" but unfortunately this cause was already lost. The "knight errant", as he was called by American historian Ella Lonn, returned to Prussia and settled on his estate in Pomerania, now a part of Poland. The Confederate flag was proudly flown over his manor house in Gizyn. In 1877, von Borcke published a memoir of his service in the American Civil War. He returned to America in 1884 and visited the southern states where he was fêted as a hero. He died on May 10, 1895 and his mortal remains were buried in the family mausoleum in Gizyn.

Camaraderie in Gray

Recently, Piotr Narloch's Polish reenactment group of Giżyn also participated in another, multi-era, event with other Polish re-enactor groups elsewhere in the country. His following account is simply heartwarming –Editor

One of the organizers was the US Army (real army –then stationed in Poland). The main idea of the event was to gather as many 'American' re-enactor groups as possible. Of course, we (14th LA Regiment) were there too...

Unfortunately, when the Polish organizers found out about our arrival, and that we would appear under the Confederate flag, he demanded from an American commander that we could come, however, only on the condition that we could not display the Confederate regimental battle flag!

When our friends from the other 'American' re-enactor groups (18th century, - WWII, Vietnam War, modern army etc ...) learned of the ban, they morally and jointly supported us and brought their own Confederate flags. As a result, several dozen Confederate flags were hung in the area, instead of only one. Even on storefronts.

The Polish organizer was fooling around. I don't know who he wanted to impress and why he involved American soldiers in this stupid action. In effect it worked out very well for us. I am glad that we can count on our Polish re-enactors.

We stay in Gray...

(Lightly edited- Ed)

FATHER RYAN TO GEN. BUTLER.

When (*Yankee*) Gen. Butler was in command at New Orleans during the rebellion, he was informed that Father Ryan, priest and poet, had been expressing rebellious sentiments, and had said he would even refuse to hold funeral service for a dead Yankee.

Gen. Butler sent for him in haste, and began roundly scolding him for expressing such un-Christian and rebellious sentiments.

"General," the wily priest answered, "you have been misinformed; I would be pleased to conduct funeral services for all the Yankee officers and men in New Orleans."

CONFEDERATE VETERAN 1894 p20

I'M GWINE BACK TO DIXIE

Anyone who has ever felt homesick will understand this 19th Century song.

I'm gwine back to Dixie, no more I'se gwine to wander.
My heart's turned back to Dixie, I can't stay here no longer.
I missed de ole plantation, my home and my relation.
My heart's turned back to Dixie, and I must go.

CHORUS

I'm gwine back to Dixie, I'm gwine back to Dixie.
I'm gwine where de orange blossoms grow.
For I hear de children callin', I see sad tears afallin'
My heart's turned back to Dixie and I must go.

I've hoed in fields of cotton. I've worked upon de ribber:
I used to think if I got off, I go back dere no nebber:
But time has changed de old man, his head is bending low.
His heart's turned back to Dixie, and he must go.

I'm traveling back to Dixie, my step is slow and feeble,
I prayed de Lord to help me, and lead me from all evil.
And should my strength forsake me, den kind friends come and take me,
My heart's turned back to Dixie and I must go.
Based on a hymn



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