

April 2012
The Hughes News
The Official Publications of the
Brigadier General John T Hughes
Camp # 614 and
Lt. Col. John R. Boyd Chapter # 236



The Union Pacific 844 "Shiloh Limited"

On March 27th and 28th, the Shiloh Limited carried WBTS Reenactors from Kansas City to Memphis, Tennessee. These troops were on their way to the 150th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Shiloh. The train ride was a ton of fun and Union Pacific made sure all went well. If you're a steam engine fan and want to know more about the 844, go to

www.up.com/aboutup/special_trains/steam/details.shtml



The Hughes News

Camp # 614

April 2012

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Message From The Commander, Jason Coffman

Confederate Patriots:

A big thanks to all from the Hughes Camp accompanied with their wives who attended the Reunion for the Missouri Division SCV last month. Darrell Maples is the new Division Commander now. I tend to think he is the right man for the job being as he was once the Commander of the Division way back when.



Let us throw our support behind the new Division Commander and his officers because they are going to be busy it looks like in the coming years ahead.

The Shiloh Troop Train rolled through Union Station in Kansas City on March 27th. James Bradley and I were there taking pictures, hope most of you have seen those pictures in one way or another. If not, I am sure James will bring his laptop and show those pictures at our next meeting which is April 12th for those who have not seen them.

The Coffee Camp is having their Heritage Supper on April 21st and I am going down with some others from Hughes Camp. Donnie Kennedy will be there giving his normal speech about how the South Was Right. The food is great and fellowship with other brothers in the SCV is always a good thing. I heard Missouri Division Commander Darrell Maples will be there with his new 2nd Lt. Commander Gary Ayers.

The camp business cards we now have in our possession are a big hit, I think I have passed out close to 50 with 450 to go before we re-print. We need good attendance at our next meeting so everyone can get their share of cards to hand out to possible new recruits. I need to know how many members in our camp that do not have a camp badge card so I can make them for our newest members. Please email me at jasonncoffman@yahoo.com or call me at my new phone number at 660.864.1027.

Continued on Page 3...

Hughes Camp would like to give a warm southern welcome to our newest member, **William F. Somervell**. Many of us know Bill from the Reenactor world. Welcome aboard Bill!

www.hughescamp.org



Camp Calendar

April 12th, 7:00 PM Camp Meeting Courthouse Exchange Restaurant 113 W. Lexington, Independence, MO. Our speaker this month will be **Dave Wells** of Omaha Nebraska, and his topic will be “**Nebraska Territory during the Civil War**”

April 26th, 10 AM Thursday, place flags on Graves at Woodlawn Cemetery

April 29th 3:00 PM Confederate Memorial Day at Woodlawn Cemetery.

June 2nd, 2012 Confederate Memorial Day at Higginsville Confederate Veteran Home Cemetery. Details are still forthcoming, but this is the date. Should start around 11 AM or so.

Reenactment Events coming this year!

Battle of Montevallo Monument Dedication, April 14th,

Jefferson City, May 5th and 6th

Kingston, Mo June 1-3

Battle of Lone Jack August 18-19



Br. Gen. John T Hughes

What's been happening on the Western Front..

March 8th– Camp Meeting

Lee Ward was our speaker this month and his subject was “**Post Mortem Photographs, 1850-1880.**” Lee has a large collection of original post mortem photographs he has acquired thru the years. In most of these photos, the dead look very lifelike. Squeamish stuff to look at!

Most of these types of photos are very ornate and were taken as keepsakes so people could remember their dead. In many cases, these were the only photos ever taken of these people. Now days we don't do this much, and if we do, we hide them somewhere. In those days, they were displayed openly on walls etc.

There's some reasons for that. People died much younger in those days. They just looked better when they died. Now days we live so long, that when we're dead, we look dead!

In the 1800's, Infant Mortality rates were 30%-50%. It was so bad, that people often didn't

name their kids until they were one year old or so. That's why you see so many graves in old cemeteries marked “Infant” . People were half expecting their kids wouldn't make it, so they didn't want to get too attached. But if they were attached, and a child died, it was common to take a photo of them. The photographer would do things to make the dead look life like, often posing them with siblings, parents etc. You almost can't tell the child is dead. Lee said to look at the hands as a clue to if dead or alive in the photo!

In the early 1900's, this practice began to fade as people started to shun death. Many houses in the day had what was called a “death room”. It was only opened when someone died. In the 1900's we got rid of those and they are now called the “living room”!

Lee had good photos of Jesse James dead, and Bill Anderson, amongst many others he had to show us.

Thanks to Lee for showing us this stuff, it was kind of freaky!



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Commander Coffman continued...

The new Missouri Division Sons of Confederate Veterans officers of the 2012-2014 are as follows:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Division Commander: | Darrell Maples |
| Division 1 st Lt. Commander: | Larry W. Smith |
| Division 2 nd Lt. Commander: | Gary Ayers |
| Division Adjutant: | Paul Lawrence |
| Eastern Brigade Commander: | Billy Ed Bowden |
| Central Brigade Commander: | Don Bowman |
| Western Brigade Commander: | B.J. Montgomery |
| Division Chaplain: | Oliver Sappington |
| Division Chief-of-Staff: | Keith Daleen |
| Division Aide-de-Camp: | Randee Kaiser |
| Division Surgeon: | Dr. Michael Wilson |
| Division Graves Registrar: | Neil Block |

Yours in the Bonds of Confederate Brotherhood,

Jason-Nathaniel: coffman

John T. Hughes Camp 614 Commander

2012 Hughes News Sponsors Wanted!

Thanks to the many donors in the past! Thanks to the 2012 sponsors of the Hughes News, Steven Cockrell, Joe Ferrara, John Yeatman, George Baker.



Missouri Division Reunion, Lake Ozark, Missouri March 23,24

The Coffee Camp put on a good show for this years, Missouri Division SCV and Missouri Society MOS&B Reunion. The rooms in the hotel were nice as were the meeting rooms and the food was good. We had a good turn out from the Hughes Camp and the Reunion was well attended in general.

We elected new Division and Society Officers. For the Missouri Division SCV, our new leadership is as follows: **Darrell Maples-Commander, Larry Smith-Lt. Commander, Paul Lawrence-Adjutant.** For the Missouri Society MOS&B our new leadership is: **Larry Yeatman-Commander, Bill Bowden-Lt. Commander, Keith Daleen.**

Darrell Maples will make a great Commander and has a lot of good ideas he will implement. He's already moving and shaking on that. He'll be of great service to the Division!



Our Hughes Camp attendees at the Reunion. L to R: Larry Yeatman, Matt Knapp, Tim Apgar, Jason Coffman, James Bradley, Gordon Fristoe, Kurt Holland.

We also had several wives come to the event to include: Sue Apgar, Debra Bradley, Barbara Fristoe, and Billie Holland. Thanks to the ladies for being there!

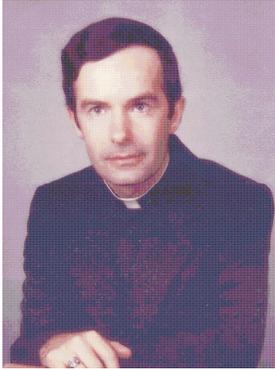
Union Pacific 844 Steam Engine, The Shiloh Limited

Thanks to the hard work of our newest member, Bill Somervell, Union Pacific rolled out their Steam Engine, the 844, for a special Troop Train to Shiloh excursion. This was done for the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh reenactment and took troops from Omaha to Memphis. This was an awesome adventure and was basically free of charge other than paying for our food along the way. This adventure probably cost Union Pacific about \$1 Million dollars to do, so a very benevolent act. But Union Pacific is interested in history as well as being historic themselves. The rail route was lined with people at every crossing and town the entire way, as the public and steam engine fans wanted to get a look at the 844 as it passed thru. Thanks to Bill for organizing the **"Shiloh Limited"**!





Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



With the advent of the internet, it has become even more apparent that while our thoughts are our own, our words and non-verbal forms of expression are so no longer. Words, pictures, signs, symbols, and gestures transmit thoughts to

produce real consequences in physical reality. For example, the pupils of the eyes, blood pressure and heart beat, the immune system, goose bumps, redness of the face, weight loss, and adrenaline flow are all influenced by the communication of thoughts. Nobody understands this better than liberals.

Not since the enactment of the Bill of Rights in 1791 have states' and individuals' rights been so virulently assaulted as in the second half of the 20th and first decade of the 21st centuries. Of those rights, freedom of speech in particular is being incessantly challenged, insidiously circumvented, and incrementally chiseled away. Through executive orders, judicial edicts, charges of hate speech and political incorrectness, threats to job security and financial support, or blatant vandalism, both verbal and non-verbal freedom of expression such as the display of crosses, flags, billboards, and jewelry is increasingly under attack at what should be recognized as an alarming rate.

Among non-government organizations accused of threatening freedom of speech, press, and religion is the liberal non-profit group Media Matters. Located in Washington, Media Matters was established in 2004 by David Brock with \$2 million from liberal figures associated with the Democratic Party. This group claims to be an educational organization "...dedicated to comprehensively monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative information in the US media." However, Media Matters reportedly works in cooperation with other liberal organizations, congressmen, reporters, and the current administration to promote a political agenda that focuses on conservative political and

religious leaders and organizations to excise their voices from the media using methods that include ghostwriting scripts for some TV "news" programs, targeting advertisers of conservative broadcasts, and victimizing conservatives through intimidation, vilification, and stigmatization.

Media Matters has accepted funds from the Arca Foundation. Also located in Washington, Arca was established in 1952 by Nancy Reynolds, daughter of R.J. Reynolds who founded the tobacco empire. Seeking to influence US domestic and foreign policies, Arca grants to organizations like Media Matters have grown from \$100,000 to \$3 million in 2006. Arca allegedly "...believes that a vibrant democracy requires an organized and informed citizenry that has access to information and free expression." It also asserts it "...believes that access to knowledge, vigorous public education and citizen engagement are essential to democracy." It purports to work against "...structures and private interests that ...stifle public debate on critical issues..." Yet, conservatives ask how Arca can honestly make these claims while giving financial support to groups like Media Matters.

Liberals use of the tricks of the trade in the dissemination of false information is as old as the serpent's strategy in the Garden of Eden. With subtlety, they create doubt in the victims' minds by calling facts into question and misrepresenting the truth. Next, they directly contradict their opponents and insinuate their intentions are unreasonable and ominous. They boldly make fallacious statements utilizing deceit and deception. Finally, they bait victims with attractive but unrealistic promises. Frank Wright of National Religious Broadcasters enumerates similar liberal tactics. First, they try to ignore conservatives as unworthy of consideration. Then, marginalization attempts to cast conservatives as extremists. Third, unable to win a direct attack on conservative positions, liberals raise the

Continued on Page 7...



Historians Corner, Paul R. Petersen



Paul is the Author of *Quantrill of Missouri*, *Quantrill in Texas*, *Quantrill at Lawrence* and *Lost Souls of the Lost Township*. Petersen is a retired U.S. Marine Corps master sergeant and a highly decorated infantry combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a member of the William Clarke Quantrill Society, the James-Younger Gang Association, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Jackson County and Missouri State Historical Societies.

The Strange Story of Quantrill's Surgeon

When Quantrill was commissioned a captain of cavalry scouts by Colonel Gideon W. Thompson on August 12, 1862 under the Confederate Partisan Ranger Act he organized and structured his company in accordance with regular army regulations. Quantrill had with him at this time 150 men who were likewise sworn into Confederate service. Immediately following his men selected their officers: Captain William C. Quantrill, 1stLt. William Haller, and 2ndLt. George Todd all retained their rank and positions. His new structure included William H. Gregg as third lieutenant. Gregg later became Quantrill's adjutant. Cole Younger was one of those sworn in that day. Cole remembered, "It was within a day or two after the surrender of Buel at Independence that I was elected as first lieutenant in Captain Jarrette's company in Colonel Upton B. Hays' regiment, which was part of the brigade of General Joseph O. Shelby." Quantrill's new company duty roster was reported to regular Confederate authorities the next day. Richard P. Maddox was assigned as company quartermaster. Andy Blunt was assigned the position of orderly sergeant. John McCorkle and several other guerrillas were assigned as scouts. Former slave John T. Noland served as Quantrill's hostler. Many prominent physicians rode along as surgeons.

Doctor John Benson who was born March 3, 1836 near Marshall, Mo. in Saline County offered his services to Quantrill. Benson had been with other military commands before joining the guerrillas. He was described as a robust man over six feet in height and a wonderful horseman. In May 1861, he had joined a Captain Crews' company in the Missouri State Guards known as the Saline Mounted Rifles. His enlistment expired in December of 1861 when he then joined Colonel Frank S. Robertson's Confederate recruits, all of whom

were captured the same month on Blackwater Creek in Johnson County. Benson along with the rest of the recruits were imprisoned at the Gratiot Street Prison in St. Louis, and released on March 14, 1862.

Benson had it in mind for several months to join Quantrill whose exploits were gaining accolades in the eyes of the Confederacy. Some time later Benson approached Quantrill and was sworn into the partisan service by Quantrill himself. Benson took the guerrilla oath: *I'll fight to the death, one or 5,000, never give up, never show quarter, never surrender.* The guerrilla chieftain told Benson that he would serve as his surgeon and not as a fighter unless he so chose himself. Quantrill gave him just one admonishment, "Don't pick any bullets out of the Dutch," he said. "They're all Yankees at heart." Benson's fiancée Miss Ethel Lewis made him an elaborate embroidered "guerrilla shirt" for him to wear.

After the women's jail collapse on August 13, 1863 where five young Southern women were brutally murdered Benson found himself assigned to Captain Andy Blunt's company of guerrillas. Quantrill directed Blunt to take his command to Saline County and recruit in preparation to the Lawrence raid. As the guerrillas rode into Marshall, Missouri it stirred the excitement of the residents living there. One remarked on the guerrilla's appearance by saying they were all heavily armed and excellently mounted. Most wore tartan jackets and slouch hats with large ostrich plumes on them.

Most of the guerrillas in Blunt's company were from Saline County and by noon found their ways
Continued on Page 7...

***Fr. Richard Rudd continued from Page 5...***

specter of doubt by subverting the foundational facts supporting those positions. Failing at this point, liberals shift gears away from the issues, pretending the debate is over and they have won. Conservatives who refuse to yield now come under scathing personal attack. Last, outlets for conservative points of view are blocked with the cooperation of liberally allied legislators, bureaucrats, and judges.

Our Lord told a parable about "...a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed seeds among the wheat, and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also." (Matt. 13:24) Through the media, the seeds of conservative truths and values are sown in the minds of thinking Americans who desire to be informed. Soon, liberals follow, sowing seeds of noxious weeds of doubt, falsehood, and slander to choke the life out of truth. Conservative purveyors of truth cannot afford to sleep; liberals never rest. As Jefferson said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." And, it was Churchill who advised, "Never give up."

Fr. Richard Rudd**Hughes Camp Chaplain****Petersen continued from page 6....**

home to take dinner. The guerrillas that remained in town were on the lookout for any Northerners left behind. Doctor Benson was credited with saving several Northern lives that day. Two such men were Northern sympathizers, George Nye and his son William. On Benson's advice the two men were not shot. Benson administered an oath paroling the prisoners. A Federal soldier home on furlough, Samuel Davis was found by Benson. Being in Federal uniform Benson feared that one of his comrades would shoot him on sight but the doctor discovered Davis lying drunk in John Ferril's feed lot. Benson secured a horse and made sure Davis was safely on his way home before he rejoined Blunt and the rest of his company.

A few days later as the guerrillas were gathering in camp near the Blackwater River in Johnson County, Benson remarked about seeing Quantrill as he stood outside his tent making preparations for the raid. "W. C. Quantrill wore his Confederate colonel's uniform only when encamped, to impress his men with the fact that he held a regular Confederate commission. When [we] got ready to ride

he appeared in his guerrilla outfit, and threw his bundle into the wagon reserved for that purpose. His black slouch hat held a large ostrich plume...and he wore a brown and red plaid "guerrilla shirt" under his tartan jacket, and black jeans." Benson recounted that along the way to Lawrence before they got out of Missouri farmer's wives along the way rode up alongside the men whom they knew to pass along tidbits such as cakes, pies, and bottles of whiskey to treat any wounded they might have. Many had pistols, and ammunition, coats, vests and shirts for the guerrilla soldiers.

During the Lawrence raid Doctor Benson was accredited with saving many lives in town. During the raid many guerrillas reported that they saw Doctor Benson pulling many women and children from cellars and wells where they had sought refuge when their houses were burned, and helped them escape through a cornfield. Benson found a wounded Federal soldier shot in the thigh. He probed and removed the bullet and assisted
Continued on Page 8...



Petersen continued from page 8...

him well away from town. Benson was kept busy, not only with his own comrades but with wounded citizens; if they needed a doctor he was on hand. Guerrillas later said that he seemed to want death, for he courted it amid the smoke and flame.

On Quantrill's withdrawal from Lawrence Benson was riding alongside guerrilla Captain John Sims when they stopped by a farmhouse to feed their horses. The woman of the house asked the doctor for medical attention for her small child suffering from fever. Benson chose to stay with the child until the fever broke the next morning. The thankful woman tried to pay for his services but the only payment he took was before leaving he leaned over the bed, and with his keen Bowie knife, cut off a blonde curl from the sleeping six-year-old girl. "I've seen so much blood that whenever I think of it I will look at this, as long as I live."

Upon returning to his home in Miami, Saline County the citizens had already heard the details from the raid. A Unionist friend of his pleaded for him to go to Marshall and surrender, that he would be treated as any other prisoner. Two days later Benson headed for the Union headquarters in Marshall. His pistols were taken from him and his hands tied behind his back. Benson had been known as a crack shot, but he never fired a pistol while with Quantrill. Unfortunately Benson was taken prisoner under the command of Major George W. Kelly of the 4th Missouri Cavalry, an officer known as a "martinet, who would hang a man on a whisper or a whim."

Doctor Benson was court-martialed in September, but all records of the trial were destroyed, and none ever got to Washington. Convicted for being a Quantrill man Benson was sentenced to be shot on October 15. On October 6 an excited messenger arrived with an important dispatch for Major Kelly. Kelly summoned his sergeant to immediately get a firing squad together and execute Doctor Benson. The sergeant asked for volunteers; not a man stepped forward. A squad was finally ordered to carry out the order but only complied if they could cover the face of the kindly doctor with a white cloth. As he sat on his coffin Benson only had one last request for the firing squad "Shoot me below the face, boys." When the order was given all the shots entered the doomed man's chest. They buried Benson in a shallow grave north of town. When one of the soldiers asked why the hurry, another replied, "Shelby's Iron Brigade is coming up from Jeff City. If we're here then we'll all dangle from these trees. No quarter for us if he finds out about Benson."

When Shelby and his men came to Marshall the bluecoats were gone. Townsfolk told Shelby what had happened to Doctor Benson to which he replied, "If I get this man (Kelly), he will have the same sort of trial that he gave the doctor, who I understand did not kill anyone." Benson's parents took his body from the shallow grave and brought him to town, where he had a real funeral among his erstwhile friends.

It was then they discovered, inside his guerrilla shirt and next to his heart, a little yellow curl of hair. A bullet had centered the ringlet he had taken from the head of the little Kansas girl whose life he had saved at the verifiable risk of his own.



**Quantrill's Surgeon, Doctor John
Benson**

Article by Paul R. Petersen



150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh Reenactment

This was certainly an awesome event. For those of you who saw the Battle of Wilson's creek, take that battle times 4 or 5 times to imagine how big this battle was. Probably 6000 infantry and dismounted Cavalry, 130 cannons, and about 600 horses and Cavalry. It was just amazing to see all that action on the field. The Battlefields we fought on were huge also. Really there was two huge fields side by side, so lots of room for troop and cavalry movements.

The SCV was well represented there. I saw many SCV signs and logos on trucks and trailers. From our camp, we had quite a few members there also. We had Bob and Robert Capps, Patrick Cole, Bill Somervell, Larry Yeatman. Who did I forget. I imagine James Arbaugh was there but I didn't see him. I did see Jim England there also.

The size and scope of this event was gigantic. Probably only next years Gettysburg will rival this event in size. The sound of it was deafening between all the cannons and muskets going off. My ears are still ringing! As far as the action went, Elliott's Scouts dismounted unit did great. Our mounted company, that was in Cleburne's Division, ended up completely surrounded and annihilated on Saturday. In real life, we would have all been dead. While concentrating on Yankee Cav that outnumbered us say 100 to 75, we didn't see the rest of the Yankee Cav flank us and ride up behind us with 100 more cav! We were quickly surrounded. I guess our Commanders didn't see that one coming!

Here's some pics provided by Bob and Robert Capps!



Larry Yeatman and Bob Capps



Patrick Cole, who served as a guard for the Shiloh Troop Train

Infantry action to the left, and cav below.

