



# THE BUGLE 26



Newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table Queensland Inc.  
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## VICKSBURG REDISCOVERED-2

ROBERT E TAYLOR QSM

**T**he drive up through Texas from Houston on State Highway 59 is through beautiful spring-time country-side, green and lush. Bright little flowers, carpets of red Texas paintbrush flowers mixed with bluebonnets poke their heads up on roadside banks as we skirt small quaint towns along the way, familiar names like Huntsville, Lufkin and Nacogdoches. Crossing the border at Joachin into Louisiana and the difference is sudden, poor roads and ramshackle houses. Louisiana is quaint and full of yesterday but rugged roads and numerous potholes make the journey arduous as we pass such well known cities as Shreveport and Monroe. On approaching Mississippi, the land gives way to numerous wide bayous and vast flat tracts of richly tilled soil, lands only recently harvested of their crop and my guess is cotton. Indeed these are the same extensive cotton fields of the 1860's that brought wealth to the two States and the entire country. With that wealth came a Mississippi culture that couldn't endure the social tide of change sweeping the U.S. before, during and even now long after the War Between the States.

**W**ithout slave labour it was considered impossible to viably harvest the cotton crop in such large quantities demanded by commerce up North and overseas. A terrible dilemma grips the South; abolition of slavery, because of the considerable sums invested in both slaves and agriculture and loss of income from harvest would bring immediate financial ruin and cause world-wide havoc over the sudden lack of cotton. As it turns out, these very things await them whichever way they turn and the South falls helplessly into its 'Catch 22' situation, a catharsis from which it has never been allowed to fully recover, very evident in both Louisiana and Mississippi and adding credence to the lack of government response in New Orleans after the devastating storm. The North, it seems, just doesn't care about the South. I hope, for America's sake, the lack of emergency aid wasn't due to the fact that New Orleans was largely black.

**I**n Louisiana the history clock stands still and yet, while a Confederate battle flag remains defiantly in the corner of the Mississippi flag, Louisiana has a pelican as state symbol; the same bird, blackened by oil, so much a symbol of the BP Mobil Gulf oil disaster off Louisiana's fish abundant coast and still spreading its black syrup along Louisiana's once pristine beaches and up its long bayous. Will the North again ignore the South? Under President Obama I think not.

**W**hen I questioned a Vicksburg Riverside market stall attendant about the Confederate battle flag remaining on Mississippi's State flag he said flippantly, "*Oh they tried,*" and with grim reassurance and heavy Southern drawl added, "*but we aint gonna let 'em take away our flag; no sir-ree.*" That spirit, alluded to in my previous story on Vicksburg, was evident with every local I met in Mississippi, born of a deep pride and respect for the past and something else, a unique identity, as strong then as it is now, a Southerner and proud of it! The world could do with some of this '*pride of heritage*' and today's youth might also discover their true self and not cling to the impossible ideals portrayed in movies, glossy magazines and on glitzy television. The **real** people are just so wonderful that these two states would be nothing without them. They are not yet, it seems, all '*Gone With the Wind.*'



**T**he local Vicksburg government assures visitors of its commitment to growth and service. These are areas of great need in Vicksburg and while service is never wanting, because of the simple genuineness of locals, the basics of infrastructure seem to be sadly wanting. Unemployment and dreaded economic woes are biting hard and need more than platitudes. The State government proudly says, "*Attitude' is everything in Vicksburg and we are friendly and neighbourly,*" they refer to themselves as the "*Red Carpet City of the South.*" I endorse this comment completely and it charms me still. The other side to the coin is that Vicksburg has not yet been turned into a steel and glass metropolis with McDonalds on every corner; it still holds an old world charm we *Civil War* devotees expect.

A part from the magnificent river, the saving grace for Vicksburg is a strange irony; the very thing that destroyed it, is now its most beautiful place, extremely lush in flora and fauna, peaceful and most grandly kept in pristine condition; it is the battlefield that enfolds the city like the arms of a caring mother. I am desperate to tell you about our visit to Vicksburg's Military National Park, all 16 miles of it but must first relate the experience of a visit to the famed and inspiring Vicksburg courthouse. It was here that I not only gained a minute piece of the garden's brick wall, where a cannon ball had smashed it into fragments but also an inspiring look into a racial debate that 'colours' the life of General Nathan Bedford Forest and evolves into a remarkable story about America's famed leader Teddy Roosevelt.

Having been encouraged to visit the museum; already a compulsion because it is such a significant and identifiable landmark, my son, daughter and myself decide to head there first.



**Rob and Lydia examine one of the lesser known flags leading to the museum's entrance**

The courthouse is as proud an icon today as it was then, magnificent ionic columns support the Greek style building that endured the unendurable circumstance of war. Sitting high on a hill, it would have been a prime target to Union gunboats and can be seen from anywhere in downtown Vicksburg, here and there chips can be seen from bullets.



To reach this level of the building you need to climb a long sweep of steps flagged by river facing cannon and are immediately greeted by well maintained, colourful gardens. On these very same grounds a local Mississippi planter was inaugurated President of the Confederacy and inside, on display, is the actual chequered tie Jefferson Davis wore on that day. Even from this high vantage spot, the river is not so obvious; tall trees block its mighty vista but the site affords a good view over downtown Vicksburg, as it has since 1860. In spite of being very clearly seen from the river during the war, the courthouse survived damage because a wise Confederate garrison informed the Union gunboat flotilla they were housing Union prisoners there and should avoid shelling the building. It was a clever move, preserving the courthouse for posterity; it received only one stray shot to the clock tower.

So here is the Vicksburg Courthouse, now a museum, in all its Confederate glory and as you walk through the huge glass panelled doors, past original steel-shuttered windows that held back stray bullets, you not only step into a

magnificent, if over jumbled museum display but into a time tunnel to the *Civil War* era itself. You are greeted everywhere by Confederate flags, banned in many museums in a land of free expression; here the original battle honours, some torn by bullets, are proudly and defiantly displayed, including one that was never surrendered. In his book *'Confederates In the Attic,'* Joseph Horwitz criticises the museum for being too one sided in its Confederate displays. When I mentioned this to a young curator he became defiantly defensive; it seems that not only are the museum's curators unashamed, they are proud of the fact, ***"This is our story about our involvement; everywhere you go you get the Union story, well this is ours."*** Even Vicksburg's National Memorial Park was to later prove this point to me, with endless memorials, some extremely majestic to Union soldiers but very few to Confederates. The young curator explained this too as being, ***"Not something we want to be reminded of. It was a terrible tragedy for the soldiers and civilians alike. We prefer discreet and silent respect, not gaudy mausoleums."*** Admirable sentiments; in Vicksburg the 4<sup>th</sup> of July wouldn't be celebrated as a holiday for 81 years after the war.

**W**hen it comes to *'mausoleums'* nothing beats Vicksburg's old Courthouse Museum. Construction on Warren County's courthouse began optimistically in the summer of 1858 on land given by the family of the city's founder, Newitt Vick. Contractors were the Weldon Brothers of Mississippi who engaged 100 highly skilled slave artisans to manufacture the bricks and erect the building. It is testament to their skill; the work was completed in 1860 at a cost of \$100,000.



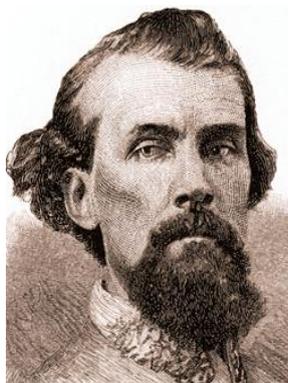
**I**t was in this courthouse that two significant cases were heard and one with surprising results. I had become lost amongst the displays downstairs for many hours and finding it all too much to absorb, having been all my life a world away from such exhibits, we decided to climb the ornate iron staircase to the second floor housing the original courtroom and all its fittings, the room envelopes you with its presence and heritage. Ghostly voices of debating lawyers and disapproving murmours of the public could almost be heard emanating from the historic walls. Tucked away in one corner was a display on just two of the most famous cases heard in this room. If nothing else, one of these was to make my trip to Vicksburg worthwhile and about which I had no prior knowledge and was to change my view on history and one of the war's leading generals, Nathan Bedford Forrest.

**S**pring of 1867 and a young black man, Holt Collier was charged with murdering a white Union officer in Greenville Mississippi. It seems like an open and shut case; he was black after all, a former Rebel soldier and he kills a member of the occupying forces and a Union army officer to boot. Even at a time of retribution it didn't turn out to be such a simple case.

**C**ollier was a former slave with the Hinds family and during the War Between the States served with Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. This got my attention because history brands Forrest a *'hater of blacks, a dyed in the wool racist'* and yet here is a black man who not only fought valiantly alongside him but became one of Forrest's most trusted cavalry scouts, famed as much for his shooting as horse riding skills. Collier was to end up in the Vicksburg courthouse because of loyalty to not only his former commander but also, as it turns out, his slave owner. A slave, destined to be a soldier, cowboy and perhaps the greatest big game hunter in U.S. history, he rubbed shoulders with the country's greatest. In this picture Collier adopts an almost Forrest like pose.



Holt Collier



Gen. Nathan B. Forrest

**H**olt Collier was born a slave in Jefferson County, Mississippi on a plantation owned by the kindly Howell Hinds who gives lie to the legend of the beastly plantation owner. Hinds took a particular liking for Collier and sent him, along with his own boys, to a school in Bardstown, Kentucky; unfortunately Collier didn't appreciate the kind gesture and played "hookey" much of the time, preferring the outdoors chasing squirrels, quail or even bear. In those days the so called *"Canebrakes"* of the Mississippi Delta were thick with black bears. By age 10 Collier was already renowned for his marksmanship with a rifle and had killed his first bear.

**W**hen war broke out, Howell Hinds answered his country's call to duty and joined the Confederate Army but before leaving, Hinds gave Collier his freedom papers. Collier immediately tried to follow his former master but being informed he was too young, stowed away on a riverboat. A year later Collier successfully joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Brigade to serve throughout the war. By the time he finished service Holt was one of Forrest's most trusted scouts.

**W**hen Vicksburg fell President Jeff Davis said, ***"The clouds are truly dark over us."*** They would grow much darker.

So we come to the event that threw Holt Collier into history more than any other, the so called 'murder' of Union army Captain James King. The story is distorted by time and most say the Union officer insulted Collier by abusing him for his connection with Forrest, Collier drew his gun and killed him. This is probably partly true but not the reason for the shooting. Captain King became involved in an argument with Collier's former owner, Colonel Howell Hinds, who no doubt stepped into the fray and very likely over Nathan Bedford Forrest and Collier's role with him. A crowd gathered and soon a fist fight broke out, although much older, Hinds knocked King down several times. Frustrated, Captain King flew into a rage and drew a knife on his unarmed opponent but before King could stab Hinds a bystander fired shots killing him. It was never fully proven that Holt Collier fired the gun and a good lawyer got him off the charge in the Vicksburg Courthouse. Following the long and much debated trial, to which many locals were sympathetic, the Union army was keen to seek retribution, so Collier fled Mississippi and headed for Texas to let the controversy cool down.

While in Texas, a former Confederate officer with the 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Brigade offered him sanctuary and Collier used his skills to work as a cowboy for one of the Lone Star State's founding fathers, Lawrence Sullivan Ross. He was one of the first Texas Rangers, later a Sheriff and eventually Governor of Texas. Ross had joined the Texas Rangers in 1860, first as Lieutenant and soon promoted to Captain. His company pursued a Comanche raiding party that led to **The Battle of Pease River** in which Cynthia Ann Parker was rescued, 20 years after her capture by Comanche's.

Ross enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 and his pattern of rapid promotions saw a rise from Major of the 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry to Colonel and then Brigadier General after covering the retreat of General Earl Van Dorn from Corinth, Mississippi in 1863.

When Holt Collier decided to return home, it was on news that his former master had been murdered and he left the sanctuary afforded by compatriot Lawrence Ross. Colonel Howell Hinds (CSA) a boyhood friend of Jefferson Davis served with Collier at Shiloh and was wounded twice during the war. Captured, he was paroled and returned home. Sadly in 1868 he was killed in another fight in Greenville when he stepped in to try and stop a savage brawl between two friends and was tragically killed in the process. A devastated Collier could only return to what he did best and took up work as hunter and guide, eventually earning the reputation of killing over 3,000 bears. This puts him above Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett combined; a dubious distinction in today's environmental ethic.

While this is reason enough to immortalise Holt Collier, the story doesn't end there. Holt became linked with a U.S. President in a way that would not only endorse his reputation as scout and hunter but give rise to the name of every child's most favourite cuddly toy. The President was 'Teddy' Roosevelt, whose exploits will also be covered in a future story on a visit to The Alamo in San Antonio.

How Holt Collier came to be linked with President Roosevelt, an eccentric and adventurous President in a bear hunt, is best left to Holt himself to tell. ***"One day, Major Helm came to me and asked if ah could get things ready in a monf an' not let nobody know what I'm a doin', He said Presidin Roosevelt will be goin' huntin' wiv me. I got fings ready; found a beautiful campin' place; I wus to be boss of de hunt. Along came de Presiden with a car load of guards but he left all but one of 'em in the car. Anyway he was safer wiv me than with all the policemen in Washington. The Presidin' was a pleasant man, when he was talkin', he'd stop every little while to ask other people's 'pinion. Sometimes he'd ask my 'pinion about sumfin'. He talked to me about as much as he did***

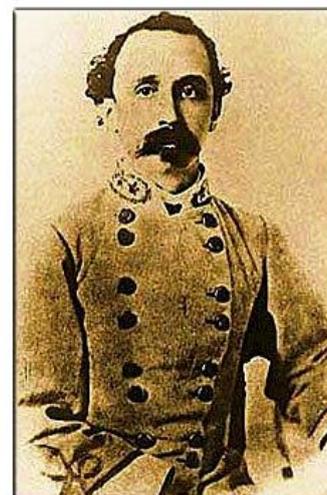


*'Teddy' Roosevelt with Holt Collier and dogs.*

***anybody else, he has a thousand questions to ask. We sat on a long log to talk and in ten minutes, thirty five people was a sittin' on that same log. It was goin' to be a ten day hunt but the Presidin'...he was impatient, he said he wanted to see live baar on the first day! I told him he would, even I had to tie one and bring it to him."***

These words were to prove prophetic; Collier had to do just that when no bear had the courtesy to volunteer its services. This was in 1902 and by then the stubborn and dedicated Holt had become a legend in Mississippi. Roosevelt was something of 'a-wanna-be' and had become a noted hunter founding **The Boone and Crockett Club**. The one trophy that eluded him was the Louisiana Black Bear. The beautiful camping place Collier referred to was on the banks of the Little Sunflower River in Sharkey County.

While the bespectacled Roosevelt was short and always ridiculously dressed with a straw hat for his adventures, he was a solid 200 pounds of muscle, strong and energetic. His introduction described by Holt as, ***"He say, 'So dis is Holt de guide! I hee'yous 'er great baar hunter!'"***



**Brig.Gen. Lawrence S. Ross**

Unable to catch a bear immediately, Roosevelt had returned to camp but Holt decided to get one for his President. The hand to claw battle with the bear is a long story but eventually he lassoed the poor creature and sent for his President. Roosevelt dismounted and studied the bear that had been stunned by a blow to the head and declared he could not shoot an animal tied to a tree. He asked that someone else put the bear out of its misery. The ever present press had a 'Paparazzi' field day with the story and headlines appeared with cartoons depicting the scene. Roosevelt was condemned for being associated with a man who rode with Nathan Bedford Forrest, a murderer and former slave. At the end of the hunt, Roosevelt declared Holt Collier, **"The best guide and hunter I have ever seen."** He vowed to return with Collier and hunt bear on different terms and indeed he did.



The Press had set in motion a story that would not die. Clifford Berryman ran two editorial cartoons of the incident on the front page of The Washington Post. Originally the bear was portrayed full size but in subsequent editions, the illustration shows Roosevelt with a slouch hat turning his back on a bear cub, declining to shoot the poor tethered animal. The cartoonist couldn't bring himself to show Holt Collier as a black man, so he's depicted as white, however it caught the hearts and minds of the public. Morris Mitchom saw the cartoon and decided to design a toy bear calling it "Teddy Bear" after 'Teddy' Roosevelt. He sold the small stuffed bears so successfully for \$1.50 each that it led to the formation of the **Ideal Toy Company** in 1903, by

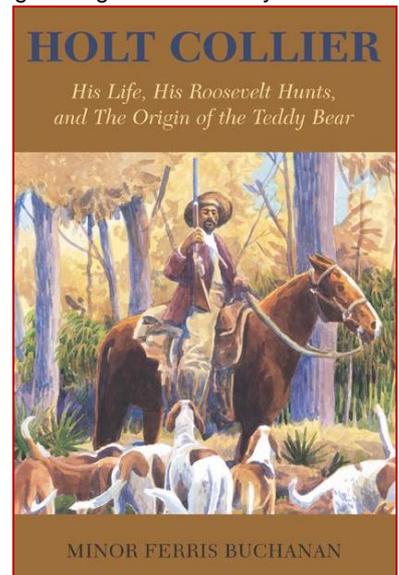
then it was selling 100 thousand stuffed "Teddy Bears" a year and the craze swept the world, even today children go to bed feeling safe and warm hugging their much loved "Teddy Bear" little knowing its origin and certainly unaware of the *Civil War* connection.



Collier died in Greenville, Mississippi in 1936. At 90 he had outlived most of the Delta bears. He walked beside men of all races and backgrounds through slave fields, battlefields, wood swamps and prairies, earning admiration and respect.

On a cool sunny Saturday afternoon on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2004 Holt's story came alive again at the Live Oak Cemetery in Greenville. Men in Confederate uniforms carrying the famed Battle Flag and women in hooped skirts and straw hats came together with the African American community to pay their respects to Holt Collier and read eulogies over his grave,

unmarked for 68 years. A new headstone, acquired from the Veteran's Administration was set in place and family members included Anne Marie Parker (*great niece*) her son John Parker and Grandson Brandon John Parker. Also seen in the picture is author of a book on Collier, Minor Ferris Buchanan.

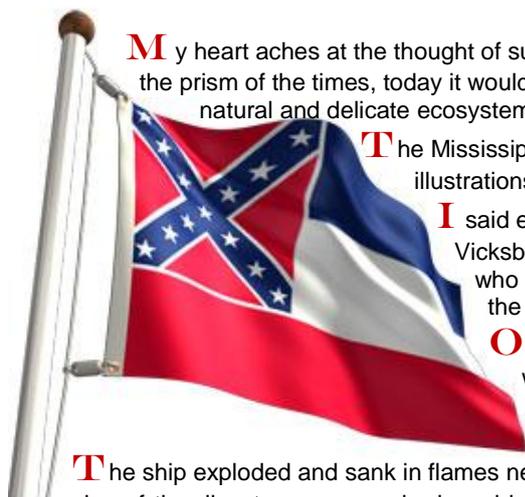


For a man who killed more bears than any other in American History, it is fitting that he has no small part in the creation of a bear legend. The popular child's toy immortalises one of nature's most splendid animals in the

form of a soft and cuddly 'Teddy Bear.' The original is held at the museum of Natural History. This painting of the famed hunt (right) shows Collier 4<sup>th</sup> from the right with Roosevelt mounted and the poor bear sitting, tied to a tree on the left.



This excellent painting is from a mural painted by Barry Graham



**M**y heart aches at the thought of such wanton destruction of a species but it has to be viewed through the prism of the times, today it would be considered a terrible injustice and an appalling destruction of the natural and delicate ecosystem of the Mississippi Canebreaks.

**T**he Mississippi State flag is a joy to behold and this, I think, is one of the best illustrations I have seen, full of movement and energy like the State itself.

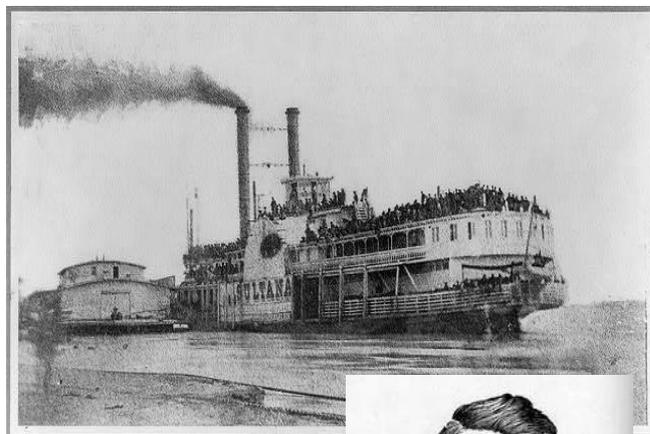
**I** said earlier that there were **two** famed court cases highlighted in the Vicksburg Museum's Courthouse; the other was a case against an officer who was involved with sending released Union prisoners to be shipped by the ill-fated riverboat paddle steamer *Sultana*.

**O**n April 27<sup>th</sup> 1865 SS *Sultana*, a large Mississippi River steam paddle wheeler was destroyed in an explosion resulting in the greatest maritime disaster in U. S. history with an estimated 1,800 of the 2,400 passengers and crew on board being killed.

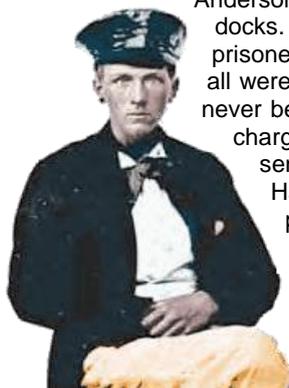
**T**he ship exploded and sank in flames near Memphis after three of her four boilers exploded. At the time, the size of the disaster was overshadowed by the assassination of President Lincoln and the closing days of the War Between the States.

**T**he wooden steamship was constructed in 1863 and intended for the lower Mississippi cotton trade. Weighing 1,719 tons, it normally carried a crew of 85. For two years, the *Sultana* ran a regular route between St Louis and New Orleans and was frequently commissioned by the U.S. War Department to carry troops.

**O**f all the people responsible for overloading the *Sultana*, the ship's Master **Captain J. Cass Mason** and Chief Quartermaster **Lt Colonel Ruben Hatch** were obviously guilty of greed and negligence resulting in such massive loss of life. Both were influenced by the payment of \$10.00 per officer and \$5.00 per enlisted man to ensure as many as possible, some 2,400 were crammed on board a ship designed to carry a maximum of 376 passengers. In the Quartermaster's office Captain Mason had earlier let everyone know, in no uncertain terms, that they were to pack on a full load of parolees. The ship is seen here about to leave Vicksburg with her decks dramatically overcrowded.



**B**oth prime suspects, they were not only ignored but whitewashed at the expense of a man whose only crime was to dispatch as many former prisoners from Cahaba and Andersonville as possible and loading them on a train for the Vicksburg docks. **Captain Frederick Speed** (right) had his counting of prisoners thrown out when another officer refused to hold roll calls until all were loaded aboard ships and for this reason the exact number can never be known, the roll was lost with the ship. Because Speed was in charge of repatriating the prisoners, he was held responsible for sending too many to be loaded, rather than holding Mason and Hatch to account for actually putting them all on board. Hatch had powerful friends in Washington including Abraham Lincoln that for the time freed him from accountability. As scapegoat Frederick Speed found himself before a court martial and after three trials, including that held in the Vicksburg courthouse, was found guilty; however the shonky verdict was eventually overturned by a US army Judge Advocate General. The two famous cases heard in Vicksburg's historic courthouse for Holt Collier and Frederick Speed resulted in both men being freed. The man who should have been in court was J. Cass Mason, master of the ill fated vessel.



**Captain J. Cass Mason**

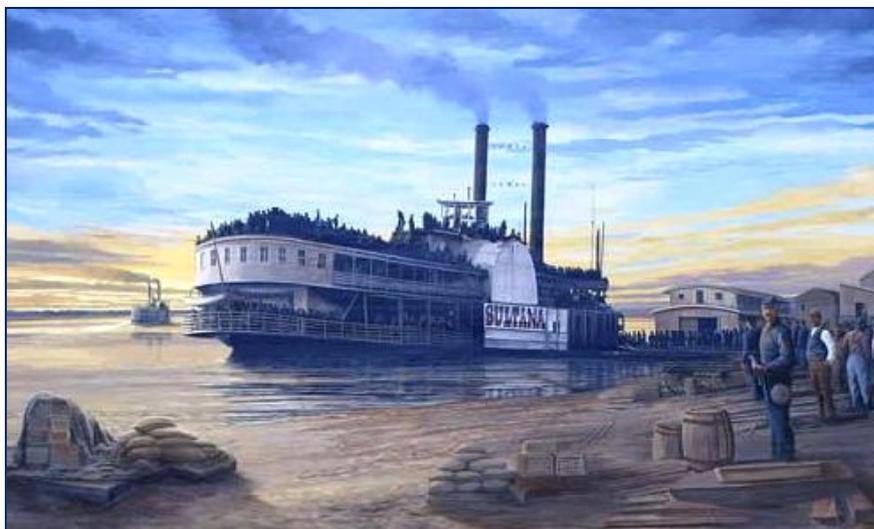
**O**fficially the cause of the *Sultana* disaster was determined, by the Vicksburg court, to be mismanagement of water levels in boilers, made worse by heavy careening as the steamer navigated tight bends in the Mississippi against a heavy flow of water. The *Sultana* was severely overcrowded and top heavy during her voyage north to Cairo in Illinois and listed severely to one side, then the other. The *Sultana*'s four boilers were interconnected and mounted side-by-side, so that if the ship tipped sideways, water would tend to run out of the highest boiler. With the fires still going against an empty boiler, the scene was set for disaster as it created hot spots. When the ship tipped the other way, water rushing back into an empty overheated boiler would flash instantly to steam, creating a sudden surge in pressure. Careening could have been minimized and the disaster avoided by maintaining high water levels in the boilers. The official inquiry found that *Sultana*'s boilers exploded due to the combined effects of careening, low water level, and a faulty repair to a leaky boiler made a few days earlier.



**Coal torpedo**

Mason played yet another role in the ship's demise, having been warned by the tradesman, a Mr. Taylor, that the patch up job was insufficient and indeed dangerous, Mason ignored Taylor in order to take the passengers ahead of another steamer waiting nearby. He was governed only by money to be gained from packing them all on.

In 1888, St. Louis resident William Stretor claimed his former business partner, [Robert Loudon](#), made a deathbed confession of having sabotaged the *Sultana* with a [coal torpedo](#).<sup>[6]</sup> Coal torpedos were basically an iron lump, cast to look like coal, with an explosive charge in the centre. When covered with coal dust they were very difficult if not impossible to identify. A former Confederate agent and saboteur, Loudon operated in and around St. Louis and had the opportunity and motive to attack *Sultana*. He even had access to the means, [Thomas Edgeworth Courtenay](#), inventor of the coal torpedo, was former resident of St. Louis and involved in similar acts of sabotage against Union shipping interests. Supporting Loudon's claim are eyewitness reports that a piece of artillery shell was observed in the wreckage. Loudon's claim remains hotly debated with many historians preferring to support the official explanation, faulty boilers.



From the Vicksburg Levee mural, dedicated in April 2005, *Sultana* about to leave

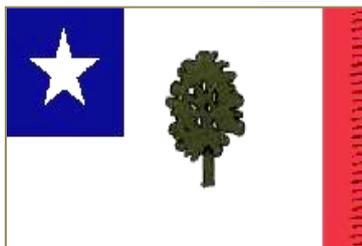
### The Lady of Court Square



The Biography of  
Eva Caroline Whitaker Davis  
A Lady of Courage That Would  
Not Accept Defeat

By  
Carolyn Ann O'Riley

containing over 1,400 donated volumes of priceless local history with original manuscripts and maps. (Email contact details for researchers: [societyhistorica@bellsouth.net](mailto:societyhistorica@bellsouth.net))



The Mississippi State Flag (left) at the time of the war. The thin red bar on the fly sometimes had a red fringe. Mississippi became known as the Magnolia State and the flag features a magnolia tree. It remained the state flag until 1894 when the present flag was adopted. This flag was carried by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mississippi Infantry regiment. Louisiana's flag (right) was adopted in 1861. Proud of its Spanish and French



heritage the canton is red with a yellow star, the colours of the Spanish flag and the stripes of blue, white and red honour the French tricolour. There are several good websites presenting excellent data on the various flags, including Wikipedia. Some states were in constant dispute, indicative of the parlous alliance the Confederacy enjoyed. As individuals in each State bickered over sometimes petty things, so did northern states. For research and full details on the various flags North and South, visit the website from where these two excellent illustrations were sourced. <http://www.loeser.us/flags/civil.html>



## HOUSTON ROUND TABLE REPORT:

**W**hile in Houston I attended the American Civil War Round Table meeting that, by a strange coincidence, is held in a sports complex club rooms similar to the lecture room of the Coorparoo R.S.L. and on the third Thursday of each month as we do and starts at the same time after a meal at 7.30 pm. The members are well versed in *Civil War* matters, Don Zuckero ran a mind teasing quiz that eliminates members down to a few hardy contestants. The questions, largely Texas in origin and specific had this visitor guessing, while locals too were eliminated down to a playoff between two members. The winner was, I am assured, a respected and knowledgeable senior member who wins just about every time. There was also a raffle of several good books on the war or Texas history with tickets sold earlier, one contestant nobly offered his prize back as he had already won something twice before.



Houston Round Table meeting, April 2010. Kenneth Howell talks about his new book *The Seventh Star of the Confederacy*.

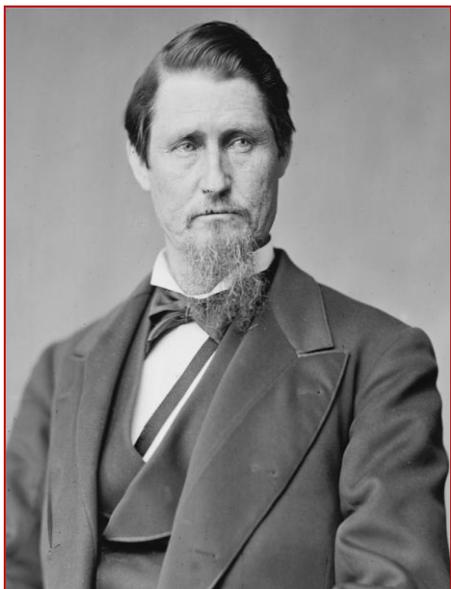
**K**enneth Howell was guest speaker who followed my brief talk about ACWRTQ activities. He began by talking about his recently released book *The Seventh Star of the Confederacy*. February 1<sup>st</sup> 1861, delegates at the Texas Secession Convention elected to leave the Union, the people of Texas supporting the actions of the convention in a state-wide referendum had paved the way for Texas to secede and officially become the seventh state in the Confederacy. Soon the Texans found themselves unwittingly engaged in a bloody and prolonged *civil war* against their northern brethren. During the course of this war, the lives of thousands of Texans, both young and old, were changed or lost forever.

**I**n this new anthology Kenneth Howell hastens to say, it is *edited* by him and incorporates the latest scholarly research on how Texans experienced the war. Eighteen contributors take us from the battlefield, the home front, ranging from inside the walls of a Confederate prison to the homes of women and children left to fend for themselves while their husbands and fathers were away on distant battlefields. It takes us from the halls of the Governor's mansion to the county commissioner's court in Colorado County. Also explored are well-known battles that took place in or near Texas, such as *The Battle of Galveston*, *Battle of Nueces*, *Battle of Sabine Pass*, and *Red River Campaign*. Finally, the social and cultural aspects of the war receive new and fresh objective analysis including experiences of women, African Americans, Union prisoners of war, and non-combatants.

**J**erry Thompson, professor of history at Texas A&M International university says, "*Howell has managed to gather eighteen of the very best Texas Civil War historians for a publication certain to attract considerable attention. It surpasses similar edited versions of the war in Texas and may well be one of the very best books on the subject.*" Joseph G. 'Chip' Dawson professor of history at the same university says, "*This book is an important addition to works pertaining to Texas 1861-1865 as a Confederate state. The survey chapter by Alwyn Barr on historiography is exemplary. Particular chapters that stand out include James Smallwood on the causes of the Civil War and Vicki Betts on the families of Confederate soldiers.*"

**K**enneth's talk was both inspiring and enlightening, adding to the perception of a war whose concept and reality many don't want to us to perceive, beyond the biased and engineered perceptive of political correctness. The truth will out and

fortunately the roles of brave Texans in this horrible conflict have now also been highlighted here in Australia at our meetings and in the many discussions resulting from my visit to the Lone Star State. Kenneth's speech was mainly about an interesting man who played more than a passing role in Texas history, James Webb Throckmorton, a leading historical light in Texas and former Texas Ranger. Throckmorton served as Governor of Texas from August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1866 to August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1867. The son of a Physician, James Throckmorton was born in Tennessee in 1825; as a boy he moved to Arkansas in 1836, then to Fannin County, Texas in 1841 and again to Collin County. In 1844 he left the Texas Rangers to study medicine in Kentucky with his uncle. Throckmorton served as an army surgeon in the Mexican War, but received a medical discharge. Disliking medical practice, he turned to law and politics. After five years, first as state representative and then State Senator, Throckmorton was elected delegate to the Secession Convention of 1861, where he was one of seven who voted against secession. Although a Unionist, like many Southerners when war came he felt compelled to defend his state and joined the Confederate army. He eventually became Brigadier General in charge of troops guarding the Texas frontier, and Confederate commissioner to native American Indians.



Throckmorton, Texas extraordinaire.

After serving as president of the Constitutional Convention of 1866, Throckmorton defeated E. M. Pease in the race for Governor, taking office in August 1866.

When "Presidential Reconstruction" gave way to 'Congressional Reconstruction' in March 1867, there followed a period of retribution and punishment. Throckmorton and the U.S. military disagreed over their deployment of troops in the interior rather than on the frontier; and they accused him of failing to punish what they saw as crimes against 'blacks' and Unionists. (Editor: *the outcome of the Collier case is an example.*)

In July General Philip Sheridan removed Governor Throckmorton as "an impediment to reconstruction." E. M. Pease was appointed in his place. After fighting against radicalism in the early 1870s, Throckmorton was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (1874-1888) where he argued, among other things, for government encouragement and regulation of railroads. He ran for governor twice more, in 1878 and 1890 before he died in McKinney on April 21<sup>st</sup> 1894.

Throckmorton was an interesting man leaving an incredible footprint on the war years and in particular Texas history. Until Kenneth introduced him to us at the Houston Round Table meeting in April I had never heard of him. This gives emphasis to the importance of such speaking engagements at regular Round Table meetings.

Kenneth W. Howell remains in regular contact with The Bugle's editor, he is assistant professor at Prairie View A & M University. Ken received his Ph.D. in history from Texas A & M University and taught there as visiting assistant professor. He is author of *Texas Confederate, Reconstruction Governor: James Webb Throckmorton* and co author of *The Devil's Triangle: Ben Bickerstaff, Northeast Texans, and the War of Reconstruction in Texas* and *Beyond Myths and Legends: A Narrative History of Texas*.

The spirit of camaraderie at the Houston Round Table meeting was a joy to experience and even though a complete outsider I felt right at home. This was as much because of the warm welcome extended by ACWRTH President Marsha Franty and the natural friendly nature of Texans, as it was because we all share a common and highly valued interest.



When I spoke to the Houston ACWRT meeting it was about my early involvement with the Confederate High Command International and the current role of ACWRTQ in research, re-enacting and locating graves of veterans. An excellent audience that seemed to hang on my every word and in so doing, further inspired me to talk freely for the short 15 minutes allotted.

Following the official function, besieged by a barrage of questions, my only regret was that I couldn't respond to them all fully and as openly as I would like. I had just arrived back on a Greyhound bus trip from San Antonio and a visit to The Alamo and was more than a little jaded. As it turns out, so tight was the schedule, that we only just made it to the meeting venue in time. I gained tremendously from this Texas Round Table experience, we are truly an International brother and sister-hood of people who share such a deep passion for a period in history that it creates a unique bond of friendship across the miles, as much today as it did back in the 1860's. Time hasn't weathered it, if anything that bond has strengthened.

The name "Texas" comes from Caddo Indians of eastern Texas who called their group of tribes "Tejas," meaning "Those who are friends." The state's proud motto is "Friendship." It's delightfully infectious.



## ACCIDENTAL MEETING, A WORLD AWAY.



Resaca, Georgia. The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Re-enactment of the Battle of Resaca was a special event for ACW re-enactors and history buffs alike. The Georgia Division Re-enactors Association has always provided an outstanding event, entertaining a healthy public attendance year after year. Three of those in attendance this year were Ed

Best, his partner, Wendi Keylar and Karl Slade, all of whom have been longstanding members of the ACWRTQ.

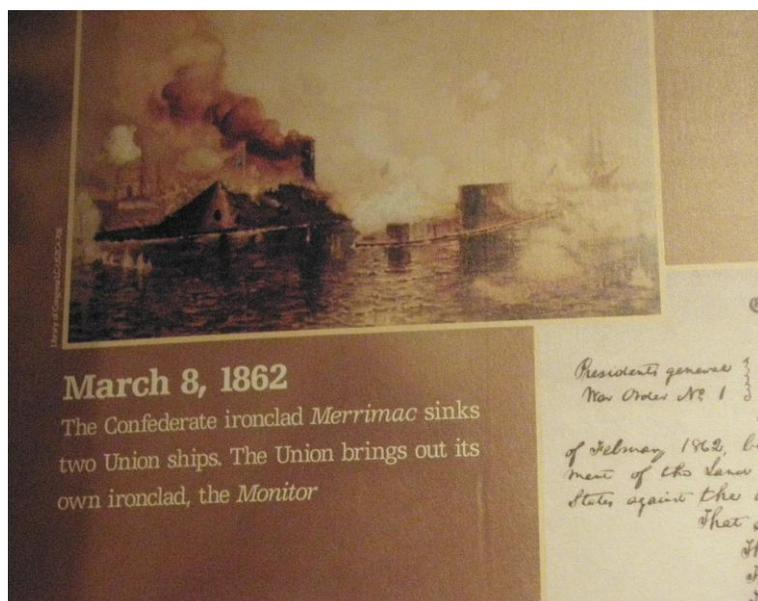
Ed and Wendi had planned this trip for months. Karl decided on a last minute flying visit, none of whom knew of the others plans. Ed says, "My jaw dropped to the ground when I saw Karl walking opposite when investigating the camps." Wendi found out when she, her sister-in-law and stepmother attended the morning Ladies tea meeting. When responding to a question about where she came from, someone said "Oh, we have another visitor from Australia, His mane is Karl, do you know him?" Wendi replied, "Actually I do know Karl, he's a member of our Round Table." It is not such a big world in international re-enacting.



From left to right: Karl Slade, Wendi Keylar, Janet Best, Ed Best

## MORE ON THE STORY OF CSS VIRGINIA

By Jack Ford



Following on from an article that appears on pages 11-12 of Issue 25 (May/June 2010) of *The Bugle*, I saw references to this Confederate Navy warship when my family holidayed in the USA in June/July 2010.

On 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Washington DC can be found the Ford Theatre where Abe Lincoln was assassinated on 14 April 1865. There is a museum located in the old theatre basement. This museum has a general history of the American Civil War that includes this inaccurate reference to the 9 March 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads: *Author's collection – photograph (left) taken on 27 June 2010*

The museum refers to the ironclad CSS *Merrimac* although no such ship was ever commissioned in the Confederate Navy! This ironclad was, of course, the Confederate States Ship *Virginia*.

Down on Constitution Avenue are located two of the various museums belonging to the Smithsonian Institute. Its 'National Museum of American History Kenneth E.

*Bering Center* has a large section on the third floor called **"Price of Freedom."** This section features displays on all of the wars fought by Americans so it features a separate, large Civil War display.

The display features Union Cavalry General Phil Sheridan's horse, the two chairs and the table taken from Appomattox Courthouse where Generals Lee and Grant negotiated the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on 9 April 1865 and a bullet-ridden tree stump from the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse (8 May 1864).

General Grant's sword can be seen elsewhere in the National Museum of American History. There was one error in the display though, the Smithsonian claimed Mobile Alabama remained the only Confederate port able to despatch blockade runners by the end of the *Civil War*. Galveston in Texas, having been recaptured by Confederate forces on 1 January 1863, remained open for the rest of the war and received its last blockade-runner on 24 May 1865. Mobile surrendered to Union forces on 12 April 1865. Galveston surrendered on 5 June.



The Smithsonian also has a piece of iron plate recovered from the wreck of *CSS Virginia* (*see above, they are drill holes, not damage inflicted by USS Monitor.*) Author's collection - photograph taken 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010.



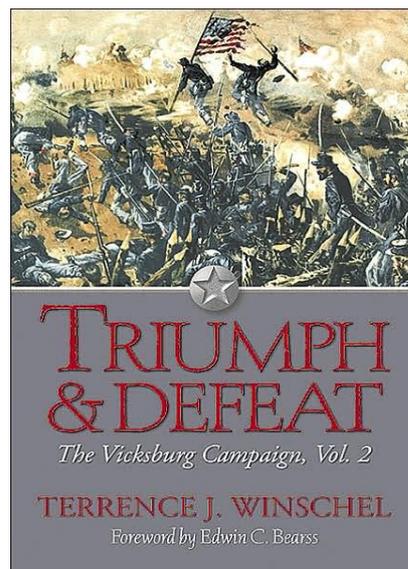
## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

*Dear Robert: WOW! This is some newsletter. Having been active on the Civil War Round Table speaking circuit for more than 30 years, I have seen scores of Round Table newsletters and must say this beats them all hands down. Thank you for the wonderful write-up on Vicksburg. I am looking forward to the next instalment. I can't but help think that, thanks to your article, we will receive many additional visitors from Down Under. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful summer. Take care and God bless.*  
Terry Winschel.

**Editor:** Terry Winschel (left) is Chief Historian for the Vicksburg National Military Park. He has published several books on the war all of which add another and significant dimension to the battlefield experience. Unfortunately we were unable to connect on my short visit to the battlefield but remain in regular contact via email.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Terry also holds Master of Social Science and Education Specialist degrees from Mississippi College. A long time veteran of the National Park Service, he has served at Gettysburg National Military Park, Fredericksburg National Military Park, and Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Terrence Winschel has written 50 articles on the Civil War and more than 100 book reviews. He is author of *'Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign, Vol. 2'* (Savas Beatie, 2006;) *Vicksburg Is The Key: The Struggle For The Mississippi River* (University of Nebraska Press, 2003;) *The Civil War Diary Of A Common Soldier* (LSU Press, 2001;) *Vicksburg: Fall of The Confederate Gibraltar* (McWhiney Research Foundation Press, 1999) and *'Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign'* (Savas Publishing, 1998.) Winschel is the 2004 recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award, presented by The Civil War Round Table of Chicago; and of the 2006 Charles L. Dufour Award, presented by The Civil War Round Table of New Orleans. He was named National Park Service Preservationist of the Year in 2007 by the Civil War Preservation Trust.



**Editor:** From the UK a long time student of the war, Michael Hammerson writes after reading back issues of *The Bugle*. He comments on General Ramsay who was one of the principal organisers of the first centenary celebrations in the U.S. back in the 1960's and Commander in Chief of CHC International. I asked him if he knew the UK commander back in the early 70's.

*Many thanks for The Bugle. Most interesting that the Confed's had a dental service. I was a member of the C.H.C. in its early days - a hotbed of secession sentiments, as to a lesser extent is my impression of the UKCWRT today (but although a good Union man, I hasten to add that I've greatly enjoyed my membership of both and the people of both "persuasions" I've met in them!). I vaguely remember the name John Chalkley ( UK Commander) but can't put a face to him. I still have their 1965 Christmas newsletter, with the Christmas message from US commander, "General" Donald Ramsay of Nashville, in which he compared Robert E. Lee with Christ and proclaimed his semi-divinity. I keep it as epitomising a certain mindset in the South.*

*On my student tour of the USA in 1966, I even stayed with Ramsay for a few days. He and his wife were very hospitable and he was a gentleman to his fingertips - but like so many Southern Gentlemen, more so if you agreed with him; a Union man even then, I diplomatically held my tongue during my stay. I will always remember inadvertently remarking on a note I saw in their local newspaper that claimed the population of Nashville would be 50% black by 1970. He grabbed the paper out of my hand and rushed into the kitchen to tell his wife in agitated tones: "Says here Nashville's going to be half nigger by 1970!" On another occasion, he had a friend over to eat dinner with me, equally southern in sentiment, but no gentleman. When the conversation turned to the recent assassination of Verwoerd in South Africa and I, in my student naivety, voiced approval, the friend turned on me and gave me a real tongue-lashing for speaking in that way of a "great man." Ramsay, I could see, disagreed with my comment, but he was much more deeply mortified that a guest should have been insulted in his own home. To atone, he took me to the Confederate cemetery at Nashville and we stood there saluting. I wish I knew what happened to the original Stars and Bars he took to drape over the memorial while we were there!*



*Michael Hammerson.*

**Editor:** Michael is currently researching a story for his local cemetery of the London branch of American Civil War veterans who existed from 1910 to 1933; their centenary is on September 20<sup>th</sup> this year. He is also researching a local vicar who was a passionate supporter of the Confederacy during the war in England. Let's hope Michael shares his stories with us in a future edition of *The Bugle*.

Wherever you are reading this issue, you are welcome to submit stories for *The Bugle* or give us some feedback in Letters to the Editor. We can all help each other in this ever intriguing subject, The War Between the States of America.



#### Editor's note:



Hardee Corp flag Army of Tennessee

In my Vicksburg story, (*this issue*) I mention a flag that had us guessing at the entrance to the courthouse. After discussing this with Ed Best at the last Round Table meeting he put me straight on it and clearly identified the flag as that of General Hardee's Corps, Army of Tennessee, the distinctively designed Battle Flag of the troops under General William J. Hardee's command that flew over the Shiloh battlefield in 1862 until just after the battle of Missionary Ridge. The round disk was later changed to oval and even some that resembled a square with rounded shoulders (*Cleburne's Division*).

Often regiments would paint their unit designations on the disk and battle honours on the blue field or the white border. The South had a tendency to change flags too frequently and it proved confusing at times. Some generals preferred State flags to help them identify units on the field but some regiments had grown attached to their battle scarred banners and were reluctant to part with them.

## ESK FESTIVAL 2010 BY JACK FORD



**T**

he annual Brisbane River Valley Multicultural Festival was held at the quiet and picturesque town of Esk on a wintry Saturday 31 July. This was the fourth year that the American Civil War Round Table of Qld was invited to attend the Festival. It is held at the Esk Railway Reserve just off the main street and features a variety of food, arts and crafts stalls, entertainers and an increasing variety of re-enactment groups.

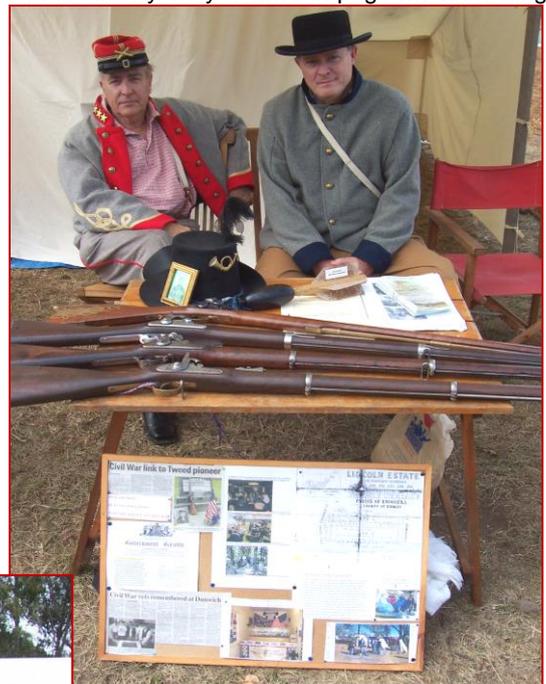
ACWRTQ was well represented by the 14 members who drove up from Brisbane or the Gold Coast to assist with the club display. Everyone was pleasantly surprised by the many improvements that have been made on the Esk Railway Reserve over the previous twelve months. Turf had been laid, many seedlings planted, and a

number of concrete or pebble paths and bench seats had been placed throughout the site. Heavy rain had fallen around Esk in the previous week and while this made parts of the site boggy, it made it very easy to drive in pegs when erecting the ACWRTQ members' tents. On the drive along the Brisbane Valley Highway, we saw the magnificent sight of an almost-full Wivenhoe Dam. It was in stark contrast to the previous drought-affected years when the dam was more mud than water.

Centred around two tents and a tepee the club's Civil War display featured two tables and a display board placed in front for the public to peruse. Items included genuine artefacts, reproduction muskets, photographs and flyers advertising club activities.

The Festival began at 8 am with the site well attended until after lunch (around 2 pm). Rainsqualls throughout the day may have kept some of the public away. The Festival ended around 4 pm. Missing as a venue for this year's Festival was Esk's old Lyceum Hall (c1910) that had burnt to the ground in March.

All of the re-enactment groups were located in a separate area of the Railway Reserve that the Festival announcer decided to dub "**The Medieval Village.**" This 'village' had groups representing the Dark Ages, Medieval period, Napoleonic Wars, American Civil War and late nineteenth century colonial Australia. It comprised a variety of tents, one horse-drawn wagon and a roped-off arena where each



group could put on a show for the public.

Re-enactors from the club's 44<sup>th</sup> Georgia and 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Regiments performed Civil War rifle drill twice on the Saturday. Each drill ended with a bang when, after Lieutenant Trace Scalf explained the nine steps taught to soldiers on how to load their rifles, he then ordered Ready! Aim! Fire! The assembled crowd were delighted by the sight and sound of a row of muskets being fired in unison. The afternoon drill session ended sooner than intended when the rain began pelting down while the infantry were loading powder into their rifles.

The public asked ACWRTQ members a variety of questions. The four ladies from the club at Esk were repeatedly asked to



Leela Ford, a fabulous dress



pose for photographs because of their outfits.

Six club members chose to stay behind and sleepover at Esk on the cold and damp Saturday night. Not expecting any payment this year, the club was pleasantly surprised to receive some money from grateful festival organisers. This money has gone towards ACWRTQ expenses.

Sadly this is likely to be the last encampment attended by ACWRTQ founding members Ed Best and Wendi Keylar. Ed and Wendi are moving to Georgia in March 2011 and they have already bought a new home there. They will be greatly missed, as the ACWRTQ owes much to their organisational skills and the amenities that they have provided to club encampments over the past eight years

Events for the remainder of this year include a possible Fernvale Festival in October. Further details are yet to be obtained.

Fernvale is on the Brisbane River Valley Highway on the road to Esk. As well, there will be a grave re-dedication ceremony held at 2 pm on Sunday 7 November at the Toowong Cemetery for Confederate Navy veteran Richard William Curtis.

**Editor:** This is a joint event with Terry Foenander of Melbourne, who organised the plaque that is on the Curtis grave providing research data and Jim Gray researching for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. SCV applied for a CSV cross and this has also been installed and awaits the formal ceremony in November, timed to coincide as close as possible with Remembrance Day, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. It is likely that a working bee will be formed to clean up the grave in preparation for the event.



On Parade ready to fire. Trace Scalf leads the firing party



## STOP PRESS EDITORIAL:

An alarming proposal to change firearms laws to include anything that vaguely resembles a firearm, including a child's plastic toy, is not only senseless but a total disregard for the rights of law abiding citizens who choose to collect non-firing replicas for safety reasons and the right of a child to play with a traditional toy. If this law is introduced, it means that it would be as difficult to own a non-firing replica, as it is to own a genuine firearm and that non-firing replicas would have to be kept in a safe. This means that many people will simply turn to owning real firing weapons as opposed to replicas and toys. As someone commented to the editor, ***"A boy's Roy Rogers pack will have to come without the cap gun."***

The new draconian law will even cover classic cigarette lighters resembling miniature pistols, bars of soap fashioned in the shape of a handgun and any wooden or plastic toy or homemade look alike. It will greatly impact on re-enactors who will face criminal charges for carrying non-firing replicas to public events; we will have to point with a finger and cry out ***"Bang, Bang!"*** Be careful not to shape your hand to look too much like a gun.

Some members have considerable collections of non-firing replicas, tracing the history of firearms and often use these for educational talks to illustrate their topics. For many years this has solved the problem of owning handguns in a country paranoid about such weapons. Public displays will be impossible at future events and it is recommended members be very careful about who they talk to in future. It hasn't yet been declared that possessing a photograph of a firearm is to be declared illegal but will no doubt be under scrutiny.

Firearms groups have condemned the proposed measures as cumbersome and misguided. Christopher Ray from the ***Law Abiding Firearms Owners*** says, ***"Legitimate owners are being regulated out of existence."*** He is quoted in the Courier Mail as saying, ***"We just wanted some of the burden, some of the bureaucracy and paper work taken off our backs. Instead they're complicating it further for law-abiding people. If we make a single minor mistake we can lose our (gun) licence for five years."*** The Courier Mail rightly puts the word 'gun' in brackets because it is not objective to refer to non-firing replicas as 'weapons,' 'guns' or 'firearms.' They simply cannot fire so the obvious question is...how do you legally include them in firearms laws?

With so many toys and replicas being already in the community, some in antique picture frame boxes with photos of Ned Kelly or John Wayne, the law is in danger of making hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders criminals overnight, unlikely to even know they're breaking the law. They will have to build massive prisons for our children as they are famed for fashioning their own (guns) when denied them by over zealous parents, inventively crafting them from twigs or scraps of wood; they always will.



According to the Courier Mail article (*Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August*) the state president of the Sporting Shooters Association, Geoff Jones agrees when he says, ***“The crackdown on imitation (weapons) risks making otherwise law-abiding people into criminals.”***

**W**hen these changes were first mooted, RSL clubs were going to be banned from having old decommissioned Howitzers on their door step and deactivated Lee Enfields in display cabinets. Police Minister Neil Roberts realised he had bitten off more than he could chew and says, ***“Requirements for permanently deactivated public monuments such as weapons on display in R.S.L. buildings to be registered or licensed, has been removed from the draft act.”***

**T**he Editor of The Bugle sent a submission to the Police Minister two years ago on this matter and emphasised the need for re-enactment groups to be given special dispensation and that a separate category should be established if they want to bring in a licence system that is not connected to restrictive firearms laws. The obvious easy change is at the point of sale and enforce retailers like tobacconists to take details of the purchaser with proof of I.D. This could then be sent to a data base. There should be no need for revenue gathering licences for each item, merely a simple requirement that you declare yourself a collector of non-firing replicas, or display pieces. With no serial numbers cataloguing individual pieces it is impossible. Requiring a gun safe for storage is ludicrous. If it is essential to licence, then licence the owner not the replica or toy.

**I**n the book Gullivers Travels, one society declared war on another, simply because they opened a boiled egg from the wrong end. This is a *‘boiled egg’* issue that could have been made so much more workable and of use to the general law abiding public. Reading and taking heed of the many submissions received would have gone a long way to resolving the matter. I suppose that if you are in the police and want to catch more criminals you have got to create more of them, perhaps that’s what this is all about. What concerns the editor, above basic human rights is, what’s next? In America they are banning flags of the Southern States. There always has to be a

“next!” The pen is still mightier than the sword and while it is very likely swords and bayonets are next in line for restriction, the pen will not be far off the restricted list and be available only to licensed writers who keep their pens or computers under lock and key and submit their words for government scrutiny.

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## The Confederate Cause

**Our 'Confederate Cause' could be likened to a southern sword, hanging above the hearth of the family home.**

**Its days of shedding blood on the battlefield are long over, but in a proud and visible position it remains. It is not packed away in an attic gathering dust, but remains nearby and close to the heart.**

**Due to attack by elements of the world, the blade could weather. Despite such attempts to bring the sword down, gleaming glints of steel would still hit the eye, reminding us of the injustices suffered by the Southern people and to not give in, no matter how hard the world tries to tarnish the memories of our beloved southern heroes.**

**Applying constant attention and care to the sword will ensure the ravages of time and environment will be kept at bay. Such is our cause. We cannot leave it idle and let it fall into memory. If we allow that to happen then it has become a mere relic of the past for which people will show little respect.**

**So keep it bright lads and close at hand.**

**God bless the South.**

*Jared Heath, 2010*



**Meetings: Coorparoo RSL. Third Thursday of the month. 7.30PM. All Welcome**