

# The Territorial Dispatch

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, COLORADO DIVISION

CAMP 676, CAMP 175, CAMP 2104, CAMP 2126, CAMP 1492

Jan - Feb '09

Vol 3. No. 1

## Welcome to 2009!

It's been a while since you've enjoyed a newsletter from your Division, but rest assured, the Sons of Confederate Veterans are alive and well in the Colorado Territory after its creation in February of 1861 (for you history buffs, it was originally part of the Kansas Territory, and eventually the state was created in 1876 from a number of territories).

*The Territorial Dispatch* recognizes the heritage of Colorado, and like the territory, is broad enough to hold every one of our Camps. Therefore, our newsletter is a valuable tool for both the reader and the officers. The people, the places, and the plans for the Sons of Confederate Veterans across the Division will be found inside.

We encourage not just the officers to contribute, but each member who has a story to tell. This is the place to share your involvement in family history, in finding the places where Confederates served and died honorably, and with the celebration of our proud heritage.

In addition to dispatches from the Camps, we will be doing our best to give you an updated calendar in each issue about the events (with details to help you join us) across the Division. Naturally, we need everyone's help in keeping the calendar current.

Contributing articles, stories, or calendar events couldn't be easier. You can send them all, via e-mail, to Roy Poole, our new editor, at: [macpoole@pcisys.net](mailto:macpoole@pcisys.net). He can open, convert, or handle about any kind of file you send to him.

Roy joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans a little more than six months ago, after learning his Great, great grandfather was a conscript in the 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Infantry.

Roy's been a professional writer and editor, and has edited newsletters for a number of groups over the last twenty years. His skills and his willingness to bring a newsletter to all members are greatly appreciated.

Since this issue marks the renewal of our dispatches, some of the contributors could not be reached by the deadline. If you know how to get in touch, let them know we sincerely want to hear from them.

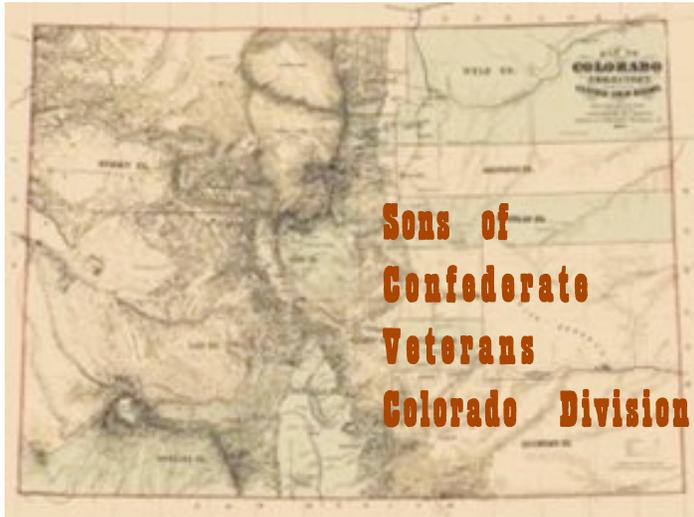
Another feature of *The Territorial Dispatch* will be short articles you can use in your own efforts to let others know about the honor of your ancestors. For example, telling someone of the letter, written by Mr. Lincoln, to his friend at the New York Post, that Mr. Lincoln could care less whether any black slave was freed or not. Mr. Lincoln only wanted to keep the South in the union. *That's* information which stops someone and makes them think.

Our plan is to publish *The Territorial Dispatch* in an electronic edition, every two months, and to e-mail it to members. It will be in the Adobe PDF format for convenience and easy reading by all. In those few instances where the internet has not made it to the isolated outpost, we will be sending a black-and-white copy via the snail-mail.

*The Territorial Dispatch* is YOUR newsletter. It's yours to enjoy every two months, to share with others, and to use for getting the information you need to honor your ancestors, and to become involved with others who share the same respect for the men and women of the South.

Take a look inside, and join the Compatriots who are planning for a great year in Colorado.

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*(Editor's note: With the start of our newsletter, we realize timing would not play into everyone's schedule, and have missed the Commander's comments.)*

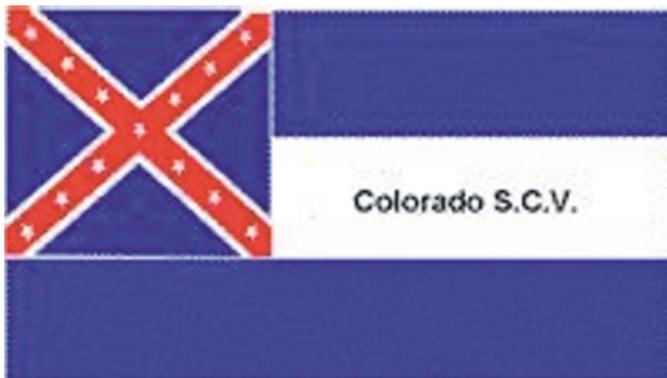
## Division Lt. Commander

Greetings Compatriots and happy New Year! We are moving into 2009 with a renewed spirit of action and service. As you are aware the Colorado Division has been somewhat inactive for several years, allowing the Camps to drive the activities and business of the SCV.

In 2009 we will work on an increased presence of the Division to coordinate and sponsor events and activities statewide. We are moving into 2009 with a renewed focus on websites, better communications through newsletters, increasing membership numbers, and saving two struggling Camps in Colorado Springs and Ft. Collins.

These efforts will work best if everyone can contribute to the effort so we are looking to you the Compatriots of the SCV to step up and help wherever your talents might be beneficial.

We kick the 2009 year off with our wonderful Lee-Jackson annual event and move right into Confederate Memorial Day in April, and wrap up our year on Veterans Day in November. The ultimate goal is to have 4 annual Division-wide activities so we are looking for a summer event to place on a permanent schedule going forward (perhaps someone



*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."*

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.

would like to reintroduce the Jefferson Davis Ball in June?).

Gentlemen, it takes the combined effort of all Compatriots to make the SCV work and accomplish things. The Colorado SCV has a proud heritage of accomplishment and preservation of the honor of our Confederate ancestors.

The three 1<sup>st</sup> National Flags flying in Colorado (Denver, Canon City, and Pueblo) are a testament to our previous efforts, and we must persevere into the future!

Please help the Colorado SCV move forward in 2009 and continue our efforts in education, heritage defense, and community service.

I look forward to meeting all of you personally and working together to further the Southern Cause for which we all hold dear to our hearts.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Gerity  
Colorado Division Lt Commander  
Camp 676 Commander  
patgerity@hotmail.com

### Colorado Division Adjutant Greeting:

As Colorado Division Adjutant, I've had the pleasure of serving under the leadership of some fine men for 2 years. During this time 2 camps had been chartered and more than 15 men had joined our ranks and took the oath to proclaim their heritage through their ancestors, the Confederate Soldier.

Also the Colorado Division has witnessed great strides in joining hands with the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Colorado Chapter in involving our groups in activities that benefit both. And we have the pleasure of a resident flag maker.

Terry M Wabnitz  
200 N 35th Ave, #62  
Greeley, CO 80634  
970-356-4983



**Camp 676 Adjutant**

Greetings y'all from Camp 676 and the desk of Camp Adjutant, Sir Robert Milner. I would like at this time to wish everyone a Merry, Merry Christmas and hopefully a happy and safe new year.

It is my dearest wish that in 2009 that both the Sterling Price Camp and the Colorado division maintain two major goals and that is a greater effort for communication with current members through our newsletter and web pages also to work very hard to increase membership in not only our Camp but the other camps within the division.

I am looking forward to the new year. As a New Year's resolution I personally will be working harder as your Camp adjutant. Keeping information out there to the members to keep you better informed; to continue to update a webpage on a weekly or biweekly basis; and to promote better participation with our current members.

The Colorado division as well as the Sterling Price Camp needs your support and your participation to pull this off. I know we all have busy schedules and certain things get in the way. But I would really like to see increased attendance at meetings and events.

Volunteering to help out with Lee Jackson for example as several people such as Frank and his good lady wife have volunteered to help with a home-cooked meal for the Lee Jackson dinner. I hope y'all will make a special effort to attend this year's event. I think we've put together a really good event this year not to mention a killer door prize. Really good food and a chance to catch up with people we haven't seen in awhile along with others guests as well as Members of other camps here in the division.

In 2009 let's keep things going like Riverside Cemetary, school presentations, our adopt-a-highway trash pickup, and hopefully some new ideas.

It is also my dearest wish to bring 175 back up to strength. There are people out there who want to be a part of this organization we just have to go out and find them let them know were here.

Hopefully, by this summer, some new events can be worked on to get our presence "out ther"e to the general public.

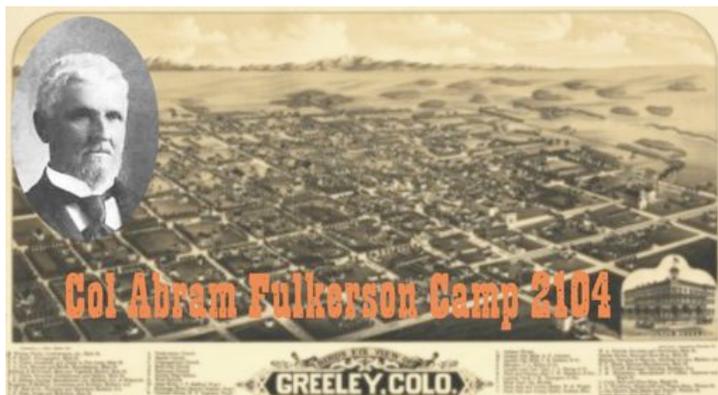
This is probably longer than the paragraph that Pat wanted me to send so Pat I won't mind if you cut this down a little. Again hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Please raise a glass on New Year's Eve and salute the South and our brave soldiers all over the world and to our relatives who we honor by being involved in the SCV. Looking forward to seeing you, Bob

**ROLL CALL  
Colorado Division  
Calendar**

Jan 13	7:00 pm	Camp 676 Meeting	Breckenridge Brewery 471 Kalamath, Denver
Jan 11	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Jan 25		<b>Lee-Jackson Celebration</b>	
Feb 8	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Mar 10	7:00 pm	Camp 676 Meeting	Breckenridge Brewery 471 Kalamath, Denver
Mar 8	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Apr 12	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Apr 26		<b>Confederate Memorial Day</b>	
May 10	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
May 12	7:00 pm	Camp 676 Meeting	Breckenridge Brewery 471 Kalamath, Denver
Jun 3		<b>Jefferson Davis Birthday</b>	
Jun 14	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Jul 12	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Jul 14	7:00 pm	Camp 676 Meeting	Breckenridge Brewery 471 Kalamath, Denver
Jul 22 - 29		<b>SCV 2009 National Reunion</b>	
Aug 9	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Sep 8	7:00 pm	Camp 676 Meeting	Breckenridge Brewery 471 Kalamath, Denver
Sep 13	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Oct 11	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Nov 8	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Nov 10	7:00 pm	Camp 676 Meeting	Breckenridge Brewery 471 Kalamath, Denver
Nov 11		<b>Veterans' Day</b>	
Dec 13	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley

*This Calendar depends upon Compatriots across the Colorado Division. We need to know what you're planning, and where you're meeting. The Territorial Dispatch will publish in January, March, May, July, September, and November. We'll be looking for your updates to the Calendar at any time, but especially a week or so before the publishing months indicated above. More activities and events are being planned, so be sure and check the updated calendar in every issue.*



## Camp 2104 Commander:

Greetings,

I would like to wish a prosperous and successful 2009 to all compatriots, from SCV Camp #2104. The coming years will no doubt be challenging ones, given the new Yankee Chief.

Those who value form over function, invariably hate symbols that fail to represent their aims, and our Confederate Battle Flag has long been one of their pet peeves. This should not be a thing that discourages us, but merely a new phase of the continuing battle with the enemies of truth.

Our ancestors routinely faced far greater numbers, yet advanced into battle bravely and with great resolution. We are descended from strong stock, and should seek to emulate them. Live the charge and God will decide.

Riley F. Smith...Commander SCV Abram Fulkerson  
Camp...Greeley, CO



## The Immortal 600

Amongst his many honors, Col Fulkerson was a member of the Immortal 600. The story follows, but we cannot forget that the use of Prisoners of War as “human shields” is today, and has been for centuries, a violation of the “rules of war.”

In October 1864, Union troops stationed at Fort Pulaski accepted transfer of a group of imprisoned Confederate officers who later became known as The Immortal Six Hundred.

Before arriving at Fort Pulaski, the prisoners were being held in South Carolina. Edwin M. Stanton, Federal Secretary of War, ordered that 600 prisoners of war be positioned on Morris Island in Charleston harbor within direct line of fire from Confederate guns at Fort Sumter. Stanton’s order followed word that 600 Union officers imprisoned in the city of Charleston were exposed to direct line of fire from federal artillery.

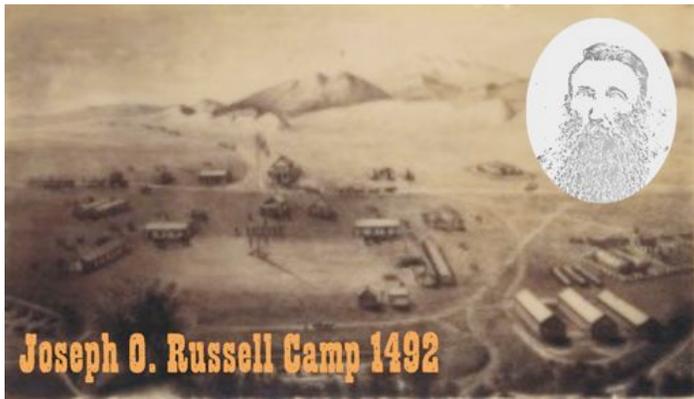
This standoff continued until a yellow fever epidemic forced Confederate Major General S. Jones to remove the prisoners from the city limits. The prisoners were then transferred from the open stockade at Morris Island to Fort Pulaski.

On October 23, 1864, over 500 tired, ill-clothed, men arrived at Cockspur Island. Early on, the emaciated troops received extra rations, and were promised extra blankets and clothing. However, despite the best intentions of the fort’s command, the prisoners never received sufficient food, blankets or clothes.

*“After picking out the lumps, bugs, and worms in this rotten corn meal there was not more than seven ounces of meal left fit for use. About December 10<sup>th</sup> scurvy made its appearance in our prison amongst the weakest of the prisoners. Most every man in the prison was suffering more or less with dysentery and a large majority were from the starvation diet, unable to leave their bunks.” Capt. J. Ogden Murray; VA. 7<sup>th</sup> Cav. Staff*

*“Two days ago, Lt. George B. Fitzgerald was taken to the hospital, and this morning announcement was made that “Fitz is dead”. He was a confirmed opium eater; a poor, miserable wreck—ragged, filthy, lousy...He has had no blanket, no socks, hardly clothes to cover him; none of us could supply him, and he slept alone, covering himself with an old piece of tent fly...A graduate of West Point; a lieutenant in the old army, mingling with the Lees, McClellands and Grants...” Capt. Henry Dickinson; 2<sup>nd</sup> VA. Cav.*

During the Immortal Six Hundred’s incarceration at Fort Pulaski, thirteen prisoners died. The dead were buried on site at Cockspur Island, Georgia. Most died of dehydration due to dysentery. March 1865, prison survivors were sent to Fort Delaware where conditions were somewhat better than at Fort Pulaski.



## Gentlemen

The Colorado Division, Camp 1492, Joseph Oliver Russell, previously of Ft Collins is scheduled to be closed, and thereby purged from the SCV system - due to having only two members on the roster. Minimum membership for a Camp is seven members; and Headquarters has allowed us to keep the Camp on the books for two years now as an exception.

If we lose Camp 1492 we also fall below the required 5 Camps to maintain Division status, this will be a terrible loss across the board. We must rally to rescue this Camp immediately with a transfer of 5 members to maintain Camp status. The Colorado Division will be working as a group to resolve this crisis.

For those who don't know anything about Camp 1492 here is a little information. Camp 1492 was the first SCV Camp established in Colorado (around 1990) and was the only Camp for almost 10 years.

It is named after Joseph O. Russell, one of the Russell brothers from Auraria, Georgia, who made the gold discovery near Denver that sparked the "Pikes Peak or Bust" migration. The Russell brothers are a primary reason Denver Colorado stands where it does today and their pioneer settlement is remembered today by the Auraria campus in downtown Denver.

When the War Between the States broke out, the Russell Brothers went back to Georgia to join the Confederate Army. At the outbreak of war most, Southern pioneers were harassed so vigorously by Yankee puppets that they felt obliged to move back home.

Those Southerners who remained, because gold fever overpowered patriotic duty, were jailed, some killed, or they kept quiet about their true allegiance. Approximately 2,000 Southerners did attempt to form a Colorado Confederate Cavalry Regiment at Mace's Hole near Pueblo in 1862, but were discovered and routed by the state, which was rampantly paranoid about both Southerner and Indian insurrections.

Joseph O. Russell and his brother, Green, would spend the latter part of the war, raising recruits for a cavalry unit. After the war, Joseph would travel with his wife to Menard, Texas where he would run a cattle operation until his death.



## Colorado During the War

It is quite possible that Colorado may have been a Confederate state had she been a state at the time the War Between the States broke out.

During the late 1850's, many Southerners migrated to the Colorado Territory in search of new opportunities, including working in the newly discovered gold fields. When the War broke out, many returned to the South to defend their homes; however, some remained, forming militia groups in Fairplay, Leadville, Denver and Mace's Hole (near present day Beulah). There were pockets of strong support for the Confederacy in the mining areas and in the Arkansas River Valley, from Canon City eastward to Lamar, and Canon City southward to Trinidad.

Shortly after the War began, one morning on 24 April 1861, Denver awakened to find a Confederate flag flying over the Larimer St. warehouse of Wallingford and Murphy. A crowd of men gathered to demand its removal, in which Samuel Logan, a Unionist, climbed up and tore the flag down, threatening bloodshed if it was not. There are conflicting reports as to what happened next; some say a compromise was reached and the flag was permitted to remain for one day, while others state the flag was removed.

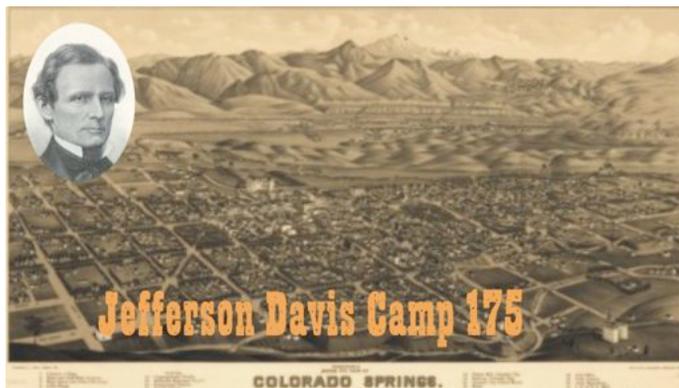
In 1861, when Confederate Gen. Henry Sibley organized his Army of New Mexico to invade New Mexico, Capt. George Madison was commissioned by Sibley to venture into Colorado with a two-fold mission: disrupt federal mail and communication lines, and to help organize Confederate recruitment in Colorado.

A rumor started that many were staying in a mountain hideout, forming a Southern military regiment. The rumor was true. Pueblo was a huge Southern area and those who wanted to serve the South could get hooked up in Pueblo. The mountain hideout was called Mace's Hole. In the mountains outside of Pueblo, Colonel John Heffinger was the Southern commander put in charge of recruiting and readying this Southern force. At this time, Confederate recruits in Colorado were first sent to a camp in the Pikes Peak area, and then sent to the main Confederate encampment at Mace's Hole.

Unfortunately, Federal soldiers learned of the encampment at Mace's Hole and broke up the regiment while many were away. The Federals took prisoners of those who remained in camp that day. Following this, Col. Heffinger, his officers, including Capt. Madison and his men, were all ordered back to join Sibley, as the war in Mexico had taken a turn for the worse at Glorieta Pass.

Once the War was over, many Confederate Veterans returned to Colorado or ventured out west in search of a new start. They were fundamental in helping to develop Colorado into a prosperous state.

One Confederate Veteran in particular, Charles S. Thomas, became the 11th Governor of Colorado and a U.S. Senator, and some of President Jefferson Davis' descendants settled in Colorado Springs, where they remain to this day.



## Colorado Springs Compatriots

We have unfortunately lost contact with Camp Commander Rick Thurston recently. The Camp has been inactive for almost two years now, and maintains a membership minimum at 7 Compatriots.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with Rick, and with all compatriots in the Colorado Springs area. Contact our Division Lt Commander, Pat Gerity, and let him know Camp 175 is still upholding the honor of the South.

### Jefferson Davis a Complex Leader

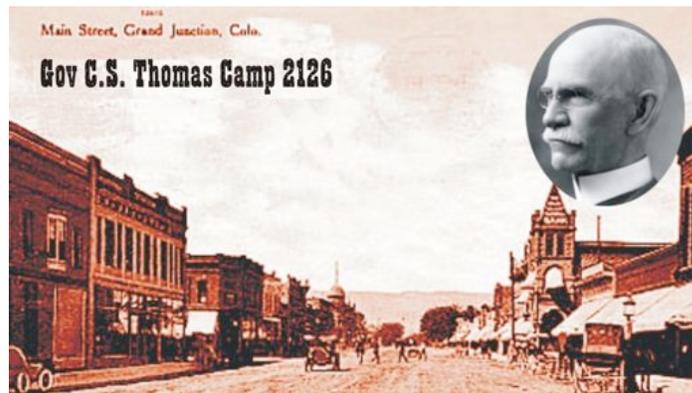
As Davis explained in his memoir *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, he believed that each state was sovereign and had an unquestionable right to secede from the Union. He counseled delay among his fellow Southerners, however, because he did not think that the North would permit the peaceable exercise of the right to secession. Having served as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce, he also knew that the South lacked the military and naval resources necessary to defend itself if war were to break out. Following the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, however, events accelerated. South Carolina adopted an ordinance of secession on December 20, 1860, and Mississippi did so on January 9, 1861. As soon as Davis received official notification of that fact, he delivered a farewell address to the United States Senate, resigned, and returned to Mississippi.

The following month, he was provisionally appointed President of the Confederate States of America. He was elected to a six-year term that November.

On May 19, 1865, Davis was imprisoned in a casemate at Fortress Monroe, on the coast of Virginia. He was placed in irons for three days. Davis was indicted for treason a year later. While in prison, Davis arranged to sell his Mississippi estate to one of his former slaves, Ben Montgomery. Montgomery was a talented business manager, mechanic, and even an inventor who had become wealthy in part from running his own general store.

After two years of imprisonment, he was released on bail which was posted by prominent citizens of both northern and southern states, including Horace Greeley, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and Gerrit Smith (Smith, a former member of the Secret Six, had supported John Brown). Davis visited Canada, Cuba and Europe.

In December 1868, the court rejected a motion to nullify the indictment, but the prosecution dropped the case in February 1869.



## Commander: MIA

Not sure what has happened to Commander Gary Parrot. The Camp started strong but in the past 6 months we've heard little from Grand Junction. If you're a Compatriot who can reach Gary, please let him know we need him, and all the Sons of the Confederacy, on the West Slope.

Now that there's a way to reach Compatriots across the state, Camp 2126 can expect more support for the events they organize. There's nothing like a weekend in Grand Junction, any time of the year.

### On Yer Feet!

Those are words, no soldier wants to hear, but words which no Southern Patriot ever failed to respond to. The Colorado Division is now getting back on it's feet to continue the march.

We need to get back to holding at least one or two Division level meetings annually. This can be as simple as a leadership summit or full blown meeting.

One suggestion is that the Division begin with an open invitation meeting to be held in conjunction with Confederate Memorial Day services, annually in April. This joint meeting/service will hopefully provide greater interest and attendance to our CS Memorial Day Service and not inconvenience Compatriots with too many meetings.

The Lee-Jackson Dinner is focused on fellowship, memorial, and awards, which is plenty for that one event. Our participation at the Confederate Memorial Day activity in April is somewhat lightly attended, so by adding an official Division Convention function it might make that event more established. That of course opens up the possibility of another activity/venue to hold a Division activity later in the year (possibly re-establishing the Jeff Davis Ball in June or a fall muster type get together).

The most important topic is membership retention. This actually has been more of a problem than new member recruitment, although both are very important. Many Camps have no problem getting new members in the door but statistics show that a large number of these Compatriots do not renew dues the following year. This can be due to a variety of factors including a lack of interest-holding activities, politics, or just a plain lack of proper Camp renewal processes.