



Sons of Confederate Veterans

Georgia Division, Old Capitol Camp, No. 688, P.O. Box 167, Milledgeville, GA 31059-0167

The Camp Follower

Volume 8, Issue 8

August 7, 2010

Monthly Meeting

What: Dinner and Program

When: 7:00 PM – August 12, 2010

Where: The Milledgeville Country Club

Commander's Comments

What a wonderful time to be a member of Sons of Confederate Veterans! Our program last month was outstanding. Dr. John Brinsfield who is the author of War From The Perspective of Confederate Chaplains and also a Field Manual for Confederate Soldiers gave a moving and informative presentation that was enjoyed by all who attended our meeting. Our programs continue to get better and better.

Our upcoming program will be given by “Miss Catherine” a native from Wilkinson County. She will give her family's perception of *The War*. Everyone who has heard “Miss Catherine” speak about her family found it very moving and extremely personal.

Your Executive Committee has been very busy making plans for the upcoming year's events. These plans include the Robert E. Lee Birthday Celebration, the Lee-Jackson Ball, Confederate Memorial Day, and our Confederate Memorial Day Bar-Be-Que.

An exciting event that is in the works is the General Doles Day Celebration that will be in

Milledgeville in June 2011. General George Pierce Doles was one of the Georgia Generals of the Confederacy. He is buried in our own Memory Hill Cemetery.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

Yours in the Cause,

J. Craig Coleman

BARROW ELECTED LT. C.I.C.

Congratulations to Kelly Barrow on his election as Lieutenant Commander in Chief of the National Sons of Confederate Veterans at the recent reunion in Anderson, South Carolina. We commend him for his hard work on behalf of the cause and his unselfish devotion to the same. Also, Kelly is a visionary who will do his best to lead us into the Sesqui-Centennial of the war.

The Sesqui-Centennial

This is an exciting time in the SCV. The 150th anniversary of the war affords us many opportunities to advance our cause. We can plan and stage educational events and historical events. Let's unite and begin the great tasks before us. What better way to honor those who fought for us?

LITTLE GIFFEN

Out of the focal and foremost fire,
Out of the hospital walls as dire,
Smitten of grapeshot and gangrene,
(Eighteenth battle and he sixteen)
Specter! Such as you seldom see,
Little Giffen of Tennessee.

“Take him and welcome,” the surgeon said;
Little the doctor can help the dead!
So we took him, and brought him where
The balm was sweet in the summer air;
And we laid him down on a wholesome bed –
Utter Lazarus, heel to head!

And we watched the war with abated breath,
Skeleton boy against skeleton death!
Months of torture, how many such?
Weary weeks of the stick and crutch;
And still a glint in the steel-blue eye
Told of a spirit that wouldn’t die.

And didn’t. Nay! More! In death’s despite
The crippled skeleton learned to write –
“Dear Mother!” at first, of course, and then
“Dear Captain!” inquiring about the men.
Captain’s answer: “Of eighty and five,
Giffen and I are left alive.”

Word of gloom from the war, one day;
Johnston pressed at the front, they say; --
Little Giffen was up and away!
A tear, his first, as he bade good-by,
Dimmed the glint of his steel-blue eye.
“I’ll write, if spared!” There was news of fight,
But none of Giffen – he did not write!

I sometimes fancy that were I King
Of the Princely Knights of the Golden ring,
With the song of the minstrel in mine ear,
And the tender legend that trembles here,
I’d give the best on his bended knee –
The whitest soul of my chivalry –
For “Little Giffen” of Tennessee.

By: Francis Orray Ticknor

Dr. Ticknor (1822-1874) tells us the true story of the loyalty of the common soldier who fought for the South. A boy soldier in his early teens, Isaac Newton Giffen, the son of an East

Tennessee blacksmith was wounded at Murfreesboro.

In a military hospital in Columbus, Ga, he was looked after by the volunteer ladies in the wards. One day in September of 1863 Mrs. Ticknor the wife of the kindly country doctor living at Torch Hill near Columbus passed through the wards on her daily errands of mercy. She saw the soldier on a cot, emaciated, pale and suffering. She raised his head to give him his medicine, and the great mother’s heart of this noble woman went out to the lonely boy so far from home. Needless to say this family took him into their home where he was nursed back to health. Mrs. Ticknor taught him to read and write. One day news came that Gen. Joseph Johnston was being sorely pressed by the enemy. Quickly Little Giffen left to go back into battle. A short time later, he died for the South in one of the battles around Atlanta.

This is one of the noblest stories in all history. Paul Hamilton Hayne declares that Little Giffen is a ballad that “ought to rank with the rarest gems of modern poetry.”

From Confederate War Poems

By Walter Burgwyn Jones



Pictured above (L-R) 2nd Lt. Commander Phil Wise, Dr. John Brinsfield, and Commander Coleman. Dr. Brinsfield presented the program for our July meeting. It was one of our most interesting programs in some time. Thanks to Compatriot Wise for getting his good friend to come and speak.
