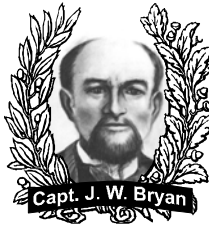


THE CALCASIEU GREYS



Capt. James W. Bryan
Camp 1390
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Lake Charles, Louisiana



Lt. Isaac Ryan
Chapter 205
Military Order of the
Stars and Bars



March 2004

Winner of the 1992-95 Dr. Paul Jon Miller National Newsletter Award
Winner of the 1997 Harvey Hutchinson State Newsletter Award
<http://www.geocities.com/scv1390>

Next Meeting



Co. John S. Mosby

The next meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at Bid Daddy's Restaurant, 3205 Common St. in Lake Charles. Compatriot Jack Christ will be the guest speaker and will give the program on Col. John S. Mosby, the Gray Ghost of the Confederacy. Mosby was born 6 Dec. 1833 in Edgemont, Virginia. He married Pauline Clarke in 1857 and was a lawyer prior to the war. Mosby joined the Confederate army as a private and initially served in "Grumble" Jones' Washington Mounted Rifles. After impressing Jeb Stuart, Mosby was promoted to first lieutenant and joined Stuart's cavalry scouts helping the General develop attack strategies. In January 1863, Stuart granted Mosby's request to form a guerilla unit, which Mosby called his Partisan Rangers. Mosby is famous for carrying out a raid far past Union lines at the Fairfax County courthouse where his men captured 3 high ranking Union officers. Some sources give Mosby credit for coining the term "the Solid South."

Virgil Carrington Jones published *Ranger Mosby* (1944) and *Grey Ghosts and Rebel Raiders* (1956). He

also wrote the late-1950s TV program, *Ranger Mosby*.

President's Budget Includes Increased Funding For Battlefield Preservation

Bush Administration budget includes \$5 million in matching grants for Civil War battlefields.

(Washington, DC) - In his Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget request to Congress, President George W. Bush included \$5 million in federal matching grants for Civil War battlefield preservation. The \$5 million provision is more than double the White House's previous request of \$2 million in FY 2004.

"We are extremely pleased with the President's decision to increase funding for battlefield preservation during a tight fiscal year," remarked Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President James Lighthizer. "Today's announcement further underscores the Administration's commitment to protecting our nation's endangered Civil War battlegrounds."

The President's budget request sets aside \$5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. If agreed to by Congress, this would represent the most money ever available in a single year for the program. Congress has previously appropriated a total of \$21 million for the program during the past six fiscal years.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program was first established by Congress in 1998 and was formally authorized as part of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002. It provides federal grant money for Civil War battlefield land outside National Park Service (NPS) boundaries. Nearly 11,000 acres of high-priority battlefield land in 15 states has been saved as a result of the program.

The success of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program is primarily due to its non-federal match requirement, which encourages state and private investment in Civil War battlefields. The grants are competitively awarded by the American Battlefield

Protection Program (ABPP), an arm of NPS. Acquisition is from willing sellers only. Among the battlefield sites that have benefited from the program are Antietam, Maryland; Bentonville, North Carolina; Chancellorsville, Virginia; Fort Donelson, Tennessee; and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

With 50,000 members, CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its goal is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War sites and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds through education and heritage tourism. CWPT's website is located at www.civilwar.org.

MOSB Discusses Confederate Constitution

At its February meeting, Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter 205, MOSB, discussed the differences between the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution, and in the Confederate States Constitutions. In the U.S. Constitution, it was pointed out the Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments to that document. In the C.S. Constitution, very similar civil and state's rights were incorporated as part of the main body of the document. The way the U.S. Constitution has evolved, the Bill of Rights are enforced by the federal government and have often been used to batter and subvert state's and individual rights. The original intent of the founder's of the U.S. was for the constitution to be the "chains" that limited the power of the federal government, not state governments. However as it has evolved, especially with the outcome of the War for Southern Independence, the federal government has broken those chains and now uses the constitution to impose its unlimited power on both the states and individual Americans.

By contrast, it was pointed out that the framers of the C.S. Constitution saw this tendency of accumulation of unlimited power by the federal government, and in their document gave the states ample safeguards to ensure local control by the people, in their states assembled. Among the safeguards for civil liberties in the C.S. Constitution are giving the state governments, not the federal government, the power to enforce civil rights; impeachment of federal officials by states and the right of just three states to call a constitutional convention to settle disputes with the federal government. Implied in these powers were nullification of unconstitutional federal laws and the ultimate check on big, tyrannical government, the right of secession.

Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter 205 is continuing its years long, in depth, study of the Confederate Constitution.

Civil War Preservation Trust Unveils Most Endangered Battlefields Report

Best-selling author Jay Winik joins CWPT to promote plight of America's hallowed battlegrounds.

(Washington, D.C.) - At a news conference this morning, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) unveiled its annual report on the status of the nation's historic battlegrounds. The report, entitled America's Most Endangered Battlefields, identifies the most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to rescue them.

"Our Civil War battlefields are vanishing at an alarming pace," warned CWPT President James Lighthizer during the news conference. "Once lost, these fragile links to America's past can never be replaced or replicated."

Joining Lighthizer at the news conference was award-winning author and historian Jay Winik. Winik is perhaps best known for his widely acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *April 1865: The Month that Saved America*. Winik is also a popular speaker and frequent television guest.

Winik describes the American Civil War as one of the defining moments in our nation's history. "These battlefields are living breathing monuments that tell us stories about the war and the people who fought it," Winik noted. "They deserved to be saved and cherished."

Also participating in the news conference was historian Benjamin Franklin Cooling, the author of several books on the Civil War era. Cooling likes to refer to battlefields as "outdoor classrooms." According to Cooling, "There is hardly a discipline that cannot be embraced by using these sites for the study of people, events, ecology and environment."

The Most Endangered Battlefields report is composed of two parts: the first section cites the 10 most endangered battlefields in the nation, with a brief description of their history and preservation status; the second section lists 15 additional "at risk" sites that round out the top 25 endangered battlefields in the country.

The sites mentioned in the report range from the famous to the nearly forgotten. However, all have a critical feature in common — each one or part of one is in danger of being lost forever. The battlefields were chosen based on geographic location, military significance, and the immediacy of current threats. "With so many battlefields under siege from sprawl, we could easily have selected a hundred," Lighthizer noted.

The top ten endangered battlefields cited in the report are as follows:

- Chancellorsville, Virginia;
- Fort Donelson, Tennessee;
- Franklin, Tennessee;
- Glendale, Virginia;
- "The Hell Hole" (Pickett's Mill, New Hope Church and Dallas), Georgia;
- Mansfield, Louisiana;

- Morris Island, South Carolina;
- New Bern, North Carolina;
- South Mountain, Maryland; and
- Wilson's Creek, Missouri

"These battlefields are the last tangible reminders of the valor of those who donned the blue and gray," Lighthizer stated. "They must be preserved for future generations of Americans."

With 50,000 members, CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds.

No News On Confederate History Month

So far, no news has been received if the new governor of Louisiana, Kathleen Blanco, will or will not proclaim April as Confederate History Month, as former Gov. Mike Foster, Republican, did annually. As lieutenant governor, Blanco showed a complete disregard for Confederate Heritage by refusing to allow the historic Port Hudson Confederate Soldiers monument be placed at the Port Hudson State Historic Park. Will Blanco continue this insulting hostility toward Louisianians of Confederate heritage.

140th Anniversary Battle Of Mansfield Reenactment



MANSFIELD -- The 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Mansfield will be Saturday, 3 April, at the Mansfield State Historic Park.

Over 1000 reenactors have reportedly registered for this event, which will make it one of the largest in state history.

For more information about the event, call the park at 318-872-1474, or toll free at 888-677-6267.

Union Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Bank's Red River Expedition of 1864 had advanced about 150 miles up Red River by 8 April. Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, without any instructions from his commander, Gen. E. Kirby

Smith, decided that it was time to try and stem this Union drive. He established a defensive position just below Mansfield, near Sabine Cross-Roads, an important communications center. On April 8, Banks's men approached, driving Confederate cavalry before them. For the rest of the morning, the Federals probed the Rebel lines.

In late afternoon, Taylor, though outnumbered, decided to attack. His men made a determined assault on both flanks, rolling up one and then another of Banks's divisions. Finally, about three miles from the original contact, a third Union division met Taylor's attack at 6:00 pm and halted it after more than an hour's fighting. That night, Taylor unsuccessfully attempted to turn Banks's right flank. Banks withdrew but met Taylor again on the 9th at Pleasant Hill. Mansfield was the decisive battle of the Red River Campaign, influencing Banks to retreat back toward Alexandria.

Mar 27 & 28, Port Hudson State Historic Site, Zachary - The Siege at Port Hudson, Civil War Re-enactment, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Join re-enactors as they stage activities typical of the summer of 1863. Union and Confederate soldiers will be on hand to answer questions pertaining to the assaults at the site. Call 1-888-677-3400 toll free or 225-654-3775 locally.

Port Hudson State Historic Site is located on US 61 in East Feliciana Parish, about 25 minutes north of Baton Rouge and 10 minutes south of historic St. Francisville. The 909-acre site encompasses the northern portion of the battlefield and features an elevated boardwalk over the breastworks in the Fort Desperate Area. Other facilities include three observation towers, six miles of trails, a museum, a picnic area and restrooms. Groups are requested to call in advance. (236 Hwy. 61, Jackson, LA 70748; 225-654-3775 or 1-888-677-3400)



Reenactment at Port Hudson

Heritage Violation at Nicholls State

THIBODAUX -- As a long-time adjunct instructor of history for Nicholls State University, an instructor of history for the LSU Lagniappe Program, and as the commander of the local General Randall Lee Gibson

Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I am deeply offended by the recent round of attacks on the Nicholls Colonel.

The Colonel represents not only the toughness of NSU athletes and the success of NSU scholars but the proud military traditions of south Louisiana and the heroic leadership of Francis T. Nicholls himself. Those of us with a clear understanding of, and appreciation for, the Jeffersonian philosophy of states' rights and rugged individualism take great pride in the history of Louisiana and the history of the South. We are particularly proud of the courage and dedication of the soldiers and sailors who fought for the independence of the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865. During the War Between the States, the Southern people boldly took a stand in defense of Jeffersonian principles against the brutal authoritarianism of Lincoln's federal government.

Those of us who are knowledgeable in the realm of history agree with the late Dr. Leonard Haynes of Southern University who pointed out that over ten thousand blacks voluntarily fought for the Confederacy. Furthermore, we happily acknowledge that the last Confederate general to surrender was Stand Watie, a Cherokee in the Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma; and we note with pride the number of Latino regiments of Texas Confederate cavalry. The first Jewish American to serve in a presidential cabinet was

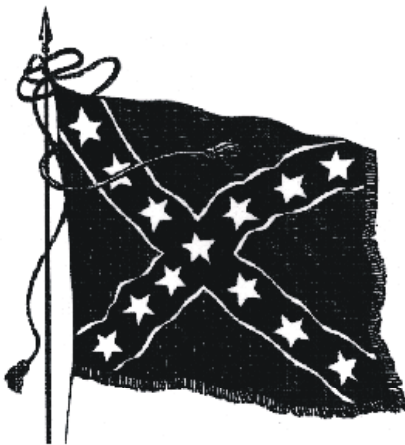
Louisiana's Judah Benjamin who was alternately Attorney General, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State for the Confederacy. These individuals were Southerners first and foremost, regardless of race or religion, and they firmly believed in the Cause of Southern independence.

It is well to remember that Francis Tillou Redding Nicholls was a general in the Confederate army and was severely wounded in the service of Louisiana and the South. At the end of the post-war Reconstruction period, Nicholls, as Governor of Louisiana, drove out the corrupt Northern carpetbaggers and restored honest government to the state. He, more than any other individual, destroyed the power of the verminous Louisiana Lottery which had impoverished millions.

In short, the Colonel in his gray uniform represents all that is best and noblest in the history of our state. In my opinion, and in the opinion of the General Randall Lee Gibson Camp, those who complain about the Colonel should "get a life" and leave the traditions of Louisiana alone.

Sincerely,
Roger L. Busbice

Captain J.W. Bryan Camp 1390, SCV
Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter 205, MOSB
<http://www.geocities.com/scv1390>



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The South's Defenders