



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

**Volume X Number III**

**March 2011**



# *Honoring the Gray*

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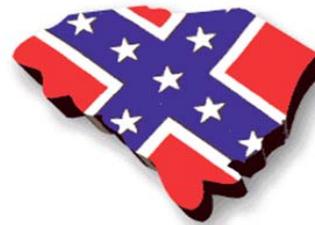
## **Commander's Comments**

Greetings once again, hopefully all are well Ol' man winter's grip over our area is just about over and spring is right around the corner. I, myself am looking forward to the longer days and warmer temperatures.

Looking ahead the South Carolina Division 2011 State Convention will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held at the Charleston Rifle Club in Charleston this year. I plan on attending and have extra registration forms & lodging information if any of our camp members are interested.

Our chaplain has asked camp members to send any prayer concerns to him. Lindsay can be reached either by email [lindsayw@comporium.net](mailto:lindsayw@comporium.net) or at home 803-329-5921.

*Your Humble & Obedient Servant,  
Brad Blackmon, Commander*



## **Our speaker this month Mr. Robert Roper is:**

Lifelong resident of Laurens County  
1973 graduate of USC

Self-employed independent insurance agent and poultry farmer  
Charter member of Brig. Gen. Samuel McGowan Camp 40 of Laurens County

Past McGowan Camp Commander (2 terms), Chaplain, and Lt. Cdr.  
Past SC Division Commander, past Division Judge Advocate, and past  
Division Convention Planning Ctte. Chairman  
Currently serving the SC Division as Division Inspector.

## *Honoring the Gray* Editor

Jerry Brown  
803-327-2834  
[jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com)

## **Camp Meeting Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Regularly scheduled meeting at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant @ 7:00 PM.  
Come early join the fellowship and eat.

Mr Roper's presentation this month is:  
"South Carolina State Convention of 1860"

## Order of Confederate Rose

At the last meeting of the Micah Jenkins Camp, we discussed and voted on sponsoring an auxiliary group to help support the Camp called the Order of Confederate Rose. Some questions arose as to the purpose and activities of the OCR.

“The OCR is an independent support group to the Sons of Confederate Veterans - organization and local camps thereof, governed by its own bylaws and standing rules. The OCR is nonprofit, nonracial, nonpolitical and nonsectarian.

The OCR assists the SCV with their historical, educational, benevolent and social functions. Special emphasis is placed on the preservation of Confederate symbols. As there are few rules and restrictions to stifle the creativity of its members, each OCR Chapter is free to focus on the activities important to its local SCV Camp along with supporting their efforts on the state and national levels.”

This will be good in getting the member’s wives and family involved to help YOUR SCV Camp grow and keeping YOUR Southern Heritage alive. To start a Chapter only seven members are needed. Membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy is NOT required. According to the information I’ve read, there are no restrictions for membership until the Chapter sets up it’s own restrictions.

If interested, please contact myself, Jerry Brown or Brad Blackmon for further information on starting a new OCR chapter to support YOUR Micah Jenkins SCV Camp. Additional information on the Order of Confederate Rose can be found at their web site: [www.scocr.org](http://www.scocr.org).

Contact:  
Jerry Brown  
803-371-6237 cell  
SCVCamp1569@yahoo.com email  
or  
Brad Blackmon  
803-325-2472

### **Honoring the Gray**

**Needs your input each month.**

**Do you have an article you would like to see in the the newsletter?**

If so, please send to Jerry Brown at [jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkinsscvc@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.



### **Prayer Closet**

- Continue to pray for our those effected by the economy; especially those unemployed.
- Please continue to keep Laddie's mother (Clara Parrish) on your prayer list.
- Please add 4 month old, Ansley Grace. Ansley has serious heart problems and is scheduled for three seperate heart surgeries.
- Please add Compatriot Jimmy Owens to your prayers. Due to his diabetes, his legs began to swell terribly. He was admitted into hospital last month and unfortunately lost part of his foot and still not in the clear.
- Also add Anthony Gonzalez (a member of the 6th SCVI). He has not been doing well.
- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. The SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

### **From the Chaplain**

Please send your Prayer Requests to our Camp Chaplain, Lindsay Waldrop. Lindsay can be contacted by phone (803-329-5921) or by email ([lindsayw@comporium.net](mailto:lindsayw@comporium.net)).

### **Web Site Update:**

If you haven't checked out the web site lately, please do soon. Our web master, Chris Brown, has done a lot of work and made several additions.

The web site now contains all the past newsletters from January 2009 to present and a list with all the articles has been added. The list gives the titles of each of the articles and what month and year the article appeared in.

A page has been added for our Chaplain and another page "Join Us" has been added with information on joining the Micah Jenkins Camp.

[www.bgmicahjenkins.org](http://www.bgmicahjenkins.org)

## March 1861 Timeline

**March 3rd** - General Winfield Scott, head of the Federal Army, indicates in a letter to Secretary of State Steward that relief of Fort Sumter is not practical.

**March 4th** - Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated as President of the United States. In his address, Lincoln emphasizes his position on slavery, stating that he is not opposed to the institution where it is already established.

**March 6th** - Despite Lincoln's refusal to deal with them, the Confederate commissioners appointed by Jefferson Davis try to establish negotiations with the Republicans now in office.

**March 11th** - In Montgomery, Alabama, delegates from South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas adopt the Permanent Constitution of the Confederate States of America.

**March 12th** - Three Confederate commissioners, who had come to Washington seeking negotiations toward a peaceable separation, addressed Secretary of State William Seward with an official letter of intent. Seward, speaking only through Supreme Court Justice John A. Campbell, assured the Confederate commissioners that the Union troops in Fort Sumter in Charleston and Fort Pickens in Pensacola would not be sent supplies without due notification and led them to expect that the forts would be evacuated in a few days. As the commissioners were departing for home, they learned that supplies and military reinforcements were already assembled and ready to depart the port of New York for Fort Sumter.

**March 13th** - Since Lincoln is averse to validating the Confederate nation in any respect, he counsels Secretary of State Seward to refuse meetings with Confederate ambassadors on any grounds. Lincoln hopes to sidestep the question of whether or not the Confederate states have actually left the Union.

**March 16th** - Arizona votes to leave the Union and join the Confederacy, in a convention at Mesilla. The Confederate government later establishes a territorial government for Arizona.

**March 18th** - A State Convention in Arkansas turns down a move to secede 39-35, but agrees to an election later in the summer to allow for public voting on the secession question.

**March 29th** - Lincoln announces his plan for Fort Sumter. It will not be evacuated and a force will be sent to supply and support the fort.

### 1st Lt Commander's Comments

In SCV education takes many roads. Each of our meetings has a speaker and we usually have about 30 minutes to learn some very old, but interesting historical event which affected our ancestors.

There is another kind of educational opportunity, however, which I encourage you to take advantage of. The education we get when we rub elbows with other SCV compatriots, when we see and hear of how other SCV camps are progressing. Just such an opportunity is around the corner.

Once each year, the South Carolina Division hosts its annual convention. This year promises to be spectacular. It is hosted by the Charleston Secession Camp #4 and will be held on April 8 and 9. The Friday night affair is an oyster roast and the business meeting is on Saturday.

Last year I attended the South Carolina Division meeting in Florence. When the meeting opened and my fellow SCV members marched down the aisle flying their camp colors, dressed in period clothes, frankly, I got goose bumps along my arms. The building and conference hall were decorated with Confederate flags and for just a moment I felt like I was actually at a Confederate gathering.

Charleston also offers an exceptional opportunity to visit both Forts Moultrie and Sumter and to stand on the battery and relive the events that occurred 150 years ago. Charleston is the home of the Hunley, the world's first successful battle submarine.

The South Carolina Division meeting this year should be a memorable event.

*Bucky Sutton*

### Help save your SCV Camp money!!

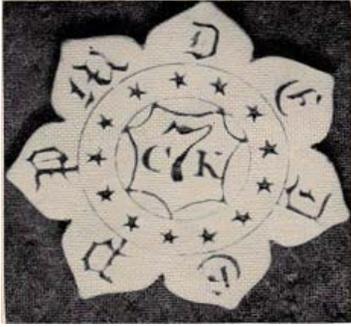
Do you have internet and email?  
Are you still receiving *Honoring the Gray*  
by US Mail?

Take a try at getting *Honoring the Gray*  
by email.

Send me your email address and  
I'll send you the newsletter by email.  
If you are not happy with receiving by email, you  
can always switch back to "snail mail".

Send to: [jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com)

## Seven Confederate Knights By Frances Keller Swinford



This heptagonal button, the badge of "The Seven Knights of the Confederacy", is owned by Mrs. C. W. Swinford of Lexington, Kentucky. Believed to be the only one in existence, it belonged to her grandfather, Captain John Esten Keller, one of the "Seven".

"It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country." This was the motto of the Seven Knights of the Confederacy, whose badge was the heptagonal button pictured above. Translated from the Latin, "Dulce et Decorum Pro Patrie Mortui", it is the same sad and noble refrain uttered hundreds of times and in myriad tongues. In this particular time and place in history it was the motto of seven Confederate soldiers who banded together into a secret society while they were incarcerated in the Federal prison at Rock Island Arsenal at Davenport, Iowa in 1863 and '64.

One of their numbers was, in Civilian life, an artisan of the jeweler's trade. From mussel shells gathered from the Mississippi River in which the Island is located, he made seven identical heptagonal buttons for the Seven Confederate Knights. The above button is one of these, probably the only one in existence. It is about the size of a quarter and contains seven points, one for each of the seven prisoners who took an oath to become a member of the society. Each prisoner had to avow that he would never accept a parole from prison, but that he would somehow escape and return to fight for the glorious "Cause" of the South. (A parole carried the proviso that the recipient would never again bear arms against the Union-and these were men of honor.)

On each of the seven points of the button is a Latin numeral, the symbols for "Dulce et Decorum Pro Patrie Mortui." The thirteen stars represent the thirteen Confederate states and the C7K stands for the Seven Confederate Knights.

This particular button belonged to Captain John Esten Keller of Lexington, Kentucky, who was at the time of his capture serving as a lieutenant of Company F, Fifth Kentucky Cavalry under General John Hunt Morgan's command. His portion of General Morgan's command surrendered at Salineville, Ohio in July, 1863 after having participated in the famous "Ohio Raid". Lieutenant Keller was among those prisoners who were transferred from the Ohio Peni-

tertiary at Columbus to the Rock Island Arsenal, which is located in the Mississippi River between Davenport, Iowa and Moline, Illinois.

There followed a long, cruel, wearisome imprisonment of some twelve months during which he was never outside the prison walls.

The two things which gave the greatest impetus to the organization of the Secret Seven were the terrible prison conditions and the burning desire to escape and return to the fray. We have all heard about the horrors of Confederate prisons, particularly Andersonville, but it had nothing on the Island, according to Keller. The prisoners were subjected to the usual discipline which included a ration of eight ounces of bread and four ounces of beer per day. Fresh meat being at a premium, the starving prisoners would catch rats and roast them. Tiring of this diet, they began to catch the dogs which wandered in with the supply wagons. These they would skin and boil for dinner. This got into the newspapers in Illinois and Iowa, and there was such a commotion raised about the treatment of prisoners of war that the authorities wouldn't allow any more dogs in with the wagons.

Captain Keller tells an amusing story about this. Upon hearing that Federal General Joe Hooker was paying a visit to the prison to be shown what good condition the barracks were in and how well the inmates were treated, the prisoners got out the skins of sixty-seven dogs which they had eaten and nailed them up on the sides of the buildings. The General asked an officer what those skins were and the embarrassed young man managed to stammer, "They're coon skins, Sir." This seemed to satisfy the general.

The Secret Seven were kept posted on affairs in the world outside through agents in Davenport who communicated with them through an under-ground system and even provided them with money. The society had grown in number to hundreds of hand-picked men who were dedicated to the Cause and who could be implicitly trusted. The seven officers, however, those who wore the buttons, planned to wait until the last moment to tell the others the details of the escape plan so there could be no possible leak. Out of the 14,000 prisoners there, about 500 were tapped for the conspiracy.

There was an immense pole in the center of the grounds which the Secret Seven had worked loose. They planned to use it as a battering ram to break down the gate. Then they planned to overcome the guard, take possession of the arsenal, and make their way to Davenport and join a Confederate force which they had heard was working its way up into northern Missouri for the purpose of freeing the

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## **Brig. Gen. Roswell Sabin Ripley, CSA** **by Chet Bennett**

Why is Brigadier General Roswell Sabin Ripley so controversial and, I believe, unfairly disparaged? What is the source of the negativity in the works of modern writers regarding Ripley? For example: Ezra Warner in *Generals in Gray* described Ripley as “. . . a skillful and competent field officer, but forever at odds with both his superiors and subordinates . . .”

Stewart Safakis in *Who Was Who in the Civil War* cites Ripley’s “. . . inability to get along with his superiors.”

Lawrence Hewitt, author of a biographical sketch of Ripley in *The Confederate General* series stated “The troublesome Roswell Ripley . . . Although a proficient field officer Ripley seldom got along with either his superiors nor his subordinates.”

Clifford Dowdy in *The Seven Days: The Emergence of Robert E. Lee* claimed, “An opinionated man, Ripley was even more contumacious than D.H. Hill, where Hill respected some superiors, Ripley was against them all.”

Today many repeat these negative assessments and the question arises: How did this all get started and is it justified? I will try to indicate the source of this negativity and later counter with positive comments and descriptions of Ripley by his contemporaries.

On December 20, 1860 South Carolina seceded from the Union. A few days later Major Robert Anderson abandoned Fort Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island and moved his forces to Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Before leaving Fort Moultrie Major Anderson spiked the cannons, burned the gun carriages and damaged the hot-shot furnaces. Roswell Ripley, now a lieutenant colonel commanding the Battalion of Artillery in the South Carolina Militia, repaired the damage done by Anderson to put Fort Moultrie in fighting condition. On April 12, 1861, following orders from his commanding officer in Charleston, General P. G. T. Beauregard, Ripley’s artillery began the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Captain Abner Doubleday, who was at Fort Sumter, knew Ripley from the USMA and was aware that Ripley was in command at Fort Moultrie. Doubleday stated in his official report that Ripley “. . . being a man of talent and a skillful artillerist did us a great deal of harm.”

Following the surrender and evacuation of Fort Sumter, Beauregard placed Ripley in charge of its repairs, and on August 15, 1861 Ripley was promoted to brigadier general.

Governor Francis Pickens wrote to President Jefferson Davis stating, “Ripley is by far the most efficient and thorough officer here, and has been working night and day to put Sumter in fighting order. I owe him more than any other single man, and the people of Charleston know it.” There is no indication that Beauregard, in overall command in South Carolina, was having any problems with Ripley.

In November 1861 Robert E. Lee replaced Beauregard who had been transferred to Virginia. Lee and Ripley differed regarding the defensive lines around Charleston. Basically Lee believed the lines should be more contracted while Ripley thought they should be as far from Charleston as practicable. Before this issue was settled Lee was transferred back to Virginia and Major General John C. Pemberton assumed command. Much to the consternation of South Carolinians, almost immediately Pemberton began abandoning the outer defensive lines around Charleston and the coastal city of Georgetown. Ripley and many influential Charlestonians were outraged and although Ripley protested, it was to no avail. Finally, believing he couldn’t work with Pemberton, Ripley requested a transfer.

The transfer granted, Ripley was placed in command of the 5th Brigade in D. H. Hill’s Division of the Army of Northern Virginia. Ripley’s brigade consisted of the 1st and 3d North Carolina and the 4th and 44th Georgia Infantry Regiments. His brigade, in action at Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill and Malvern Hill in the Peninsular Campaign, sustained heavy casualties. They next participated in Robert E. Lee’s invasion of Maryland and fought at South Mountain and Sharpsburg. General Ripley, while rallying his brigade around the burning Mumma farm buildings at Sharpsburg, sustained a serious Minie ball wound of the throat. General D. H. Hill commented that “Ripley’s wound was dressed and he heroically returned to the field.”

Following his recovery, Ripley returned to Charleston where Beauregard had replaced the unpopular Pemberton. Both Beauregard and Governor Pickens requested Ripley’s return to command. Beauregard even recommended Ripley’s promotion to major general which was denied. After Ripley’s return in October 1862 all went well until May 1863. At that time Ripley criticized the slow progress of the defensive works on Morris Island, site of Battery Wagner the subject of the motion picture *Glory*. Ripley directed his complaints against Beauregard’s engineers and indirectly at Major D. B. Harris who was a personal friend of Beauregard. Charges and countercharges ensued. Beauregard supported Harris and the engineers and rebuked Ripley, telling him to “leave the engineering duties to the engineers.”

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**Micah Jenkins Website**

**The web address is:**  
**[bgmicahjenkins.org](http://bgmicahjenkins.org)**

## **Brig. Gen. Roswell Sabin Ripley, CSA** **by Chet Bennett**

Possibly generated by this dispute an anonymous report designed to discredit Ripley surfaced. It criticized Ripley's drinking and his "rollicking habits." During this time Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Fremantle of His Majesty's Coldstream Guards was in Charleston on his three month tour of the Confederacy. Fremantle described Ripley as ". . . a jovial character, very fond of the good things of this life, but it is said that he never allows this pro-propensity to interfere with his military duties, in the performance of which he displays both zeal and talent. He has the reputation of being an excellent artillery officer, and although by birth a Northerner, he is a red-hot and indefatigable Rebel. . . . Nearly all the credit of the Charleston fortifications is due to him . . . notwithstanding his northern birth and occasional rollicking habits, he is generally popular. "

As Ripley had warned, Union forces gained a foothold on unprepared Morris Island and later attacked Battery Wagner. Although the Confederates repulsed the attack by the 54th Massachusetts Infantry and other regiments, a prolonged siege ultimately forced them to evacuate the battery.

Ripley and Beauregard had a second confrontation in November 1863. Ripley again criticized the engineers for lagging defense construction; this time on Sullivans Island. Before this dispute was fully resolved, Beauregard was again transferred to Virginia and replaced by Major General Sam Jones. On August 24, 1864 Jones commended Ripley for his actions during the Federal attacks the previous month. Then in September, during General Jones absence, Ripley received orders from a Major Lay of Jones' staff. Ripley didn't believe the orders had been authorized by Jones and according to Lay "in a violent, rude, and insulting manner . . . refused to obey or receive orders from headquarters." Lay attributed the confrontation to Ripley's drinking, not the authorization issue. Lay then claimed Ripley had been drinking during the previous July attacks for which Ripley had just been commended. Unfortunately for Ripley, Jones backed Lay and the situation deteriorated.

Surprisingly, Beauregard was sent to Charleston to investigate the situation. Beauregard attempted to discredit Ripley alleging he had a drinking problem. However, Ripley's staff officers supported him fully and the charges were dropped. Beauregard next tried to have Ripley transferred and replaced by D. B. Harris. Charlestonians rallied to Ripley's support and circulated petitions stating in part that "his removal would be a public calamity," Endorsed by Governor M. L. Bonham, as well as Senators Barnwell and Orr, the petitions were forwarded to Secretary of War Seddon and President Jefferson Davis.

Beauregard countered with a scathing attack on Ripley, "Brig. Gen. Ripley is active, energetic, intelli-

gent, ambitious, cunning and fault finding. He complains of every commanding officer he has served under, and has quarreled (or had difficulties) with almost every one of his immediate subordinate commanders." The facts dispute this assessment; however, Beauregard's attack appears in the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, and has been cited repeatedly by many writers. This most likely is the source of their negativity regarding Ripley.

In marked contrast many of Ripley's contemporaries were much more positive in their assessments of him.

George C. Eggleston, who had served in Charleston in an independent battery, wrote A Rebels' Recollections after the war. He described Ripley as being ". . . portly in person, of commanding and almost pompous presence, and yet, when one came to know him was as easy and unassuming as if he had not been a brigadier general at all. . . General Ripley was a brave, earnest man and a fine officer, of a sort of which no army can have too many."

Former Ripley staff officer Colonel E. M. Seabrook stated that "Ripley always endeavored to bestow upon his subordinates, officers and men, the full measure of praise due them."

Former USMA classmate and Confederate General Samuel G. French commented, "He was generous, open-hearted, outspoken; harbored no resentments. His cheerful presence dispelled all unnecessary solemnity . . . his generous and unselfish disposition formed friendships among his classmates that lasted through life . . . Above these he was honest, upright in all his dealings and, I think, pure of heart,

Following the battle of Malvern Hill, a Mr. Boykin criticized General Ripley in a Macon Georgia newspaper for the losses incurred by the Georgia regiments in his brigade. He believed that Ripley had ordered a frontal assault on fortified Union artillery, Captain Joseph B. Reese of the 44th Georgia Infantry responded, "The attack was ordered by General D.H. Hill, not Ripley. Mr. Boykin does General Ripley an injustice. The general is a man of discretion as well as bravery. Although blustery and rough in his manner, yet he loves his men. He put himself with his men and on the charge he went, showing willingness to take his chances with the men. "

As we have seen, this trait resulted in Ripley being wounded in action at Sharpsburg.

After the war Ripley spent nearly twenty years in England. These were difficult times for him especially in the early years. Ripley went bankrupt, his wife left him, and she and their daughter Alicia returned to Charleston. Gradually Ripley's situation improved and after a Democrat had been elected

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## **Brig. Gen. Roswell Sabin Ripley, CSA** **by Chet Bennett**

President, in 1885 Ripley returned to New York City. There he joined a group of ex-Union and Confederate officers who made the New York Hotel their home and headquarters. There is no evidence that Ripley ever returned to Charleston to see his wife or daughter again.

On March 29, 1887, after a hearty breakfast, Ripley suffered a massive stroke and died that night. He had expressed a desire to be buried in Charleston, and when notified Mayor W. A. Courtenay, responded that “. . . the city would esteem it a high privilege to carry out the wishes of the superb old soldier who while he lived loved Charleston.” Ripley’s remains were transported to Charleston by rail. City newspapers reported the death of Charleston’s Gallant Defender twenty-two years after he had left the city.

The funeral service was held on Sunday April 3 and all city and port flags were flown at half-mast. The bells of St. Michaels tolled continuously from 8:00 AM until the service at 10:00 AM. Ripley’s pallbearers included several of his former staff officers and former war-time governor A. G. Magrath. Ripley’s wife did not attend the funeral, but his daughter, Alicia, did. The Charleston News and Courier reported that, “The streets were lined for a long distance on every side of the church through respect for the departed soldier. The church was filled. The city paid its debt of gratitude to its historic defender. It has been years since an event of so much significance has taken place in this old city.”

In 1894, seven years after Ripley’s burial in Magnolia Cemetery, the Confederate Survivors Association erected a monument to him. During the war Henry Timrod, the Poet Laureate of the Confederacy, had written a poem extolling Ripley. Lines from the poem are reproduced on the monument and Ripley’s place of birth, Worthington, Ohio is prominently displayed.

Admittedly Ripley had faults, shortcomings and was probably too outspoken, but he would not tolerate inefficiency or incompetence. He directed criticism at those whom he felt were inept or negligent. The citizens of Charleston resoundingly expressed their appreciation and devotion to Ripley at the time of his death, some twenty-two after the fall of the Confederacy. Many participated in the defense of Charleston during the War for Southern Independence, but one of the most constant and resolute was Roswell Sabin Ripley.

Brig. Gen. Roswell S. Ripley  
Camp 1535  
Columbus, Ohio  
[www.scvohio.org/RipleyTalk.htm](http://www.scvohio.org/RipleyTalk.htm)

## **Seven Confederate Knights** **By Frances Keller Swinford**

prisoners at Rock Island. Everything was carefully planned and, according to Keller who had previously escaped from another prison, could not miss. The guards were nearly all wounded and disabled soldiers and the prisoners felt they could overcome them easily and make good their escape.

Fate, however, intervened when a few days before “Escape Day” word came that many of the prisoners were to be exchanged. Hundreds were packed off to Chicago in relays and the elaborate plan fell through.

But the Seven Knights stayed behind, and Captain Keller later made good his vow to escape in a most dramatic way. He and another of the Seven thought they had bribed certain guards to let them escape. The guards stuck their bayonets in the prison walls to enable Keller and his companion to climb up and jump off the wall to the other side. The guards, however, had warned the Yankee officers, who were ready for them. When Keller jumped he saw what he thought to be stumps - it was dark and he was unable to distinguish objects very well. The stumps turned out to be Union soldiers and they began to fire upon him. He called to his companion not to jump and then he started running. A Yank grabbed his shawl but he kept on running and, miraculously, was not hit. Many years later he heard that, the prison authorities had placed his shawl over a coffin and asked some of the prisoners, among them his companion of the escape attempt, if they knew Captain Keller’s family so they could be notified of his death. But the companion knight was too smart to fall for this trick to disclose his identity. He kept silent and later made good his own escape.

While Captain Keller left voluminous notes and records of his experiences while serving the Confederacy, he was strangely silent regarding the Seven Knights. He wore the button as a watch fob for the remainder of his life and proudly showed it to his friends and acquaintances, but the names of the other six knights were tightly sealed in his heart.

*Note: This fascinating story, “Seven Knights of the Confederacy” was written by Mrs. C. R. Swinford, Lexington, Kentucky, a granddaughter of one of the Knights, and present owner of the badge.*

Article from UDC Magazine June 1962



BG Micah Jenkins Camp # 1569  
4240 Mt Gallant Road  
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732



**Roswell Sabine Ripley (March 14, 1823 – March 26, 1887)**