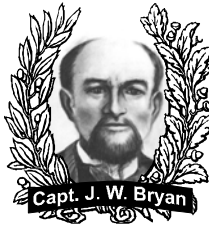


THE CALCASIEU GREYS



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



April 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

The next meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, at Big Daddy's Restaurant 3205 Common St. in Lake Charles.

Camp Commander Tommie Curtis will present a program on the upcoming funeral of the eight crewmen of the C.S.S. Submarine Hunley, to be held April 17 in Charleston, S.C. State Convention schedule

Here is a schedule of events and menus for the Louisiana Division Convention 7, 8, 9 May 2004 at the Holiday Inn South in Baton Rouge:

Friday, May 7th, 2004

Setup for Sutlers/Camp Displays 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM
- Mesa 2

Registration: 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM - Mesa 2

Executive Council Meeting 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM -
Louisiana Suite

Saturday, May 8th, 2004

Registration open 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM - Mesa 2

Continental Breakfast 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM - Mesa 1

Opening / 1st Business Session 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon
- Mesa 1

OCR Meeting 8:30 AM till - Louisiana Suite

M.O.S. & B. Luncheon 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM, Buffet
Style - Sedona 1

Guest Speaker Commander Roger Busbice

Menu: Baked Chicken or Shrimp Creole

Garden Salad or Fruit Salad

Okra & Tomatoes, Corn

Fruit Cobbler, Tea, rolls, etc.

2nd Business Session 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM - Mesa 1

Banquet/Awards/ Officer 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Buffet
Style - Sedona 1

Installation Cash Bar

Menu: Roast Pork or Fried Catfish

Garden Salad or Millionaire Salad

Vegetable medley, Green Beans, Twice Baked Potatoes

Cheesecake or Bread Pudding, Tea, rolls, etc.

Period Dance Sedona 1, 2 & 3

(Proceeds to Camp Moore) 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM -
Semi-Formal or Period Dress ONLY!

Cash Bar

Entertainment provided by 12th Louisiana String Band

Sunday, May 9th, 2004

Ceremony 10:00 AM

Brig. Gen. Henry Watkins Allen Grave

Old State Capitol, Baton Rouge (Directions provided at
Convention)

Floating of wreath in honor of CSS Arkansas
Mississippi River levee across from Old State Capitol



Confederate Constitution Was An Improvement

At the March meeting of Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter 205, Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the institutional innovations which corrected some of the flaws of the U.S. Constitution were discussed. Among the institutional improvements were term limits for the Confederate president, one, six year term in office; allow Confederate cabinet officers to have a seat on the floor of the Confederate Congress, which made for more rational legislation; strict limitations on pork barrel spending bills and a line-item veto for the Confederate president to eliminate wasteful spending projects.

The next meeting of Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter will be from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Library, 411 Pujoe St. in Lake Charles. The chapter's year long study of the Confederate Constitution will continue. All are welcome and free copies of the Confederate Constitution will be given to those who attend.

Editorial

Blanco, Landrieu fail fairness test

Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu failed the fairness test recently when they ignored requests for a Confederate History Month proclamation, on the part of Blanco, and allowing the Port Hudson Confederate Soldier's Monument be placed at Port Hudson State Historic Park.

About 15,000 Louisiana Confederate soldiers died defending the state and our constitutional rights during the War Between the States. There are over a million Louisianans of Confederate Heritage, yet they were ignored on these two simple things that would have cost the state little or nothing. Why? Could it be that that Blanco and Landrieu are so consumed with political correctness that they would rather insult a fourth of the people in this state rather than do any thing that might offend one of their political constituencies?

Neither Blanco nor Landrieu have so far shown they have any interest in a very significant segment of this state's history and heritage.

What a shame!



Mansfield/Pleasant Hill Reenactment April 2-4

MANSFIELD - The two pivotal battles of the 1864 Red River Campaign in Northwest Louisiana will be reenacted by Civil War reenactors on Saturday, April 3, at Mansfield State Historic Park and Sunday, April 4, at Pleasant Hill on the original battlefield about six miles north of the town of Pleasant Hill.

Here is the schedule of events for the Battle of Mansfield, Saturday, April 3, and Pleasant Hill, Sunday, April 4:

Saturday, April 3

10 a.m. - Parade at Pleasant Hill.

11 a.m. - Ladies Tea at Pleasant Hill.

1 p.m. - Battle of Mansfield at Mansfield State Historic Park.

3:30 p.m. - Battle of Wilson's Far at Pleasant Hill.

Sunday, April 4

10 a.m. - Church services.

11:30 a.m. - Troops drill.

2 p.m. - Battle of Pleasant Hill

For further information or directions call toll free 888-677-6267.

By April 1864, Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks' Red River Expedition had advanced about 150 miles up Red River. Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, commander of the Confederate forces in the area, decided, without any instructions from his commander Gen. E. Kirby Smith, that it was time to try and stem this Union drive. Taylor gained a victory at Mansfield on April 8. Banks withdrew from that battlefield to Pleasant Hill, but he knew that fighting would resume the next day. Taylor's reinforced force marched toward Pleasant Hill in the hopes of finishing the destruction of the Union force. Although outnumbered, Taylor felt that the Union army would be timid after Mansfield and that an audacious, well-coordinated attack would be successful. The Confederates closed up, rested for a few hours, and then attacked at 5:00 pm. Taylor planned to send a force to assail the Union front while he rolled up the left flank and moved his cavalry around the right flank to cut the escape route. The attack on the Union left flank, under the command of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Churchill, succeeded in sending those enemy troops fleeing for safety. Churchill ordered his men ahead, intending to attack the Union center from the rear. Union troops, however, discerned the danger and hit Churchill's right flank, forcing a retreat.

Pleasant Hill was the last major battle, in terms of numbers of men involved, of the Louisiana phase of the Red River Campaign. Although Banks won this battle, he retreated, wishing to get his army out of west Louisiana before any greater calamity occurred. The battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill jointly (although the former was much more decisive) influenced Banks to forget his objective of capturing Shreveport. Now 140 years later this hallowed ground where hardship and adversity was overcome by so many is threatened. Not by the environment but by the state these men fought so hard to save. You can find out more about how grave the Mansfield situation is by looking at the recent article written by the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Opelousas Camp To Host Memorial Service for Gen. Mouton

In honor of its camp namesake, the Gen. Alfred Mouton Camp in Opelousas will host two memorial services to remember his death on April 8, 1864, 140 years ago. The first service will be held Saturday, April 3 at 10:30 am at the Mansfield State Historic Site in Mansfield, La., the actual site where the General was killed in action. It is being held in conjunction with the

140th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill. The second service will be held at Mouton's statue in front of Lafayette's old city hall (corner of Lee and Jefferson Streets) on Saturday, April 10 at 10:30 am. Both services will include poetry, remembering the General's life and military career, a Confederate honor guard and laying of flowers and wreaths. The public is invited to attend.

Renovated Sabine Pass Battleground Re-Opening April 3

SABINE PASS, Texas - Sabine Pass Battleground State Park and Historic Site will be celebrating its grand re-opening April 3 after nearly a year of intensive construction and face-lifts. The approximately \$2 million project, which received funding through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation and Grant Funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has made structural and aesthetic improvements while maintaining the integrity of the historic site. Along the waterfront, a crumbling two-lane boat ramp was replaced with a four-lane ramp and dock system. Two of the new lanes are American Disabilities Act-accessible and attached to a floating dock. To protect boaters from wave-action from passing ships, TPWD also created a new boat basin off the Sabine River/Ship Channel. TPWD also re-built 1,400 feet of bulkhead along the Sabine River/Ship Channel, adding handrails and making it wheelchair-accessible. Breaks in the rails provide fishing and overlook stations.

Visitors to the park will be able to appreciate its history with improved access to the historical information and monuments. The existing interpretive kiosk, redoubt (a Civil War replica of an earthen embankment for protection) and Dick Dowling monument have easier, ADA-accessible walkways and rest stops leading up to them. Additional ADA-picnic sites have been provided and three of the original 10 overnight camping areas have been divided into two larger ADA-accessible campsites.

The 57-acre Sabine Pass Battleground State Park and Historic Site now caters to campers, anglers, boaters and tourists interested in learning about Texas' wartime history. Back in 1863, however, it was the site of a fortress under attack during the Civil War, when Lt. Richard "Dick" Dowling stopped a Union armada from sailing up the Sabine River into Texas. For more information about the park (located 15 miles south of Port Arthur) and construction, contact park manager Patrick Macouirk at (409) 971-2559 or patrick.macouirk@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Hunley Sailor Given Special Memorial in Richmond

Richmond, Va. - An honor guard of Confederate cavalry bore a casket to Virginia's Capitol March 26 in

memory of Frank Collins, a sailor who died aboard the Civil War submarine H.L. Hunley on Feb. 17, 1864.

Collins' sedimentary remains, salvaged from the Hunley after it was recovered from waters off Charleston, S.C., in 2000, are lying in state in the Capitol's Old House Chambers for one day. The procession included a six-horse team to draw a caisson bearing the casket, a rider less horse, riflemen marching in formation, women in black, hoop-skirted dresses and a bagpiper who played "Amazing Grace." The Roanoke-based cavalry unit delivered the casket to a Confederate color guard based in Mechanicsville, which then assigned shifts to soldiers watching over the remains.

Collins' remains will be moved to the Museum of the Confederacy on Saturday before being returned to South Carolina Sunday. A funeral for the Hunley's entire eight-man crew is set for April 17 in Charleston. Some members of Confederate organizations complained that the state Capitol's flags were not lowered to half-staff to honor Collins.



Confederate Soldiers Reburied In Arkansas

HELENA, Arkansas - Sons of Confederate Veterans of Arkansas buried the remains of six Confederate soldiers, found in the fall of 2002 by a hunter in a heavily wooded area of Helena, Ark. The remains of the soldiers were reburied March 20 at a Confederate cemetery in Helena Confederate-American students persecuted in North Carolina HUDSON, N.C. - Anti-Confederate school officials are discriminating against and persecuting Confederate-American students in Caldwell County high school in recent weeks.

The Anti-Confederate school officials have begun a campaign of persecution against the students who

wear T-shirts with the Confederate flag on them. It has been reported fifteen students were sent home recently from South Caldwell High for violating the dress code. The schools superintendent and school attorney told the principal to enforce the rule strictly. One T-shirt worn by 17-year-old South Caldwell student Chris Anthony bears a Confederate flag with the slogan, "Dixie will never burn again" across the back. Story of a Possible Confederate Saint?

(An Interesting Story From The Louisiana Message Board On The Internet)

I came across an interesting story this afternoon and was wondering if anyone else out there had ever heard it before. Lt. Louis Edmond LeBlanc of Co. C. "The Attakapas Guards" of the 8th. La. Inf. was from St. Martinsville, La. He enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of 23 for the duration of the war. He trained at Camp Moore and was assigned to Co. C. of the 8th. La. Inf. He was elected Lt. in 1861 and was in that position when Killed in action at the 1862 battle of Malvern Hill. He was buried at the battle site. In 1889 his grave was discovered and Gov. Nicholls was contacted about whether or not Louisiana wanted his body. Gov. Nicholls had the body shipped to New Orleans then to St. Martinsville for burial. When the casket was opened Lt.

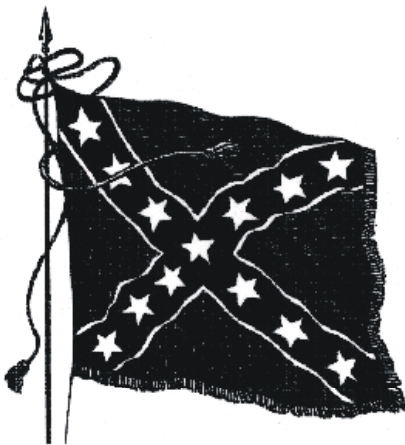
LeBlanc's remains looked like he had just died a couple of days before instead of 17 years before. His remains had not deteriorated at all and his uniform was in perfect condition.

Legend has it that he had a Catholic medal around his neck that his mother gave him when he left home. The local priest and Bishop said that when a dead persons body does not deteriorate he was with out sin and should be put up for Sainthood. Lt. LeBlanc's parents were still alive and in their 80's when this happened. Lt. LeBlanc's remains were put on view for 2 days in the local Opera House(this Opera House has just been restored) and some 5000 people from the surrounding area including his former officer in the 8th. La. now Gov. of Louisiana, Gen. Francis Nicholls came to pay their respects. He was given a burial mass and buried in the church cemetery. This all came to light when a member of the Acadian Museum Staff came across an article in the French Newspaper in St. Martinsville.

I have heard of some odd stories from the war but this is one for the books.

cajunrebel

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



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FLAG!**



The South's Defenders