



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins
SCV Camp 1569**

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Honoring the Gray

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Honoring the Gray
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Commander's Comments

At the time you receive this letter I hope all had a wonderful Thanksgiving remembering that through the grace of God we can celebrate our wonderful accomplishments and blessings.

At the December 8th meeting we need to elect officers for the coming year. I hope all can be there at this meeting.

I hope everyone is planning to participate in the Lowry's Christmas parade on the third Saturday in December. It is a good opportunity to give the camp exposure.

Purchase lots of candy. Last year we threw out 65 pounds of candy.

Jim Floyd, Commander

Member Handbook

The camp handbook is currently being updated. It will be available to download from the Micah Jenkins website in January 2010. If you need to update your personal information please let 1st Lt. Commander Brad Blackmon know.

Brad can be reached at home (803) 325-2472, cellphone(704) 806-8420, or by email at brblackmon@comporium.net. There will also be a sheet going around at the December meeting for camp members to make any changes.

As of December, we added a couple more people to receive ***Honoring the Gray*** by email. Any member deciding to receive the newsletter by email only and removed from the mailing list can at any time change their request and again receive the newsletter by mail just by notifying me.

If you would like to receive ***Honoring the Gray*** each month by email, please send me your email address at jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com

*Yours in the Cause,
Jerry Brown, editor, Honoring the Gray*

Camp Meeting Tuesday, December 8th 2009

Regularly scheduled meeting at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant @ 7:00 PM.

Come early join the fellowship and eat.

There will be no guest speaker for December. Instead Brad Blackman will be bringing the MOC Rebel Yell CD for the camp members to enjoy.

John Cabell Breckinridge **January 16, 1821 – May 17, 1875**

John Cabell Breckinridge was an American lawyer and politician. He served as a U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator from Kentucky and was the 14th Vice President of the United States, to date the youngest vice president in U.S. history, inaugurated at age 36. In the 1860 presidential election, he ran as one of two candidates of the fractured Democratic Party, representing Southern Democrats. Breckinridge came in third place in the popular vote, behind winner Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, and Stephen Douglas, a Northern Democrat, but finished second in the Electoral College vote.

Following the outbreak of the American Civil War, he served in the Confederate States Army as a general and commanded Confederate forces, including young Virginia Military Institute cadets, at the Battle of New Market. He also served as the fifth and final Confederate Secretary of War.

A member of the prominent Breckinridge family of Kentucky, Breckinridge was the grandson of John Breckinridge (1760-1806), who served as a Senator and Attorney General; the father of congressman and diplomat Clifton Rodes Breckinridge; and the great-grandfather of actor John Cabell "Bunny" Breckinridge.

Breckinridge was born at Cabell's Dale near Lexington, Kentucky, to Joseph Cabell Breckinridge and Mary Clay Smith. He graduated from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky in 1839 and later attended the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). He then studied law at Transylvania University in Lexington and was admitted to the bar in 1840. He moved to Burlington, Iowa but soon returned to Lexington and commenced the practice of law there. He was married to Mary Cyrene Burch on December 12, 1843, in Georgetown, Kentucky. In 1847 and 1848, during the Mexican-American War, Breckinridge was a major of the 3rd Kentucky Volunteers.

Breckinridge was a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1849 as a Democrat. He was then elected to the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Congresses. He did not run for reelection, and instead was nominated as Minister to Spain by President Franklin Pierce, but declined. He was elected Vice President of the United States in 1856, on the Democratic ticket with James Buchanan as president. He was the youngest Vice President in U.S. history, elected at the age 35, the minimum age required under the United States Constitution.

Breckinridge was an unsuccessful candidate for president in the 1860 election. Nominated by the Southern faction of the split Democratic Party, he was supported by incumbent Democratic president Buchanan and ran on a pro-slavery platform. The race put Breckinridge at odds with his uncle, Robert Jefferson Breckinridge, who had supported Lincoln. Far from expectant of victory, in a letter to Varina Davis Breckinridge bemoaned "I trust I have the courage to lead a forlorn hope." In a four-way contest, he came in third in the popular vote, with 18.1%, but second in the Electoral College, winning the states of the Deep South as well as the border states of Maryland and Delaware. However, Breckinridge received almost no support in the most of the Northern states. Despite losing the presidency, he was elected the same year to the United States Senate by the Kentucky Legislature. He served from March 4, 1861, and as the outgoing vice president swore in Lincoln's vice president, Hannibal Hamlin. Despite the secession of the Southern states and the formation of the Confederate States of America, Breckinridge remained in the Senate until he was expelled by resolution on December 4, 1861 for supporting the South; ten Southern Senators had been expelled earlier the same year. Fearing arrest, he fled to the Confederacy. Unlike other Confederate leaders, such as Robert E. Lee, who claimed obedience to the will of their states, Breckinridge broke with his state after the Kentucky Legislature voted to remain in the Union.

Breckinridge entered the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War as a brigadier general and soon became a major general, originally commanding the 1st Kentucky Brigade - nicknamed the Orphan Brigade, because its men felt orphaned by Kentucky's state government, which remained loyal to the Union. He fought in many battles in the Western Theater, beginning with the Battle of Shiloh, in which he was wounded. He served as an independent commander in the lower Mississippi Valley, securing Confederate control of the area by taking Port Hudson.

Breckinridge developed an intense personal dislike of General Braxton Bragg, the commander of the Army of Tennessee. He considered him incompetent, a point of view shared by many other Confederate officers. Furthermore, Breckinridge felt that Bragg was unfair in his

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John Cabell Breckinridge

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treatment of Kentucky troops in Confederate service, such as the Orphan Brigade. Throughout the war, Breckinridge felt a strong personal need to see to the welfare of his fellow Kentuckians. For his part, Bragg despised Breckinridge and tried to undermine his career with accusations that he was a drunkard. At the Battle of Stones River in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Bragg ordered Breckinridge's division to launch a near-suicidal attack on the Union lines on January 2, 1863. Breckinridge survived the attack, but his division suffered heavy casualties. Breckinridge was devastated by the disaster; he lost nearly one-third of his Kentucky troops, primarily the Orphan Brigade. As he rode among the survivors, he cried out repeatedly, "My poor Orphans! My poor Orphans." Breckinridge continued to fight with Bragg's army, figuring prominently in the Confederate assaults on the second day, September 20, 1863, of the Battle of Chickamauga, and in the unsuccessful defense of Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga, November 25, 1863.

In early 1864, Breckinridge was brought to the Eastern Theater and put in charge of Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley. He defeated a superior Union force at the Battle of New Market, which included the famous charge of cadets from the Virginia Military Institute. Shortly thereafter, Breckinridge reinforced Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and played an important role in the Battle of Cold Harbor, where his troops repulsed a powerful Union attack.

In the summer, Breckinridge participated in Lieutenant General Jubal Early's Raid on Washington, moving north through the Shenandoah Valley and crossing into Maryland. He fought at the Battle of Monocacy in early July and was with Early when the Confederate force probed the defenses of Washington, D.C.. Since Lincoln was watching the fight from the ramparts of Fort Stevens, this was only time in American history when two former opponents in a presidential election faced one another across battle lines.

Following his service with Early's command, Breckinridge took command of Confederate forces in southwestern Virginia in September, where Confederate forces were in great disarray. He reorganized the department and led a raid into northeastern Tennessee. Following a victory outside of Saltville, Breckinridge discovered that some Confederate troops had killed scores of black Union soldiers of the 5th United States Colored Cavalry the morning after the battle, an

incident that shocked and angered him. He attempted to have the commander responsible, Felix Huston Robertson, arrested and put on trial, but was unable to achieve this before the Confederacy disintegrated.

In early 1865, Breckinridge was made Confederate States Secretary of War, a post he would hold until the end of the war. Breckinridge saw that further resistance on the part of the Confederacy was useless and worked to lay the groundwork for an honorable surrender, even while President Jefferson Davis fiercely desired to continue the fight. During the chaos of the fall of Richmond in early April 1865, Breckinridge saw to it that the Confederate archives, both government and military, were not destroyed but rather captured intact by the Union forces. By so doing, he ensured that a full account of the Confederate war effort would be preserved for history. Breckinridge went with Davis during the flight from Virginia as the Confederacy collapsed, while also assisting General Joseph E. Johnston in his surrender negotiations with William T. Sherman. Breckinridge continued to try to persuade Davis that further resistance would only lead to greater loss of life, but he also felt honor bound to protect the President from harm. Eventually, the two became separated in the confusion of the journey.

Breckinridge feared that he would be put on trial for treason by the United States government and resolved to flee the country. He and a small band sailed from Florida in a tiny boat to reach safety in Cuba. He continued to the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United Kingdom again. He returned to Lexington, Kentucky, in March 1869 after being granted amnesty, and resumed the practice of law. While turning down suggestions that he become active in politics again, he spoke out strongly against the Ku Klux Klan. He became vice president of the Elizabethtown, Lexington, and Big Sandy Railroad Company. He died in Lexington of complications from cirrhosis and was interred in Lexington Cemetery.

Lowey's Parade

Now is the time to get your candy - the annual Lowey's parade is coming soon. After Halloween is the best time to get candy when it goes on sale. And please join us at the parade December 19th.

The Corwin Amendment: Promise of Perpetual Slavery

By Bill Ward ©April 2006

The concept of state sovereignty was of foremost importance as the Constitution took shape. The great patriot, Patrick Henry — Give me liberty or give me death — refused to attend a Constitutional convention, because he was afraid the formation of a central government would usurp the rights of the individual states. State's rights was a concept held in sacred trust by the founders.

And, the popular belief that attempts by states to separate from the Union originated in 1861 is false history. In December of 1814, delegates from the New England states attended the Hartford Convention in Connecticut. The subject of the meeting: secession to protest the War of 1812. One delegate even displayed a special U.S. flag — with only five stripes. Massachusetts alone threatened secession at least four times.

New York City, in particular, believed its contributions to the national wealth far outweighed the benefits the city received from the country. The financial and commercial interests in New York, with heavy investments in the South and the textile industry, opposed Lincoln's war policy. On January 6, 1861, New York Mayor Fernando Wood wrote a letter in which he recommended that the city consider independence from the state and the Union. Leading politicians urged Lincoln to pursue a more moderate approach, agreeing with the radical newspaper editor, Horace Greeley, to letting the "erring sisters go in peace."

But had the "erring sisters" been allowed to go at all, a significant contributor would have been lost to the federal treasury. And that loss weighed heavily in Abraham Lincoln's thoughts, spurring his desire to "save the Union." He was a political animal looking for a way out of a trap.

In the 1850s, Abraham Lincoln had said, "Slavery is an unqualified evil to the negro, the white man, and the State." But in his first inaugural address on March 4, 1861, Lincoln declared that he had "no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with slavery in the States where it exists." That inaugural address was interesting, because in 1848, Lincoln was quoted as favoring secession, on the one hand, and later of a willingness to do anything to save the Union, on the other hand, even if that meant preserving the institution of slavery. Like many contemporary



Thomas Corwin

politicians, Lincoln flip-flopped on major issues for political advantage.

He made it clear that he supported the enforcement of the fugitive slave laws, and why not? As a young attorney, Lincoln had worked for slave owners to help return their runaways. But Lincoln made a comment in his inauguration address, the meaning of which might escape the casual student of history. The comment was:

"I understand a proposed amendment to the Constitution which amendment, however, I have not seen has passed Congress, to the effect that the Federal Government shall never interfere with the domestic institutions of the States, including that of persons held to service [slaves].

"To avoid misconstruction of what I have said, I depart from my purpose not to speak of particular amendments so far as to say that, holding such a provision to now be implied constitutional law, I have no objection to its being made express and irrevocable."

Lincoln was speaking of the proposed 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Written by northern Republicans in Congress, it also was called the Corwin Amendment, after Rep. Thomas Corwin of Ohio who introduced it in the House.

This proposed 13th Amendment read: "No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State."

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The Corwin Amendment: Promise of Perpetual Slavery

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Abraham Lincoln's home state of Illinois ratified the Corwin Amendment before the War Between the States broke out in 1861. It appears at 12 Stat. 251, 36th Congress. Two more State legislatures ratified it, beginning with Ohio on May 13, 1861, followed by Maryland on January 10, 1862.

The Southern states were practically handed a constitutional concession agreed to by the northern controlled congress, making slavery a permanent institution in the U.S. So, if slavery was truly the primary issue in secession, why didn't the Confederate government accept this offering instead of choosing to dig in its heels and fight for its independence?"

This exposes claims that the Union went to war in 1861 to free the slaves to be historically untrue. It also undermines claims that the South seceded solely to preserve the institution of slavery. If that had been the South's goal, what better guarantee did it need than an unrepeatable amendment to the Constitution to protect slavery as it then existed?

Read more about this amendment in the article, "Stopping Time: The Pro-slavery and 'Irrevocable' Thirteenth Amendment," by A. Christopher Bryant; Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy, Vol. 26, 2003, available on the Internet.

The present 13th Amendment to our Constitution prohibits slavery in the U.S.

Prayer Closet

- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. The SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Continue to pray for our those effected by the economy; especially those unemployed.
- Continue to pray for renewed faith and fellowship during this most special holiday.
- Pray for our service men and women protecting our freedom.
- Pray for the families of our troops.

Do you have an article for Honoring the Gray?

If so, please send to Jerry Brown at jenkinsscv@yahoo.com or call Jerry at 803-327-2834. Articles may be funny or serious as long as it reflects the ideals and purpose of the SCV. Please limit the size of articles for mailing purposes.





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January 16, 1821 - May 17, 1875