



The Southern Advocate

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Oklahoma Division

Sons of Confederate Veterans

<http://oklahomascv.org/>



"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit 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 which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish." (Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906)

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Commanders Comments

Larry Logan, Oklahoma Division Commander

At this time of year we can always talk of our families and friends. Of the good times we remember. We can speak of our faith and how this season is so special to the world. We can verbalize of the accomplishments and successes that all of us have enjoyed through the years.

As members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we have something so special that we are indeed a blessed group of men. At this time of year and at all other times it needs to be remembered. We are descendants of the men who tried to preserve this country the way the founders formed it. Our ancestors tried to keep the constitutional guarantees of individuals being the ones responsible for providing for themselves and their families. They attempted to preserve the country with the principles and values that men like James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington spoke up for when the secession from England took place. These brave men knew that states could govern themselves much better than a centralized government as England had attempted to do from a far off location.

It also needs to be said that this time of year can bring forth sadness. Perhaps a loved one passed on during this time. Perhaps an unfortunate event like a job loss or some other life change took place. We all have experienced those times as well.

The same was true for those brave Confederate soldiers. They fought so bravely, so proudly, with so much dogged determination. And they lost their bid for the independence of their country. It was a bitter and heartbreaking result for all of them.

Now, today, we are their only defenders. The politicians aren't going to do it. The clergy isn't going to do it. The educators aren't. A few exceptions will always be found but the ones who are at the forefront of this effort are the men who choose to place their support in this organization. We do so knowing that those who fought for the items just previously mentioned specifically designated this group to be their successor organization. With this kind of heritage it is simply

not acceptable to be passive and inactive in promoting who we are, how we are, the way we are, and the way we are, way we are.

SCV Executive Director Announces Retirement

Compatriot Ben Sewell has announced his intention to retire as SCV's Executive Director. Executive Director Sewell has pledged to the General Executive Council that he will remain in office until his successor is selected.

"Although we are certainly sad to see Ben retire, we are grateful for the many years of dedicated service he has rendered to our organization," Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens said. "Ben has helped lead the organization through some challenging times and I know the whole Confederation joins me in saying how much we appreciate his work."

CIC Givens has appointed a search committee to begin the process of vetting candidates for a full time replacement. The chairman of the search committee is Past-CIC Christopher Sullivan. The committee expects to get to work right away and Chairman Sullivan said that more details will be forthcoming as soon as the committee has been able to meet and get organized, but he expects they will begin accepting applications sometime after the first of the year.

Oklahoma Division compatriots regret seeing Compatriot Sewell go. At the same time, we wish him the very best and thank him for his service to the SCV and especially to the Oklahoma Division.

To ignore these most important facts is to ignore those who we say we love and adore – our Confederate ancestors.

We are getting ready to start a new and exciting calendar year of 2014. Let's get after it and make it the very best calendar year ever for the Oklahoma Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!!

In Memoriam

Compatriot Melvin Lloyd Manning, of Camp 1st Cherokee Mounted Volunteers of Edmond, passed away on October 1. He was seventy-four years old. His funeral was Saturday, October 5 at North Point Baptist Church in the Deer Creek Community near Guthrie.

All Oklahoma Division compatriots express their most profound condolences to Compatriot Manning's family and his fellow camp compatriots.

Tribute to Jim MacFarland

By: Larry Logan, Division Commander

This last Monday, November 11, at the monthly meeting of Col. John Jumper Camp #900 in Claremore Camp, Commander Jim McFarland voluntarily stepped down after serving the camp since its chartering in the fall of 2010. Please let me tell you of a true servant to our cause in this man named Jim McFarland.

Jim has served the division, his brigade, and camp in just about every capacity possible. At age eighty-two, three years ago, he provided the leadership to form Camp No. 900 and it has been a solid camp since. He understood what was necessary and did just that. He developed others who could lead the camp and so there will no vacuum of leadership caused by his resignation.

Shortly after becoming Division Commander there was a need to look into a matter within the division and Jim was the point man in gathering the information. He did so thoroughly and the situation was eventually resolved in a successful manner. Jim's taking charge of the circumstances that existed at the time was exemplary for all of us.

Jim was the first person to suggest an acknowledgement of Harold Tydings for his service to the division. This, in turn, led to the initiation of the Harold Tydings Award with Harold being the first recipient last year.

Jim has served as the unofficial parliamentarian at the state convention each year. He is extremely well schooled in this and has ensured that we have done all items properly and in good order.

Jim has been active in attending DEC meetings and our state conventions. He is extremely knowledgeable about the true historical facts about the War for Southern Independence. It has been a pleasure to serve with him and I look forward to continue doing so with him as a valuable member of Camp No. 900. All of us wish him and his family the very best.

Editor: Before relocating from Tulsa to Claremore, Jim was a long-time member of Camp McIntosh. He was Camp Commander in 2002.

Calendar of Events

January 11	– Winter DEC Meeting – Henryetta
January 18	– Lee-Jackson Dinner – Oklahoma City
March 2	– Texas Independence Day
March 4	– Confederate Flag Day

Report from Honey Springs

By Allen Harrison

As I drove into the encampment area men and women bustled here and there preparing for the reenactment of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Honey Springs (called The Affair at Elk Creek by the Confederates). Flags were waving in the brisk breeze pinpointing the locations of Union and Confederate Troops. Men stood in small groups chatting, wearing their respective uniforms – very impressive indeed.

The engagement took place on a rainy Friday, July 17, 1863, between the 1st Division, Army of the Frontier, commanded by Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt and the Confederate Indian Brigade led by Brig. Gen. Douglas H. Cooper. This was the largest of more than 107 documented hostile encounters in the Indian Territory. There were approximately 9,000 men involved, including American Indians, veteran Texas regiments and the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers.

The Confederate forces consisted of 6,000 men mostly recruits from the Indian tribes of the territory. The Federal army turned out about 3,000 men including the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry. Despite the numerical strength of the Confederates, they were actually at a disadvantage. They had only four light pieces of artillery, facing twelve cannons manned by the Federals, and about a third of the Indians had inadequate arms and ammunition. The Federal troops were armed with the latest Springfield rifles.

On July 17, 1863, at about 10:00 in the morning, the two armies met at Elk Creek, where Cooper had entrenched his forces in a line almost a mile and a half long among the trees of the creek bed. For about two hours the men fought close range along the creek bed, with neither side gaining an advantage. With a Rebel Yell the Texans charged the Union line until they were only twenty-five yards away. Holding their position, the black troops fired at point blank range. The effects were devastating, shattering the Texas unit and leaving a gap in the center of the Confederate line. Cooper, unable to close the gap, ordered a retreat across a small bridge over Elk Creek.

For the next hour the engagement became a running battle, with the Confederate troops fighting a rear guard action and periodically entrenching, only to be driven out by the better armed Federals. The battle ended at the edge of Honey Springs Depot, a mile and a half south of where it had started almost four hours earlier. Confederate casualties included 134 killed and wounded with forty-seven troops taken prisoner. The Federals lost seventeen killed and sixty wounded.

Before the reenactment took place I went from tent to tent, vendors included, asking whether or not individuals had Confederate Ancestors. After speaking with them about the SCV for a few minutes, I gave them a flyer with basic information about our membership. I also stapled my business card along with Commander Mike Darrow's card to the flyer. I then asked for personal information and permission to be contacted later. I sat for a few minutes around several fires with men in the reenactment. I was made welcome by all I contacted; great people. In all, I recorded eleven men who agreed to be contacted.

Images of Battle of Honey Springs Reenactment



(Photos courtesy of Allen Harrison)

Confederate Symbols – Cross of Honor

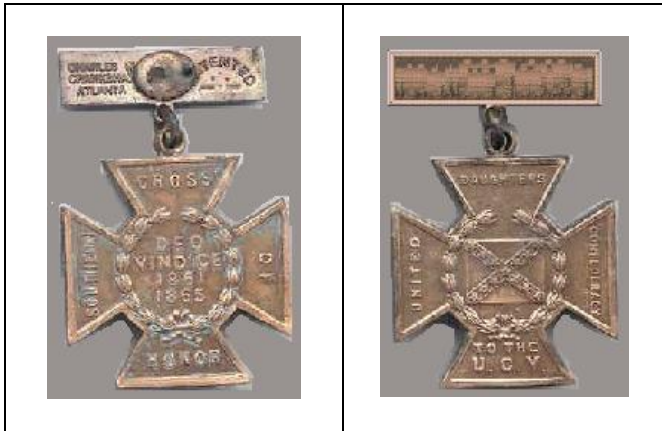
By: Ken Cook, Camp Historian

The Southern Cross of Honor was a military decoration meant to honor the officers, noncommissioned officers, and privates for their valor in the armed forces of the Confederate States of America. It was formally approved by the Confederate Congress on October 13, 1862, and was originally intended to be on par with the Union Army's Medal of Honor.

The design for the face of the medal consists of a cross with a Confederate battle flag surrounded with a laurel wreath, with the inscription "The Southern Cross of Honor." On the back of the medal is the motto of the Confederate States of America, "*Deo Vindice*" and the dates 1861 1865. Post-War versions (starting in 1898) added the inscription, "From the UDC to the UCV."

During the war, the Confederacy was short of metal, so many medals were not minted or awarded. The names of these soldiers were, however, recorded in an Honor Roll and preserved in the Adjutant General's records.

While attending a reunion of Confederate veterans in Atlanta in 1898, members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy decided to produce the original medal. The medal was at this point authorized by the UDC to be awarded to any Confederate Veteran who had provided "loyal, honorable service to the South and given in recognition of this devotion."



The Southern Cross of Honor is also used as a symbol on the graves of Confederate veterans who served honorably. It can take two different forms which can sometimes both be seen on the same soldier's grave.

One form is an outline of the Southern Cross engraved on the actual gravestone of the veteran. This symbol is available to be placed as an optional symbol of belief on any Veterans Administration issued gravestone. This symbol is only issued by the VA to be placed on the grave of a Confederate Veteran.

The second form of the Southern Cross of Honor used on Confederate graves is a two-sided, cast iron replica of the medal. This cross stands atop a metal rod placed into the ground at the veteran's grave. It is sometimes referred to as the "Iron Cross of Honor" or "SCV Iron Cross". The cross is typically placed on Confederate graves by local chapters of the SCV, UDC or by family members or interested parties related to

the Confederate veteran. The grave of any Confederate veteran who served honorably is eligible for placement of this symbol.



Veterans Administration issued Confederate gravestone with the Southern Cross of Honor symbol engraved at the top



Southern Cross of Honor "Iron Cross" grave marker

Division Executive Council Report

Larry Logan, Division Commander

(1) We have had several changes to many of our camps. It is a great time for each camp to check their page on the website and make sure all information is both complete and accurate. People do use this to attempt to contact camps and if the information is not up to date it could cause some communication problems. Most have been updated on the site but a few are still to be done.

(2) Our DEC meeting will be held on Saturday January 11 at 12:30 at Chair Crushers Restaurant in Henryetta. It will last till approximately 4:30. An agenda will be furnished with next month's DEC report. Please plan to attend. I have confirmed with Chair Crushers we are on their schedule.

(3) Our convention is scheduled for Saturday April 12 at the Citizen Potawatomi Reunion Hall South in Shawnee. Complete details will be furnished at the DEC meeting on January 11. Please be communicating to all your members this most important event to the division.

(4) While activity does slow during this most special holiday season several of our camps are planning significant events over the next few months. Pryor will hold their annual Christ-

mas dinner on Dec. 6. Duncan will hold a Confederate Christmas service at a cemetery in Duncan on December 7. They have done this for the past several years. Oklahoma City is planning their annual Lee-Jackson-Rogers dinner and banquet on January 1, and Claremore is planning the dedication of a plaque to honor Col. John Jumper at a church in Sasakawa (Seminole County) in mid-February.

(5) Our division newsletter is scheduled for distribution the middle part of this month. Please be sure that your camp members all receive this either via e-mail or by manual distribution at the camp meeting or through the mail for those who don't attend the meeting.

(6) I will get a membership report this week that will show all our members as of this time. Around mid-December HQ will drop those who have not renewed. Those men will not receive their Confederate Veteran magazine starting in January. Towards the latter part of the month I will get the final membership report for the year and we will see how the year's results measure up.

Camp News and Activities

Camp Col. Tandy Walker of Shawnee is officially reinstated. Carl Monk is commander of the camp and now a member of our Division Executive Council. There are seven dedicated men who are fully paid on their dues through July 31, 2014, and who are ready to make the camp located in our convention city a great camp. Best wishes for a successful camp.

Camp Captain James J. McAlester of McAlester has elected a new camp commander, Mike Darrow of Henryetta. Congratulations to Mike and best wishes for the greatest success.

Jarett Turney is the new commander of Camp 5th Sgt. Thomas Benton Wood of Grove. Jarett is a fairly new member of the SCV and is looking forward to leading the camp. He is a dentist and lives in Grove. Joshua Goff, another newer member, has accepted the Lt. Commander's position. Joshua lives in Jay and is young, energetic man for the future. Jim Rollins will remain adjutant of the camp and will continue to give his advice and service to the camp and division. Congratulations and best wishes to these new officers.

Camp Daniel N. McIntosh of Tulsa will participate with the Military History Museum in Broken Arrow by purchasing the perpetual naming rights to the Museum's Civil War Exhibit. The Camp also committed to allocate a small sum to purchase three display cases for the exhibit and three flags relative to Indian Territory. Additionally, the Camp agreed to donate some of its small collection of artifacts to the Museum.

With the retirement of Commander Jim MacFarland, the 2014 officers of Camp Col. John Jumper of Claremore are Ron Burton, Commander; Tim Wantland, Lt. Commander; and David Bey, Adjutant. Congratulations and best wishes these men.

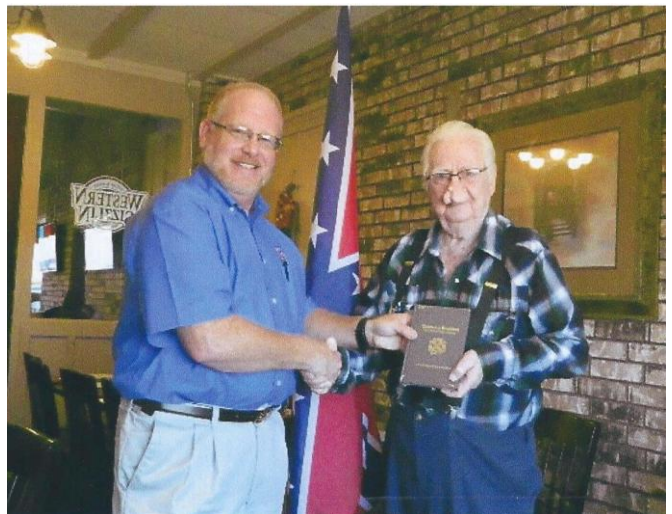
At its monthly meeting on November 14, members of Camp Col. Dew Moore Wisdom of Muskogee, elected Kevin White as the new commander. For several years, Compatriot Harold Tydings has been filling the office of Commander and Adjutant. He stepped aside this year for Compatriot White. Harold will remain Adjutant. Congratulations and best wishes to Kevin.



Fort Washita Brigade Commander, Allen Harrison, congratulates Dr. Mike Darrow after administering the oath of office to Dr. Darrow as commander of Camp Captain James J. McAlester of McAlester.



Commander Darrow presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Fort Washita Brigade Commander Allen Harrison in recognition of his assistance to the Camp during the time it was without a commander.



Commander Mike Darrow congratulates Compatriot Alvin Johnson after administering to him the oath of office as chaplain.

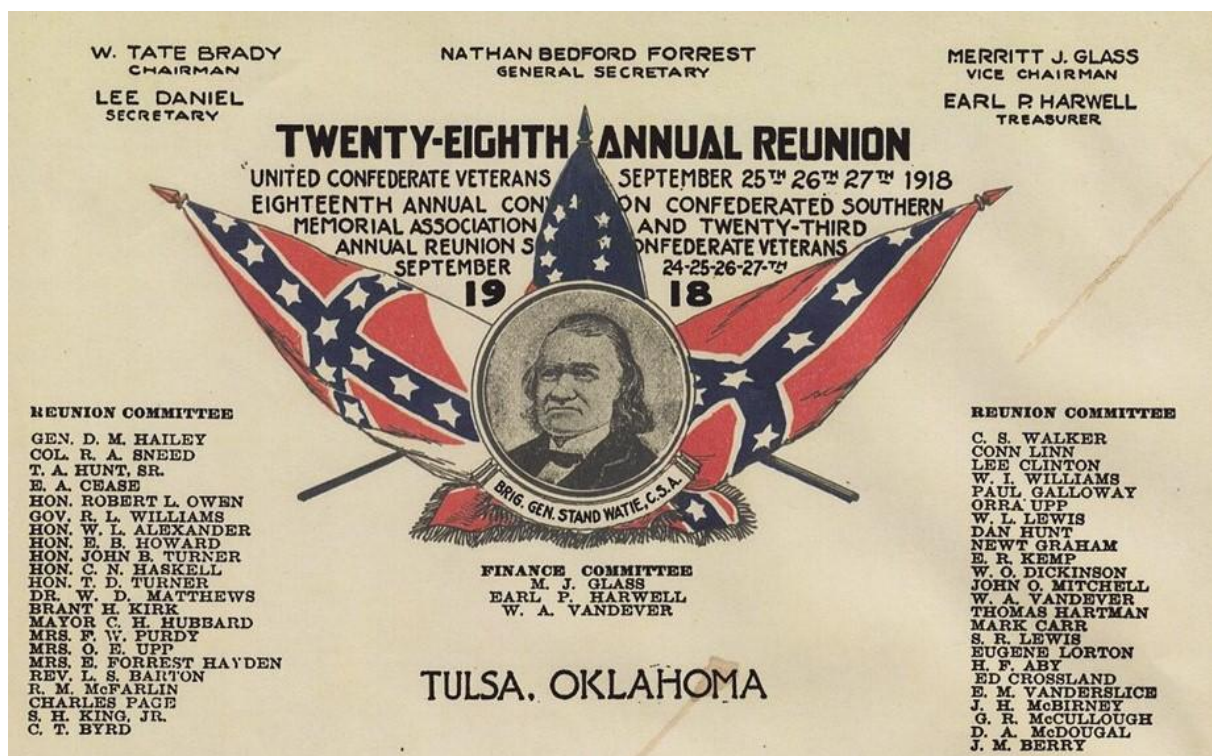
(Photos courtesy of Renee Darrow and submitted by Allen Harrison)



Commander Jarett Turney (on the left) of Camp 5th Sgt. Thomas Benton Wood of Grove presents the camp's newest member, Lou (Gunny) Hall, with his SCV Membership Certificate. (Photo submitted by Larry Logan)



Compatriot Ken Martin of Camp Col. William Penn Adair of Bartlesville at his recent presentation on the Civil War in Indian Territory at the Bartlesville History Museum (Photo submitted by Larry Logan)



Poster from the 1918 United Confederate Veterans Reunion in Tulsa
(Contributed by Frank Gilbert)

The Calamity of Appomattox



By H.L. Mencken

The American Mercury, September 1930

NO AMERICAN historian, so far as I know, has ever tried to work out the probable consequences if Grant instead of Lee had been on the hot spot at Appomattox. How long the victorious Confederacy would have endured? Could it have surmounted the difficulties inherent in the doctrine of States' Rights, so often inconvenient and even paralyzing to it during the war? Could it have remedied its plain economic deficiencies, and become a self-sustaining nation? How would it have protected itself against such war heroes as Beauregard and Longstreet, Joe Wheeler and Nathan D. Forrest? And what would have been its relations to the United States, socially, economically, spiritually and politically?

I am inclined, on all these counts, to be optimistic. The chief evils in the Federal victory lay in the fact, from which we still suffer abominably, that it was a victory of what we now call Babbitts over what used to be called gentlemen. I am not arguing here, of course, that the whole Confederate army was composed of gentlemen; on the contrary, it was chiefly made up, like the Federal army, of innocent and unwashed peasants, and not a few of them got into its corps of officers. But the impulse behind it, as everyone knows, was essentially aristocratic, and that aristocratic impulse would have fashioned the Confederacy if the fortunes of war had run the other way. Whatever the defects of the new commonwealth below the Potomac, it would have at least been a commonwealth founded upon a concept of human inequality, and with a superior minority at the helm. It might not have produced any more Washingtons, Madisons, Jeffersons, Calhouns and Randolphs of Roanoke, but it would certainly not have yielded itself to the Heflins, Caraways, Bilbos and Tillmans.

The rise of such bounders was a natural and inevitable consequence of the military disaster. That disaster left the Southern gentry deflated and almost helpless. Thousands of the best young men among them had been killed, and thousands of those who survived came north. They commonly did well in the North, and were good citizens. My own native town of Baltimore was greatly enriched by their immigration, both culturally and materially; if it is less corrupt today than most other large American cities, then the credit belongs largely to Virginians, many of whom arrived with no baggage save good manners and empty bellies. Back home they were sorely missed. First the carpetbaggers ravaged the land, and then it fell into the hands of the native white trash, already so poor that war and Reconstruction could not make them any poorer. When things began to improve they seized whatever was seizable, and their heirs and assigns, now poor no longer, hold it to this day. A raw plutocracy owns and operates the New South, with no challenge save from a proletariat, white and black, that is still three-fourths peasant, and hence too stupid to be dangerous. The aristocracy is almost extinct, at least as a force in government. It may survive in backwaters and on puerile levels, but of the men who run the South today, and represent it at Washington, not 5%, by any Southern standard, are gentlemen.

If the war had gone with the Confederates no such vermin would be in the saddle, nor would there be any sign below the Potomac of their chief contributions to American Kultur—Ku Kluxry, political ecclesiasticism, nigger-baiting, and the more homicidal variety of wowserism. Such things might have arisen in America, but they would not have arisen in the South. The old aristocracy, however degenerate it might have become, would have at least retained sufficient decency to see to that. New Orleans, today, would still be a highly charming and civilized (if perhaps somewhat zymotic) city, with a touch of Paris and another of Port Said. Charleston, which even now sprouts lady authors, would also sprout political philosophers. The University of Virginia would be what Jefferson intended it to be, and no shouting Methodist would haunt its campus. Richmond would be, not the dull suburb of nothing that it is now, but a beautiful and consoling second-rate capital, comparable to Budapest, Brussels, Stockholm or The Hague. And, all of us, with the Middle West pumping its revolting silo juices into the East and West alike, would be making frequent leaps over the Potomac, to drink the sound red wine there and breathe the free air.

My guess is that the two Republics would be getting on pretty amicably. Perhaps they'd have come to terms as early as 1898, and fought the Spanish-American War together. In 1917 the confiding North might have gone out to save the world for democracy, but the South, vaccinated against both Wall Street and the Liberal whim-wham, would have kept aloof—and maybe rolled up a couple of billions of profit from the holy crusade. It would probably be far richer today, independent, than it is with the clutch of the Yankee mortgage-shark still on its collar. It would be getting and using his money just the same, but his toll would be less. As things stand, he not only exploits the South economically; he also pollutes and debases it spiritually. It suffers damnably from low wages, but it suffers even more from the Chamber of Commerce metaphysic.

No doubt the Confederates, victorious, would have abolished slavery by the middle of the 80s. They were headed that way before the war, and the more sagacious of them were all in favor of it. But they were in favor of it on sound economic grounds, and not on the brummagem moral grounds which persuaded the North. The difference here is immense. In human history a moral victory is always a disaster, for it debauches and degrades both the victor and the vanquished. The triumph of sin in 1865 would have stimulated and helped to civilize both sides.

Today, the way out looks painful and hazardous. Civilization in the United States survives only in the big cities, and many of them—notably Boston and Philadelphia—seem to be sliding down to the cow country level. No doubt this standardization will go on until a few of the more resolute towns, headed by New York, take to open revolt, and try to break out of the Union. Already, indeed, it is talked of. But, it will be hard to accomplish, for the tradition that the Union is indissoluble is now firmly established. If it had been broken in 1865, life would be far pleasanter today for every American of any noticeable decency. There are, to be sure, advantages in Union for everyone, but it must be manifest that they are greatest for the worst kinds of people. All the benefit that a New Yorker gets out of Kansas is no more than what he might get out of Saskatchewan, the Argentine pampas, or Siberia. But, New York to a Kansan is not only a place where he may get drunk, look at dirty shows and buy bogus antiques; it is also a place where he may enforce his dunghill ideas upon his betters.

(Contributed by Terry Pierce)

Why Southerners Eat Black Eyed Peas on New Year's Day

I grew up with this belief but did not know the reason. My mother always served black eyed peas on New Year's Day; she said it would bring good luck in the New Year. I've carried this tradition forward but never knew the reason behind it.

"The Real Story is much more interesting and has gone untold in fear that feelings would be hurt. It's a story of war, the most brutal and bloody war this nation has ever seen, military might and power unleashed upon civilians, women, children and the elderly. Never seen as a war crime, this was the policy of the North forcing back together "the union" at all costs. An unhealed wound remains in the hearts of some people of the Southern states even today.

The story of THE BLACK EYED PEA being considered good luck relates directly back to Sherman's Bloody March to the Sea in late 1864. It was called The Savannah Campaign and was lead by Major General William Tecumseh Sherman. The Civil War campaign began on November 15, 1864, when Sherman's troops marched from the captured city of Atlanta, Georgia, and ended at the port of Savannah on December 22, 1864.

When the smoke cleared, the Southerners who had survived the onslaught came out of hiding. They found that the blue belly aggressors had looted and stolen everything of value and everything that could be eaten, including all livestock. Death and destruction were everywhere. While in hiding, few had enough to eat, and starvation was now upon the survivors.

There was no international aid, no Red Cross meal trucks, no disaster relief, no FEMA. The Northern army had taken everything they could carry, eaten everything they could eat and destroyed what they couldn't. But they couldn't take it all. The devastated people of the South found for some unknown reason that Sherman's bloodthirsty troops had left silos full of black eyed peas.

At the time in the north, the lowly black eyed pea was only used to feed stock. The northern troops saw it as the thing of least value. Taking grain for their horses and livestock and other crops to feed themselves, they just couldn't take everything. So they left the black eyed peas in great quantities assuming it would be of no use to the survivors, since all the livestock it could feed had either been taken or eaten.

Southerners awoke to face a new year in this devastation and were facing massive starvation if not for the good luck of having the black eyed peas to eat. From New Years Day 1866 forward, the tradition grew to eat black eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck."

Editor: Now you know, so eat your black eyed peas on New Year's Day. We need all the good luck we can get.

(Contributed by James Catron)