

Sons of Confederate Veterans Roswell Mills Camp No. 1547 MILL TALK

Howard Bryant, Commander - Rick Leake, 1st Lieutenant
Ross Glover, Adjutant 5284 Wyntercreek Dr.
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Ph. 770-396-5034

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.scv1547.org



Commander's Comments

Rev. Jim Cabaniss will speak on "Christianity during the War" at our December 3rd meeting. Rev. Cabaniss is a Methodist minister and a member of the SCV camp in Lawrenceville. The subject of his presentation is certainly appropriate for the Christmas season.

At our November meeting camp members agreed to support the North Fulton Community Charities organization by donating non-perishable food as a way to get involved in our community activities and helping those less fortunate.

As agreed on, each member is requested to bring at least \$5 worth of food items or cash contribution to the December meeting. Rick Leake will take the items to North Fulton Charities collection point.

See page 4 for list of food items.

Howard Bryant
Commander

Who Was Thomas Green Clemson?

Dr. Jerome Reed of Clemson University spoke about "Thomas Green Clemson, a Philadelphia native who

Served the Confederacy."

Thomas Green Clemson was born into a wealthy Philadelphia family on July 1, 1807. Though his father passed away when Thomas was only seven, his family was able to care for him and offer an outstanding education.

He traveled to France to study mining and while in Paris become an assayer of mines and a mining engineer. Thomas came to the Foothills of South Carolina in the 1830s and began to earn a reputation in his field. During a business trip to Washington,

**Thomas Green
Clemson**



D.C., in the spring of 1838, he met the daughter of Senator John C. Calhoun. In November 1838, Thomas married Anna Maria Calhoun in the parlor of Anna's father's house, Fort Hill. The newlyweds lived in Philadelphia for the first two years of

their marriage before returning to Calhoun's plantation in 1840.

It was during this time in Thomas' life that his lifelong interest in farming was born, due much to the influence of his father-in-law.

Farming was not the only influence Thomas received from John C. Calhoun; John also encouraged Thomas to become active in the federal government. Thomas served as the ambassador to Belgium under four U.S. presidents and in 1860 took an office under President Buchanan that later became recognized as the country's first secretary of agriculture.



Commander Howard Bryant with Dr. Jerome Reed of Clemson University.

In 1863 Thomas Clemson was inducted in Confederate Army as 1st Lieutenant, Nitre and Mining Corps and Iron Service of the Trans-Mississippi Department. He worked as an engineer in the Texas nitrate mines until he was taken prisoner and then paroled in 1865.

Thomas outlived his wife and children, finishing out his days at Fort Hill imagining the possibilities for higher education in the state of South Carolina.

Pilgrim Presents Appreciation Award

At our November meeting Past Commander Jerry Maddox was awarded a Certification of Appreciation for his service to Sons of Confederate Veterans by 12th Brigade Commander Tim Pilgrim.



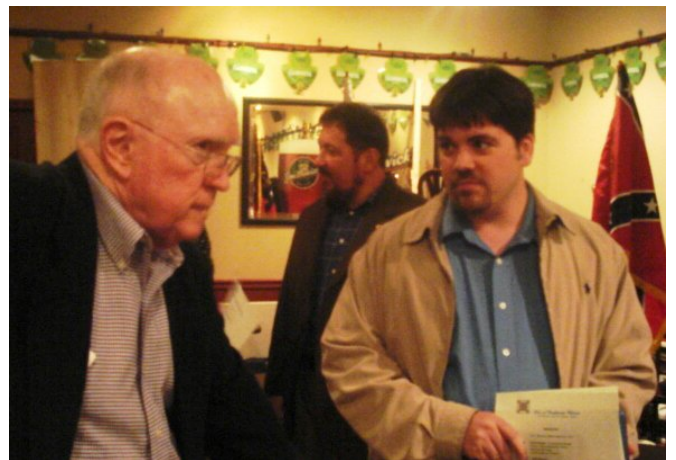
Scenes from the well attended November Meeting.....



Robert Blankenship, Tim Pilgrim, George Thurmond, John Cobb, Rick Leake, Jerome Reed, Ray Barry and Jerry Maddox.



Dick Anthony, James Lewter, Howard Bryant, Glynn Acree, Rick Leake, Tom Chrisman and Ross Glover (in background.)



Dr. Jerome Reed chats with newest member James Wells. Brigade Commander Tim Pilgrim in background.

The Trent Affair..... Could Have Brought British Recognition of Confederacy

On October 12, 1861 Confederate Diplomats James Mason and John Slidell left Charleston on the *Theodora*, a shallow draft steamship, fast enough to run the Union blockade. It was an open secret that the two were on their way to Great Britain. They arrived at Cardenas, Cuba and learned that the next British mail packet, the *RMS Trent*, would leave Havana on November 7th for St. Thomas from where it would steam to Great Britain. The two Confederates along with their secretaries and Slidell's wife and children boarded the ship in Havana.

Meanwhile, the *USS San Jacinto*, commanded by Captain Charles Wilkes, arrived in St. Thomas on October 13 where he heard that the *Sumter*, a Confederate raider, had captured three merchant ships near Cienfuegos, Cuba in July and decided to go after the raider. In Cienfuegos Wilkes learned from a newspaper that Mason and Slidell were scheduled to leave Havana on November 7 on the *RMS Trent*.

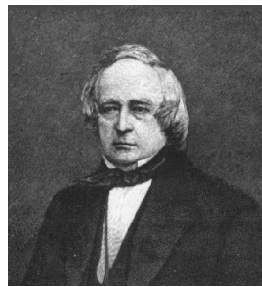
He realized that the ship would need to use the narrow Bahama Channel, the only deepwater route between Cuba and the shallow Grand Bahama Bank. Wilkes discussed legal options with his second in command, Lt. D. M. Fairfax, before making plans to intercept the *Trent*. He came to adopt the position that Mason and Slidell qualified as "contraband" and subject to seizure by a U.S. ship.

On November 8th, the *San Jacinto* caught up with the British merchant and fired two shots across her bow. Captain Moir of the *Trent* ignored the first shot but stopped after the second shot.

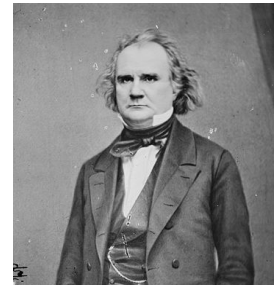
Two cutters from the *San Jacinto* had been prepared for boarding, but Fairfax first went over to the *Trent* in a third cutter. Wilkes' instructions to Fairfax were

"On boarding her you will demand the papers of the steamer, her clearance from Havana, with a list of passengers and crew. Should Mr. Mason, Mr. Slidell, Mr. Eustice and Mr. McFarland be on board make them prisoners and send them on board this ship and take possession of her (the *Trent*) as a prize...they must be brought on board." Wilkes also ordered to confiscate all possession of the two Confederates.

Fairfax boarded alone and was escorted to Captain Moir, the skipper of the *Trent*. He refused Fairfax's request for a passenger list and a search for contraband, but Slidell and Mason identified themselves to Fairfax.



John Slidell



James M. Mason

Mason and Slidell formally refused to go voluntarily with Fairfax but did not resist when Fairfax had his crewmen escort them under arms to the cutter.

The *San Jacinto* arrived in Hampton Roads, Virginia on November 15 and Wilkes wired news of the capture to Washington and was order immediately to Boston where he delivered the captives to Fort Warren, a prison for captured Confederates.

Initial reaction by the public in the United States was in support of Wilkes' capture of the Confederates, but many American leaders had doubt to the wisdom and legality of the act.

Confederate officials hoped the incident would lead to a permanent rupture in Union and British relations, diplomatic recognition by Britain of the Confederate States, and ultimately, Southern independence.

In Great Britain, the public expressed outrage at the insult to their national honor. The British government demanded an apology and the release of the prisoners while it took steps to strengthen its military forces in Canada and in the Atlantic.

Some in the British government believed Henry Seward, U.S. Secretary of State, with the *San Jacinto* action deliberately provoked the British.

Henry Adams wrote to his brother, "Good God, what's got into you all? What in Hell do you mean by deserting now the great principles of our fathers; by returning to the vomit of that dog Great Britain? What do you mean by asserting new principles? against which every Adams yet has protested and resisted? You're mad, all of you."



Charles Wilkes

After all the uproar and bickering back and forth,

U.S Secretary of State Seward, with the consent of Lincoln, disavowed Captain Wilkes action, apologized to the British for violating Neutrality Laws and released Mason and Slidell to go about the diplomatic business in Europe.

So many times between 1861 and 1865 the Confederate States of America missed the chance of becoming an independent nation.

Perhaps we didn't have the right leadership at the right time and place. SCV will debate forever why didn't we follow up in a battle or why didn't we press a little harder diplomatically.

Editor's note: "Crazy" Billy Sherman was released from an insane asylum a year before this incident.

**Next Meeting:
Thursday, December 3rd
Place: Harp Irish Pub
Dinner: 6:30
Program: 7:00**

The Harp is located at 1424 Market Blvd, off Old Alabama Road.

Rev. Jim Cabanbiss speaks about "Christianity during the War."

Let's support our Camp. Come out for fun, food, SCV fellowship and an excellent program.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food donations for North Fulton Community Charities.

Here is a list of foodstuff you may choose to donate:

Canned Vegetables (Green Beans, Refried Beans, Black Beans, Corn, Sweet Potatoes, White Potatoes, Squash, Greens, etc.)

Boxed Potatoes and Rice (Mashed, Scalloped, White - Brown - Yellow Rice, Boxes or Bags)

Boxed Pasta Mixes (Macaroni, Mac-n-Cheese)

Bags of Flour, Cornmeal, Biscuit mixes (Wheat, All-Purpose, White)

Cans of Fruit (Apple, Cranberry, Cranberry Sauce, Pineapple, Applesauce, etc.)

Canned Meat: Ham, stews, fish

Other Ideas: Breakfast cereals, peanut butter, crackers, beans, soups, canned or jarred baby food