

For Black History Month

Honoring the Forgotten Black Confederates

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www.geocities.com/scv875

In July of last year, the SCV held a memorial service for Confederate soldier Sam Cullom just outside of Livingston in the Bethlehem United Methodist Church cemetery. The SCV conducts many memorial services each year across the Nation, State, Upper Cumberland, and right here in White county. However, the service for Sam Cullom was different. You see, Sam was black.

When the War Between the States broke in Tennessee, Sam left his home with Jim and Ras Cullom to serve in the Army and to fight for their Southern rights and their home. They were mustered into service with the 8th Tennessee Infantry Regiment at Big Springs, Virginia and assigned to Capt. Calvin E. Myer's company D. Throughout Sam's service, company D saw action during the Cheat Mountain Campaign, fought at Corinth, Mississippi, Munfordville and Perryville, Kentucky, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. While defending Atlanta, then Capt. Jim Cullom was killed. Sam buried Jim then continued his service. After the war, Sam returned home and delivered Jim's personal affects to Alvin Cullom, Jim's father. Sam filed for his pension in 1921 when he was 80. By then, Sam was a respected citizen with seven children and several grand-children.

At the memorial service in July of 2004, one of Sam's descendants Dr. Althea Armstrong from Detroit said "This is a historical moment in America. Where I come from, the population is 90 percent black. Here, it is 98 percent white. But, here we are. It is not a black thing or a white thing. Today it is about freedom."

During the War Between the States, there were approximately 50,000 to 100,000 Black Confederate soldiers and sailors. There were also 100,000 to 150,000 Black engineers, builders, blacksmiths, cooks, teamsters, logistics, and many other positions. There were even Black Confederate officers. Churchwell Randals, a "free man of color" from White county, served as Corporal in the 25th Tennessee Infantry.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans honor all Confederates.

In celebration of Black History Month, we do and encourage others to learn about and honor these forgotten heroes.

For more information on Black Confederates, please visit the SCV Gen. George Gibbs Dibrell Camp #875 website at www.geocities.com/scv875