

DOUGLAS DISPATCH

Sons of Confederate Veterans

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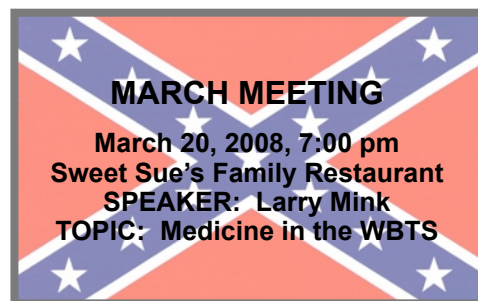
Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans:

"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 soldiers' 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. General Stephen Dill Lee,
Commander General,
United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana
April 25, 1906*

In This Issue

With Sad Hearts	2
Brigade 8 News	2
From the Adjunct	2
MOS&B News	2
Calendar of Events	3
Election News	3
Canton UDC Chapter Double Memorial	3
Camp Ford Living History	3
Spirits of Oakwood	3
Texas Confederate History & Heritage Month Banquet	4
Project Earp	4
Cross Dedication & Memorial	4
Battle of Pleasant Hill	4
Capt James P. Douglas Family Picnic	5
Texas Division Reunion	5
Battle at Jones Meadow	5
SCV Confederation Reunion	5
TSOCR Marilyn C Sweeney Scholarship	5
Ancestor Book	5
Remember Jeff Davis?	5
Did You Know	7
University shares its Lincoln letters online	7
From the Editor	7



Commander's Message

Are you ready to work? I need everyone who is available to come to Camp Ford at 1:00 Sunday afternoon, March 16, to help with a clean up of the park before we have the living history. We are scheduled to have community service workers to help, but we will need supervisors, too. So, bring your weed eaters and blowers and come on out and give us a helping hand! Don't forget 1:00 Sunday!

Are you ready for the Camp Ford Living History? Hope you have invited all your friends and neighbors to come. Everyone, young and old, will enjoy all the different stations! Each year gets bigger and better! We are expecting record crowds but we need you! Even if you don't have a uniform, come on out, we will put you to work. There is always something for everyone to do!

Wasn't last month's meeting great! Donnie Kennedy made some interesting comparisons to Lincoln! His theories are very thought provoking! We had great attendance and this month our own Larry Mink will be speaking. Have you heard him at a living history? Everyone is spellbound by him. And with all his "gross" props, he brings the horrors of the surgeon's life alive! Don't miss it!

See you on the 20th! Bring a guest!

Stay Faithful!
Muddy Waters
Commander

March Program

First of all, I sure hated to miss our February meeting. That "work" thing just always seems to get in the way. I understand that Mr. Donnie Kennedy gave a very good program. We will

also be in for a treat in March. Larry Mink will be with us to discuss medicine during the War for Southern Independence. The doctors/surgeons definitely had their hands full trying to fight sickness, disease and tending to battle wounds of so many brave soldiers. I really don't think we can truly imagine how horrible all of that was. But, Larry will give us an up close and personal look at what it might have been like. Be sure to make plans on attending our March 20th meeting, it will be one you won't likely forget.

Our next few upcoming programs are:
April – Reggie Ann Walker-Wyatt, more stories and a photo exhibit on Jesse James
May – Rose Mary Rumbley, a VERY funny and insightful woman!
June – Singing with the Three Majors

** If you have an idea or know of a speaker for a program, please be sure to let me know. I truly want your input, and I want to make sure we have the very best programs we can. I am in the process of filling the late summer and early fall months.

Confederate Trivia for the month of March: On March 11, 1861 The Confederate Congress unanimously adopted the Constitution of the Confederate States of America.

God Bless Dixie!!

Brad Tindel
1st Lt. Commander

With Sad Hearts...

We are saddened by the loss of our Compatriot Grady Cole who passed away on Sunday, February 17, 2008. Even though he was one of the newer members of Captain James P. Douglas Camp #124, he WILL be missed.

Visitation was held at Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler, and a Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday.

Flowers were sent from the Camp.

Please keep the Cole family in your prayers.

Brigade 8 News

Compatriots:

I hope this finds you all well. I know those who were at the last meeting found the program to be very thought provoking. Mr. Kennedy's talk and the way it was all tied together explained a lot of things about the WBTS and the actions of the union leaders. My thanks to Brad for scheduling him.

Norma and I joined some DCV friends and spent an excellent weekend in Vicksburg. The battlefield tour was good as always but Terry Hedrick (who spoke on Vicksburg at our meeting awhile back) acted as tour director and was able to give a great deal of information about the city in general. The Old Court House Museum is a must see. The displays and personnel are great.

March will be a busy month with Camp Ford and several other events. (See the schedule.) I will need a lot of help at Camp Ford. Please try to attend and let me know if you can help. We will have needs for uniformed and non-uniformed personnel, so please show up.

April is also full and is Confederate History month. Watch for the events and help out by attending. Our ancestors answered the call; now it is our turn to Honor and Remember them and what they fought for.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting. We still have too many members who have not sent in their dues. Please do this asap. Contact Ken Reynolds or Muddy and send in your dues. Please!

Thank you all!
Johnny L. Holley, Jr.
1st Lt., East Texas Brigade

From the Adjunct

I am anxious to be able to get back to attending the meetings again. If you don't know, my U T Tyler class this semester meets every Thursday night. I will be back full time beginning with the May meeting. I hope to be able to be at some upcoming events, though. If you need to contact me, please do so at penelopekenon@yahoo.com. If you haven't been receiving the newsletter, I assume you received this one at our meeting. Please notify me at this e-mail address with your correct mailing address.

Muddy Waters or one of the other officers can answer your questions, or you can e-mail me.

Thanks,
DEO VINDICE,
Ken Reynolds

MOS&B News

The War Between the States produced some of the most outstanding civil and military leaders in the history of mankind. Our Southern leaders took a citizen army, lacking resources and forged it into an army that fought tenaciously for four devastating years against overwhelming odds. Why Providence chose the strong and oppressive over the weak and just, no one knows. The Military Order of Stars and Bars honors and perpetuates the memories of the leaders of the great Confederate Cause. If you are a male descendant of an officer in the Confederate Army or Navy or a civilian official of the Confederacy, I invite you to join our patriotic society. If anyone is interested, please call me at 903-388-1662 or e-mail me at Dhorton383@hotmail.com.

Dan Horton, Commander
Col. Richard B. Hubbard Chapter 261
Military Order of Stars and Bars

Calendar of Events

- Mar 15 Canton UDC Memorial & Black Rose – 11:00 am**
Myrtle Springs Cemetery POC Norma Holley (See Page 3)
- Mar 16 Camp Ford Clean Up - 1:00 pm**
POC Muddy Waters (See Page 1)
- Mar 20 Capt James P Douglas Meeting – 7:00 pm**
Sweet Sue's Restaurant SPEAKER; Larry Mink
TOPIC: Medicine during the WBT (See Page 1)
- Mar 28-30 Camp Ford Living History & Reenactment – 10 am-4pm**
Camp Ford Historical Park (See Page 3)
- Mar 29 Spirits of Oakwood – 1:00 – 6:00 pm** POC Maxine Herbst
Oakwood Cemetery, Tyler (See Page 3)
- Apr 5 Texas Division Executive Council - 10 am**
Johnny's Steakhouse, Salado, Texas

- Apr 5-6 Battle of Pleasant Hill**
www.battleofpleasanthill.com (See Page 4)
- Apr 12 Texas Confederate History Month Banquet - 7:00 pm**
 Pinecrest CC, Longview POC Mac Meredith (See Page 4)
- Apr 17 Capt James P Douglas Meeting – 7:00 pm**
 Sweet Sue's Restaurant SPEAKER: Reggie Anne Walker-Wyatt
 TOPIC: More about Jessie James
- Apr 25-26 Project Earp** POC Bill Starnes
 Gilmer TX (See Page 4)
- May 10 Cross Dedication & Memorial Service - 11 am**
 Gilmer City Cemetery POC Mac Meredith (See Page 4)
- May 10 Capt James P Douglas Meeting Family Picnic - 2:00 PM**
 Whitehouse City Park (See Page 5)
- May 15 Capt James P Douglas Meeting – 7:00 pm**
 Sweet Sue's Restaurant SPEAKER: Rose Mary Rumbley
 TOPIC: Funny History
- May 15 Hubbard Middle School Living History**
 (To be rescheduled) POC Johnnie Holley
- May 16 Quitman School Living History**
 Camp Ford Historic Park POC Johnnie Holley
- May 31 Jefferson Davis BBQ – Saturday – 11:00 am**
 Rose Garden Building POC Maxine Herbst (See Page 3)
- Jun 6-8 Texas Division SCV Reunion – Galveston -**
www.texas-scv.org (See Page 5)
- Jun 8 OCR Meeting – Emma Sansom Chapter – 1:00 pm**
 Papacita's Restaurant, 6704 S. Broadway, Tyler
- Jun 19 Capt James P Douglas Meeting – 7:00 pm**
 Sweet Sue's Restaurant SPEAKER: Three Majors
 TOPIC: Our WBTS Favorite Songs
- Jul 16-19 Confederation SCV Reunion – Concord NC**
 Host Camp Captain Jonas Cook Camp #888 (See Page 5)
- Oct 25-26 Battle at Jones Meadow – Friday – Sunday**
 POC Rob Jones 903-520-3265 (See Page 5)

Election News

Did you know...

During the election on 1860, Northern voters cast a quarter of a million more votes AGAINST Lincoln than did the entire South.

Canton UDC Chapter Memorial

On March 15th, the Canton UDC Chapter invites everyone to attend a memorial for 2 Confederate soldiers at the Myrtle Springs Cemetery. The ceremony begins at 11:00 am. They have requested a Black Rose Ceremony, so if you have mourning attire please make every effort to attend. Even without period attire, your attendance is requested as we honor these men.

Directions: Exit off I-20 onto State Highway 64. Stay on the westbound road. The cemetery is across the 2537 on the right. Enter the cemetery at the gate across from the stop sign. There is a circle drive inside the cemetery.

Fourth Annual Camp Ford Living History

Following is the published announcement for our fourth annual Encampment and Living History at Camp Ford Historical Park. We will gather for an encampment on Friday and Saturday nights, with living history and reenactment during the day on Saturday and Sunday. We need Uniforms and Period dress for the living history, etc. All help is needed as we welcome visitors to Tyler and Camp Ford. Reenactors are invited to participate. Please let me know if you think you will be able to participate,

and I will be sure to keep you informed of all updates. Be sure to bring your Confederate and Texas flags that are ready for retirement for our retirement ceremony. Camp Ford is one of the very few WBTS sites in the State of Texas. Participation has been great for the last three years, and we expect our event to be even bigger and better in March 2008.
 POC Johnny Holley, jlh63@flash.net

 Fourth Annual Camp Ford Living History
 Tyler, Texas

March 29-30, 2008 - The East Texas Brigades, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Smith County Historical Society invite you to come and join us for a Living History Event at Camp Ford Historic Park on Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, 2008 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, in conjunction with the Azalea Festival. Originally a training camp, Camp Ford became the largest Confederate Prisoner of War Camp west of the Mississippi River. The site is located northeast of Tyler on Highway 271, about one mile north of Loop 323.

Re-enactors from throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana will come together with the Captain James P. Douglas Camp and Douglas Battery of Tyler, to relive the history of Camp Ford. There will be overnight encampments Friday and Saturday nights.

Throughout Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 4:00, in addition to Cannon Firings, Infantry Drill, Musket Volleys, and Flag Presentations, there will be Skirmishes, Infantry Company Street, Weapons Demonstrations, Soldier Equipment and Haversack Contents, Shirt Sewing, and other displays.

Retirement of Confederate Flags ceremony will be held at 3:00 pm on Saturday.

Church Service will be held at 10:00 am on Sunday.

This should be an enjoyable and educational event for children and adults.

There is no charge for admission, but we do appreciate donations.

For information contact Johnny Holley, jlh63@flash.net

"SPIRITS OF OAKWOOD"

The Mollie Moore Davis UDC Chapter's The Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, along with the Tyler Parks Department, will present the "Spirits of Oakwood" event on Saturday, March 29, 2008, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the historic Oakwood Cemetery, corner of Palace and Oakwood Streets.

The "Spirits of Oakwood" event is a historical walking tour through the cemetery where groups of 15 to 20 people led by a tour guide dressed in period attire will stop at the grave sites of ten prominent citizens of Tyler to hear their 'story'. There will be someone, historians or family members, at each grave site dressed as that person would have dressed in their lifetime telling his/her 'story'.

The cost is \$5.00 per person. The proceeds from this event are used to repair the many broken monuments in the cemetery. The first tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the tours last approximately 2 hours. Entrance is through the back gate of the Cemetery on Ellis Street - all other gates will be closed for the event.

The Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee is a City Committee, and we work with the Tyler Parks Department. The "Spirits of Oakwood" event has been approved by the City, and

this is the fourth year for this event. The event is always held in conjunction with the Tyler Azalea and Spring Flower Trail.

The "Spirits of Oakwood" event is entertaining as well as educational. Much of the history of Tyler and Smith County is in Oakwood Cemetery. The Committee welcomes volunteers, so if anyone would like to help with the event please call Maxine Herbst - 903-593-4642.

Texas Confederate History & Heritage Month Banquet

*To Officers, Members and Friends
Capt. James P. Douglas #124
Sons of Confederate Veterans*

*You are invited to join the Officers,
Members and the wives
of the Walter P. Lane, SCV Camp #1455,
on Saturday, April 12 at 7:00 pm
to commemorate and celebrate
Confederate History Month in Texas*

Dinner will be served at the Pinecrest Country Club, 214 Club Drive (off Cotton Street) in Longview. Cost is \$25.00 per person. You will have a choice of two delicious entrees, plus a garden salad, dinner rolls, coffee or tea, and dessert.

We are pleased to inform you Mr. Scott Bowden, Co-author of the prize-winning work, Last Chance for Victory, Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign, has agreed to be our guest speaker at the banquet. Scott's work was the winner of the prestigious 2001 Douglas Southall Freeman History Award, the 2001 General Nathan Bedford Forrest Southern History Award and the 2001 Grady McWhiny Award of Merit. Among other events, Scott has presented papers at the Harold B. Simpson History Center at Hill College, Hood's Texas Brigade Association and Austin Civil War Round Table.

Checks should be made payable to Walter P. Lane Camp, SCV and mailed by April 1 to H. M. Meredith, 231 Fairlawn Drive, Lindale, Texas, 75771.

Period dress is optional.

We hope you and your lady will join us in honoring our Confederate forefathers on Saturday, April 12, at 7:00 pm.

POC Mac Meredith meredithstwo@suddenlink.net
903-881-0537

PROJECT EARP

Colonel Cullin R. Earp, C.S.A.
Re-interment
April 25th – April 26th 2008
Gilmer, Texas

Event Coordinator: Bill Starnes 903-797-2517
SCV POC: Mark Vogl 903-735-3175
johnyreb43@yahoo.com
Honor Guard Coordinator Preston Furlow
irish_reb@sbcglobal.net

Colonel Earp's assignments included command of the 10th

Texas Cavalry (Dismounted) which fought as part of Ector's Brigade in campaigns in the Western theatre. His campaigns and battles included Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Franklin and Nashville.

Under the direction of Bill Starnes, the Upshur County Patriots decided to move Colonel from an obscure and vandalized grave to a more appropriate location at Hopewell Cemetery in western Upshur County, not far from Confederate heroine Emma Samson. Phase I of Project Earp was completed in February when Col. Earp's remains were exhumed from their original resting site.

A schedule of events is provided below. Headquarters for this event will be at Hadden's Sandwich Shop, Gilmer Town Square. We are strongly encouraging participation by as many Civil War historians/re-enactors as possible.

Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 10 AM, April 25 | Colonel Earp's remains will be placed in the 1849 Log Cabin in southeast Gilmer, and the Honor Guard will commence. |
| 9 AM, 26 April | Col. Earp's remains will be placed on period transportation, units assembles and marched from the Log cabin to Gilmer Town Square. |
| 10 AM 26 April | Ceremony at Gilmer Town Square honoring Colonel Earp. |
| 11:30 AM 26 April | Noon meal for all re-enactor participants. |
| 12:30 PM April 26 | Participants will form up at a rally point to be designated near Latch, Texas for the final parade to cemetery. |
| 1:30 PM April 26 | Final ceremonies at Hopewell Cemetery. |

Cross Dedication & Memorial Service

On Saturday, May 10th at 11:00 AM, the Walter P. Lane camp is having a Southern Cross Dedication & Memorial service for Confederate soldier John D. Leland at the Gilmer City Cemetery. The cemetery is located on Highway 271 across street from Brookshire's Grocery Store.

Sandwiches, chips, drink's, etc., for participant's after the ceremony.

Leland is the g-grandfather of Mac Meredith.

POC is Mac Meredith
meredithstwo@suddenlink.net
903-881-0537

Battle of Pleasant Hill

A Festival and Reenactment of the Battle of Pleasant Hill, LA will be held April 5-6, 2008.

April 5th, 2008 (Saturday)

Event: Breakfast
Time: 6:00 - 10:00 AM. Place: American Legion Hall

Event: Parade. Place: Downtown Pleasant Hill
For more information contact Barbara Campbell if you would like to be in the parade 318-796-2634
Event: Open Camp Activities - Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Event: Battle Reenactment at Pleasant Hill - Time: 2 PM
Event: Confederate Ball and Court Presentation - Time: 7:00 PM. Place: American Legion Hall
Must be in period dress to participate. Those not in period dress may observe.

April 6th, 2008 (Sunday)

Event: Breakfast. Time: 6:00 - 10:00 AM. Place: American Legion Hall
Event: Open Camp Activities. Time: 10:00 AM to Noon
Event: Church Services (open to all). Time: 10:00 AM
Event: Mail Call. Time: After Church.
Event: Battle Reenactment at Pleasant Hill. Time: 2 PM

{Reenactments and activities in the reenactors camp will take place 3 miles north of Pleasant Hill at 23271 Louisiana Hwy. 175.} www.battleofpleasanthill.com

Capt. James P. Douglas Family Picnic

When: Saturday, May 10th, 2:00 pm - ???
Where: Whitehouse City Park
Join us for a time of family, fun and fellowship! Fish and taters will be provided! The ladies from the OCR are bringing the cole slaw! So, bring a dessert or another vegetable dish, your favorite outdoor game and the family for an afternoon of fun!

Texas Division Reunion

The 2008 Texas Division Reunion will be held June 6-8, 2008, at the Hawthorn Suites/Victorian Resort and Conference Center, 6300 Seawall, Galveston, Texas. A one Bedroom condo (sleeps 4-6) is \$114.00 plus tax per night. A two Bedroom condo (sleeps 6-8) is \$234.00 plus tax per night. Please tell the hotel you are with the Sons of Confederate Veterans to get the group rate. The group rate deadline is May 1, 2008.

Camp 1565, 13th Texas Infantry, Brazoria County and Camp 50, John Bell Hood, Galveston are co-hosting this reunion.

For more information and registration forms, go to <http://www.texas-scv.org/convention.php>.

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND NOW!!

Battle at Jones Meadow

DATE CORRECTION!!

Please correct the dates for Jones Meadow in your calendar to October 25-26, 2008. Sorry for any inconvenience!

The William H.L. Wells Camp #1588 is making great plans for this event. Each time we talk to them they are adding something exciting! Their goal is to make this the BEST reenactment in Texas! AND it's in our backyard! What could be better except to live closer to an actual battle site! For further information, please visit their website http://camp1588.org/tylertexas/cf_index.html. The camp has produced a CD with

over 1,000 photos from the October 2007 event. They are working on a video and a notice will be inserted when it is available. For CD ordering information go to http://www.camp1588.org/tylertexas/cf_orderinformation.html or send a check for \$10 plus \$2 Postage and handling to
Gene Kinsey
Sons of Confederate Veterans
3116 Robin Road
Plano TX 75075

SCV Confederation Reunion

On July 16-19, 2008 our National SCV Reunion will be held in Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina. The host camp is the Captain Jonas Cook Camp #888.

POC Terry Crayton
704.436.8405
tcrayton1@carolina.rr.com

Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose Marilyn C. Sweeney Scholarship

Do you know a graduating senior? The TSOCR is offering the Marilyn C. Sweeney Scholarship of \$1,000.00 to a deserving high school senior. Applications must be postmarked on or before May 1, 2008. If you need an application and/or further information, please contact TSOCR Director Norma Holley at 903-725-6774 or Emma Sansom President, Mary June Goodson at 903-561-4875.

Ancestor Book

The Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose's 2008 fund raising project is an Ancestors Book. For just a few dollars you can have your ancestor in our book! A 1/8th of 8 1/2" x 11" page article is only \$4.00! A 1/4th page is \$10.00! A half page is \$15.00! And a full page is only \$35.00. We would like a book of pictures and stories! We are also offering a special bidding war on the honor of sponsoring a Confederate Officer! For only \$25.00 you can sponsor a 1/8 page COLOR picture of a unit flag!

More information will be presented at the next camp meeting. For more information, please contact Norma Holley at 903-725-6774!

This is being offered for only a limited time before publication! Don't miss the opportunity to have your ancestors, their pictures and their story in our book!

Remember Jeff Davis? Many Say Forget It

By ALLEN G. BREED
(AP National Writer)

From Associated Press
February 23, 2008 12:39 PM EST

It hasn't been easy getting people excited about celebrating the 200th birthday of that tall, gaunt, bearded, Kentucky-bred

president who was born in a log cabin and went on to lead his people through a bloody civil war.

No, not Abraham Lincoln. Last week, President Bush himself helped kick off a two-year celebration of the Great Emancipator's Feb. 12, 2009, bicentennial that will include dozens of events in Kentucky, Illinois, Washington and beyond.

It's that other tall, log cabin-born Kentuckian, Jefferson Davis, whose 200th has turned out to be something of a lost cause.

"The response to date has been timid," acknowledges Bertram Hayes-Davis, head of the Davis Family Association and great-great grandson of the only president of the short-lived Confederate States of America. "Nobody has said no. Many haven't said yes."

Because Davis was a former secretary of war, Hayes-Davis wrote to the Department of Defense to see if it was interested in participating in some activity "to educate the public about the real Jefferson Davis." The agency didn't even reply.

Even Mississippi, the state where Davis made his plantation fortune and to which he retired after the war, gave the idea of commemorating Davis a lukewarm reception. A bill to establish a commission "for the purpose of organizing and planning a celebration in recognition of Jefferson Davis' 200th birthday" easily passed the House, only to die in the Senate appropriations committee.

Oh, there will be a "Miss Confederacy" crowned during the June 7-8 festival at the Jefferson Davis State Historic Site in Fairview, Ky., where a 351-foot concrete obelisk stands near the site of Davis' cabin birthplace. But that's an annual event.

The Davis Family Association is holding its reunion May 31 through June 1 at the Rosemont Plantation, Davis' childhood home in Woodville, Miss.

And on June 3, Davis' actual birthdate, the family will gather in Biloxi for the rededication of Beauvoir House, the hip-roofed, Gulf-front mansion where Davis spent the last 12 years of his life and which was nearly swept away by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Last week, Hayes-Davis stood on the Corinthian-columned portico of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery to re-enact the inaugural ceremony with which his ancestor formally severed the Southern states from the federal government he felt had been "perverted from the purposes for which it was ordained."

Taking his place on a six-pointed brass star marker alongside the great-great grandson of Howell Cobb, president of the Provisional Confederate Congress, Hayes-Davis placed his right hand on the Alabama State Bible used in the original swearing-in 147 years earlier. Hayes-Davis did not recite the oath, but simply kissed the Bible as his ancestor did, turned to the crowd and said: "So help me God."

But the calendar of events on <http://jeffersondavisbicentennial.org> is, well, a bit anemic - especially compared to the hoopla surrounding the 16th president.

That's to be expected, says William J. Cooper, a professor of history at Louisiana State University and author of "Jefferson Davis, American."

Lincoln "saved the Union. He emancipated the slaves. I mean, he won the war," Cooper says. "Fighting against Lincoln is, you know, fighting against motherhood."

For the most part, if Davis is mentioned at all this year outside the classroom or a Southern museum exhibit, it will be in the context of symposia like "The Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis," a scholarly discussion being hosted this June by the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, at Volume 8, Issue 3

which Cooper is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

The Davis family thinks it's a shame that all most people know about him was that he fought to preserve slavery.

"It's as if he created the entire institution and was solely responsible for it," says Hayes-Davis, a 59-year-old banker from Colorado Springs, Colo. "And we struggle with that."

Most people don't know that Davis was a West Point graduate who fought in the Mexican War under Zachary Taylor and married the future president's daughter, Hayes-Davis says. As a U.S. senator from Mississippi, he had a hand in building the Smithsonian Institution. He bolstered the nation's defenses as secretary of war under President Franklin Pierce.

"The history books, which are basically written in New York and Boston and whatever, have one sentence: 'Jefferson Davis elected president of the Confederacy,'" his descendant complains.

Historian James M. McPherson concedes that Davis' antebellum career was "very illustrious." But he says his achievements as a soldier, senator and secretary of war were "largely eclipsed" by his role in setting the stage for and then waging the bloodiest war in this nation's history.

Davis, who disparagingly referred to his fellow Kentuckian as "His Majesty Abraham the First," was what McPherson calls a "bitter-ender." When Lincoln allowed a journalist and a minister through Union lines in July 1864 under a flag of truce to offer peace and amnesty to Davis, the Confederate president was outraged.

"Amnesty, Sir, applies to criminals," he told the envoys. "We have committed no crime. At your door lies all the misery and crime of this war ... We are fighting for Independence - and that, or extermination, we will have ... You may emancipate every Negro in the Confederacy, but we will be free. We will govern ourselves ... if we have to see every Southern plantation sacked, and every Southern city in flames."

McPherson, a Lincoln biographer who won the Pulitzer Prize for his Civil War epic, "Battle Cry of Freedom," says some former Confederates, like Gen. Robert E. Lee, are palatable to modern Americans.

"Because Lee not only emerged as the foremost icon and hero of the Civil War in the South, I think he also emerged in the postwar North and is seen even today as somebody with more admirable qualities than Jefferson Davis," he says.

Davis comes across, McPherson says, as an "unreconstructed rebel who never really accepted with anything like good grace the defeat of the Confederacy and continued for the rest of his life to write and speak in a way that basically said, 'We were right. We lost this war, not because we were wrong, but because the enemy was more powerful and more ruthless.'"

Indeed, the last paragraph of Davis's two-volume "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government" - penned at Beauvoir and often called "the Bible of the Lost Cause" - can hardly be seen as an apology.

"In asserting the right of secession," Davis wrote, "it has not been my wish to incite to its exercise: I recognize the fact that the war showed it to be impracticable, but this did not prove it to be wrong; and, now that it may not be again attempted, and that the Union may promote the general welfare, it is needful that the truth, the whole truth, should be known, so that crimination and recrimination may for ever cease, and then, on the basis of fraternity and faithful regard for the rights of the States, there may be written on the arch of the Union, *Esto perpetua*."

Translation: "May it persevere."

Hayes-Davis says his ancestor is a victim of political correctness and of people's insistence on looking at historical events from today's perspective.

He believes, as Davis did, that the Southern states had a constitutional right to secede. When asked if he thinks secession is viable or legal today, he is noncommittal.

"I think the issue is not so much the country splitting. I think the issue is federal control over the states. And I think that you see that even today, when federal mandates come from Washington that, 'You will do this, whether you want to or not...,'" says Hayes-Davis, who has represented Davis' family at more than 100 functions over the years.

As for events this year in connection with the bicentennial, biographer Cooper says he has no problem with descendants re-enacting Davis' inauguration and the like.

"The Civil War is the central event in our nation's history, and Davis had a critical part to play in that," Cooper says. "And not to study it makes no sense to me."

Just as long, he adds, as commemoration does not become celebration.

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Did You Know...

Florida's Cow Cavalry

Nope, they didn't really ride cows! Formally the unit was the 1st Florida Special Cavalry, but "Cow Cavalry" was one name which fellow Confederates gave it. It was also known as the Cattle Battalion, the Commissary battalion, or Munnerlyn's Battalion. Florida provided beef, pork, fish, and fruit to Confederate troops. The unit was organized in the summer of 1864 to help keep the Confederate army supplied with that food. The "Cow Cavalry" protected cattle herds from roving bands of deserters and Union sympathizers; drove beef cattle north to the Confederate commissary depots; rounded up deserters; stemmed nuisance raids conducted by Union troops garrisoned at Fort Myers; assisted with scouting and picket duty; assisted blockade running operations, and protected the Salt Works. Some companies surrendered in May 1865, and the battalion was formally surrendered on June 5, 1865. A memorial to the "Cow Cavalry" was erected in Plant City, Florida, in November, 2007.

EDITOR: Interesting news release

University shares its Lincoln letters online

updated 1:19 p.m. CT, Sun., March. 2, 2008
ROCHESTER, N.Y. - Barely a year into the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln suggested buying slaves for \$400 apiece under a "gradual emancipation" plan that would bring peace at less cost than several months of hostilities.

The proposal was outlined in one of 72 letters penned by Lincoln that ended up in the University of Rochester's archives. The correspondence was digitally scanned and posted online along with easier-to-read transcriptions.

Accompanying them are 215 letters sent to Lincoln by dozens of fellow political and military leaders. They include letters from Vice President Andrew Johnson and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant,

who both succeeded Lincoln in the presidency in the 12 years after his assassination in 1865.

In a letter to Illinois Sen. James A. McDougall dated March 14, 1862, Lincoln laid out the estimated cost to the nation's coffers of his "emancipation with compensation" proposal.

Calculating costs

Paying slave-holders \$400 for each of the 1,798 slaves in Delaware listed in the 1860 Census, he wrote, would come to \$719,200 at a time when the war was soaking up \$2 million a day.

Buying the freedom of an estimated 432,622 slaves in Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri and Washington, D.C., would cost \$173,048,800 — nearly equal to the estimated \$174 million needed to wage war for 87 days, he added.

Lincoln suggested that each of the states, in return for payment, might set something like a 20-year deadline for abolishing slavery.

The payout "would not be half as onerous as would be an equal sum, raised now, for the indefinite prosecution of the war," he told McDougall.

The idea never took root. Six months later, Lincoln issued the first of two executive orders known as the Emancipation Proclamation that declared an end to slavery. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified after the collapse of the confederacy, ending two centuries of bondage in North America.

"To be given a document that plunks you right into a situation that Lincoln was facing, it's very compelling," said Brian Fleming, a University of Rochester librarian who is heading the online project, which debuted Feb. 18 — Presidents Day.

Lincoln official had letters

The Lincoln letters addressing the war, slavery and other affairs of state, are part of a collection of papers once belonging to his Secretary of State, William H. Seward Sr.

They were bequeathed by Seward's grandson, William Henry Seward III, who lived in Auburn, 70 miles east of Rochester, and arrived at the University of Rochester between 1949 and 1987. The digitally scanned letters appear on the school library's Web site along with transcriptions, contextual essays written by graduate students and lesson plans designed to help teachers. The archives are at www.library.rochester.edu/rbk/lincoln

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23434604/>

From the Editor

Month Four is completed! I hope it meets your expectations. We had no pictures this month, but next month we will have coverage of Camp Ford for all to see.

Hope to see you at at least some of the events we have coming up! March, April, May and June are going to be very busy!

If you have other requests or suggestions, please let me know. We are striving to make the *Douglas Dispatch* what you want in a newsletter and the best camp newsletter in Texas!

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2008 Captain James P Douglas Officers

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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the organization.

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Douglas Camp Website: www.jamespdouglas.org

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We appreciate your support. All donations are tax deductible.

Newsletter of the Captain James P. Douglas Camp #124

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Address correction requested

*

A Non-Profit Organization

Captain James P. Douglas Camp #124 meets at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Sweet Sue's Family Restaurant's Banquet Room (except December).
3350 S SW Loop 323, Tyler TX.

The Public is Invited!

