

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

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Commander's Comments

We have three good speakers and subjects arranged for our remaining three meetings this year. These are listed elsewhere in this issue of Mill Talk.

We hope that these programs will attract our members who have not attended recently and hopefully, some guests.

It is important that we have a good audience for our speakers; it is embarrassing if we do not.

We will be meeting at a new location commencing with our October 1st meeting. It will be at the Harp Irish Pub near the intersection of Holcombe Bridge Road and Old Alabama Road in a shopping center east of Georgia 400 in Roswell. A map is included in this issue. This location has a separate, closed (and quiet) meeting room with two entrances, one directly from the outside and one from inside the pub. We thank Dick Anthony for suggesting this location.

Howard Bryant
Commander

We were saddened by the death of Compatriot Jack Coffee this past month. He was a former member of Roswell Mills Camp 1547.

You Never Know Who Waves Our Flag



Sophia Lauren, Dream Girl of our generation, didn't think it was politically incorrect to be seen holding a Confederate Battle Flag. This occasion has been lost but not forgotten. At her present age she still looks pretty good.

When we are gone who will tell the story of the terror Sherman reeked on the Roswell Mills women and their children.

September Meeting Labor Day Short

Nine members attended the September meeting, but it was a lively one. Doug Allen and Commander Bryant had a devil of a time keep our banner taped to the wall and table



Commander Howard Bryant and Adjutant Ross Glover go over meeting notes.

Commander Howard Bryant announced that speakers for the next three meetings will be:

October 1 - Bill Potter on “The 300 Georgians Who Held the Bridge at Sharpsburg”

November 5 - Dr. Jerome Reel on “Thomas Green Clemson, a Philadelphia Native Who Served the Confederacy”

December 3 - Rev. Jim Cabaniss on “Christianity in the War”

If you plan to invite guests, these are the meetings that will make a excellent impression for Roswell Mills Camp.



James Lewter, newest member James Wells, Tom Chrisman, Howard Tefft, Ray Barry and Robert Blankenship. James Wells is Compatriot Lewter’s grandson.

Approval of reprinting Roswell Mills brochure by vote of members during business meeting. There is a search for the printers with the lowest bid.

Several possible field trips were proposed for 2010 including a trip to Andersonville and Altoona Pass

Members expressed an interest in both. Commander Bryant will explore both options.

Jefferson Davis' Administration: **Who Was Judah Benjamin?**

A Sephardic Jew from South Carolina, Judah Benjamin was chosen by Davis as Attorney General and became the Confederate President's confident and sounding board.

As a young man Benjamin moved to New Orleans and lived in a largely Jewish community. He married Natalie, daughter of a wealthy Catholic couple.

Benjamin practiced law and bought a sugar plantation near New Orleans. He became a representative in the Louisiana state legislature in 1842 and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1852. He met Jefferson Davis, senator from Mississippi, while serving in the Senate, and they became close friends.

Benjamin resigned from the Senate during the secession crisis of 1860 and 1861, even before Louisiana officially the Union. Davis appointed him the Confederacy's first Attorney General. He was the first Jew to be appointed to any North American government office.

After the First Battle of Manassas, Secretary of War Leroy Walker resigned amid criticism that the Confederate Army did not pursue the defeated Yankees. Davis appointed Benjamin to the position despite the fact that he had no military experience.

Placing his trusted friend as Secretary of War ensured that Davis would not be challenged on important military decisions. Benjamin efficiently managed day-to-day work of the War Department but began to quarrel with some of the top generals who resented taking orders from a non-military bureaucrat.

When Roanoke Island fell to the Yankees in March 1862, criticism of Benjamin peaked. Many censured him for not sending men and supplies to the island's

garrison. The war was going badly in the West, and Davis recognized that a storm of complaints was crippling Benjamin's ability to perform his duty, so he appointed Benjamin Secretary of State when Robert M.T. Hunter resigned that position.

As the outlook for the Confederacy grew bleaker in 1863 and 1864, Benjamin floated the idea that the South could obtain foreign recognition only by promising emancipation. This radical concept fell on deaf ears until the last weeks of the war.

Major General Patrick Cleburne suggested essentially the same scheme that was also rejected.
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How Many Answers Do You Know?

1. A U.S. Army fort was named for what Georgia lawyer and C.S.A. Brigadier General whom Lee called "Rock"?
2. Georgia native Porter Alexander, third in the West Point class of 1857, helped develop what communication system?
3. Who was the only U.S. Army officer from Georgia considered guilty of treason for having joined the Confederate army?
4. The troops of what Georgia Major General constituted the only Confederate force that actively opposed Sherman's march to the sea?
5. What Georgia Brigadier General led 200 men against 2,000 near Blue Mountain, Alabama, on July 14, 1864.
6. Described as "infernal machines" and used extensively by the Confederates, torpedoes are today called by what name?

Judah Benjamin continued from page 3.

When the Confederacy finally collapsed, Benjamin fled with the rest of the Confederate government to Danville, Virginia.

After the assassination of Lincoln, it was discovered that Benjamin had ties to the Surratt family, which was implicated in the conspiracy. Fearing capture and prosecution, Benjamin fled the country. He settled in England and practiced law there until the 1880's.

His wife and daughter had moved to Paris before the War Between the States, and he often visited them there. He died in Paris in 1884 and is buried there with his wife.

In her autobiography Varina Davis, Jefferson Davis' wife, wrote that Benjamin spent twelve hours a day at her husband's side tirelessly shaping every important Confederate strategy and tactic.

Benjamin rarely spoke of his service to the Confederacy and never wrote about his part in the government. He burned his personal papers before he died.

Historians can only speculate how much influence he had on the execution of the War.

Answers to Trivia Questions

1. Brig. Gen. Henry Lewis Benning.
2. The semaphore or "wigwag" system
3. Maj. Gen. David E. Twiggs
4. General Joseph Wheeler who also was a U.S. Army General during the Spanish-American War. He is buried at Arlington.
5. James Holt Clanton
6. Land mines.

October Meeting First Thursday October 1st

Place: The Harp Irish Pub
Dinner at 6:30
Program at 7:15

Commander Bryant has found a quiet place closed-off from other parts of the restaurant. It is located at 1425 Market Blvd., off Old Alabama Road (see map.)

Mr. Bill Potter will tell us about the "300 Georgians Who Held the Bridge at Sharpsburg."



**Our thanks to
Doug Allen, Camp
photographer and
Czar of Trivia
prizes.**
