

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

Howard Bryant, Commander - Rick Leake, 2nd Lieutenant
Ross Glover, Adjutant - Buck Wilson, Judge Advocate General
5284 Wyntercreek Dr.
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Ph. 770-396-5034 - Email: rossgloverjr@comcast.net



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Commander's Comments

While researching my Bryant family genealogy I ran across an interesting WBTS anecdote concerning a collateral line. A cotton planter named Devereux Hopkins had a plantation near the village of Pushmataha in Choctaw County on the western edge of Alabama. Near the end of the war, a Union Army officer and two enlisted men rode up on horseback and informed Devereux that they intended to confiscate some baled cotton that they had seen on the premises. Devereux, who was armed but on foot, told the Yankee that his theft of that cotton would result in two deaths – “I will shoot you and your men will shoot me”. The officer pondered this for a moment, then turned his horse and rode away, followed by his men.

After the war, Devereux's daughter married William Monroe Bryant M.D., a brother of my great grandfather. Dr. Bryant had been Surgeon of the 26th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry and, with the remains of his regiment, was at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

The village of Pushmataha is named for the Choctaw chieftain who allied his Indian forces with those of General Andrew Jackson in the Creek Indian War of

1813 - 1814. These Choctaws were present at the March 27, 1814, Battle of Horseshoe Bend which ended that war. With the exception of the later Seminole Wars in Florida, the Battle of Horseshoe Bend ended significant Indian resistance to white settlement in the U. S. east of the Mississippi River. When Pushmataha died in 1824, a grateful U.S. Congress passed a law allowing his burial in the Congressional Cemetery. Andrew Jackson attended the funeral.

Howard Bryant
Commander

February Program

Howard Knight's Milton County

Milton County was named for John Milton, Georgia's first secretary of State. He was credited with saving the official records of Georgia when the British occupied the state.

Some of his descendants were General Homer V. Milton of the 1812 war, Governor John Milton of the State of Florida, General William H. Milton of the Confederate Army, and Mrs. William Y. Atkinson, wife of the Governor Of Georgia.

Excellent Turnout for February Meeting



**Howard Knight, Milton County historian.
George Thurmond listens intently.**

Milton County was formed in 1857 from parts of Cherokee, Forsyth and Cobb Counties. Portions of DeKalb and Gwinnett counties were annexed in 1859. Arthur Camp, an early residence and Doug Allen's ancestor, sold 20 acres in the heart of present day Alpharetta to set up Milton County courthouse.

Milton County was a very poor county. There was only one paved road and no school buses. In 1932 Milton was merged with Fulton County to save it from bankruptcy during the Great Depression.

Fulton County was able to furnish Old Milton County with paved roads, school buses and a better school system.

According to Mr. Knight, the residents of Shakerag, a Milton County community, want to change its name.

Shakerag is an old English word for a beggar. You may see it in use in documents dating back to Shakespeare's time. The word Shakerag began to be applied in the 1700s and 1800s to poor communities, especially in the Southern US (which retains a number of good old English words, such as y'all). Actually, there are quite a few Shakerags in the South, including one in neighboring Cherokee Co.



Dick Anthony, Robert Blankenship and Howard Tefft.



**Howard Tefft and Jerry Maddox, foreground,
Rick Leake, James Lewter, James Wells, Ray
Barry and Buck Wilson in background.**

Elections Set for March Meeting

The Nominating Committee puts forth the following to fill offices for 2010 - 2011 terms.

Howard Bryant.....Commander
James Wells.....1st. Lieutenant
Rick Leake.....2nd Lieutenant
Ross Glover.....Adjutant

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Cobb's Corner



By

John Cobb

Sesquicentennial Notes

Not only should we be thinking of ways for The Roswell Mills Camp to participate in commemorating the Sesquicentennial, we should each have a personal goal to achieve during the next five years. It may be something as simple as doing that family history research that we never seem to have time for, or visiting a place where your Confederate soldier ancestor fought (or died).

If his grave is not marked properly, citing his Confederate service, it will be a good time to see about getting a free headstone through the Veterans Administration. I've had two for several years that are not installed, and I'm working with members of the Stiles-Akin Camp 670 in Cartersville for help in placing them on the graves of my great grandfather and his brother. I also plan to add a couple more types of Confederate Treasury notes to my money collection.

Probably the most important thing you could do is to write down everything you know about your ancestors' lives, and put it into a format that you can pass down in your family. We risk losing our heritage if we don't educate our own. Maybe your kids or grandkids don't show any interest in it now, but they will thank you for it some day! We all wish we had asked these questions, and listened, while those who knew were with us. Jacob Wheeler, a main character in the TV miniseries "Into the West", tells his young grandson, "I want you to remember these stories, so when the time comes, you can pass them on... it's important for people to know where they came from, and what others have been through."

Jefferson Davis's Beauvoir at Biloxi

Last year Rick Leake made a stop at Davis's home while visiting Mississippi. The following are Rick's account of the trip and a series of pictures of Beauvoir he took.

My 23-year-old son and I left Phoenix and took a father-son road trip back to Atlanta visiting several national parks and cities of interest. The last major stop was New Orleans and from there we were to drive straight back to Roswell.

However, one of our compatriots had suggested we take a coastal route back to see some of the hurricane damage.

We left New Orleans and drove east with rain and overcast skies chasing us towards home. When we got to Biloxi, Mississippi we saw Beauvoir and decided to stop and tour. We had not been there before and were intrigued to visit the last home of Jefferson Davis, and the home and refuge to many Confederate veterans and widows from 1903 to 1957.



Beauvoir, last home of Jefferson Davis, was completed in 1852

As an SCV member we were able to get discounted entry tickets. We saw a short film about the history of Beauvoir and then looked at some of the items on display.

The drizzle stopped and we walked over to the house to join the tour, conducted by a local volunteer. She took our group into the house and described the damage done by Hurricane Katrina and the cost and effort it took to restore the house and artifacts. We were extremely impressed with the detailed painting in the interior and fascinated by the ornate painting style called Trompe L'Oeil, "Fools the Eye" French style which added so much depth and detail to the ceilings and walls in the entry way.

We were impressed by the beauty of the home and its furnishings and amazed that it was originally designated a summer home and "fish camp". Jefferson Davis chose this setting to write his books and papers.

After touring the house, we walked out the back porch and through what was once a beautiful rose garden, but now completely destroyed by the hurricane. A sign says the garden is to be restored. We continued our walk to the back of the property where a grave yard of Confederates with a prominent tomb of an unknown Confederate soldier.

Construction has now begun on the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum which is scheduled to be completed in August of 2011. You can learn more about Beauvoir by visiting the web site www.beauvoir.org.



One of the bedrooms furnished with period pieces.



Grave of the Unknown Confederate Soldier.



Statue of Jefferson Davis Beacons visitors To Beauvoir.

Next Meeting-Thursday, February 4

Place: Harp Irish Pub

Dinner: 6:00

Program: 7:00

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

Bruce Stewart tells us about "Patrick Cleburne at the Battle of Franklin."

Mr. Stewart is a member of the Patrick Cleburne Society, President of Civil War Round Table of Atlanta. He is also on the Board of Trustees of Oakland cemetery where he leads a tour on the civil war at Oakland.

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