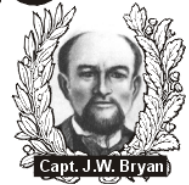


# THE CALCASIEU GREYS



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



**May 2005**

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, at Wayne Harper's Restaurant, 316 Iris St. (on the ground floor) in Lake Charles right across from the Old City Hall building.

Compatriot Jack Christ will be giving the program on the great partisan leader, Col. John Singleton Mosby, Grey Ghost of the Confederacy. Camp Cmdr. will give a report on the recently completed special SCV convention in Concord, N.C. He and Dr. Michael Bergeron represented the camp at the historic gathering, which was the best attended in recent memory.



## Commander's Report On Special Convention

Compatriots:

As your Commander, I attended and have the honor to report on the Special Convention held in Concord, North Carolina on Saturday, 23 April 2005.

The special session was called by Commander-in-Chief (CIC) Denne Sweeney after more than the required 5% of the general membership answered his urgent request for a special convention to consider two important amendments to the Constitution of the SCV.

These amendments had been narrowly defeated at the last two National Reunions of the SCV. However, the very recent attempt by a number of past CICs, who previously had enjoyed life-long membership on the General Executive Council (GEC), and who employed Machiavellian methods in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the SCV leadership at the national level, brought into sharp relief the need for a constitutional amendment to reduce the influence and power of previous CICs' with regard to the GEC, which is the governing board for the SCV.

The first amendment was to limit the number of previous CICs' serving on the GEC to the immediate past three Commanders, thereby reducing drastically the number and power of former CICs sitting on the council. Basically, it changes the council term of any past CICs from a lifetime appointment to a maximum of 6 years, and destroys the opportunity for, or the temptation to form, a "good-ole boys network" in order to undermine the projects and programs being considered or initiated by the current leadership. It also tempers the thirst for power and allows more influence from the Army, Division, and camp levels.

This amendment should reduce the influence of those who have heretofore considered themselves "elites" of the organization and whose cultivation of contempt for the rank and file membership has been amply and shamefully demonstrated.

The other amendment was for the separation and non-affiliation of the MOSB (Military Order of the Stars and Bars) from the SCV. This was a much more minor issue, but was a needed measure because of some inherent differences between the two organizations which resulted in a strained relationship.

The attendance for this history making convention was as overwhelming as it was unprecedented. Over half of the Confederation was represented as 379 camps

sent delegates. The previous high was in 2004 when 315 camps sent delegates to the national convention in Dalton, Ga.

The atmosphere was very serious and not at all festive, although the convention was not without some animation, especially from the South Carolina delegation which was having something akin to a pep rally prior to the call to order. The task at hand was one of tremendous historical significance for the future of the SCV and direction it would take; it was the proverbial crossroads. Either the SCV would be a glorified club for "history buffs" who exchanged awards with each other at national conventions like gifts at Christmas time, or the SCV would follow the charge of General Stephen Dill Lee without apologies to the erstwhile, present, or future enemies of our heritage.

Because of the special nature of this convention, a disinterested, dispassionate, and professional parliamentarian was employed, along with some assistants from Bob Jones University. I have never seen a convention chairman handle such a large body of men so expertly, smoothly and fairly. A series of microphones were set-up for those who wanted to speak for or against the amendments with a 3-minute time limit. Ample opportunity for any to speak was given and more than a few spoke. Some spoke eloquently, powerfully and with perfect inflection to make their points. Others spoke plainly but with no less passion or lucidity as to their feelings for the amendment. Not one person spoke against it. Finally, the question was called, and it was greeted with a roar of rebel yells. It was quickly seconded and attention was then turned to the 2nd amendment.

Feeling was more mixed, yet still overwhelmingly in favor of its passage. Two gentlemen spoke against it, with all others speaking strongly in favor of adopting it. Again, the question was called and then quickly seconded. Finally, the hour and the men had met. It was time to vote.

The Chairman then offered a choice. We could do it by voice vote, or by ballot. Very quickly it was determined the convention would do it by ballot so as to have a record of the exact number of votes, thereby making sure that there could be no doubt as to the amount of support for the amendments.

Within an hour and a half, the announcement was made and the numbers gave measure, meaning and a mandate:

The 1st Amendment passed by 1661 to 74 with 11 abstentions (96%.) The 2nd Amendment passed 1565 to 125 with 11 abstaining (93%.)

The convention adjourned; the amendments took effect. The future of the SCV is secure and the leadership can now lead without the fetters and impediments that to this time have frustrated their efforts. I believe we can look forward to an exciting future and it was an honor to have been a small part of and a witness to this historic event.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,  
Tommy Curtis  
Commander

## **An Open Letter To Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu Concerning Port Hudson**

As Lt. Governor we are certain that you are aware of Governor Blanco's proclamation of April as Confederate History Month. Fortunately this coincided with the National Geographic Magazine, April 2005 issue and cover story about the deplorable destruction by urban sprawl of the hallowed ground of Civil War Battlefields. An accompanying map also describes Louisiana battle sites, particularly the Port Hudson involvement. This March 1863 to July 9, 1863 battle was the successful effort to prevent Federal control of the Mississippi River and involved 30,000 Federal troops opposed by 6,800 Confederate soldiers in the longest siege in U.S. military history. Included for your information is a condensed graphic sketch of this historic activity by Michael Dan Jones. [See April 2005 issue of Calcasieu Greys]

Since Tourist Interest and Business is one of your departments' responsibilities in an era of shortfall of Louisiana State's income, then enhanced department income sources are important. The plan that has already been delayed for (4) years to purchase more property to enlarge an already existing 900 acre Port Hudson State Historic Site (PHSHS) is a waste of scarce money. Exploring better use of "what is" of such a valuable history area at minimal state cost seems desirable.

Suggestions:

1) Invite other states whose troops participated in the siege to honor with acceptable monuments, at their expense, (Confederate states, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Texas and such Yankee states as they desire) to be placed in PHSHS, such as was done at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

2) Accept the Louisiana UDC monument erected in 1930 on the battlefield ground, removed recently from what is now private property at owners' request, and offered at no cost to the state for logical appropriate relocation at the PHSHS.

3) Encourage and invite an acceptable monument honoring the Federal Louisiana Native Guard as the first use of black troops in battle.

4) Appropriate entry fee would include a brochure on PHSHS and your state tourist map, "The Civil War in Louisiana," with location and brief descriptions of other Louisiana Civil War sites of interest on the other side.

5) I have personally recently purchased the "Civil War in Louisiana," by John Winters at the Appomattox, VA. National Park and earlier self acquired "Port Hudson, Bastion on the Mississippi" by Lawrence L. Hewitt and "Guns of Port Hudson" by David Edmonds. It

would increase revenue, advertise and educate, if these books were made available for sale at the PSHS Center.

All of this would utilize a most valuable American history site to enhance tourist appeal and increase revenue for the State of Louisiana. Remember, the State has so much more than even Mardi Gras and New Orleans to offer for tourism.

Hope you will find these suggestions practical and helpful.

Sincerely,

John K. Griffith, Jr., M.D. FCCP

## **SCV Application Now Available Online**

The Sons of Confederate Veterans International Web page now includes new online tools to assist Recruiting Officers at all levels in the performance of their jobs.

Under the guidance of the Recruiting and Retention Committee, Webmaster Sandy Keathley has added the capability for a new prospect and SCV recruiting officers at all levels to download, complete and print the SCV Application Form at their own convenience at <http://www.scv.org/onlineApp.php>.

This allows the SCV to save money on printing costs for the Application Forms and makes them readily available at any time by all our recruiting officers.

Sandy has also added the ability for a recruit and/or recruiting officer to quickly query a camp database and search for all SCV camps within a defined radius of the applicant's home. This tool is located at <http://www.scv.org/campLocator.php>.

I encourage each of you to take a moment and become familiar with these pages. I think you will agree with me that they provide a greatly enhanced ability for our recruiting officers to expedite the recruitment process.

Next, Genealogy Committee Chairman Jim Templin also has changes on our international web page at <http://www.scv.org/genealogy.php>. Whenever your recruiting officers run into problems with new prospects not being able to complete their lineage documentation, take a moment and ask the Genealogy Committee for ideas on how to overcome the obstacle by describing the nature of the problem and sending it to them via email from this page.

I need not tell each of you that the SCV gains much of its respect and validity through the number of compatriots that we retain on our roles. It is incumbent on us all to do everything in our power to maintain and increase our numbers through active and decisive recruiting efforts within each division of the Confederation. My staff at IHQ are fully prepared to assist you in this effort. Should you have any questions regarding either Recruiting or Genealogy please direct

them to Compatriot Keith Morris at [mkmjr@charter.net](mailto:mkmjr@charter.net) or Jim Templin at [genhelp@scv.org](mailto:genhelp@scv.org).

Finally, Web Master Sandy Keathley is commended for his fine work in assisting these two committees.

God Save the South,

Denne A. Sweeney

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Confederate Veterans

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## **Sons Of Confederate Veterans On The Lincoln Prize At Tredegar**

RICHMOND, Va. — The recent awarding of the Lincoln Prize at the Tredegar Ironworks, one of the South's most famous sites, amounts to nothing more than a sham. The Lincoln Prize is considered the nation's most prestigious Civil War award but woe be to any historian or writer who strays off the "politically correct" reservation when it comes to Lincoln scholarship. It should be noted that any critical analysis of Lincoln or criticism is strictly verboten. In order to qualify for this prize, one must be a court historian writing only reverential platitudes about our 16th President.

Anyone offering a different view of Lincoln will not be given the courtesy or intellectual respect of even being considered. Today, there is a new vision of Lincoln, which is based on historical reality, not mythology and martyrdom. Best selling books like *The Real Lincoln* by Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo and *When in the Course of Human Events* by Charles Adams have focused on Lincoln's ambition, motives, deceits, and illegalities that are totally ignored or glossed over by the mainstream historical community, despite convincing and accurate historical research. However, because of their perspective, no consideration will be given. Such treatises are upsetting to "mainstream" historians who see time honored myths endangered by such volumes.

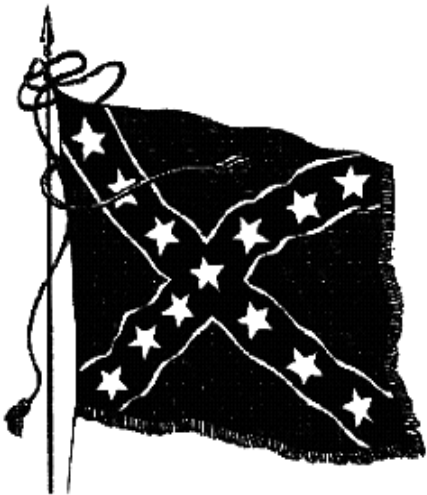
We would like to send a bulletin to the Lincoln and Soldiers Institute that administers this award. Lincoln scholarship must be more than warmed-over hagiography. Today, there are two schools of thought on Abraham Lincoln. The new school focuses on what usually starts wars—economics. Lincoln is critically viewed as a constitutional violator who launched an illegal war against the Southern states who sought only the legal right of peaceful secession. Lincoln's heavy-handed actions caused states such as Virginia to leap from the pro-Union side to the secessionist side overnight, thus making a preventable war a certainty. His policies led to the deaths of 620,000 American citizens and caused untold misery, especially in the Old Dominion. In the end, it seems sadly true to form that the prize is offered through the Civil War Institute, an adjunct

to Gettysburg College, the “institution of higher learning” who last Fall sponsored an art exhibit on the “proper way to lynch a Confederate flag”. And this done on the Gettysburg battlefield where thousands of Confederate soldiers died fighting for that flag. Today, the act moves south to Richmond.

Richmond has already had a major fight at Tredegar over the placement of the Lincoln statue. This statue, donated by the corrupt US Historical Society, was placed there ostensibly for reconciliation. Promoted by career bureaucrats of the National Park Service, leaders of the Richmond business, political and educational establishment were sucked into believing that this statue would help business and improve Richmond’s “image”. Attorney General Kilgore’s investigation of the illegal activities of the US Historical Society led to a large financial settlement showing the real motives of the donors. They were in it for the money. And this is why the Tredegar National Civil War Center is hosting this at Tredegar. The desire for money.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans strongly object to the location of the awarding of this prize. While not taking a stand on the merits of the winning book, we do criticize the fact that a whole school of Lincolnology is routinely ignored in this award. As it is presently administered, the Lincoln Prize is a fraud. Devotion to true scholarship would require all views of Lincoln to be considered. A review of past winners emphasizes this point. The award rings hollow without allowing competing ideas to even be considered. The Civil War Institute needs to stand for more than just being a cheerleader for Lincoln. There are too many contradictory aspects of his career and philosophy to be ignored.

Michael D. Jones, Editor  
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**FLY THE  
FLAG!**



**The South's Defenders**