

The Starry Cross

Volume 2, Issue 1

“Aide-toi et Dieu t’aidera!”

February 2010

Upcoming

- 16 February—Mardi Gras
17 February—Ed Bearss at the Civil War Round Table
22 February—Beauregard 130 monthly meeting.
27 March—Patrick Falci at the Civil War Round Table
22 March—Beauregard 130 monthly meeting.
21 April—Richard McMurry at the Civil War Round Table
26 April—Beauregard 130 monthly meeting.
19 May—Mary Gorton McBride at the Civil War Round Table
24 May—Beauregard 130 monthly meeting.

Lee-Jackson 2010

The annual Lee-Jackson Day celebration was held on Saturday, January 16th.

Sponsored by District III of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Beauregard Camp No. 130, Sons of Confederate Veterans, the day was supposed to begin with a wreath laying ceremony at the tumulus of the Army of Northern Virginia in Metairie. Unfortunately, the wreath laying had to be cancelled, due to inclement weather.

The celebration convened in the meeting room of the Old Metairie Library, where participants were treated to a presentation by Dennis Dolbear, who spoke on Lee and Jackson’s experiences in the Mexican War.

Mr. Dolbear’s presentation was followed by light refreshments.

Next Meeting

The February meeting will be held on Monday, February 22nd at the Christ Anglican Catholic Church, 4155 N. Woodlawn, near the intersection of Clearview and West Esplanade.

The officers’ meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and the general meeting at 7:30 pm.

SCV SUES FLORIDA OVER SPECIALTY PLATE

The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), Florida Division have filed suit in Federal Court to force the State of Florida to approve a proposed CONFEDERATE HERITAGE specialty license plate for the state.

The bill authorizing the CONFEDERATE HERITAGE specialty plate was introduced and filed during the 2008 Legislative Session by State Representative Don Brown (R-Holmes County) but was not taken up in committee.

“The SCV did everything that was required by Florida Statute to have the Confederate Heritage plate approved by the Legislature and we were not given the time of day by the Florida Legislature,” stated SCV Plate Chairman John W. Adams of Deltona, Florida.

“Ten states have similar plates and the courts have, without exception, ordered that the plates be produced by the states involved – we seek the same consideration here in Florida.”

The lawsuit seeks to order to the State of Florida to create and distribute the plate to the 67 counties along with the other 106 specialty plates that have been approved and distributed.

Proceeds from the plate will be used to repair and enhance veteran’s cemeteries in Florida; provide for academic grants and scholarships and support patriotism in Florida’s schools.

Also providing legal support for the lawsuit is the nationally recognized *RUTHERFORD INSTITUTE*. The Rutherford Institute has emerged as one of the nation’s leading advocates of civil liberties and human rights, litigating in the courts and educating the public on a wide spectrum of issues affecting individual freedoms in the United States and around the world.

Orlando Attorney Frederic B. O’Neal is the attorney for the SCV.



John Brown and Charles Manson— I

Did you ever notice—I know, I'm beginning to sound like Andy Rooney, but—did you ever notice how much alike John Brown and Charles Manson are? Like twins separated at birth?

John Brown and six of his gang got just what they deserved, death by hanging; Manson and his fellow murderers, unfortunately, are currently living large at taxpayer expense.

Charles Manson was born November 12, 1934 and committed his first crime, a burglary, when he was 12. Over the next 20 years, Manson was convicted of burglary, armed robbery, grand theft auto, homosexual and heterosexual rape, pimping, bad checks, forgery, and wife beating. By the time he was released from Terminal Island Prison in San Pedro, California in 1967 and began recruiting his "Family," he had spent over half his life in jail.

John Brown was born May 9, 1800 and, unlike Manson, concentrated on economic crime. Over the years, he embezzled, committed fraud, skipped out on loans and promissory notes, and breached contracts. This was on top of being singularly incompetent. By 1854 when he moved to Kansas, he has failed in 15 business ventures in 4 states, been sued at least 21 times, and gone bankrupt twice. He had managed to lose \$40,000—a staggeringly large sum for the times—in the wool business and to be sued for \$60,000 by Burlington Mills. Nothing, of course, was ever his fault—he was always the victim of some dark conspiracy.

Although he didn't become interested until 1847, it was almost inevitable that a loser like Brown would be drawn to abolitionism. It was an arena where he could win praise and admiration without ever actually having to accomplish anything. As he himself said, he had always been an "unperson" until he embraced the anti-slavery cause, abandoning all else in life.

Another important event in molding John Brown was when he moved to North Elba, New York in 1849. North Elba was a community developed for

escaped slaves and free blacks. There, Brown at long last found a society in which he could compete, where he wasn't a failure and a laughing stock. When newspaper editor Charles Henry Dana met him there, he found Brown living like "a kind of king" among the Negroes in the neighborhood.

Manson earned his infamy for the Tate-LaBianca murders in 1969. On August 9, Sharon Tate, Steve Parent, Jay Sebring, Abigail Folger, and Voytek Frykowski were viciously murdered—Abigail was stabbed 28 times; Sharon, who was 8 months pregnant, was stabbed 16 times; Voytek was shot twice, beaten over the head 13 times, and stabbed 51 times. The next night, Leno LaBianca and his wife Rosemary were similarly murdered—Leno was stabbed 12 times and his wife was stabbed 41 times. As one of the "Family" explained, Manson had developed a preference for knives and swords because, in the desert where they hid, gunshots could be heard for a long distance. One of the group refused to participate in the murders.—Linda Kasabian told him, "I'm not like you, Charlie. I can't kill anyone."

Brown also began with five murders. On the night of May 24-25, he led his gang down the banks of Pottawatomie Creek in Kansas, stopping at cabins apparently at random. Mr. Doyle and his two sons, Drury and William, Allen Wilkinson, and William Sherman were dragged out and horrifically slaughtered with artillery broadswords—arms and hands chopped off, throats slit and bellies slashed, heads split open. As one of the murderers explained, ". . . The killing was done with these swords so as to avoid alarming the neighbors by the discharge of firearms." Brown's son Frederick was revulsed and, when asked by his brother John, Jr. if he had taken part in the murders said, "No, when I came to see what manner of work it was, I could not do it."

Brown spent the next six months as an outlaw in Kansas, robbing, rustling cattle, stealing horses, and attacking

isolated cabins. He returned East in 1856 and for the next three years supported himself by begging money from various abolitionist groups. He drew most of his support from a cell of terrorists in New England who called themselves the Secret Six. Finally, in 1859, Brown was ready—this time combining murder with treason .

On October 16, 1859, Brown led his "Company" into Virginia and seized the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry. Their first victim was Shepherd Hayward, a free black and the baggage master at the train station. He was shot in the back and mortally wounded when, ordered to join Brown's gang, he turned and tried to flee. Also murdered was Fontaine Becker, the mayor, described as the Negroes' best friend in the county; George W. Turner, a townsman, and Luke Quinn, a US Marine killed in the assault which captured the gang.

Brown, not unexpectedly, was as incompetent at treason as he was at everything else in his life. He may have thought himself a mighty warrior when he was murdering defenseless civilians but what chance did such a pitiful failure have against Robert E. Lee, Jeb Stuart, and the US Marines?

On the morning of October 18, 1859, Lee ordered Brown and his men to surrender. When Brown refused, Lt. Israel Green and his storming party of 12 marines attacked. Green and the marines battered their way into the engine house where Brown and his "Company" were hiding, killed or captured all of the traitors, and freed the 13 hostages Brown had kidnapped. The rescue, from start to finish, took 3 minutes.

These are the bare bones of Manson's and Brown's crimes. We have left a number of questions unanswered, however. How did Manson and Brown create their gangs of murderers? What did they think the murders would accomplish? And, finally, what did Manson and Brown hope to personally gain from the murders?

I think you'll be surprised at the answers.

Guns from famed Confederate raider CSS Alabama restored

By Bruce Smith • The Associated Press • February 7, 2010

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- A crate arrived in Mobile on Friday carrying a piece of painstakingly restored Confederate history.

The cargo was a gun from the famed Confederate naval raider CSS Alabama which was conserved at the same South Carolina lab where the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley is being restored.

The three-ton gun, one of two restored at the lab, will be displayed at the Museum of Mobile. The second remains in Charleston where there are plans to display it at a museum that will one day display the Hunley.

"It's a relief for me to see them done," Mardikian said Friday. "Cannon are inherently difficult to conserve and stabilize."

There were human remains -- including a jaw bone -- on the encrustation on that gun. Those remains were buried in a ceremony in Mobile several years ago and the gun arrived back in Alabama on Friday, he said.

It took about six years to conserve the guns.

"I would think these are the last cannon I treat with conventional techniques," Mardikian said. "It takes less time to build a bridge than to treat a cannon." The conventional method leaves the cannon in a bath of solution such as sodium hydroxide or sodium bicarbonate to remove salts left by sea water.

Clemson University researchers at the lab have been experimenting with a new subcritical fluid method. With that technology, fluids take on the characteristics of both a gas and a liquid under intense heat and pressure and have unique dissolving characteristics.

Mardikian said that once the technique is perfected, conserving a similar cannon

in subcritical fluids could be done in six months rather than six years.

The Alabama, built in Liverpool, England, and launched in 1862, was one of the most successful raiders in naval history.

The CSS Alabama Association said that during the 22 months it sailed, her crew boarded 447 ships taking 2,000 prisoners. The cannon have inscriptions showing they were made in Liverpool, Mardikian said.

"It's very significant" to have the gun back, Edington said. "There were eight guns altogether on the ship and we have recovered four, one of each type. This was a standard Royal Navy 32-pounder -- 32 pounds refers to the weight of the cannon ball."

The Alabama sank in about 200 feet of water off Cherbourg, France, after an engagement with the Union's USS Kearsage on June 11, 1864, just a few months after the Hunley sank.

The wreck of the Alabama was discovered in 1984 by a French navy mine sweeper. The cannon were raised in 2000, a few months before the Hunley.

N.O. Civil War Round Table

The February dinner meeting of the Civil War Round Table will be held Wednesday, February 17th at the Colonial Country Club, 42 Country Club Drive in Harahan.

Ed Bearss, the grand old man of historians of "the War" will be the featured speaker. His topic will be *A Comparison of Battlefield Medicine During the Civil War and World War II*.

There's plenty of parking and the price for the buffet is only \$15 per person.

The doors will open at 6:30 pm, dinner will start around 7:00 pm, and Ed's presentation will begin around 7:30 pm. We expect quite a crowd, so folks should get there early.

In order for us to be able to give the kitchen a head count, I would ask that anyone planning to attend please get in touch with me and let me know how many will be in your party, You can reach me by email wmyers18@cox.net or by phone (o) 472-9993 or (h) 324-3585.

Hope to see y'all there.

Bill Myers
President
N.O. Civil War Round Table

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