

Border Patrol



Commander's Note:

Sadly to say our Camp did not grow in membership during the month of February. February was a preparation month for our Camp. Three of our members met with the Red River Rose Chapter 52 on 1 Feb. at their by-monthly meeting and formed a committee to put together the 1 March Soiree. From the reports I'm seeing, it should be a good one this year. The Soiree is just one of the on going fund raisers for the Leonard Park statue. All of us should be putting our creative brains together for other ways we (the SCV, UDC, & OCR) could be raising the funds for the restoration. Come to the meetings with your ideas, they could catch on and we all see this statue restored to it's new glory sooner than expected.

The Medal of Honor Parade 12 April plans are in the mill.

The Fairview Cemetery Dedication 19 April is coming together also.

Our Camp and OCR chapter 52 has a lot to be proud of for being a part of these events. I know I am .

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 27, 2014

Lee-Bourland Camp 1848

Newsletter



Coming Events:

1 Mar Sweetheart Soiree 6 PM Civic

Center Gainesville, TX

11 Mar CV grave survey'n program by

Rocky Sprott, Stonewall Jackson Cp

901 mo meeting 6:30 PM Smoke-

House BBQ, 1123 Ft. Worth Dr.

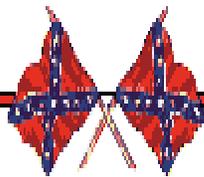
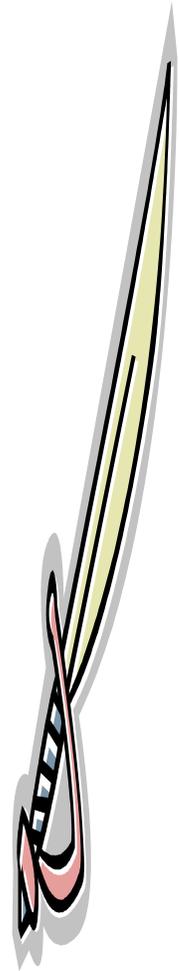
Denton, TX

15 Mar Sophia Porter Grave Dedication

N. of Pottsboro, TX

Coming Events:

- 22 Mar Camp Ford Living History, 9-4 PM Camp Ford
Historical Park Tyler, TX
- 12 Apl Medal of Honor Parade 10 AM Gainesville, TX
- 19 Apl Fairview Cemetery CV Graves Dedication 2 PM
Gainesville, TX
- 26 Apl Cowboy Day Frontier Village Denison, TX
- 3 May Bonham Frontier Days Downtown & Ft. English
Bonham, TX
- 3-4 May Battle of Port Jefferson Jefferson, TX
- 6-8 Jun TX Div SCV State Reunion Houston, TX
- 16-19 Jul SCV National Reunion North Charleston, SC



The Civil War's Last Rebel Town Finally Rejoined the Union—in 1946!

Part of the fun of doing family history research in old newspapers is the occasional strange, unusual—and even startling—story you run across. Such certainly is the case with the tiny New York town called Town Line, which joined the Rebel Cause and seceded from the Union in 1861—and did not come back to the United States until 1946, 81 years after the American Civil War ended!

There have been thousands of books and movies produced about the Civil War, hundreds of thousands of eager visitors flock to Civil War battlefields every year, and the nation is in the midst of commemorating the sesquicentennial of this great and tragic conflict that caused more than a million casualties.

With all this interest and knowledge, however, few people know this story: the last Rebel town to rejoin the Union after the Civil War was not south of the Mason-Dixon Line, but was in the Union state of New York.

That town was a tiny hamlet called Town Line, in upstate New York near Buffalo. For reasons no one seems to know anymore, the hamlet's eligible voters (all 125 of them) met in 1861 and, after an intense debate, voted 85 to 40 to secede from the Union! Apparently the hamlet even sent five men to fight in the Confederate army in Virginia. But as the war dragged on the secessionist fever cooled, and the locals appear to have politely decided to quietly forget about their defiant stance.

However: they never officially rejoined the United States, until the patriotic fever following victory in WWII moved the residents of Town Line to rethink this matter of secession. Their surprising story was explained in this 1945 Oregon newspaper article.

At that time, the village's 125 qualified voters had their dander up over the great armed struggle between the Northern and Southern states. Many of them were of Vermont ancestry—a heritage that gives a man a mind of his own. Others were from Germany, or their parents had been, and the reason they had come to America was to avoid the aggressive militarism that even then pervaded the German nation. These people were not to be stampeded into approval of a civil war just because public opinion throughout the North was overwhelmingly for it.

One cold night late in that year Town Line's 125 held a meeting in the schoolhouse. (It's the blacksmith's shop now.) There was a mighty debate and some pretty hot things were said. Then a vote was taken. When the ballots had been counted no one there was particularly surprised 85 to 40 for secession.

Oregonian (Portland, Oregon) 9 September 1945, page 103

The article's coverage of Town Line concludes this way:

"In the years that have come between, Town Line has not officially changed its decision. Technically, by choice of its voters in 1861, it is still not a part of the United States. But the folks that live there now feel that it is time for something to be done about it. "If our former allies in Mississippi and Georgia feel that the Civil War is over, so do we," said a prominent citizen of Town Line the other day."

Someone from the town sent President Harry Truman a letter about the situation, and he cheerfully wrote back: "Why don't you run down the fattest calf in Erie County, barbeque it and serve it with fixin's in the old blacksmith shop where the ruckus started? Who can tell? The dissidents might decide to resume citizenship."

Seattle Daily Times (Seattle, Washington), 8 October 1945, page 8

The article went:

Barbecue Will Entice Hamlet Back into Union

Town Line, N.Y., Oct. 8—(AP)— The hunt is on for Erie County's fattest calf following President Truman's suggestion that barbecued calf serve as the peace vehicle to entice this hamlet back into the United States.

The community, 14 miles from Buffalo, cast its lot with the Confederacy in 1861 by an 85-to-40 vote for reasons long since forgotten. It never rejoined the Union.

Stephen V. Feeley, member of the committee which seeks to return the hamlet to the Union, wrote to the President asking advice. The President replied:

"There are few controversies not susceptible to peaceful resolution if examined in tranquility and calm rather than strife and turmoil. I suggest roast veal as a vehicle of peace.

Why don't you run down the fattest calf in Erie County, barbecue it and serve it with fixin's in the old blacksmith shop where the ruckus started? Who can tell? The dissidents might decide to resume citizenship."

The calf will be barbecued at a mass meeting October 27 in the blacksmith shop, formerly a schoolhouse, where the articles of secession were signed 84 years ago. An attempt will be made to set a date to vote.

Well, they did just that, holding the barbecue in October of 1945—during which they agreed to hold a vote soon on the great matter at hand. Finally, January 1946 was chosen for the vote.

Daily Illinois State Journal (Springfield, Illinois), 23 January 1946, page 1

Town To Vote On Rejoining United States

Town Line, N.Y., Jan. 22, (UP)—The Nation's industrial-labor woes became strictly second rate subjects here today as this tiny western New York crossroads community will vote Thursday on whether to rejoin the union. It was 85 years ago that the forefathers of the village's present day residents voted to join Jefferson Davis' Confederacy. The fact came to light last summer and residents voted to suspend their Confederate allegiance and vote in 1946 on whether to become a member of the union.

The article goes on to explain: "Last summer's meeting had originally scheduled the final ballot for July, 1946. But early this month Alvin E. Weber, chairman of a reconstruction committee in charge of the ballot, declared that returning World War II veterans were raising an awful clamor to settle the issue immediately." "They went away to fight for their country and returned to find they haven't any," Weber explained. "They don't like it."

On 24 January 1946, by a vote of 90 to 23, the last Rebel town of the Civil War officially rejoined the Union.

Greensboro Daily News (Greensboro, North Carolina). 25 January 1946, page 7

New York Town Rejoins Union

Town Line, N.Y., Jan. 24.—(UP)—Jeff Davis' Confederacy lost its last stronghold in the United States today as residents of this small country hamlet voted to rejoin the union.

In an atmosphere more hilarious than serious, 113 villagers yielded to community pressure, Hollywood glamor and the stirring battle songs of a 44-piece high school band to vote 90 to 23 in favor of rescinding their forefathers' allegiance to the Confederacy.

Boistered by a free lunch of barbecued veal sandwiches and coffee, the hardy residents braved cold, damp weather to gather in an open air mass meeting before a dilapidated old blacksmith shop where the original articles of secession were signed in 1861.

After a brief opening ceremony by village heads from the back of an old hay wagon, resplendent in red and white bunting, the assemblage retired to the local firehouse to witness the premier showing of the 20th Century-Fox production "Colonel Effingham's raid."

Returning to the cold environs of "Truman square," crossroads center of town, renamed in honor of the President last fall, villagers received official ballots and the vote was taken.

Film stars Cesar Romero and Martha Stewart, making personal appearances in conjunction with the film showing, tabulated the votes.

After the vote was announced, the Stars and Bars flag of the Confederacy was lowered without fanfare from a staff over the old blacksmith shop. The Stars and Stripes were immediately raised by Romero and Martha Stewart as the band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

Until today, Town Line had been part of the Confederacy. The fact, obscured through the years, came to light last July after Dade county, Georgia, and Vicksburg, Miss., rejoined the union. This made the western New York hamlet the nation's last Confederate stronghold.

The Union was whole at last!

Article submitted by Linda Turner, OCR President of Red River Rose
Chapter # 52

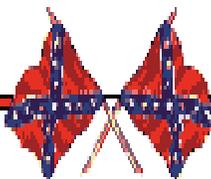


Former TX Div Chaplain Jerry Haymes is having heart surgery.

Current TX Div 2nd Lt. Commander Gary Bray was admitted to the hospital 25 Feb for heart problems.

And our own Lee-Bourland Camp member, Brian Davis will be having a memorial service 1 March 2 PM for his father. Robert A. Davis Jr..

Let us keep these gentleman and all who are grieving and having health problems in our prayers



Members and Their Confederate Ancestor

Ansley, Reynolds: Pvt David Andrew Johnson Co K 39th Inf AL

Armstrong, Chad & Charles: Col Jms G Bourland TX Border Rgt 8th Cv Red River of TX

Bloodworth, Gary: Pvt Daniels S Bloodworth Co B 14th Cv TX

Boyer, David: Pvt David G Wilkins Co E Ham's Rgt Cv MS

Cassidy, Bill: (Father side) Pvt Hugh Cassidy (GGF) Co F 26th Inf SC

(Mother side) Jerimiah Hurst (GGGF) 8th Cv GA

Davis, Brian: Pvt Josiah Davis Brannen's Co 12th Wrght's Cv State GDS GA

Dillard, Robert: Pvt Wm Reece Bourland Co H 9th Cv TX

Dunbar, Thomas: Pvt Thomas Goodrich Dunbar Co B 14th Inf TN

Epperson, Lloyd: Pvt Leander Molinton Epperson Co D 2nd Mounted Rifles AK

Fenner, Farrell & Jameson: Pvt Houston Warren Roberts Co F 16th Inf AL

Hamilton, Gary: Pvt Jms Thomas Victory Co D 1st WP Lane's Partisan's Rangers TX

Herman, James: Sgt Wm M Hermann Co G 6th Inf AL

Newton, Norman: Pvt Charles Samuel Newton, Capt Jms P Douglas' Co Art TX

Tyler SCV Camp's namesake is Jms P Douglas who is from Tyler, TX

Peek, James: Pvt Jms W Peak Co F 8th Dibrell's Cv TN

Reed, David: Pvt Rueben Blankenship Co D 18th Inf AL

Reed, Hunter: Pvt Michael Lorance 2nd Co Cv TN

Riley, Bill: Pvt Wm Chisum Co A 38th Inf TN consolidated to 22nd Batt

Roundtree, Bob: Pvt Jesse Ballard Roundtree Co E Morgan's Rgt Cv TX

Scott, Timothy: 2nd Lt Joseph B Scott Co E 10th Cv MO

Thompson, Johnny: Pvt Wm Rufus Sybert Co E 2nd Inf TX

Tisdale, Wm: Sgt Augustus Wm Atwood Co G 8th Inf MS

Waters, Charles: (Father side) Pvt Jms Manning Waters Co G 47th Inf GA

(Mother side) 5th Sgt George Mosley Aston Co C 9th Inf TX

White, Joe: Capt Mack Wilson Loyd Co H 5th Cv AL

Gainesville, TX Cooke

Lee-Bourland Camp #1848

Cmdr. Charlie Waters 940-665-8502

crwaters@swbell.net

1st Lt – Lloyd Epperson

2nd Lt – Norman Newton

Adj. Joe White 940-902-1393

Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm

Neu Ranch House Restaurant and Catfish Louie's



Border Patrol is the official newsletter for the Sons of Confederate Veterans Lee-Bourland Camp 1848 and is intended for the sole purpose of keeping the camp members and friends of the camp informed to the activities and news of Camp 1848. Statements in this newsletter are those of the author and may not reflect the opinions of the Lee-Bourland Camp, Texas Division, National Sons of Confederate Veterans or the editor. Within articles or quotes written by outside authors mistakes in spelling, grammar or sentence structure are strictly those of the author and may be left as is.



SEE YA'LL IN THE FIELD

MORE NEWS NEXT MONTH

THE END