

The Sentinel

Next Meeting: October 20
Knights of Pythias Building



Dinner served at 6:30
Meeting begins at 7:00

Secession Camp # 4 Charleston, SC

OCTOBER 2009

Winner of the 2005, 2006, and 2007 Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 10

CONFEDERATE CHRISTMAS

A living history event called "Confederate Christmas" will be December 12 at the Old Santee Canal Park in Moncks Corner.

Its scheduled events include, among others, Sen. Glenn McConnell speaking about the CSS *David* torpedo boat, Black Confederate stories by James Adams, and a performance by musician Stan Clardy. The full scale replica of the submarine *Hunley* will also be there.

There will be ongoing demonstrations by reenactors about spinning and sewing, medical techniques, infantry drills, artillery drill (yes - with the cannon firing!), candle making, etc.

There will also be tours of the Stony Landing Plantation house.

PLEDGES

It was suggested by one of our Compatriots that, since some apparently did not know the three pledges, that they be printed in the newsletter.

Pledge to the United States Flag

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
[Note no pause: "one nation under God".]

Salute to the South Carolina Flag

I salute the Flag of South Carolina
and pledge to the Palmetto State
love, loyalty, and faith.

Salute to the Confederate Flag

I salute the Confederate Flag with
affection, reverence, and undying devotion
to the Cause for which it stands.

The Charge

*To you Sons of
Confederate
Veterans, we
submit the
vindication of the
cause for which we
fought; to your
strength will be
given the defense
of the Confederate
Soldier's good
name, the
guardianship of his
history, the
emulation of his
virtues, the
perpetuation of
those principles he
loved and which
made him glorious
and which you also
cherish. Remember,
it is your duty to
see that the true
history of the South
is presented to
future generations.*

*Lieutenant General
Stephen D. Lee
Commander General
United Confederate
Veterans
New Orleans
1906*



OUR NEXT SPEAKER

Howard Chalmers was raised in Birmingham, Ala., the oldest of four children. He attended Auburn University where he received a degree in Business Administration (Management Information Systems) in 1994. After graduating from Auburn, Howard began a career in management and technology consulting, which provided opportunities to work with various companies across the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

Active in the community, Howard serves as a deacon and sings in the choir at Eastbridge Presbyterian Church. He has volunteered as an assistant coach for his son's soccer and t-ball teams and has been active in local triathlons, road races, and other recreational activities in the area.

Howard is the South Carolina Division Adjutant of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He serves on the boards of Moultrie Camp #27 and the South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, as well as the Sullivan's Island Historic Cemetery Association, where he has played an active role in ensuring that the historic cemeteries in the East Cooper area are preserved and protected.

He is currently employed by Blackbaud as a Software Design Manager. Howard resides in Mt. Pleasant with his wife and children. He is a candidate for Mt. Pleasant Town Council.

Howard's presentation will be on "The Events Leading to Vicksburg".

NORTH v. SOUTH

Probably not many of you are familiar with magnet therapy, which was initially used to cure expensive race horses when they were injured. It worked so well that it began to be used on humans. Magnets have two poles, a north and a south. The *curing* end is the north, placed on the injured area; those who are cured are the south.

CAMP OFFICERS

Commander
Bill Norris 843-849-9924
1st Lieutenant Commander
John Genes 843-747-4439
2nd Lieutenant Commander
John Waring
Adjutant
Elmore Marlow
843-762-2430
Treasurer
Buck Perry

Chaplain
Gene Patrick
Color Sergeant
Loren O'Donnell
Judge Advocate
Fred Tetor
CHT Representatives
Randy Burbage
David Rentz
Charlie Hiers
Gene Patrick

CAMP GUARDIANS

Randy Burbage
Walter Carr
John Evans
Charlie Hiers
Clarence Kuykendall
Andy Langdale
Elmore Marlow
Philip Ramsey
Michael Ratledge
Clyde Rogers
Louie Warmouth
Jimmy Wheeler
Lee Wilson

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Awards
Clay Martin
Education / Historical
John Whatley
**Graves, Monuments
and Guardian**
John Evans
Highway Clean-up
Michael Dixon
Heritage Ride
Bryan Riddle

Media / Public Relations
Bill Norris
Recruiting / Retention
Andy Langdale
Genealogy
Andy Langdale
Convention
Open
Lee-Jackson
John Genes
Building Committee
Louie Warmoth

VOLUNTEERS

Mess Corporal
Don Pace
Mickey Davis Fund
Woody Weatherford
Webmaster
David Rentz
Engraving Engineer
Benny Slay
Quartermaster
David Rentz



The Sentinel

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Website: <http://www.scv4.org>

NEXT MEETING

Secession Camp will hold its next meeting on
Tuesday, October 20
Knights of Pythias Building
1968 Belgrade Avenue
(near Sam Rittenburg Boulevard (Hwy. 7))
Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM
Meeting will get started at 7:00 PM



The Sentinel

Commander Bill Norris
Adjutant Elmore Marlow
Editor John Whatley

Unless noted otherwise, all bylined articles in this newsletter are the responsibility of the author. Address all correspondence concerning the newsletter to:

athryiot@hotmail.com

FROM THE COMMANDER

My Fellow Compatriots,

I hope you are all well and ready for the fall season in Charleston. As usual it will be a busy one for Secession Camp.

Honorary Membership. We had no nominees for Honorary Membership this year so we will not be voting on that at the October meeting, which is just fine. Honorary membership should be a special privilege for those who receive it so it's not necessary that we select a recipient every year. We will need to nominate candidates for camp officers at the October meeting. I believe that all the current officers will be running again this year except for Commander and Color Sergeant so it is important that we nominate someone to fill those offices.

Heritage Ride. As I write this article the Camp's 5th Annual Confederate Heritage Ride is fast approaching. We just completed pre-registration and we have 140 riders signed up already. That will be the largest number we have ever pre-registered so I would expect that this year's ride may be the biggest in several years. Of course we will need a lot of help from Camp members on the day of the ride, September 26th, to make this event successful. By the time you read this article we'll know for sure just how successful this year's ride will be and how much money we were able to raise for the camp. I want to thank all those Compatriots who have contributed to this event, but especially, Ride Chairman **Bryan Riddle** and Compatriots **Bill Dean, Dennis Lemon, Collin Hall, John Kohr, Paul Brown, Bobby Gorman, Don Pace, and Jack Stroman** who have been working on the project for several months.

Confederate Ghost Walk. On October 9th and 10th we'll have the annual Confederate Ghost Walk at Magnolia Cemetery. This event is sponsored by the CHT and Secession Camp is always a big contributor to its success. If you have never participated in the Ghost Walk, you don't know what you're missing. It's a rare chance to spend a fall evening in one of the most beautiful spots in Charleston and everyone always has a great time. There will be a practice run for the Ghost Walk on the 7th at 5 PM so you should try to come out for that first.

Battle of Secessionville. Coming up in November will be the annual Battle of Secessionville reenactment at Boone Hall Plantation. Preparation for the battle includes wood splitting on 10-17, 10-24, and 11-7 so please try to come out to Boone

Hall on these dates to help out. Again, this is a CHT sponsored event and Secession Camp is always a big contributor to its success, so we'll need lots of volunteers to help with these events.

Clean-Up. Compatriot **Allen Bailie** has set October 3rd as the date to clean up Battery Cheves on James Island. Cheves is located on Robert E. Lee Dr. in Ft. Johnson Estates, so if you can come out on the 3rd at 8:30 please join us. We don't expect this to be a tough a job.

Camp Printer. As I reported at the September meeting the new camp printer has arrived and is in use. We have used it to print many of the printed material used for the Heritage Ride and it will be printing the October newsletter. We expect this printer should pay for itself in savings to the Camp for newsletter alone in seven to nine months.

Boycott. We are still not shopping at Food Lion and we are saving our food receipts to be sent to them to show that we are opposed to their support of the ACC. Save all grocery receipts (except Food Lion receipts) and bring them to the next meeting. The Division plans to continue this for some time to come, so don't forget to keep saving those receipts until you hear different.

Joe Wilson. A new issue on the heritage front is the negative press that the SCV has been getting in the wake of Rep. Joe Wilson's remarks during the President's recent Congressional address. Several national media elites have been suggesting that Wilson's membership in the SCV is an indication of racism. As usual these Yankee know-it-alls are showing just how little they actually know.

Lee-Jackson. Lt. Commander **John Genes** will be selling tickets for our January Lee-Jackson Banquet at the October meeting. They will be \$30 again this year and we will be having a repeat of last year's event. Everyone had a great time so get your tickets early.

In closing, don't forget, if you have any ideas or suggestions for the Camp, I'm ready to listen.

Your Compatriot in Southern Heritage,
Bill Norris, Commander



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Compatriots,

Dave Mabie informed me that his mother, **Connie Mabie**, is in an assisted living facility in Summerville. Connie is the widow of **Sy Mabie**, our Chaplain for many years until he was called home to be with his Lord. The name of the assisted living facility is Magnolias of Summerville at 335 Midland Pkwy. Connie is in room 104 and can be reached at 843-871- 9713. If you have time, she would like to hear from you.

Please continue to pray for **Gail Weatherford, Andy Langdale, Jim Dickinson, and Willie Heidtman.**

With the upcoming months ahead, our Camp will be involved in many activities that help and support the memory

of the Confederate soldier. Please help support these activities because it is your duty. When you became a member of the SCV, you took an obligation to help support the activities of the Camp. **SODOIT!!!**

If any compatriot needs the assistance of the Chaplain, please do not hesitate to call me.

Yours in Christ,
Gene Patrick
Chaplain



Secession Camp # 4

Minutes of Meeting of 15 September 2009

	Yes	No
Appropriate Flag Displayed	X	
SCV Charge Read	X	
Invocation	X	
Presentation of Colors	X	
Reading and Approval of Minutes		
Reading and Approval of Financial Report		
Remarks: 71 members and 4 guests for a total of 75 in attendance		

Program: Black Musicians
Speaker: Nicholas Butler

- **SCV Charge** was given by **Commander Bill Norris**.
- **Invocation** given by **Gene Patrick**.
- **Salute to the Flags** given by **Loren O'Donnell**.
- **The cooks** were then recognized for the meal. Mess Corporal **Don Pace** was assisted by **Perry Patrick, Don Petty, Bill Helms, Bob Dandridge, and Walter Canady**.
- Introduction of guests.
- **Carl Potter**, South Carolina Division Quartermaster, displayed several replicas of period weapons, which will be reproduced for sale for the Sesquicentennial celebration. The collector's weapons will be sold for \$1,500.00 each and only 150 of each model will be produced. Mr. Potter can be reached by phone at (803)730-1811, email Carl@cmpotter.us, or mail at 3217 Camp Rawls Road, Waggener, S.C. 29164
- **Bill Norris** introduced our speaker, **Nicholas Butler**, has worked as archivist of the South Carolina Historical Society and is a historical consultant for the City of Charleston. He is currently manager of archives at the Charleston County Library. With the discovery of the Caribbean island of Barbados in 1630, slaves were brought over from Africa to cultivate the sugar cane crop. By 1670, the slaves vastly outnumbered whites on the island. Militia units were formed to keep things under control. Trusted African slaves were used to send drumming messages for the militia. This practice continued when Charleston was founded in 1670. By the time of the start of the War of Northern Aggression, South Carolina militia units had 121 musicians of which 18 were listed as not white from the Charleston area. These musicians would rent themselves out for parades, receptions, or any activity they were wanted for. By 1863 they had disappeared from the records (AWOL).
- **Treasurers Report: Buck Perry** reported a beginning balance of \$11,500.16. Checks were written to the SC Division, to SCV National, for the printer and accessories, for printing of the newsletter, and the Heritage Ride. Deposits of \$5,960.00 were made from the collection of dues and a deposit from the quartermaster was \$920.00. The closing balance was \$17,383.32, with several checks still outstanding. Dues to National and S.C. Division still remain to be paid which will decrease the balance.
- **Mickey Davis Fund: Woody Weatherford** reported a deposit for the August meal of \$250.00. There is a balance of \$2,375.08 as of the September meeting, with no pending expenses.
- **Highway Clean-up: Michael Dixon** reported that volun-

teers picked up 15 bags of trash in two hours. The next clean-up will be on Saturday, November 7th.

- **Recruitment: Andy Langdale** reported that one new application had been received since last meeting.
 - **Heritage Ride Report: Bryan Riddle** reported that this year's ride will be on September 26. The event is only two weeks away and volunteers are still needed. He will also need door prizes to be given to participants.
 - **CHT: Randy Burbage** reported that wood splitting at Boone Hall, in preparation for the Battle of Secessionville, will take place on October 17th and 24th. Also, will take place on November 7th if needed. Volunteers are also needed for the Confederate Ghost Walk which will be held at Magnolia Cemetery in October.
 - **Old Business:** The new printer, which will be used to print the newsletter, was purchased for \$1101.00. The printer will pay for itself in seven months.
 - **National Convention: David Rentz and Randy Burbage** represented the Camp at the convention. David reported on the resolutions which were approved.
 - **Sesquicentennial T-Shirts: Paul Brown** said the shirts can be ordered through National Headquarters at 1-800 MY-SOUTH.
 - **New Business: Commander Norris** made a suggestion to donate \$250.00 to the Star of the West Camp at The Citadel. **Ed Moon** made a motion and it was seconded, but after some discussion the motion was withdrawn.
 - **New Camp Officers:** Nominations for Camp officers will be in October.
 - **Honorary Membership:** No candidates for honorary membership were given to the commander.
 - **Battery Cheves:** A suggestion was made by **Alan Baile** to clean the battery, which is located on Robert E. Lee Blvd. on James Island. The battery was given to S. C. DNR and the Battlefield Trust has an easement on the property. The Trust has given us permission to clean the area around the historical marker. Alan Baile will head up this project.
 - **National Convention Awards:** Fourteen awards were given to Camp members for outstanding service to the SCV.
 - **Lee-Jackson Banquet: John Genes** announced that this year's banquet will be held at the Washington Light Infantry Armory on January 23, 2010. Tickets will be \$30.00 each and will be available our October meeting.
 - A motion made to adjourn and seconded.
- Gene Patrick** gave Benediction, followed by singing "Dixie".

NEWS FROM THE REAL WORLD

CROSS OF HONOR PLACEMENT

Compatriot **Jim Willis** is placing a Southern Cross of Honor on his great-grandfather's grave Saturday, November 7th, at 1:00pm. The location is the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 164 Mt. Pleasant Road, Ridge Spring, SC. After services we can all gather and eat at Bessinger's located in Lexington.

Jim is a strong supporter of the SCV. He rarely asks for anything, but this time is asking all to please turn out to fire volleys and be present in his support.

Please mark your calendars for this time and date, and leave early so we can all gather with Jim on this important day.

UNCIVIL YANKEES

"I have been to the Chickahominy to visit some of my old friends of the United States Army, but they, very uncivilly, turned their backs upon me."

—*Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, commenting upon outwitting his father-in-law, Union Gen. Philip St. George Cooke, while riding around the Union Army*



The Ladies of Charleston Chapter #4
of the
United Daughters of the Confederacy
Request the Pleasure of your Company
At the third
Francis Pickens Confederate Ball

During the early 1800's, Charleston, South Carolina was a great of culture and commerce. Pleasures came from miles around to this bustling seaport to shop their own, cotton and indigo abroad. They came with their families to shop the famous downtown market for silks, satins, waxes and coffee. And they came to meet with friends and family...to dance the nights away and catch up on the latest gossip. It places where ladies and gentlemen could feel at home among marble staircases, priceless antiques and impeccable service. It places where gentlemen could discuss business over a cup of brandy and an imported cigar. It places that epitomized the renowned hospitality of the Grand Old South.

You're invited to experience Charleston the way Southerners did over 100 years ago. The third Francis Pickens Confederate Ball will be held at the Swan & Country Inn on Saturday, October 24, 2009, beginning at 7:00 until 12:00. You will dine on a menu of special "antebellum fare" having been a "mainstay and staple to the menu of the era by "The Reconstruction". A cash bar will be open. Formal attire preferred - formal attire required. There will be a hairdresser available at the hotel for those ladies wishing to have their hair done: cost is \$25; you pay her. There will be a photographer to take pictures you pay her. If hat is being stored regarding the hairdresser. To be placed on the list, call Mrs. Beale at 843/551-6698. The ticket cost is \$60.00 per person. The refunds will be made after October 16, 2009. You don't want to miss this grand celebration! If you are interested in attending, please make your check payable to Charleston Chapter #4-UDC and mail to:

Cynthia B. Beale, 106 Pelham Lane, East on the Ashley, Summerville, SC 29485-6314.

Due to the advance notice of an attendance count to the fact that we are unable to sell tickets at the door. Your invitation will be mailed to you sometime between the end of September and the first of October.

SAME OLD SAME OLD – DIFFERENT DAY

As you all are probably aware, during a recent speech by President Obama, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) shouted out, "You Lie" and predictably a fire storm erupted. In the days following, Maureen Dowd, the left-wing bomb thrower at the *NY Times*, wrote a column stating that Rep. Wilson did this because he is a racist. What did she offer as proof? In her own words, "The congressman, we learned, belonged to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, led a 2000 campaign to keep the Confederate flag waving above South Carolina's state Capitol." On top of that, she included, "But, fair or not, what I heard was an unspoken word in the air: 'You lie, boy!'"

To further attempt making her false point, she dragged up the trash the SPLC wrote about us some 5 to 7 years ago. This column was mentioned on one of the shows on MSNBC. To set the record straight, we sent out a press release to all major media outlets. That release can be read on the SCV blog. Fortunately, our release was picked by several news search engines. I made the attempt to get myself or some other SCV spokesman on one of the MSNBC shows, but was not successful. Soon after, it was twice mentioned on Fox. First on the Morning Show, at which time, I immediately sent an email rebuking this statement and requested the opportunity to rebut. Sadly, they did not respond. Probably the most egregious was when Juan Williams cited the *NY Times* column on the O'Reilly Factor. I immediately sent an email to the show explaining the absolute injustice, and pointed out if they wanted to be fair, they should at the very least read my letter or allow someone on the show to speak for us. Again, no response; therefore, I directed the Chairman of our PR and Media team, Jeff Davis, to call the producers of the show to make our case. They were non-compliant. No wonder, we have since found a You Tube video of Bill O'Reilly denigrating the Confederacy and the Flag.

Of course the far left blog went wild, each repeating the charge and adding their own embellishment. I, and a few others, have spent countless hours on these blogs refuting this claim and getting our message on their sites. I was pleased to find that some of our posting has been picked up by various search engines. We continue to fight this trench warfare.

The big money media is not interested in what we have to say. In fact they probably wish to suppress it. We have only had one inquiry from any media source, CBS; they wanted to know if in fact Joe Wilson was a member. Our staff told them that our member data base is not public record and it was none of their business.

So what now? Unable to get any traction with the big money media, we have decided to go around them to citizens who would be receptive to our message. Last Tuesday we began working with a professional political PR firm based in DC. Our presentation through them will be rolling out today or the next day. I will post details to that as soon as it is out.

Myself and members of the staff have been on this, working every viable angle constantly. Those who have seen these lies, for the most part, hate us anyway. Yet still there are many who have seen them and do not believe them because of the source; good for them. We will do our best to reach those who were unaware of us and who might be supportive through the latest initiative.

I ask that you all keep the SCV and those in the trenches in your prayers.

Deo Vindice
Chuck McMichael. CiC

How About Commander Bill Norris Giving



BUT FIRST: Commander Bill Norris receiving a Distinguished Service Medal from John Genes



Gene Patrick receiving a Heritage Preservation Award



John Genes receiving a Leadership Award



Elmore Marlow receiving a Distinguished Service Medal



Randy Burbage receiving a Distinguished Service Medal; he's holding a Dixie Club Award for Recruiting in his right hand.



Buck Perry, who took all these pictures except this one, receiving a Leadership Award



Loren O'Donnell receiving a Leadership Award

a Few Awards for Members of the Camp?



Woody Weatherford receiving a Leadership Award



Michael Dixon receiving a Leadership Award



Bryan Riddle receiving a Leadership Award



Andy Langdale receiving a Meritorious Service Award; he's holding a Dixie Club Award for Recruiting in the other hand.



Don Pace receiving a Leadership Award



John Waring receiving a Leadership Award

Photos by Buck Perry

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 10-3 Clean-Up at Battery Cheves, James Island
- 10-6 Secession Camp Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 10-9 Confederate Ghost Walk at Magnolia Cemetery
- 10-10 Confederate Ghost Walk at Magnolia Cemetery
- 10-20 Secession Camp Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 10-31 Halloween

November

- 11-3 Secession Camp Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 11-7 Highway Clean-Up, Glen McConnell Parkway
- 11-14 Battle of Secessionville at Boone Hall Plantation
- 11-15 Battle of Secessionville at Boone Hall Plantation
- 11-17 Secession Camp Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 11-26 Thanksgiving

December

- 12-1 Secession Camp Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 12-15 Secession Camp Meeting and Christmas Party, 6:30 PM
- 12-20 Secession Day
- 12-25 Christmas
- 12-31 New Year's Eve

Meeting Dates for Camps of the 10th Brigade

- Secession Camp # 4, Charleston:
3rd Tuesday of the Month
- Moultrie Camp # 27, Mt. Pleasant:
3rd Thursday of the Month
- Pvt. John S. Bird Camp # 38, N. Charleston:
2nd Thursday of the Month
- Gen. Ellison Capers Camp # 1212, Moncks Corner:
3rd Thursday of the Month
- Star of the West Camp # 1253, The Citadel:
(irregular)
- Ft. Sumter Camp # 1269, Charleston:
(irregular)

In Memory of Compatriot

Gary Pruitt Stone

by Delores Stone

Confederate Ancestors:

W. H. Austin

and

O. G. Thompson

Gone but never forgotten

Deo Vindice

Mrs. Gary P. Stone

Summerville, S.C.

In Memory of Compatriot

Sy Mabie

by Delores Stone

Confederate Ancestor:

Pvt. Edward M. Mabie

Co. B, 10th Missouri Inf.

Gone but never forgotten

Deo Vindice

Mrs. Gary P. Stone

Summerville, S.C.



THE REBEL REVIEW

Review of the book
A Diary from Dixie
by Mary Boykin Chestnut
Review by: John B. Waring

The interest in the War for Southern Independence (“Civil War”) has produced many books, documentaries and movies on the subject. However; much of it is told from the Northern (New England) point of view. The Southern side is usually hushed, brushed and swept under the rug. If the Southern point of view is told, it has been watered down and spun in the North’s favor. Ken Burn’s PBS Civil War documentary is one such example. Sherman’s March to the Sea on the History Channel is another.

All these documentaries used the *Official Records*, letters and historians that would put the North in a good light while ignoring obvious parts of records and facts that would tell a non-biased Southern point of view. Enter *A Diary from Dixie*, a book to set the record straight. This book is written by an eyewitness of the events during the War for Southern Independence. Mrs. Chestnut, through her husband’s high political positions in the Confederate Government, was well connected and knew the major players of The War.

Mary Boykin (Miller) Chestnut, the author of the diary, was the wife of U.S. Senator James Chestnut, Jr., who, after South Carolina’s Secession from the Union, became a Confederate General. General Chestnut was a signer of the Confederate Constitution.

The Chestnuts lived at Mulberry Plantation near Camden, S.C. Mrs. Chestnut was a woman of society who met Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and most of the who’s who in the Confederate Government. She kept meticulous records of events in her diary of these encounters. Her records have been a source used to this day by many historians.

The Foreward of the book gives a good history of the Chestnuts and concludes with the following paragraph, **“Many men have produced narratives of the war between the States, and few woman have written notable chronicles of it: but none has given to the world a more radiant than hers, or one more passionately sincere. Every line in this diary throbs with the tumult of deep spiritual passion, and bespeaks the luminous mind, the unconquered soul of the woman who wrote it.”**

This assessment, written by editors Isabella D. Martin and Myrta Lockett Avary, is correct. This book is a true look back in time, well written, bringing readers to the actual events through Mrs. Chestnut’s eyes, ears and pen. To many *A Diary from Dixie* is considered as the “the Civil War’s most celebrated journal”.

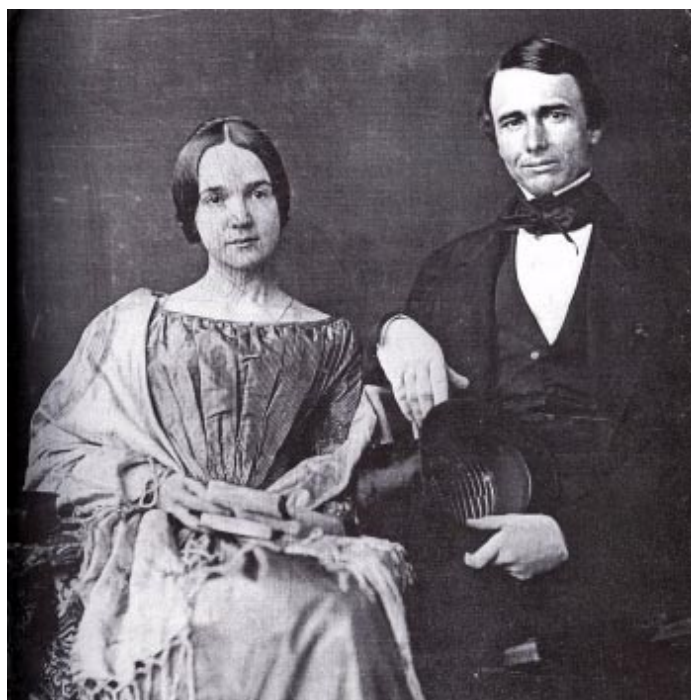
The book has twenty chapters and 424 pages including index. Mrs. Chestnut’s diary covers in beautifully written entries what she experienced as the wife of General Chestnut. In her diary are many interesting subjects which are titled at the top of each page. The major characters mentioned in her diary are footnoted and their histories are written by the book’s editors. Some of the major topics covered are

secession, slavery, travels with her husband, major battles, social events, Sherman’s march through the Carolinas, and the end of the war. As the war progresses on, and it is obvious that all is going to be lost, her tones and feelings change to sadness to the loss of everything.

The first entry in the dairy is dated November 8, 1860, a month before the South Carolina Secession Convention and the last entry August 2, 1865, stating the following, “Dr. Boykin and John Witherspoon were talking of a nation in mourning, of blood poured out like rain on the battlefields—for what? Never let me hear that the blood of the brave men be shed in vain! No; it sends a cry down through all time.”

In closing I recommend this book as a true account of the war. I find it an easy and fascinating read. You will find known and lesser known facts in these records. I believe there is something in this book for everyone who reads it.

This book is a valuable book for anyone researching South Carolina history and the State’s role in the war. There is a good list of illustrations. The book is hardback and is published by Gramercy Books, New York, and can be ordered through Amazon on-line. Some of the major books stores may carry it.





The Texas (right) chasing **The General** (in reverse) during *The Great Locomotive Chase* in 1862.

The Great Locomotive Chase

On April 12, 1862, one year after the firing on Fort Sumter, while the crew and passengers were having breakfast at the Lacy Hotel, James J. Andrews, another civilian known as William Hunter Campbell, and 22 volunteers from three Ohio regiments (2nd, 21st, and 33rd Ohio Infantry) stole the engine *General* at Big Shanty, now known as Kennesaw. His plan was to race northward on the Georgia-owned Western & Atlantic Railroad and burn the railroad bridges over the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers and Chicamauga Creek, and possibly blow up the tunnel at Tunnel Hill. This would isolate Chattanooga from Atlanta, and possibly allow its capture.

Andrews instructed the men to arrive in Marietta, Ga., by midnight of April 10. With the plans delayed a day by heavy rain, they traveled in small parties in civilian clothing to avoid arousing suspicion. All but two men, who were drafted into the Confederate Army, were able to reach the designated rendezvous point at the appointed time.

The Hijack

On the morning of April 12, the passenger train towed by *The General* was stopped at Big Shanty so that the crew and passengers could have breakfast. At this time railway dining cars had not yet been invented by George M. Pullman, so water stops, rest stops, and meal stops were integrated into railroad schedules and timetables. In addition, as the locomotives of the time needed frequent loadings of both fuel and water (for their steam boilers), combining

stops for passenger and crew meals en-route, with the necessary stops for water and fuel, became a useful coincidence of daily passenger railway travel.

Big Shanty was where the railroad grade became heavy as it rounded Kennesaw Mountain, and the shanties for the railroad construction crews were located there. Originally the area was known as “Big Grade to the Shanties”, then “Big Shanty Grade” and finally just “Big Shanty”.

Andrews’ men commandeered the *General* and steamed out of Big Shanty, leaving behind all the passenger cars, startled and shocked passengers, crew members, and onlookers, which included a number of Confederate soldiers at a trackside camp.

The Chase

The train’s conductor, William Allen Fuller, with engineer Jeff Cain and Anthony Murphy, Superintendent of Motive Power for the W&ARR, chased *The General* by foot, then by handcar. At Etowah Fuller spotted the locomotive *Yonah* coming from Cooper’s Iron Works on the Etowah River (which still exists as a state park off US41 at the Etowah River), and with it chased the raiders north, all the way to Kingston. At Kingston Fuller flagged down the locomotive *William R. Smith* and headed north to Adairsville.

The tracks two miles south of Adairsville were broken by the raiders, so Fuller again had to run the two-mile

distance on foot. At Adairsville, Fuller took command of the southbound locomotive *The Texas*.

The Texas' train crew had been bluffed by Andrews into taking the station siding, thereby allowing the Andrews train to continue northward along the single-track mainline. The Andrews party had cut the telegraph lines, so all train crews, station masters, and W&A management to the north had no idea that *The General* had been captured by the enemy and was being used by a sabotage party. Even with these handicaps, Conductor Fuller in command of *The Texas* engine continued the chase, picking up 11 Confederate troops at Calhoun.

With *The Texas* chasing *The General* in reverse, the two trains steamed through Dalton, Ga., and Tunnel Hill. At various points, the raiders continued to cut the telegraph wires so no transmissions could go through to Chattanooga. However, their objective of burning bridges and dynamiting Tunnel Hill (which still exists) was not accomplished. The wood they hoped to burn was soaked by rain and did not burn, despite one of the wooden box cars having been set on fire and left on a bridge in the hopes that the fire would spread to the bridge.

Finally, at milepost 116.3 (north of Ringgold, Ga.), with the locomotive out of fuel, Andrews' men abandoned *The General* and scattered, just a few miles from Chattanooga.

The Capture

Andrews and all of his men were caught by the Confederates, including two that had missed the hijacking that morning by oversleeping.

Since all the raiders were deemed to be engaged in acts of unlawful belligerency, and the civilians also to be unlawful combatants and spies, those captured were put on trial, convicted, and, according to their culpability and exchange value as captives, some were executed.

Andrews was tried in Chattanooga and found guilty. He was executed by hanging on June 7 at Juniper and Third Streets in Atlanta. (Historical marker erected there.)

On June 18, seven others who had been transported to Knoxville and convicted as spies, were returned to Atlanta and also hanged; their bodies were buried unceremoniously in an unmarked grave (later reburied in Chattanooga National Cemetery). A historical monument at Oakland Cemetery, near where they were executed, tells this story.

Eight other raiders made a successful and remarkable escape from confinement. Traveling for hundreds of miles in predetermined pairs, they all made it back safely to Union lines, including two who floated down the Chattahoochee River until they were eventually rescued by the Union blockade vessel *USS Somerset*. The remaining six were exchanged as prisoners of war on March 17, 1863.

The pursuit of Andrews' Raiders formed the basis of the Buster Keaton silent film comedy *The General* and a dramatic 1956 Walt Disney film, *The Great Locomotive Chase*, starring Fess Parker as Andrews.

Aftermath

Today, the W&A has not changed much since the chase of 1862, although the railroad company itself has changed hands. The railroad eventually became part of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway, which later became part of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, ultimately becoming part of CSX. A marker indicating where the chase began is near the Big Shanty Museum in Kennesaw. A marker where the chase ended is at Milepost 116.3, north of Ringgold — which is not far from the recently restored depot at Milepost 114.5.



The General and several other engines being blown up with 51 carloads of ammunition before Gen. Hood abandoned Atlanta in 1864. The General would be repaired and continue serving the Western & Atlantic.

A monument dedicated to Andrews' Raiders is located at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. There is a scale model of *The General* on top of the monument, and a brief history of the Great Locomotive Chase.

The General served out the remainder of the WBTS, bringing ammunition to the Army of Tennessee under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and to Atlanta in 1864. When Gen. John Hood abandoned Atlanta and blew up 51 carloads of ammunition, *The General* was one of the engines blown up. Patched up after that, it served until the end of The War. After The War, it was parked in Chattanooga, and partially restored, until Georgia demanded it back in a famous lawsuit at the U.S. Supreme Court. Today *The General* is fully restored and in the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History at Kennesaw, Ga.

The Texas served out The War and continued as an engine until the early 20th century. Then it was put out for scrap. Atlantans became interested in the engine, and, eventually, it was donated to the City of Atlanta. It is today on display in the basement at the Atlanta Cyclorama in Grant Park, Boulevard at I-20.

The Yonah was unceremoniously sold for scrap; the *William R. Smith* was destroyed by Union cavalry in Columbus, Ga., in 1865.

William Allen Fuller, the conductor who would not give up, is buried in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery near the Confederate monument.

The Sentinel

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This issue especially for:

NEXT CAMP MEETING – OCTOBER 20
NEXT SPEAKER – HOWARD CHALMERS

SEPTEMBER HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP



September Highway Clean-Up. The people are (L-R) Bobby Compton, Woody Weatherford, Benny Slay, Michael Dixon, Jimmy Wheeler, Sam Antley, Don Pace, Bob Gorman, Bruce Hodges, and Joey Dixon. (Penny wasn't here, so he took the photo.)