



# The Territorial Dispatch

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, COLORADO DIVISION

Vol 3, No. 3

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

May – Jun '09



It was the kind of day when only the most dedicated, and the most respectful, turn out at a cemetery. And everywhere, there was a mist, threatening to become a cold drizzle. Temperatures dropped to wintry levels; while a cold, north wind reminded those present that Winter never really lets go of the Rockies.

But none of this harsh morning was enough to keep the sons, and daughters, of Colorado's honored Confederate veterans away from the Riverside Cemetery. More than 35 guests attended the Confederate Memorial Day services at Riverside Cemetery and at Fairmount Cemetery on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Our thanks go to Sir Robert Milner for his tireless efforts to create two respectful events. Of course, the support of the United Daughters of the Confederacy made so much of the morning's events honoring our ancestors possible.

At Riverside, we began with welcoming comments from Sterling Price Camp 676 by Commander, Sir Patrick Gerity. Next, our color-guard marched the colors forward and placed them for the balance of the ceremonies. Then, compatriots

Robert Milner, William Rhoades, and Frank Campbell read stirring tributes to the veterans.

We were privileged to have Laurie Weitzel, of the United Daughters of the Confederacy welcome their newest member, Sally Ann Fike, during our Riverside event. Without the coordinated efforts of the UDC and its fantastic members, we would be left much the poorer in our attempts to honor Confederate veterans.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies at Riverside, guests traveled to Fairmount Cemetery to honor three Confederate veterans interred there. A moving Soil Ceremony was offered by Laurie Weitzel of the UDC's Margaret Howell Davis Hayes Chapter 2652. Robert Milner offered the Confederate prayer and once again, our color guard honored the veterans with a rifle salute and the laying of flowers.

Here in Colorado, the story of these honored veterans is rarely told. But as long as there are the caring members of the SCV and UDC, their stories will not be forgotten.

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*Bob Milner presenting "Men Whom Defeat did Not Conquer"*



*This granite marker proudly reminds all visitors to Riverside Cemetery of those, whose final resting place is never forgotten.*



*Laurie Weitzel, of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Margaret Howell Davis Hayes Chapter 2652, welcomes new member Sally Ann Fike.*



*Compatriot William Rhoades issuing the Roll Call of Confederate Veterans at the Riverside Cemetery.*



*The SCV Color Guard presenting a volley in honor of those remembered.*



## 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Rgmt'l Light Artillery



The guests have all arrived to honor the fallen. A quiet falls as only a cemetery can create. When suddenly! A cannon's report awakens near and far to the ceremonies about to take place.

The SCV and UDC were indeed honored to have the support of the 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Regimental Light Artillery reenactors. Members of the gun crew were Steve Harris, Mark Brissenden, and Gunner Jake Lawlor.

The cannons use a reproduction of the 1841 US Mountain Howitzer. It's a lightweight piece, intended to be carried on mules. This reproduction is a replica of the same artillery carried by the original 4<sup>th</sup> Texas mounted volunteers.

The gun crew uses the 1864 field artillery manual used by the Union and Confederate forces of the time. Since many of the Confederate officers were graduates of the Union artillery schools, this use was considered most proper. The Regiment has also added layers of additional safety requirements recognizing the non-military situations to which they respond.

Obviously, handling a replica cannon is no simple matter and depends on drill and experience. Gunner Jake Lawlor will mark 23 years of experience next month. She is an outstanding example of discipline, responsibility, and authenticity.

For more information about the 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Regimental Artillery, go to <http://www.currensnet.com/4thrgarty.HTM>



## The Origins of Confederate Memorial Day

Confederate Memorial Day is a day set aside in the South to pay tribute to those who served with the Confederate forces during the American Civil War.

The founder of the Federal Memorial Day, Gen. John A. Logan (Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic), was so impressed with the way the South honored their dead with a special day, he became convinced that such a day must be created to honor Union dead.

The battlefield graves all around Richmond could be seen "marked with little white flags, faded wreaths of laurel" where family and friends of Confederate soldiers had placed them. Logan is reported to have been "deeply touched" and said "it was most fitting; that the ancients, especially the Greeks, had honored their dead, particularly their heroes, by chaplets of laurel and flowers, and that he intended to issue an order designating a day for decorating the grave of every soldier in this land, and if he could he would have made it a holiday." This of course was done at a later date, thus our National Memorial Day (at one time known as "Decoration Day").

During the Month of March 1868, just three years after the end of the Civil War, Mrs. Mary Simmerson Cunningham Logan, wife of General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic -- the Union Army Veterans Organization -- went to Petersburg. She recounted her visit in her article published in the Los Angeles Daily Times dated May 30, 1903, titled MEMORIAL DAY: A NOTED WOMAN'S STORY OF ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH.

*Nearby the graves of the men who wore the blue are hundreds of mounds that cover all that was mortal of those who wore the gray, and it is one of the most beautiful traits of forgiving humanity that none of them are overlooked on the most sacred day in the American calendar. In Dixie they garland with one hand the mounds above the ashes of the northern soldiers while with the other they strew beautiful blossoms on the graves of their own heroes. We of the north do the same, for they were all heroes, each dying for the cause he thought was right. They gave their all to prove their sincerity, and they all died true Americans whatever their political affiliations may have been...."*

The earliest known evidence of such observance goes back to various women's auxiliary groups in the South (see Mrs. Logan's story, above), when ladies organized events to honor their war dead by decorating graves. The earliest recorded event took place on April 25, 1866 in Columbus, Mississippi when a group of women formed an association to decorate the graves of civil war soldiers, starting with those who died in the Battle of Shiloh.

The towns of Macon, Georgia, Columbus, Georgia, and Richmond, Virginia all claim to be the birthplace of Decoration Day, having first celebrated it in 1866. In all, some 25 cities claim to be the birthplace of Decoration Day, most of them in the South.



Howdy ya'll,  
Greetings from Camp #676 and the desk of your humble but loveable camp adjutant.

Well, here we are at the start of a new summer season. This summer I hope to be more active with Colorado & National SCV events. To get the ball rolling we conducted ceremonies for Confederate Memorial Day event on April 25<sup>th</sup>, which for the first time was at two locations. Riverside hosted the first ceremony and Fairmount the second. The UDC has done some great work in finding three new Confederate graves, which we have placed new markers for and dedicated on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Coming next, will be our camp meeting at Breckenridge Brewery May, 12th at 7 PM. Then our bi-annual Adopt-A-Highway trash pickup on Saturday, May, 16th, 10AM starting at the corner of Kipling and Chatfield.

In June we will be having the first ever, SCV-sponsored Gun show at Sportsman's Warehouse, Littleton, on Saturday and Sunday June 20th & 21st. from 9 to 9 on Saturday; and 10 to 6 on Sunday. This will include guns from my own collection and we will be joined by some other clubs like the 10th Mountain WW II guys, and the Cowboy action shooters (SASS). Plus, I'm working on getting the Texas roadhouse to be there with free samples of their ribs and pulled pork. We will need volunteers to man the tables on both days. I would like to have at least two to three people there at all times. We will be handing out SCV membership info and stuff as well.

After that comes the National Convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas. After consulting my calendar I may be going after all. I have to make a trip to Alabama to visit my kinfolk this summer so I will try and do both at the same time.

This is already a busier summer than the last couple, which means we need a lot of help to pull this stuff off. So lend a hand if you can. We need to work harder to increase membership. We need to do anything we can do to get the word out to the people that we are here and what we are about.

Well, that it for now. I probably have taken up too much newsletter space as it is. So lets have a great summer ya'll.

Thanks, Bob



## SCV Gun Show



The Confederate soldier often wore homemade clothes in the pattern of "official" uniforms. If wool wasn't available, their wives made them out of cotton. They often went shoeless from one battle to another. But you can be sure, despite their appearance, that they took care of their rifles above all else.

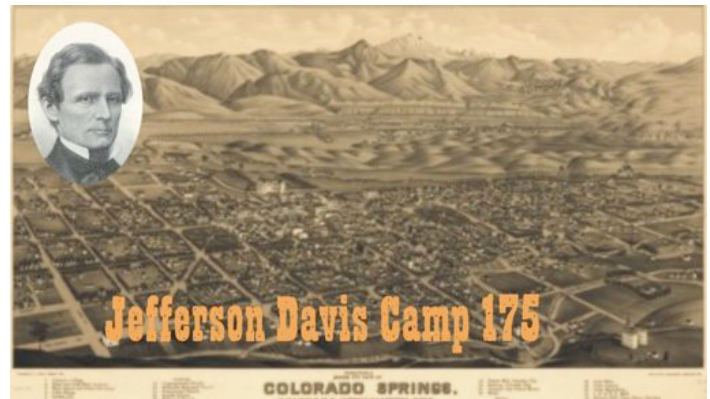
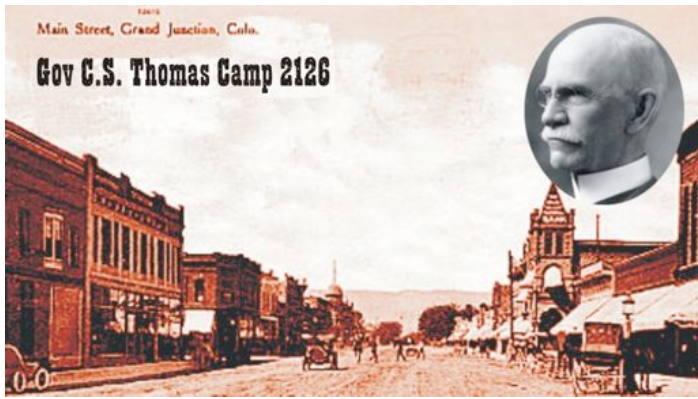
These were the tools which kept the Union army, with all its industrial backing, virtually unable to defeat the South until it resorted to tactics outside of acceptable warfare.

Now, YOU have a chance to see and to hold some of these incredible rifles, and their reproductions, which remind us they could shoot an accurate round, and to remember how capable the Army of the Confederacy really was.

Sir Bob Milner has organized a gun show for all to enjoy. Join him, other SCV members, and the public-at-large at the Sportsman's Warehouse store in Littleton on Saturday and Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Sportsman's Warehouse is located at 8500 W. Crestline, just off Wadsworth Blvd, and south of Bellevue.





Commander Sir Gary Parrot has exciting news from Colorado’s West Slope. Gov. C.S. Thomas Camp 2126: They have recently added four, new compatriots to the roster, and have another four in the pipeline for approval. Well Done! The Grand Junction area Camp 2126 has the largest enrollment of compatriots in the state!

Gary also is continuing his research on Colorado’s real role in the War Between the States. He has found 12 more names on lists, which indicate these Confederate veterans are also buried in Colorado, bringing the total number of heroes to fifty.

And then, there’s a story he’s researching on the illegal seizure of land grant estates of Coloradoans by they Union, because the grant holders expressed sympathy for the South. Be sure and watch for this story in future issues of your “Territorial Disnatch.”

Compatriot Scott Myers has stepped up to help us get the Colorado Springs Jefferson Davis Camp 175 back to full strength and interesting activities. Scott sent us the following brief report:

“I have spoken with five of the six contacts and former members of Camp 175. All five are excited to get the camp going again and have it become more active. I am still trying to get hold of one last contact. If he is interested, we should have seven members, including me. I am in the process of coordinating our first meeting and am shooting for the second week in May. “

If you would like to attend the first meeting, or if you know of someone living in Canyon City, Pueblo, Larkspur or Castle Rock, who might be interested in joining (or perhaps re-joining) the SCV, have them contact Scott directly.

Scott can be reached via e-mail at [scottdmyers1@msn.com](mailto:scottdmyers1@msn.com) or by telephone at (719)576-2601.



Scott Myers and son Dalton visiting Virginia, where Scott grew up.

**Cap ‘n Ball Shoot Rained Out**

Actually, the day for the cap and ball shoot of traditional-styled muzzleloaders wasn’t rained out, but enough rain fell on the muddy prairies of Colorado, where the event was to be held, that the event was postponed.

But the folks up in Greeley at the Abram Fulkerson Camp 2104 are still anxious to have everyone join them for a fun day of discovering just how thick the smoke could be from these old guns.

There is not yet a date for the re-run, but if you would like to be notified when one is set, contact Camp 2104 Adjutant Terry Wabnitz at [terry\\_wabnitz\\_scv@yahoo.com](mailto:terry_wabnitz_scv@yahoo.com).

In 1896, the United Sons of Confederate Veterans established a new constitution providing that the federation should perpetuate in its organization the plan of the Confederate Army by being divided into three Departments. The Army of the Trans-Mississippi consisted of all states and territories west of the Mississippi River with the exception of Louisiana. The Army of the Trans-Mississippi is the organizing command for the Colorado Division. For more information, go to: <http://atmsev.com/>

## SCV Adopt a Highway Clean-up Day



Throughout the country, average folks, like the anonymous ones pictured above, take time from all the other demands on their lives to do something for everyone.

They volunteer for a few hours to clean up a small section of highway to benefit their community. Where others see only a trash dump, folks like these make a statement about the importance of respect for everyone.

This year, The SCV's first clean-up day will take place on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the corner of South Kipling Pkwy. and West Chatfield Ave. in the parking lot on the Southwest corner. Join us at 10:00 am on Saturday morning for a rewarding day.



## Marching Orders

(Colorado Division Calendar of events)

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
May 16	10:00 am	Adopt-a-Hwy Cleanup	Kipling Pkwy & W. Chatfield Ave.
Jun 3		<b>Jefferson Davis Birthday</b>	
Jun 14	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Jun 20-21		SCV Gun Show	Sportsmans Warehouse Littleton
Jul 1-3		<b>Battle of Gettysburg</b>	
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
July 21		<b>Battle of First Manassas</b>	
Jul 22 – 29		<b>SCV 2009 National Reunion</b>	Little Rock, AR <a href="http://www.scv2009reunion.com">www.scv2009reunion.com</a>
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
Sep 17		<b>Battle of Sharpsburg</b>	
Oct 11	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Oct 12		<b>Robert E. Lee died</b>	
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 6		<b>Jefferson Davis died</b>	
Dec 13	2:00 pm	Camp 2104 Meeting	Weld Co. Library 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Dec 13		<b>Battle of Fredericksburg</b>	

### We Need Your Help!

Our calendar of events is only as complete as you help us keep it current. Our next issue will cover the months of July and August.

If you have any events or activities of interest to your fellow compatriots, please send them to Editor Roy Poole at [mapoole@pcisys.net](mailto:mapoole@pcisys.net).

If you can send your updates before the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, we can assure you that they will be placed in our calendar for all to see. Also, if you would like to add a contact name or e-mail to your event, it will encourage other SCV members to join you.