



## Next GSOC Meeting May 14, 2016 10:00 a.m.

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

### Remembering Our Civil War Ancestors



For our May program, a group of GSOC members will show and tell about their ancestors who served in the Union or Confederate forces during the Civil War or who endured those terrible years in other ways.

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### THE WALTON GUARDS

<http://www.waltonguards.org/1st FL Inf Reg Co D.htm>

The Walton Guards were formed in Euchee Anna, Florida in March 1861 from men in Walton and Santa Rosa Counties (Okaloosa County was not yet formed). In April, they sailed to the Narrows and established Camp Walton near the Indian mounds. Here these Floridians acted as an independent company guarding the Narrows and East Pass, keeping it open for shipping to Pensacola. They spent their nights in shanties that they had built and

regularly received supplies, mail and even visits from their women folk by way of two schooners.

A year after their formation in Euchee Anna, some of the men were taken to East Pass to chase off a union gunboat. They crossed Joe's Bayou and ambushed two longboats from the Federal Gunboat. When the gunboat turned its guns at the small band of men, they returned to Camp Walton. On April 1, 1862, during roll, these volunteers received fire from two cannons hiding behind the dunes on the island across the sound from camp. They retreated for a few weeks as far as Boggy Bayou, and then returned to Camp Walton.

Soon afterward they were sent to Chattanooga, Tennessee to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Florida Infantry as Company D in time to fight in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky in October, suffering great loss. In November the 1<sup>st</sup> Florida became part of the Army of Tennessee, Confederate States Army, for the remainder of the war.

They became involved in the battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Florida consolidated and participated in the defense of Jackson, Mississippi in July 1863. May through September 1864 brought many battles involving the Floridians during the Atlanta campaign. Next came the battles of Franklin, Spring Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Murfreesboro and Nashville, resulting in mass casualties. Their last battle is that of Bentonville, North Carolina in an attempt to join the rest of the Confederate Army. The Walton Guard was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina on May 1, 1865.

### FIRST FLORIDA FEDERAL CAVALRY

by Mark Curenton, Apalachicola, Florida

It is not commonly known that, in addition to the Confederate units that were raised in Florida during the Civil War, two regiments of cavalry were organized in the state to serve in the Union Army.

These units, the First and Second Florida Cavalry Regiments, consisted of elements from Florida's sizeable pro-Union minority, along with disaffected ex-Confederates. A large percentage of the men were deserters from Confederate service, while many of the unit's officers came from outside of the state.

The First Florida Cavalry was organized at Fort Barrancas (Pensacola) from December 1863 to August 1864. The unit operated in west Florida and southern Alabama during its enlistment. Elements of the First Florida Cavalry participated in various scouts and expeditions, among which were actions at Camp Gonzalez and near Pollard, Alabama; the expedition to Marianna, Florida;

and the campaign against Mobile, Alabama. The regiment was mustered out of service in November 1865.

**This article was extracted from the GSOC *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, Summer 1999 issue, was written by Mark Curenton who has done extensive research on the First Florida (Federal) Cavalry.**

Growing up in north Okaloosa County I have heard stories all my life about my great-grandfathers who served in the Confederate army. One story told of a grandfather being shot through the body and having a silk handkerchief pulled through him to clean out the wound. Another grandfather reached into a wagon full of corn shucks looking for something to eat and pulled out a human hand that had been amputated. But there was one of my great-grandfathers whom I never heard any stories about. I always assumed that he had not served during the Civil War, but about a dozen years ago I learned different. He had served in both, first in the Confederacy - 1862-?, but also in the Union Army in the First Florida Federal Cavalry. I began to study this regiment, and this is what I have learned.

**West Florida and South Alabama were known as areas of loyalist sympathy from the earliest days of the war. Walton County, Florida, was one good example. It elected two delegates, A. L. McCaskill and John Morrison, to the state secession convention who were opposed to leaving the Union. They cast two of the seven votes against Florida's ordinance of secession. For this the county was called "Lincoln County" by the other delegates to the secession convention. One of the infantry companies raised in the county to fight for the Confederacy was known as the "Union Rebels".**

Many of the men in the area were reluctant to fight for a government they did not support and many of them fled their homes rather than submit to being drafted when the Confederacy instituted conscription in 1862. Those that were drafted frequently deserted at the first opportunity. Soon the woods and swamps in West Florida and South Alabama were full of disaffected southerners who had either deserted from the army or were hiding from conscription. As early as April 1862 the governor of Florida was complaining about disloyal elements in portions of the state, and by 1863 the governors of both Alabama and Florida were appealing to Confederate authorities for assistance in controlling the bands of deserters and draft dodgers who had established themselves in the area.

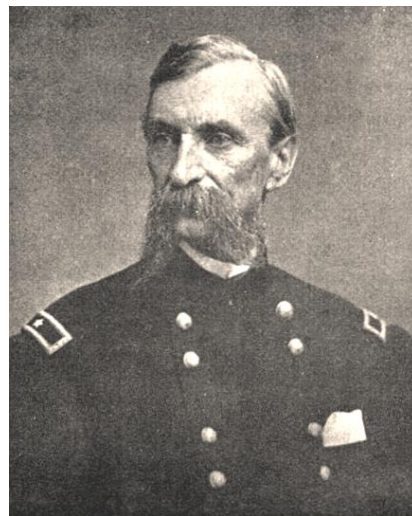
Many of these men and their families found their way to safety behind Union lines at Pensacola. To these men the Union garrison offered the safest refuge from Confederate authorities. To the Federals, however, these men offered a potential pool of recruits. The Federal commander at Fort Barrancas recommended that they be recruited into the Union Army.

By late 1863 the military situation in West Florida had settled into something of a stalemate.

The Union forces held the Navy Yard at Pensacola and the forts protecting it. The garrison, much reduced by the demand for troops for the campaigns along the Mississippi River and further north, consisted of just two regiments of infantry, two companies of artillery and one company of cavalry.

The major Confederate force in the area consisted of Clanton's Alabama brigade of cavalry, infantry and artillery. They were posted to guard the railroad from Mobile Bay to Montgomery, skirting Escambia County to the north. Morale in the brigade was low and during the winter of '63-64 some of the troops mutinied. This resulted in the brigade being broken up and the regiments reassigned to separate commands. They were replaced by more reliable troops.

When Brigadier General Alexander Asboth arrived to take command of the Union garrison at Fort Barrancas in November 1863, he carried orders authorizing him to organize the First Florida Cavalry. Asboth was a Hungarian, having served in the failed revolution of 1848 before being exiled to America. At the outbreak of the Civil War he joined the Union Army, serving in Missouri as chief of staff to General Fremont. An ambitious man, Asboth saw the assignment to West Florida as a chance to distinguish himself in an independent command, while earning recognition and advancement. Organizing a new regiment would add to his meager garrison and enable him to accomplish greater military feats.



**General Alexander Asboth**

Recruitment for the First Florida Cavalry went well at first. Drawing initially on the men who had already entered the Union lines, Asboth also sent out expeditions to gather recruits from the surrounding areas. By January 10, 1864, over 120 men had enlisted. A recruiting camp was established at Point Washington in what is now south Walton County, but it was abandoned when the garrison and recruits were captured while attempting to capture a Confederate cavalry company on the Choctawhatchee River. Another camp was soon established at East Pass (Destin). By the beginning of March 1864, 300 recruits were present and, on March 27, the first battalion of the regiment (Companies A, B, C, and D) was mustered into service.

The steady stream of men defecting to the Union Army did not go unnoticed. The Confederate took measures to lamp down on the flow of men into the Union lines. Clanton's brigade was replaced by troops from Tennessee and Mississippi considered more loyal to the South.

Patrols were established along the north shore of Choctawhatchee Bay to prevent men from reaching the Union recruiting camps. When six loyalists were discovered in Boggy Bayou trying to cross Choctawhatchee Bay to East Pass, the rebels fired upon them, killing three and wounding two.

There were probably many reasons why men enlisted in the First Florida Federal Cavalry.

Some of the men professed love for the Union, many more were probably running from the Confederate Army, but the most tangible reason, in my belief, was the \$300 bounty offered for enlistment. General Asboth wrote, "Considering the general destitution of the people here, it would be an act of humanity, as well as good policy, to grant advance payment of the bounty." Later he reported, "Enlistments in the First Florida Cavalry still continue, although the inability to pay the recruits the advance bounty has a tendency to check it." Many of the men deserted shortly after enlisting, once they had the bounty in their hands.

Although the flow of recruits diminished, enough men were enlisted to form new companies.

There were some serious concerns about the quality of the men in the regiment. Colonel William Holbrook, ironically the man who evidently had first suggested the recruitment of the regiment, considered the southern refugees gathered at the Navy Yard to be "an ignorant, lazy, and worthless lot." Seventeen years after the war he wrote, "It was not altogether safe, however, to rely too much upon troops made up from such an element. They were not entirely loyal, and hence were unreliable and untrustworthy."

The officers selected to command these men were a mixture of foreigners, northerners promoted from the ranks, and southerners. Many of the officers were Hungarians who had fought with Asboth in 1848. Some of them, such as Major Albert Ruttkay, seemed to get along well with the enlisted men of the regiment, but others, such as Captain Alexander Gaal, knew little English, and made poor commanders.

As Colonel of the new regiment General Asboth appointed a former comrade from Missouri, Eugen Von Kielmansegge. Kielmansegge had emigrated from Germany at the beginning of the Civil War and accepted a commission as major of the 4th Missouri Cavalry. Ambitious like his benefactor, Kielmansegge took a sick leave and went to Washington, where he used political influence to receive a better commission as colonel of another regiment. Once his commander in Missouri found out about this, he was livid. He demanded that the War Department make an example of Kielmansegge. This resulted in Colonel Kielmansegge being dismissed from the service.

Many of the southern officers were former officers in the Confederate Army who had either resigned or deserted.

For example, Lieutenant Joseph G. Sanders, a millwright from Dale County, Alabama, enlisted in the Confederate Army in late 1961. He was elected captain of his company and fought at Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. Then in a disagreement with his aristocratic colonel, he resigned his commission and returned to Alabama. As an able bodied male, he was subject to conscription back in the Confederate Army as a private if he stayed at home.

In January 1864 Sanders enlisted at Fort Barrancas in the First Florida Cavalry and was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant. In February 1965 he left Fort Barrancas on a raid into Walton County and was told to return to the fort within 14 days. However, he disobeyed those orders and led his little command into southeast Alabama where they joined forces with a group of deserters and engaged in looting the surrounding countryside. He didn't return to the fort until after the end of the war whereupon he was arrested for desertion and allowed to resign "for the good of the service."

## **Shortage of Salt: A Major Problem for the Confederacy**

### **How Florida's Gulf Coast Helped to Solve It**

The Union naval blockade of the South severely limited the Confederacy's overseas trade. While swift moving blockade runners managed to evade Union warships throughout the war, these vessels could not possibly bring in enough goods to make up for the loss of trade. This loss was especially glaring for one crucial commodity: salt.

Although there were large salt mines in Virginia, cheap foreign-produced salt had been the South's major source of the mineral before the war. Within months of the war's outbreak, the Confederacy faced a salt crisis as its armies, which required massive supplies of salted pork, and citizens quickly used up stocks of the vital preservative. The South soon turned to Florida to make up its deficit.

Florida's long coastline made it ideal for salt production. The process involved boiling kettles of seawater and refining the salt through a process of repeated dipping, pouring and drying. While salt-making occurred on both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, most of the salt works were on the Gulf from Tampa Bay north through the Florida Panhandle, with the biggest concentration along the St. Andrews Bay in Washington County and St. Joseph's Bay in Gulf County (Calhoun County before 1925).

These bays were ideal for salt-making, containing all the resources needed for production: salt marshes, pine forests for firewood, and relative seclusion, which made it difficult for Union raiding parties to approach undetected. Salt works ranged from a few kettles to makeshift factories fired by steamboat boilers.



Along with the many Floridians engaged in the work, Alabamians and Georgians poured in to make salt. Their states also established government-owned works to supply their citizens with salt at reduced prices—the price in Atlanta, for example, was sometimes as high as \$140 a sack—to compensate for rampant speculation in the trade. Florida Governor John Milton denounced the “vile spirit of speculation and extortion.” He removed from sale public lands in the most lucrative salt-making areas, where speculators were buying up land to sell at exorbitant prices, and proposed a tax in-kind on in-state manufactured salt to provide for poor families. The Confederate government tried to limit speculation by establishing its own works at St. Andrews Bay, where large state-run factories produced salt for the Confederate Army.

The United States considered anyone engaged in the salt trade in the South to be an active Rebel. In 1862, the U.S. Navy began operations against salt works in Florida. The Union created two operational commands for the blockade of Florida’s coast: the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, which also covered the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina, and the East Gulf Blockading Squadron, which covered the Gulf from Key West to a line just east of Pensacola. Union gunboats shelled salt-making plants and landed raiding parties to destroy the works and supplies of salt.



**Destruction of a Salt Factory on the Florida Coast**  
State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

In November 1861, James Boyd, an engineer aboard the Union gunboat U.S.S. *Albatross*, wrote to his wife about some of the St. Andrews Bay raids in which he participated. A portion of Boyd’s letter, which can be found in the Louis James Boyd Papers at the State Library and Archives of Florida, is quoted (except for paragraphs and periods, without editing) below:

*“ . . . Well we left Pensacola on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month, for this place [St. Andrews Bay], we arrived here on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The object of this Expedition was to destroy Salt-Pans, which the Rebels have to make Salt in. Since we have been laying here we have fit out some four or five Small Boat Expeditions, which has proven very successful. We have destroyed more Salt-Pans than all the other Expeditions put together. The Salt-Pans that I speak of are generally Situated in Small Creeks and Swamps. We cannot get to them in the Steamer [the Albatross], therefore we have to go in small Boats.*

*The manner in which those Expeditions are arranged are that we would leave the ships about four o’clock in the morning, and proceed up the Bay until we would discover Smoke, for that is the only way that those pans can be found by a stranger. As soon as we would get near enough we would then fire at them with a Small Cannon we have and such Skidaddeling you never seen in your life. They would leave everything behind them. We went in Several of there camps and found there Breakfast cooked and on the Table ready for eating, which our boys would soon demolish, after rowing So early in the Morning. We would then set about breaking up their pans and works. . . .”*

Boyd’s account is typical of the irregular war waged on Florida’s coast. Despite their frequency, the salt raids were never enough to stop Confederate salt production in Florida, which historian Robert Taylor has called “Florida’s most important contribution to the Confederate economy.”

Extracted from:  
<http://www.floridamemory.com/blog/2012/07/25/needs-more-salt/>  
Division of Library & Information Services, Florida Department of State

## Deciphering Old Handwriting

Words and word meanings have changed over the years and the way we form handwritten letters has also. Deciphering old handwritten letters and records is usually a challenge, the older these are, the more difficult they are to read.

One of the most dramatic changes in letters has been the letter “s.” In this name, there is a regular lower case “s” and another “s” that looks like a backward lower case “f” both used in the name “Jesse”.

*Jesse*

Here’s a link to an excellent on-line tutorial that gives tips on reading old handwriting:

<http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html>

# The Story of Sam Davis

Based on [www.tennesseehistory.com/class/SamDavis.htm](http://www.tennesseehistory.com/class/SamDavis.htm) and other sources

In late November of 1863 a young Confederate soldier sat down in his jail cell in Pulaski, Tennessee, to write his last letter home to his parents.

*Pulaski, Giles County, Tenn., Nov. 26, 1863*

*Dear Mother: Oh, how painful it is to write you! I have got to die to-morrow morning--to be hanged by the Federals. Mother, do not grieve for me. I must bid you good-by forevermore. Mother, I do not fear to die. Give my love to all.*

*Your son, Samuel Davis*

*P.S. Mother, tell the children all to be good. I wish I could see you all once more, but I never will any more. Mother and Father, do not forget me. Think of me when I am dead, but do not grieve for me. It will not do any good. Father, you can send after my remains if you want to do so. They will be at Pulaski, Tenn. I will leave some things, too, with the hotel keeper for you. Pulaski is in Giles county, Tenn., south of Columbia.*

*S.D."*



Samuel Davis was born on Oct. 6, 1842. His family were middle class farmers who did well for themselves and moved to a large new home in Smyrna, Tennessee. Sam grew up to become one of the most promising young men in the county. His parents saw to his education; and, at age 18, Sam left the farm to attend the Western Military Institute in Nashville.

When the war began, Sam, now 19, returned home and enlisted in the Tennessee Infantry's Company I. He and his company served in the opening campaigns of the war. In the Battle of Shiloh, Sam proved himself under fire. After General Braxton Bragg assumed command of the Army of Tennessee, Davis' record of service was brought to his attention for a special project.

Sam was chosen to become a member of an elite group of men known as Coleman's Scouts. Their assignment was to operate behind enemy lines and gather intelligence on Union troop movements and collect other vital information. Coleman's Scouts were led by a Captain Shaw. In order to protect his identity, Shaw was given the codename E. Coleman. This alias was the only name ever used for Shaw by Confederate leaders and his own scouts. Coleman wandered between the battle lines posing as a herb doctor. Even the Union soldiers who knew the disheveled "doctor" never figured him to be one of the most wanted men in the south. His men were just as effective. For over a year, they worked hard and became a first class operation and they often wore their Confederate uniforms behind Union lines. Coleman's Scouts always regarded themselves as a military unit and functioned as one and Davis' work in the group was

exemplary. When the information gathered by Coleman's Scouts led to the unexpected Confederate victory at Chickamauga, Union officials were furious and put a price on the heads of the scouts and their leader.

On a cold November night in 1863, Davis returned to Smyrna, well behind enemy lines, to visit his family. His father repaired his son's boots and his mother gave him a hand-dyed Confederate overcoat to help keep him warm. After a brief emotional visit, Davis left his family and met Coleman and some of the Scouts. The men agreed they needed to regroup in northern Alabama and then make their way towards Chattanooga to report to General Bragg. Coleman gave a copy of the report to Davis to take with him in case the first group came to trouble. One by one they slipped out of the territory and began working their way south to the prearranged meeting place.

Davis rode quietly southward into Giles County. On Nov. 20 as he approached a Union outpost, he was spotted by two Kansas Cavalrymen dressed in Confederate Uniforms. Sam was captured. Because of his uniform, he was taken as a Prisoner of War and brought eleven miles to Pulaski, the county seat. He was searched and the maps and other information he had gathered as well as the papers given him by Coleman were found. He was jailed and put under the direct charge of Union General Dodge for interrogation and disposition. The general observed how young Davis was and thought that he could frighten him into confessing who his superior was and where he could be found. In spite of Sam's uniform, the general accused Sam of being a spy and threatened him with a court martial and death by hanging if he did not tell who had given the information. On 25 November, a court-martial found Sam guilty of spying, despite the testimony of both arresting soldiers and their commanding officer that Davis was wearing his Confederate uniform when arrested. Davis was sentenced to hang on 27 November.

As the gallows on which Davis was to be hung was constructed in full view of Davis' jail cell, the Union officers continued to interrogate Davis. At this point, they were virtually begging Davis to reveal the requested names, so that his execution could be deterred. Sam was taken from the jail to the gallows in a wagon, sitting on his own coffin. The last soldier to appeal to Davis did so as Davis stood on the gallows. Capt. Naron promised Davis his horse, his sidearms, and an escort to Confederate lines if Sam would reveal who gave him the papers he was carrying. Davis' reply is still remembered today, as it echoes the sentiments of Nathan Hale in an earlier war:

**"I am but a private soldier in the Confederate Army. The man who gave me this information is worth ten thousand more to the Confederate cause than I, and I would sooner die a thousand deaths before I would betray a friend or be false to duty."**

Davis had refused to sell out his men. There were three captured prisoners in the cell next to his. Sam had glanced at the men as he passed that cell and showed no interest in them, but the men in the cell were, in fact, Coleman

and two fellow scouts -- the very men the General was seeking! The three men had sat silently while Union officials constantly interrogated Davis and offered him his freedom for just telling the names of Coleman's Scouts.

Sam's refusal to be an informant earned the admiration of Pulaski citizens and even his captors. The Union soldiers were so taken with Davis's resolve to remain silent that they often visited the Tennessean and begged him to save his own life and name the scouts. During one of the visits, Davis remarked: "I do not fear for death, but it makes me mad to think I am to die as a spy."

On Nov. 26, 81st Ohio Infantry Chaplain James Young went to Sam's cell to comfort him. He was touched by the ongoing story of Sam and quickly made friends with the young man. Sam and the Chaplain spent the entire day and night together. His coffin had been brought into his cell to try to intimidate him and Sam sat on its lid as he listened again to offers of freedom for the information.

Before the night had ended, Sam penned his final letter to his family. He then wrapped his belongings and gave them to the chaplain. He gave the chaplain the coat his mother had made for him as a gift for the final moments of friendship the chaplain had provided.

On the gallows, the offer for freedom was again made to him. Sam Davis again refused and told the Provost Marshal. "I am ready."

At 10:20 a.m. Nov. 27, 1863, Coleman Scout Sam Davis was dropped from the gallows and hanged. Union soldier John Randal, who had helped capture Davis, watched with tears streaming down his face as the young Tennessean was executed. He later stated that he had never witnessed such a pathetic and heroic scene and noted other Federal soldiers in tears.

Many of the Union soldiers stationed at the post were in disbelief that the general had gone through with the execution and silent resentment towards him began to grow among his men. The story of Sam Davis began to spread in Tennessee and even in the Union ranks where nothing but respect was offered for his actions and sacrifice.

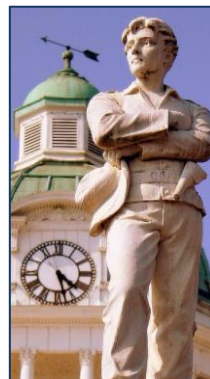
Following the execution, the prisoners in the cell next to Davis were put on a train headed north to Union prisons. Somewhere along the tracks in Kentucky, Coleman jumped from the train and escaped into Confederate territory where he continued his work.

Pulaski is about 70 miles south of Smyrna. A rumor came to Davis' parents that their son had been killed. They didn't know for sure it was their son (apparently the letter had not yet been received) and asked family friend John Kennedy to travel to Pulaski; and, if it was true, to locate their son's body and bring it home.

Kennedy and Sam's younger brother rode in a mule-drawn wagon to Nashville where they bought a coffin. After a federal run-around there, Kennedy managed to get a note from Union General Rosseau allowing safe passage as far south as Columbia. From there until he reached Pulaski, Kennedy relied on the illiteracy of Union pickets. Once there, he was brought before the Provost Marshal

who declared Rosseau's note invalid. But when Kennedy told him he was there to collect the body of Sam Davis, the Marshal's attitude changed and he offered his help and gave Kennedy a statement for Davis' parents: "Tell them for me that he died the bravest of the brave, an honor to them, and with the respect of every man in this command."

The Marshal gave Kennedy return passes and offered men if necessary to help retrieve the body. The Marshal then told Kennedy the details of Davis' death and Kennedy went to the graveyard where he exhumed Sam's body and began his work of identification. The white execution hood was still on Sam's head but the face was recognizable. A group of Union soldiers gathered with their hats in hand and watched the solemn proceedings. With the body placed in the new coffin, Kennedy returned to Pulaski and collected Sam's personal effects. Kennedy took the body to Nashville where it was properly shrouded and then took it on to Smyrna. Sam's mother passed out at the sight of the coffin. Acting as only a family friend could, Kennedy buried Davis in the family graveyard.



Little did they know that Sam would soon become a legend throughout America. From Pulaski (the monument shown here) all throughout Middle and West Tennessee, monuments commemorating Sam started going up.

The phrase he had repeated over and over to his Union captors: "If I had a thousand lives, I would lose them all before I would betray my friends or the confidence of my informer" would forever enshrine him as the "Nathan Hale of the South" and earn him the respect of soldiers on both sides of the war.

Sam's parents had hidden their family pictures in the hay loft of their barn -- fearing the Union Army would burn their home. When Union soldiers raided them, however, they set fire to the barn rather than the house and all photographs of Sam were lost.

Around the turn of the century, the Tennessee legislature commissioned an official monument of Sam. Since there were no pictures of Sam available at that time, the sculptor worked from descriptions and also used Sam Davis' younger brother as a model. The monument was dedicated in 1909 by Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson. With this dedication, the monument became the only one on the capitol grounds not commemorating a U.S. President.

In 1865, as the War Between the States came to a close, the Confederate States of America commissioned their own Medal of Honor, but the war ended before the first medal could be awarded. The duty of bestowing this highest military award was eventually passed to the Sons of Confederate Veterans; and, in 1976, the SCV awarded the highest CSA military honor posthumously to Sam, the first of four Tennesseans to receive the Confederate Medal of Honor.



## What Happened When the Fighting Ended?

What happened to the armies of the Civil War after the fighting stopped and the defeated combatants surrendered? How did the soldiers get home? What were their experiences in traveling home?

After the surrender of the Confederate Armies, the first being Gen Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia, thousands of soldiers of both armies, the union troops of the Army of the Potomac and the defeated confederates had to be disbanded. The difference between the Union and Confederate soldier in getting home was vastly different.

The northern soldier was returning to a land virtually untouched by war. He was well fed, given new uniforms, was able to travel by train or boat to his home state. The North had a demobilization plan, the South did not. For the confederate soldier there were no plans to get him home, he was left to find his way home as best as he could. More times than not, he had little or no money, he wasn't paid in months, the railroad system in the South was in poor shape due to the war. His home most likely was affected by the war, some lost everything.



For the Confederate Soldier getting home after the war was very different than his Union counterpart. For most it meant walking, many had no money and had to beg for food on their way home. The Confederate Government had no demobilization plans and made no provisions for their troops getting to their home states. At the fall of the government and the surrender of the rebel armies, it was left up to each individual soldier to make his way home.

Not only did they have no money or transportation, they had to look out for Union troops that patrolled the countryside of the South. In most cases the victorious Union soldiers treated the returning Southern soldier as brother Americans, but there were also cases of undo harassment. Railroads in the south after the war were very limited in what the rails could handle. Due to the war, many railroad lines were destroyed and trains could only go so far before being forced to stop. What trains that were running were used by the Federal Government to transport the Union soldiers and equipment to the North.

The common Confederate Soldier after the surrender was tall, thin, with long hair and beard. They wore the uniform of Southern gray, most were ragged and dirty, some

without shoes. As compared to the Union soldier who for the most part had a good uniform with sound shoes and were well fed. It took some of the rebel soldiers months to reach their homes, in many cases to find what was once a beautiful farm laid waste and barren as a result of the war.

Extracted from  
[http://contributor.yahoo.com/user/163431/gettysburg\\_reb.html](http://contributor.yahoo.com/user/163431/gettysburg_reb.html)

### Going Home Monette Morgan Young

Thousands of stories could be written telling how and when tired, sick, or maimed young men reached their homes in the lower southern states after the Army of Northern Virginia had been surrendered and consequently disbanded.

The story of two of them, Jim White, and Dave Haney was told to me by Jim White's grandson, my cousin Clarence Morgan. Jim told Clarence the story of their return.

These boys were both from Pontotoc county in north Mississippi. Though several miles apart, the two families considered themselves close neighbors since houses were scattered in those early settlements. Jim and Dave enlisted about the same time, since Jim told his grandson that they were together "all the way through" and Jim's service was for four years.

These two hardship-beset and hunger-racked youths had marched and had fought uncomplainingly for their beloved South. They had stood near enough to their General Lee to hear his sad voice announce their surrender. Then they were told that General Grant had reluctantly given permission for them to ride their horses home if they had a horse. The two boys, comrades for so long, wanted to make the trip home together; but Jim looked at his tired and bony horse. He knew it could never make it back to Mississippi even if he walked and led it. Dave's horse was in better shape.

Jim had an uncle in North Carolina, Bob White. The boys with their horses, the near dead one and the other in better condition, managed to get to the home of this uncle. Jim asked him if he and Dave could stay there and help make a crop while his ailing horse rested and grazed and hopefully could recuperate. Bob White readily agreed but told them that he could not pay them anything but that he could give them food and beds.

So until October 1st of that year, the two young men stayed there and worked. On October 1st they left to head home to Mississippi. Bob White told his nephew that the old horse still could never get there. It had improved but little. So he swapped Jim a good horse for the one in such poor condition. He also gave him \$5. That must have been a real sacrifice. There was so little money anywhere in the devastated South.

Jim and Dave started home. Along the way they often asked permission to sleep in barn lots and to tether their horses in them. They wanted to sleep near the animals which were so valuable to them. Sometimes they stopped for a while by roadside and let their horses graze on grass that might be still green in that late fall and early winter. Then they would travel on.

Jim made the \$5 go as far as possible. Occasionally Jim had to pay for food, but they were also given a little food from

the depleted households along the way: a bowl of vegetables, a glass of milk, or a wedge of cornbread. People in the uppermost southern states must have truly sacrificed as they helped the now disbanded army as it struggled homeward, by ones, twos, or more, some on foot, some wounded and sick, all ragged and hungry.

In one community, a man who seemed to be in better circumstances than his neighbors refused to let them sleep in his barn lot. He directed them to the home of a black man nearby and said that man might help them, or allow them to sleep in his lot. The black man gladly obliged and shared some of his family's scarce food. Jim offered him 10 cents for the food, but he refused the money saying that he always tried to help people.

Jim and Dave arrived at Dave's family home in Pontotoc county on October 30th. Jim's family, however, had moved over into neighboring Calhoun county. Communications being poor to non-existent, Jim's parents had not been able to notify him that they had moved. The Haynes family told Jim how to get to the new place. He was told to follow the Skuna River west, walking on the north side of the river until he came to the first bridge, cross the bridge and go eastward up the south side about four miles.

Most of the land along the Skuna "bottom" in 1865 was still virgin forest. Mr. White said he walked under those huge trees almost the entire distance he had to go. Jim said he found the bridge and then turned east as he had been directed. Very shortly he found a place being cleared for fields and could hear sounds of axes chopping and there he found two young men clearing land. One of the young men was my great uncle James Todd (Jimmy) Morgan, another four-year veteran of the war. The other young man was Ike Stacy.

Jim White was just two or three miles from his parents' home by then and he was soon reunited with them. Jim would later marry Miss Nancy Wade and they would become the parents of several fine sons and daughters. Nancy Wade's brother was one of the Confederate soldiers who was missing in action and he was never accounted for.

Jim White became known as a man who always fed hungry passers-by. Any 'tramp' who asked for food was given it and the more ragged and the more travel worn the person looked, the better food Jim insisted be served them.

For a few of my young years, I would live as a close neighbor to Mr. Jim White, when he made his home with one of his sons whose house was very near ours. I saw him often then, never realizing that he had stood near General Lee in Lee's finest moment. Oh! What I could have asked Mr. White and what he could have told me.

I recall Jim White as a feeble elderly man. I never dreamed when I was a child that he had been strong and husky once and had walked home from Virginia.

*Taken from The Cherry Hill - Poplar Springs - Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi, Second Edition, by Monette Morgan Young*

**From the GSOC Newsletter, July 2011**

## **GSOC Member Ken Elliott Honored by The United Daughters of the Confederacy**

GSOC Member, **Ken Elliott**, was honored by Pensacola Chapter 298, United Daughters of the Confederacy on June 9, 2011, by the bestowal of the United Daughters of the Confederacy's Cross of Military Service, Vietnam Conflict, Medal Number 3525.



**UDC President Gail Crosby and Ken Elliott**

Military Service Awards are presented to persons who are lineal or collateral blood descendants of Confederate military personnel who have given a minimum of 90-days active-duty military service to our country in the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Merchant Marines and U.S. Navy. Both ancestor and descendant's service must be honorable.

Ken served as a Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army with service in Vietnam June 1971 – June 1972. His great-great-grandfather, **Veto Sangregorio**, served in Co. A, Milton Light Artillery, that was formed in November 1861 at Apalachicola, FL.



**The Cross of Military Service** is awarded by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. There are four versions, the outgrowth of the Southern Cross of Honor. They are: the World War I Cross of Military Service, World War II Cross of Military Service, the Korean War Cross of Military Service and the Vietnam Conflict Cross of Military Service.

These decorations have been established as a testimonial to the patriotic devotion of worthy Confederate Soldiers or Sailors and their descendants.



# Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

## GSOC INFORMATION

### Officers for 2016

President, Sue Basch  
1st Vice President (Programs), Charlene Grafton  
2nd Vice President (Membership), Jon Sheperd  
Treasurer, Phil Hoge  
Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd  
Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland  
Immediate Past President, James Young  
Journal Editor, TBD; Historian, TBD  
Genealogist, Margaret Harris  
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

### Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175  
Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter Editor: [youngimy@cox.net](mailto:youngimy@cox.net)

### Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are usually held at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month. There is no admission charge and all are welcome. The meetings are usually followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Annual membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address. If you would like to become a member, want to renew your membership, or want to update your membership record, please go to the GSOC web site and download the membership form.

### The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is usually published on or before the first Friday of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Jim Young, can be contacted by phone at (850) 862-8642 or by email at [youngimy@cox.net](mailto:youngimy@cox.net). Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

### The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2015 issue, was published and distributed in October 2015.

### The Web Site

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>

The site is updated frequently and contains information about future GSOC meetings, minutes of past meetings, copies of the newsletters, articles and items of genealogical and historical interest, and much more.

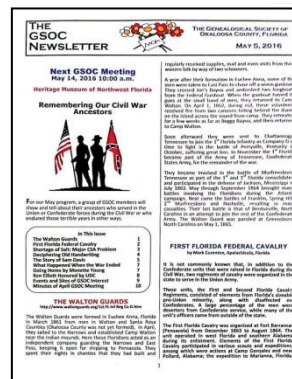
## Mother's Day Victorian Tea Saturday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Create lasting memories with your Mom at the **Mother's Day Victorian Tea**, at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*. Men, women, and children (ages 6 and up) will enjoy hot tea and light refreshments as they are guided through etiquette and customs of taking tea in Victorian England.

Space is limited! Name reservations are required.  
Call 850- 678-2615 \$16 (\$13 for Museum Members)

## CamScanner Turns Your Phone or Tablet into a "Good Enough" Scanner

[Dick Eastman](#) · April 20, 2016



If you have a "smartphone" or a tablet computer with a camera, you already have a book and document scanner that is more than "good enough" for many purposes. All you need to do is to add some free software. The result is a device that can "scan" documents at the library or archives, can digitally save business cards, save receipts for income tax time, digitize all sorts of documents, and is

useful for any other time you need to scan and save a copy for later without any fuss. In essence, your smartphone or tablet becomes a scanner that you can have with you all the time. This image here is a PDF scan of the first page of this newsletter made with CamScanner..

While the Basic CamScanner app is available free of charge, a Premium Account adds additional capabilities (described on the CamScanner website). Both the Basic Account and the Premium Account are available for Android, Apple iOS (iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch), and Windows Mobile. Because of the size of the screens, documents and images can be edited most easily on Windows, Macintosh, and Linux computers by using the CamScanner web app.

If you are interested in CamScanner, I'd suggest downloading the free Basic app first and using it for a while. For millions of users, the free version meets all their needs, and there is no need to upgrade to a Premium Account. If you later decide you wish to upgrade, you may do so at any time from within the CamScanner app. CamScanner is one of my favorite apps, and it might be for you, too. You can learn more at <https://www.camscanner.com>.

# MINUTES OF THE 9 APRIL 2016 GSOC MEETING

Pat Pruett, Acting Recording Secretary

Those attending were:

<b>Members</b> Jerry Rush Chuck Licari Pat Pruett Sue Basch Francis Hoge Phil Hoge Ken Elliott Mike Kleypas Tom Sajwaj Keith Latimer Bob Richburg Del Lessard	<b>Val Moreland</b> Hilma Jenus Malcolm Flanagan  <b>Guests</b> Lee Licari Marian Roberts Margaret Chatraw Rick Ward Bob Loomis Kathy Kolt
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The meeting was called to order by Pres. Sue Basch at 10:10 AM. She welcomed members and guests and assured that all present had signed in for attendance and the door prizes. Numbers were drawn and a jar of homemade jelly and a ream of computer paper were awarded to the winners.

New Business: Sue said that we need to decide on a theme for the 2016 Journal. She had one suggestion of "Remember When" and mentioned that Hilma Jenus has put together a "remember when" story concerning Ft. Walton Beach.

Dutch Treat Lunch: Next item was to see who wishes to go to lunch and where. No one was planning to go today.

People Update: Sue informed us that 1<sup>st</sup> VP Charlene Grafton is recuperating from two operations on her leg and doing well. Past pres. Jim Young, Bob Basch and Recording Secretary Kathie Sheperd were not available to attend today. Other members have volunteered to fill in.

Officers Meeting: An officers' meeting will be held on 16 April, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of this month, at 9:30 AM at Bienville restaurant to discuss our journal topic, the brochure and goals and bylaws.

Brochure Committee: Sue said that a Brochure Committee is needed to update and revamp our present brochure. Past Pres. Chuck Licari said that he may have the present one on his computer and will check it out

Journal: Sue said that she definitely needs ideas and suggestions from all of us. Charlene has suggested a writing contest each year to encourage people to submit a story for the journal. Members were discussing our digitized records and journals and mentioned that Malcolm Flanagan knew about this and at that fortuitous moment Malcolm walked in the door. He said that he has several CDs and they are still available for us to sell copies of our past journals. Our old records were turned over to him as president, at the time they were removed from Walt Ruckel's storage facility.

Officers reports:

1<sup>st</sup> VP Charlene Grafton – Not present. Val Moreland reported that Charlene wants the members to gather their

stories of their Civil War ancestors for Show and Tell at our program in May.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jon Sheperd – Not Present. Val reported that he still has paid up membership cards to pass out for a number of members.

Treasurer Phil Hoge – Stated that we are doing quite well and have a check book balance of \$2205.84. He explained the purpose of the Blue Box being circulated for donations.

Recording Secretary Kathie Sheperd – Not present. Pat Pruett filled in. No report.

Corresponding Sec. Val Moreland - Brought several Journals from other societies for our members to view. She suggested we sign them out to read at home and return them at a future meeting. It was a well-received suggestion.

Publicity Chairman Val Moreland - Reported that she had sent a picture and write up to the local paper of Margaret Harris, who was our March program guest speaker. Several members stated that they had seen it. Val also mentioned that she would get with Margaret to see about having our scrapbooks digitized. Apparently it is available through the University of West Florida. As a bit of information, it was stated that the NWFS College is part of the Okaloosa County Library Co-op.

Newsletter and Website Jim Young – Not present

Genealogist Margaret Harris – Not present

Other announcements - Sue asked that we work on coming up with some ideas for our theme for our Journal. It was suggested, during discussion, that we should try to remember things as they were many years ago and write a brief story.

Pres. Sue turned the meeting over to Del Lessard to introduce our speaker in Charlene's absence. Del introduced Margaret Catraw, who is the Santa Rosa County Library System Genealogy Service Coordinator. Margaret has spoken to our genealogy society members a couple of times in the past year or so and is greatly appreciated for her wealth of knowledge. Our group visited the Milton Library in Santa Rosa County, on a field trip in 2015.

Ms Catraw spoke on the subject entitled "Extra, Extra, Read All about It" which covered wonderful information on how to use old newspapers to find out facts concerning our ancestors. She delighted all of us with a story that was told through a succession of newspaper articles concerning a distant relative of her family. Ms. Catraw provided each of us with a handout that showed sources and websites that we may use and which showed how she retrieved the information concerning the story she told us.

President Sue Basch reminded everyone that our next meeting will be on 14 May and Charlene has planned a "Show & Tell" Civil War Round Table discussion. Members should research their Civil War relatives and voice their story at the discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.



For our May program, a group of GSOC members will show and tell about their ancestors who served in the Union or Confederate forces during the Civil War or who endured those terrible years in other ways.

This meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. at our usual location, the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.

*"Whatever you know, whatever you learn – Pass it On!"*

**Genealogical Society of  
Okaloosa County (GSOC)**  
P.O. Box 1175  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175