Jefferson Davis elected president of the Confederacy

On November 06, 1861, Jefferson Davis is elected president of the Confederate States of America. He ran without opposition, and the election simply confirmed the decision that had been made by the Confederate Congress earlier in the year.

Like his Union counterpart, President Abraham Lincoln, Davis was a native of Kentucky, born in 1808. He attended West Point and graduated in 1828. After serving in the Black Hawk War of 1832, Davis married Sarah Knox Taylor, the daughter of General (and future U.S. president) Zachary Taylor, in 1835. However, Sarah contracted malaria and died within several months of their marriage. Davis married Varina Howells in 1845. He served in the Mexican War (1846-48), during which he was wounded. After the war, he was appointed to fill a vacant U.S. senate seat from Mississippi, and later served as secretary of war under President Franklin Pierce.

When the Southern states began seceding after the election of Abraham Lincoln in the winter of 1860 and 1861, Davis suspected that he might be the choice of his fellow Southerners for their interim president. When the newly seceded states met in Montgomery, Alabama, in February 1861, they decided just that. Davis expressed great fear about what lay ahead. "Upon my weary heart was showered smiles, plaudits, and flowers, but beyond them I saw troubles and thorns innumerable." On November 6, Davis was elected to a six-year term as established by the Confederate constitution. He remained president until May 5, 1865, when the Confederate government was officially dissolved.

On May 19, 1865, Davis was imprisoned in a casemate at Fortress Monroe on the coast of Virginia.
Greetings Compatriots,

Hope everyone is ready for some nice cooler autumn weather. To go along with this time of year is when the gun shows get into full swing again, a prime opportunity for recruiting. Let’s get the Kansas Division built up!

Wreaths across America is December 13…a good time to get some recognition for the camps and division. I know the SCV will be at Winfield Veterans Cemetery. Last year Robert Miller and Gerald Spaur braved the elements and the bitter cold; hopefully it will not be as bad this year, but being December in Kansas, we have to expect the worst. I stopped by Ft. Riley last year a couple weeks after the Wreaths across America and saw that the Confederates did not have wreaths…I had hoped that they would be decorated, but was not surprised that they weren’t. I don’t know about the Confederate graves at Ft. Leavenworth or Ft. Scott, but have to assume they were not decorated with wreaths either.

The Wreaths across America last year conflicted with the December DEC meeting, and the weather was a problem for both events. We have no pressing business that I have heard of, so if anyone has any matters that needs to be addressed at a formal DEC, please let me know ASAP…otherwise we will forgo a midterm DEC meeting.

Speaking of Ft. Scott, we still have a huge void in Southeast Kansas that is in dire need of an SCV camp…or two…or more. I would hope, with the large amount of Confederates buried in the Southeastern counties of Kansas that there could be a lot of descendants. Does anyone know of potential candidates or any good recruiting opportunities in that area?

Our 2015 Division Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Express on June 5-6, 2015, and CiC Kelly Barrows said he would be in attendance. The way our reservations for our convention were managed (or more appropriately, mis-managed) by the Best Western for the 2014 reunion was an absolute debacle, and those that have dealt with the hotel in previous reunions were less than satisfied with the location, so it was voted at the 2014 reunion to pursue another venue. My thanks to Compatirot Steve Weaver, who did some comparison “shopping” for us, and from his findings the Holiday Inn Express was the most reasonable option. However, to reserve a block of rooms for a discount requires a substantial number of attendees, more than the KS division reunions have been pulling in, so we could not get any discounted rooms. The rooms are currently rather high priced, but there will be two more rejuvenated/remodeled hotels in the immediate area that should drive the room rates down by next June, plus there are other hotels fairly close by with lower room rates.

The Mechanized Cavalry had another Kansas Division member inducted recently. Russ McBee of the Brig Generals Buckner and Chilton Camp in Dodge City was inducted by South Kansas Member 1st Sgt Pat O’Connor recently when Compatirot McBee was in Wichita.

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

Confederate Regards,
Kevin Ivey, Division Commander
September Camp Agendas

B.G. Albert Pike Camp # 1439
November 15th  No report

Lewis A. Armistead Camp # 1847
November 15th  No report

Col’s Lewis & Harrison Camp #1854
November 22nd  Associate member Kirk Nydstrom will be speaking

William Steele Camp# 1857
November 11th  No report

Maj. Thomas J. Key Camp # 1920
November 6th  No report

South Kansas Camp # 2064
November 13th  video, Pastor John Weaver
“General Nathan Bedford Forrest”

BG Buckner & Chilton Camp #2227
November 24th  No report

Confederate Enlistment

On Sept 27th & 28th the Lewis A Armistead Camp ran an information and recruiting booth at the gun show in Salina. Robert Hayhurst, Mark Otey & cadet Thomas “T.J.” Otey helped run the event. (See photos page 5)

Compatriot Lance Turlington of the BG William Steele Camp and his sons took the initiative and went out to Fort Leavenworth Cemetery last week to place battle flags by each of the seven Confederates buried there. On Saturday November 8th the Key camp will again participate in the Veterans Day Parade in Ottawa. This will be the Camps 9th year. The entry will consist of color Guard and the 3rds Battery cannon. The will rendezvous in the bank parking lot at 5th and Walnut. Contact Cmdr Sopeicher for details.

dispatches from the Front

Lewis A. Armistead Camp # 1847 will only have meeting on the 2 second Saturday of every odd number month.

Compatriot Lance Turlington and his sons took the Initiative and went out to the Fort Leavenworth Cemetery last week and planted Confederate Battle Flags by each of the seven Confederates buried there (see photos)

The annual Lee Jackson banquet for the Key Camp.. It will again be held at the Abdullah Temple on Metcalf. Mark your calendar now for Saturday 24 January 2015. In addition to dinner there will be an outstanding keynote speaker by the name of Ms. Cassy Gray. Cassy is the editor of the e-zine titled “The Stainless Banner”, which is dedicated to honoring members of the Confederate military. She is a well known speaker in the SCV as she has addressed

Intelligence from the Wire... Events in Kansas Division
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- **Patrick Cleburn**
- **Jubal Early**
- **Albert Jenkins**
- **Richard Garnett**
- **Fritz Lee**
- **Alfred Scales**
- **Carnet Posey**
- **A.P.Hill**
- **George Steuart**
Compatriot Pat O’Connor (right) of South Kansas Camp #2064 presenting membership to the new Mechanical Cavalry to Compatriot Russ McBee (left) of the Buckner Chilton Camp #2227

Photos from Compatriot Lance Turlington of the Gen Williamm Steele camp. Taken at Ft Leavenworth Cemetery. Assistants Nathan Hardee Turlington age 10 and Jacob Lee Turlington age 7.

Lewis A Armistead Camp ran an information and recruiting booth at the gun show in Salina. Robert Hayhurst, Mark Otey & cadet Thomas “T.J.” Otey helped run the event.

Couple of pics from the Battle of Albany reenactment last weekend out in Richmond, MO. Donated by Compatriot Lyle Brooks of the Gen William Steele camp.
Jefferson Davis continued

Irons were riveted to his ankles at the order of General Nelson Miles who was in charge of the fort. Davis was allowed no visitors, and no books except the Bible. His health began to suffer, and the attending physician warned that the prisoner's life was in danger, but this treatment continued for some months until late autumn when he was finally given better quarters. General Miles was transferred in mid-1866, and Davis' treatment continued to improve.

Pope Pius IX (see Pope Pius IX and the United States), seeing himself a prisoner in the Vatican, after learning that Davis was a prisoner, sent him a portrait inscribed with the Latin words, "Venite ad me omnes qui laboratis, et ego reficiam vos, dicit Dominus," which correspond to Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you that labor, and are burdened, and I will refresh you, sayeth the Lord". A hand-woven crown of thorns associated with the portrait is often said to have been made by the Pope but may have been woven by Davis' wife Varina.

Varina and their young daughter Winnie were allowed to join Davis, and the family was eventually given an apartment in the officers' quarters. Davis was indicted for treason while imprisoned; one of his attorneys was ex-Governor Thomas Pratt of Maryland. There was a great deal of discussion in 1865 about bringing treason trials, especially against Jefferson Davis, and there was no consensus in President Johnson's cabinet to do so. There were no treason trials against anyone, as it was felt they would probably not succeed and would impede reconciliation. After two years of imprisonment, Davis was released on bail of $100,000, which was posted by prominent citizens including Horace Greeley, Cornelius Vanderbilt and Gerrit Smith. (Smith was a former member of the Secret Six who had supported abolitionist John Brown.) Davis went to Montreal, Canada to join his family which had fled there earlier, and lived in Lennoxville, Quebec until 1868 also visiting Cuba, and Europe in search of work.[ Davis remained under indictment until he was released from all liability by the presidential amnesty issued by Johnson on December 25, 1868.

In 1869 Davis became president of the Carolina Life Insurance Company in Memphis, Tennessee, where he resided at the Peabody Hotel. Upon General Lee's death in 1870, Davis presided over the memorial meeting in Richmond. Elected to the U.S. Senate again, he was refused the office in 1875, having been barred from Federal office by Section Three of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. He turned down the opportunity to become the first president of the Agriculture and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University).

During Reconstruction, Davis publicly remained silent on his opinions; but privately he expressed opinions that federal military rule and Republican authority over former Confederate states was unjustified. He considered "Yankee and Negroe" rule in the South oppressive. Like many of his contemporaries, Davis held the belief that blacks were inferior to whites. The historian William J. Cooper has stated that Davis believed in a Southern social order that included "a democratic white polity based firmly on dominance of a controlled and excluded black caste."

Ownership of the Brierfield plantation was ensnarled in court cases, with the politics of the state judges playing a key role. Only after the Democrats took control of the state supreme court in 1881 did Davis, for the first time in his life, gain legal title.

In 1876, Davis promoted a society for the stimulation of US trade with South America. He visited England the next year. In 1877, Sarah Anne Ellis Dorsey, a wealthy widow who had heard of his difficulties, invited him to stay at her estate of Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi. She provided him with a cabin for his own use and helped him with his writing through organization, dictation, editing, and encouragement.
Knowing she was severely ill in 1878, Dorsey made over her will, leaving Beauvoir and her financial assets of $50,000 (equivalent to $1,222,000 in 2014) to Jefferson Davis and, in the case of his death, to his only surviving child, Winnie Davis. Dorsey died in 1879, by which time both the Davises and Winnie were living at Beauvoir. Over the next two years, Davis completed *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* (1881).

Davis’ reputation among ex-Confederates was restored by the book and by his warm reception on his tour of the region in 1886 and 1887. In numerous stops, he attended Lost Cause ceremonies, where large crowds showered him with affection and local leaders presented emotional speeches honoring his sacrifices to the would-be nation. Such events helped the South come to terms with their defeat and continued for decades after the war. The Meriden Daily Journal stated that Davis, at a reception held in New Orleans in May 1887, urged southerners to be loyal to the nation. He said, "United you are now, and if the Union is ever to be broken, let the other side break it." Davis stated that men in the Confederacy had successfully fought for their own rights with inferior numbers during the Civil War and that the northern historians ignored this view. Davis firmly believed that Confederate secession was constitutional. The former Confederate president was optimistic concerning American prosperity and the next generation.

While in New Orleans, he was caught in a sleety rain, and on the steamboat trip upriver, he had a severe cold; on November 13 he left Brierfield to return to New Orleans. Varina Davis, who had taken another boat to Brierfield, met him on the river, and he finally received some medical care; two doctors came aboard further south and found him to be suffering from acute bronchitis complicated by malaria. They arrived in New Orleans three days later, and he was taken to the home of Charles Erasmus Fenner, an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Davis remained in bed but was stable for the next two weeks; however, he took a turn for the worse in early December. Just when he appeared to be improving, he lost consciousness on the evening of December 5 and died at age 81 at 12:45 a.m. on Friday, December 6, 1889, in the presence of several friends and with his hand in Varina’s.

Funeral procession of Jefferson Davis in New Orleans

His funeral was one of the largest in the South. Davis was first entombed at the Army of Northern Virginia tomb at Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans. In 1893, Mrs. Davis decided to have his remains reinterred at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. After the remains were exhumed in New Orleans, they lay for a day at Memorial Hall of the newly organized Louisiana Historical Association, with many mourners passing by the casket, including Governor Murphy J. Foster, Sr. The body was placed on a Louisville and Nashville Railroad car and transported to Richmond. A continuous cortège, day and night, accompanied his body from New Orleans to Richmond. He is interred at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond beneath a life-sized statue.
October, It’s fall and our foliage is changing to those beautiful colors we all associate with the end of summer and our trees getting prepared for winter.

I just returned from a great adventure to Gettysburg, Antietam, Stone Mountain, Harper’s Ferry. I went for two reasons: Those fall colors in the Shenandoah Valley and to explore the battlefields that our ancestors fought upon.

October is a good month to explore battlefields. The weather is cool and that makes your visit just a little more comfortable. I did find out the people in the Northeast celebrate Halloween a bit different that we do. Their celebration starts three weekends before Halloween and they decorate like we do Christmas. You can expect anything to happen on the three weekends but only the weekends as its back to work on the weekdays.

What I saw the past two weeks were beautiful landscaped battlefield parks. The Civil War Trust and the National Park Service has done an outstanding job preserving these battlefield parks and I found the staff well informed. Most people I talked with were Civil War buffs. Their knowledge was outstanding and I was impressed with the respect every person had for hallowed ground.

Gettysburg was crowded. Let’s face it: It is a tourist destination. Tour buses dotted the battlefield, taking people on tours where they didn’t have the distraction for driving and reading a map. Park Rangers were a just about every stop, talking to people about what happened there and why. What impressed me most was parents showing their children more of the truth about the Civil War than what they read in a textbook. I stood at the ‘angle’ or ‘High Water Mark’ and observed kids paying close attention to the stories the Rangers were telling.

Antietam was a little different. Unlike Gettysburg, it cost to get in. My golden age passport worked well and the tour was well planned out easy to follow. Not as many Rangers but you had the freedom to wonder where you wanted to retrace steps of or proud soldiers. I had heard stories about the sunken road and why so many soldiers were trapped when they came to a fence and then sunken lane and then another fence. Walking back into the cornfield beside the sunken road, I discovered as close as 100 feet, I could not see the sunken road. Now I understand why the carnage was so great. Dunker church, the Wheatfield at Antietam and all the other famous spots were very accessible and well kept. The lower bridge or ‘Burnside Bridge’ along with a witness tree called the ‘Burnside Tree’ are open where you can walk across the bridge and touch that old tree that was a small sapling 151 years ago. Any of you that think you would like to go to Europe, South America, or Japan should think very seriously of staying right here in the good old USA and see our history still preserved at these battlefield parks.

Indian Brigade commander
Robert Miller
Kansas Division Color/Honor Guard Available

Compatriot Gerald V. Spaur of the BG Albert Pike Camp #1439 is suited and ready for the occasion. Gerald is prepared for the opportunity to be present as a Color Guard for your event, or to take on the responsibility of Honor Guard for the passing of a family member, friend or compatriot where an honor Guard is needed. Gerald will go anywhere in Kansas and be available for any and all Military services for compatriots, family members, and friends. Feel free to contact Gerald at 2947 Walnut, Wichita Kansas 67217-3128. Phone: 316-524-2555

Space Available for your Camp Information

I urge all Kansas SCV members who like to ride or like motorcycles (you don’t have to own one) to join the Mechanized Cavalry. There is a one time fee of $100.00 and with this you get a 12” Patch and rockers with your Company and Battalion. Research the MC at http://www.csascvmc.org/ I may be contacted at rowfant@hotmail.com Pat O’Conner South Kansas Camp #2064.

CAMP MEETINGS

GEN. ALBERT PIKE CAMP #1439
LOCATION: Egg Crate Cafe, 8506 W 13th, Suite 150 Wichita, Kansas 67212
DATE: Second (2nd) Saturday each month
TIME: 11:30 am fellowship 12:30 Meeting

COLS LEWIS & HARRISON CAMP #1854
LOCATION: Westside Christian Church, 432 SW Lindenwood, Topeka, Kansas.
DATE: Third (3rd) Saturday each Month
TIME: 10:00am.

GEN. LEWIS A. ARMISTEAD CAMP #1847
LOCATION: Public Library Tech Conf Ctr. Rm. 301 East Elm, Salina, Ks.
DATE: Second (2nd) Saturday each Month
TIME: 1:00-1:30 fellowship, 1:00-2:30 Meeting

BG BUCKNER & CHILTON CAMP #2227
LOCATION: call for location
DATE: Fourth Monday of Month
TIME: 1900 hr

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920
LOCATION: Zarda Bar-B-Q 11931 W 87th St. Lenexa, Kansas.
DATE: First (1st) Thursday each month
TIME: 6:30 pm. fellowship, 7:00pm.

SOUTH KANSAS CAMP #2064
LOCATION: Rockwell Branch Library 5939 E 9th Street, Wichita, Kansas.
DATE: Second 2nd Thursday each Month
TIME: 5:30-7:30pm.

GEN. WILLIAM STEELE CAMP #1857
LOCATION: Bann Thai Restaurant 301 S. 4th St., Leavenworth, KS 66048.
DATE: Second (2nd) Thursday each Month
TIME: 6:00 pm. Fellowship 7:00 pm.
The Kansas Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans
190 NW Hawthorn St.
Topeka, Kansas 66606

COMPATRIOT