



Varina Howell Davis 2143
United Daughters of the Confederacy®
Chapter Newsletter



Volume 9 Issue 7

April, 2014

2012-2014 Officers

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Chapter Website

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

Division Website

<http://www.txudc.org>

General Website

<http://www.hqudc.org>



Upcoming Events

Apr 12, 2014 – Salado Texas Trip
Apr 19, 2014 – Chapter Meeting @ 2:00 pm
Apr 25, 2014 – Houston VA PRRC Luncheon
Apr 26, 2014 – Confederate Veteran's Memorial Day
May 7, 2014 – Varina Howell Davis Birthday
May 17, 2014 – Chapter Meeting @ 2:00 pm
June 3, 2014 – President Jefferson Davis birthday
June 14, 2014 – Texas Flag Day



April 13
April 23
April 25

Susan Garrett
Frances Woodruff
Lindsey Adams

May 7
May 10
May 18
May 23
May 25

Kristi Lilley
Linda Hybarger
Sandra Russell
Lollie Michael
Margaret Allen

June 5
June 9

Patricia Biasetti
Virginia Ford

July 1
July 10

Claudia Sanderlin
Kathleen Bownds





Chapter News

March was cold and wet. It was busy. We had the chapter meeting back in the Adult Education building at St Jerome Church. We had a lovely turnout even with the rain.

Lois and I went to Austin for the C of C Monument Dedication. We took the time after the dedication to stop by a few monuments and markers in the Austin area. Naturally I forgot my camera. Thank goodness for iPhones. They take pretty good photos if your niece is paying attention and remembers to get you head in the photos. ☺

Lois Lowe & Cynthia Hardy
– Texas Women's Home
Marker Dedication



Jamie Davis, Barbara Slover and Marcia Wasson traveled to Woodville for the District III meeting. Barbara was busy campaigning. She has thrown her hat into the ring to run for Texas Division Chaplain.



Kathy Hillman, Barbara Slover,
Marcia Wasson and Jamie Davis
at Dist III meeting

Our April chapter meeting will not be held at the St Jerome Church as the facilities will all be closed for Easter Holidays. Instead we will be meeting at the HEB meeting room's I-10 and Bunker Hill. Hope to see you there April 19th. We have a guest speaker this month. Past President General Janice Langford will be talking about "The Origin of UDC". It should be very informative. If you are new to organization you will not want to miss this.

We will also be electing our 2014 – 2016 Officers at our April chapter meeting. If you are interested in serving, please let Ann Johnson know.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Maria "Belle" Boyd Confederate Spy

MAY 4, 1844 – JUNE 11, 1900



Maria Isabella Belle" Boyd was one of the Confederacy's most notorious spies. She was born in May 1844 in Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia) to a prosperous family with strong Southern ties. During the Civil War, her father was a soldier in the Stonewall Brigade, and at least three other members of her family were convicted of being Confederate spies.

Following a skirmish at nearby Falling Waters on July 2, 1861, Federal troops occupied Martinsburg. On July 4, Belle Boyd shot and killed a drunken Union soldier who, as she wrote in her post-war memoirs, "addressed my mother and myself in language as offensive as it is possible to conceive. I could stand it no longer...we ladies were obliged to go armed in order to protect ourselves as best we might from insult and outrage." She did not suffer any reprisal for this action, "the commanding officer...inquired into all the circumstances with strict impartiality, and finally said I had 'done perfectly right.'" Thus began her career as "the Rebel Spy" at age 17.

By early 1862 her activities were well known to the Union Army and the press, who dubbed her "La Belle Rebelle," "the Siren of the Shenandoah," "the Rebel Joan of Arc," and "Amazon of Secession." In fact, the *New York Tribune* described her whole attire, "...a gold palmetto tree [pin] beneath her beautiful chin, a Rebel soldier's belt around her waist, and a velvet band across her forehead with the seven stars of the Confederacy shedding their pale light therefrom...the only additional ornament she required to render herself perfectly beautiful was a Yankee halter [noose] encircling her neck."

Boyd frequented the Union camps, gathering information, and also acting as a courier. According to her memoirs (which were exaggerated) she managed to eavesdrop through a peephole on a Council of War while visiting relatives whose home in Front Royal, Virginia was being used as a Union headquarters.

Learning that Union Major General Nathaniel Banks' forces had been ordered to march, she rode fifteen miles to inform Confederate Major General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson who was nearby in the Shenandoah Valley. She returned home under cover of darkness. Several weeks later, on May 23, when she realized Jackson was about to attack Front Royal, she ran onto the battlefield to provide the General with last minute information about the Union troop dispositions. Jackson's aide, Lieutenant Henry Kyd Douglas, described seeing "the figure of a woman in white glide swiftly out of town...she seemed...to heed neither weeds nor fences, but waved a bonnet as she came on." Boyd later wrote, "the Federal pickets...immediately fired upon me...my escape was most providential...rifle-balls flew thick and fast about me...so near my feet as to throw dust in my eyes...numerous bullets whistled by my ears, several actually pierced different parts of my clothing." Jackson captured the town and acknowledged her contribution and her bravery in a personal note.

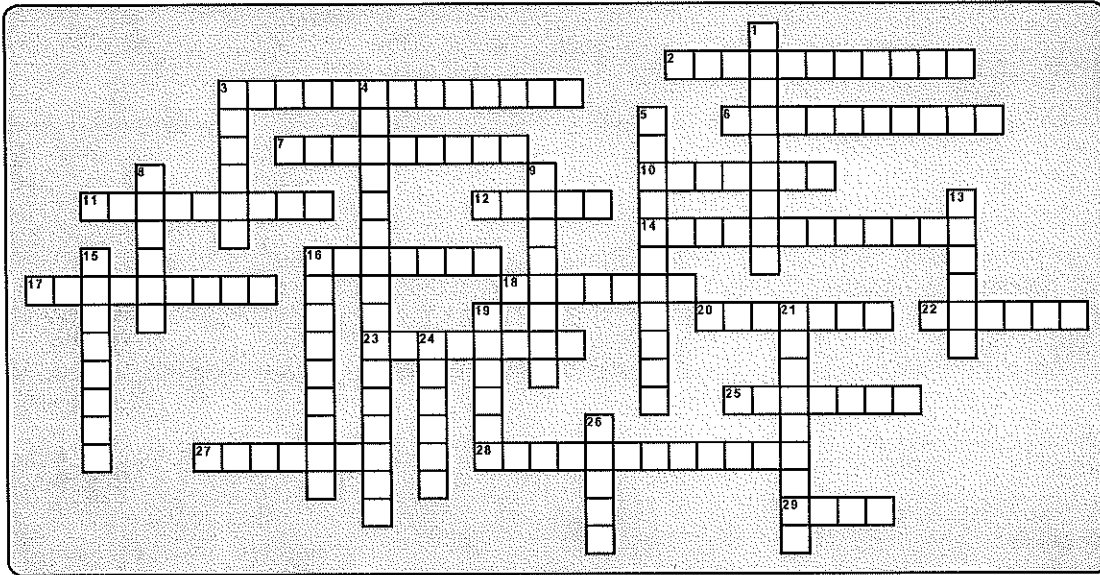
Boyd's flirtations with Union officers, however, were her strongest source of influence. Contemporaries noted that "without being beautiful, she is very attractive...quite tall...a superb figure...and dressed with much taste." On one occasion, she wooed a Northern soldier to whom, she wrote, "I am indebted for some very remarkable effusions, some withered flowers, and last, but not least, for a great deal of very important information...I must avow the flowers and the poetry were comparatively valueless in my eyes." Boyd continued, "I allowed but one thought to keep possession of my mind—the thought that I was doing all a woman could do for her country's cause."

Boyd was arrested six or seven times, but managed to avoid incarceration until July 29, 1862, when she was finally imprisoned in Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. She was released after a month as part of a prisoner exchange, but was arrested again in July 1863. Boyd was not a model inmate. She waved Confederate flags from her window, she sang Dixie, and devised a unique method of communicating with supporters outside. Her contact would shoot a rubber ball into her cell with a bow and arrow and Boyd would sew messages inside the ball. In December 1863 she was released and banished to the South. She sailed for England on May 8, 1864 and was arrested again as a Confederate courier. She finally escaped to Canada with the help of a Union naval officer, Lieutenant Sam Hardinge, and eventually made her way to England where she and Hardinge were married on August 25, 1864.

Boyd remained in England for two years writing her memoirs, *Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison*, and achieving success on the stage. She returned to America, a widow and mother, in 1866 where she continued her stage career and lectured on her war experiences; she billed her show as "The Perils of a Spy" and herself as "Cleopatra of the Secession."

In 1869, she married John Swainston Hammond, an Englishman who had fought for the Union Army. In November 1884, sixteen years and four children later, she divorced Hammond. Two months later she married Nathaniel High, Jr., an actor seventeen years her junior. She died, in poverty, of a heart attack at age 56 on June 11, 1900 while on tour in Kilbourn (now Wisconsin Dells), Wisconsin. She is buried there, in Spring Grove Cemetery.

April during the Civil War



Across

- 2 - Lincoln's body was taken to this Illinois town.
- 3 - Soldiers from what state were attacked by civilians in Baltimore?
- 6 - The Confederate capital of Richmond, and _____, were both occupied in early April, 1865.
- 7 - Which happened first: Five Forks or the Richmond Bread Riot?
- 10 - Picacho Peak occurred in which present-day state?
- 11 - The battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill happened in this state.
- 12 - What is another word for "conscription"?
- 14 - The Union captured the Petersburg lines at the _____.
- 16 - The fall of which Georgia fort was called a "turning point in military history" because rifled cannons were shown to be deadly against masonry (brick) walls?
- 17 - Confederate general who started a famous raid in mid April.

Down

- 1 - Gen. Lee told Gen. George Pickett to "Hold [this place] at all hazards".
- 3 - When the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter, the first shot was probably fired from this island.
- 4 - Where the Army of the Potomac (under Joe Hooker) set up camp in late April. The battle was the next day.
- 5 - Who wrote "The Passing of the Armies"?
- 8 - Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to William T. Sherman near _____ Station, NC
- 9 - Which state voted against secession by a vote of 53 to 13?
- 13 - Albert Sidney Johnston was mortally wounded at this battle.
- 15 - Union colonel who started a famous raid in mid April.
- 16 - The battle of Shiloh is also known as _____ Landing. (It is spelled without an "h" at the end.)
- 19 - This man was on the Keokuk when it was hit over 90 times.

Across

18 - The Thirteenth Amendment said that _____ or Involuntary Servitude would be ended.

20 - Which vessel sank in 1865, killing between 1200 and 1700 Union soldiers?

22 - Jefferson Davis asked southern farmers to grow foods instead of tobacco and this product.

23 - Lincoln visited which famous Confederate city in 1865?

25 - This 1864 act caused "In God We Trust" to be printed on a 2-cent coin.

27 - Which famous locomotive was captured in April 1862? The _____.

28 - This battle was called "the death knell of the Confederacy".

29 - This was the number of Lee's final order to his soldiers.

Down

21 - The Confederate Congress ordered this type of tax on agriculture in 1863.

24 - Lincoln was watching Our American _____ when he was shot by John Wilkes Booth.

26 - Who led a group of partisan rangers (guerillas) which was disbanded eight days after the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia?

Answers in Mayo Newsletter

Boots and Bluebonnets

District VI Workshop

The Salado Civic Center, 601 N. Main, Salado, TX

Saturday, 12 April 2014,

8:30 Registration – fellowship – light breakfast

9:00 Meeting called to order

11:30 Sandwich/Salad Lunch with homemade dessert!

12:30 Meeting reconvenes

3:00 Tour of the Robertson Plantation

Registration fee: \$20 (includes breakfast and lunch)

Make checks to: "Bell County Chapter, #101, UDC"

Mail checks to: Judy Holler, 8051 FM 2410 #210, Belton, TX 76513

Please send your reservations so that they will be received by April 5th.

The Holiday Inn Express has given us a \$20 reduction rate for Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12. You will need to tell them that you are with the United Daughters of the Confederacy to get that rate. Regular rate for this time of year are \$139 for 2 queen beds and \$129 for a king plus tax. Reservations must be made or cancelled by March 28, 2014. Cancellations after March 28, 2014 will generate the charge for the full stay

Our rate is:

King Non- Smoking \$109.99 plus tax

Two Queens Non-Smoking \$119.99 plus tax

e-mail: holidayinnexpress@hiesalado.com Phone: 254-947-8831

Don't forget to bring the following items to the Chapter Meetings:



Can Goods & Pantry Items

Clothing Items

Items for the May Military Boxes

REMINDERS:

Hostess for April Meeting

Carol Burdette & Linda Hybarger

Speaker for April Meeting

Janice Langford

Past President General 2006 - 2008



Please remember the following chapter members in your prayers:

Jamie Davis – fighting Lung Disease

Davine Hall – Ill

Margaret Taylor – Foot Surgery

IMPORTANT NEWS

We will **NOT** be meeting at St Jerome Catholic Church in April. Since it is Easter Weekend the facilities are closed.

We will be meeting in the Community Meeting Room for HEB at Bunker Hill and I-10.

We have two choices for May's meeting place, which we will discuss at the April Chapter meeting.