



The Gen. Gordon Dispatch

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Southern Pride



As Southerners, we have much to be proud of. We can be proud of our history. A history that dates back to the very foundation of this country. We can be proud of our culture. It is a culture of charm, grace, and beauty. We can be

proud of the Heritage we have inherited from our Southern ancestors. A heritage of Christian principles and morality. And of course, we can be proud of our Southern ancestors themselves. Men and women who settled this country and envisioned a new republic based on the sovereignty and autonomy of individual states. This is something we share in common: Southern pride.

April is Confederate History month, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, along with the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Order of Confederate Rose, and others have had much success in convincing many of our elected public officials to help us in honoring our brave Confederate forefathers. To those who have supported our Cause we are very grateful and join together in saying, Thank you. Unfortunately many others have refused to assist us in remembering the sacrifices of the Confederate soldier. Perhaps it is fear and timidity, or ignorance, or both, that causes them to deny the honor due those brave men who so valiantly fought to defend the states of the Confederacy. But, whatever their reason, they are obviously lacking what we all share: Southern pride.

We won't hear or read much about Confederate History month from the liberal media, and what we do hear or read will be mostly negative. They will criticize our heritage, ridicule our Cause, speak evil against our noble Confederate ancestors, and revile honorable Christian men like Lee and Jackson. I don't understand. Why does a state that asked their young citizens to suffer the hardship of war in it's defense refuse to remember their sacrifice. What's wrong with doing what is right? What's wrong with speaking the truth? What's wrong with Southern pride?

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke the Beatitudes. (Matthew 5:3-12) In verse 11, He says, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." It is a sad fact that evil and ungodly people will speak against and persecute anything that's good and true. But, Jesus goes on to say in verse 12, "Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

The South is home to the "Bible Belt." So, maybe it is our Christian heritage as much as our Confederate history and Southern culture that causes their bigoted and evil slander. But, it seems to me that being in the Bible Belt is just another good reason for Southern pride.

Bro. Len Patterson, Th.D
Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Dates to Remember!

Remember--No Regular Monthly Meeting in April !

Confederate Memorial Service

Sunday, April 17th:
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: The Rock Confederate Cemetery
Speaker: Commander Al Medcalf

Confederate Memorial Service

Tuesday, April 26th:
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Glenwood Cemetery Confederate Section, Thomaston, Ga.
Speaker: Compatriot Ray McBerry

Lest They Be Forgotten ...

From the May, 1893 issue of
"Confederate Veteran,"

The Origin of Memorial Day

It is a matter of history that Mrs. Chas. J. Williams, of Columbus, Ga., Instituted the beautiful custom of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers, a custom which has been adopted throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams was the daughter of Maj. John Howard, of Milledgeville, Ga., and was a superior woman. She married Maj. C. J. Williams on his return from the Mexican War. As colonel of the First Georgia Regulars, of the Army in Virginia, he contracted disease, from which he died in 1862, and was buried in Columbus, Ga.

Mrs. Williams and her little girl visited his grave every day, and often comforted themselves by wreathing it with flowers. While the mother sat abstractly thinking of the loved and lost one, the little one would pluck the weeds from the unmarked soldiers' graves near her father's and cover them with flowers, calling them her soldiers' graves.

After a short time while the dear little girl was summoned by the angels to join her father. The sorely bereaved mother then took charge of these unknown graves for the child's sake, and as she cared for them thought of the thousands of patriot graves throughout the South, far away from home and kindred, and in this way the plan was suggested to her of setting apart one day in each year, that love might pay tribute to valor throughout the Southern States. In March, 1868, she addressed a communication to the Columbus Times, an extract of which I give:

"We beg the assistance of the press and the ladies

throughout the South to aid us in the effort to set apart a certain day to be observed from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and to be handed down through time as a religious custom of the South, to wreath the graves of our martyred dead with flowers, and we propose the 26th day of April as the day."

She then wrote to the Soldiers' Aid Societies in every Southern State, and they readily responded and reorganized under the name of Memorial Associations. She lived long enough to see her plan adopted all over the South, and in 1868 throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams died April 15, 1874, and was buried with military honors. On each returning Memorial Day the Columbus military march around her grave, and each deposits a floral offering. The Legislature of Georgia, in 1866, set apart the 26th day of April as a legal holiday in obedience to her request.



Thanks to the following for painting cross in anticipation of Confederate Memorial Day.

Ed Cunningham and his daughters Betsy; Benjamin Standard and his grandson Josh; Jonathan Wilkins and his children Nathan and Abigail; William Lyles, Jack Grubbs, and Harvey Ellington.

Our Camp is hosting two Confederate Memorial Day services this year. I urge every member to attend at least one service if possible and bring friends and family with you. Low attendance at memorial services sends the message to the public that very few "care" anymore.