


“The General’s Aide”

Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613 Sons of Confederate Veterans

October 2024

Commander’s Briefing Room



Special Dates of Interest:

October 5, 2024—Turkey Shoot.

October 11-12, 2024—Ft. Griffin Living History.

October 14, 2024—Columbus Day.

October 17, 2024—Camp meeting, **6:00 pm**, Ft Concho LHSC.

October 19, 2024—5th Annual Miss Lilly Langtry Birthday Celebration.

October 25-26, 2024—Ft. Belknap Living History & Fund Raiser-Kevin Theis.

October 31, 2024—Halloween.

In the past few weeks I have learned that the Dutch people honor the many Allied soldiers that died liberating their country from the Nazi regime. Many of these people adopt and care for the graves of these men. Some of these Dutch people have reached out the American families of the soldiers and routinely communicate with them. They hold ceremonies in the cemeteries honoring the American and other Allied personnel buried there, Dutch children standing along side their parents, learning that their freedom was not cheap. Yet, here in America we have those that claim to be Americans dishonoring the thousands of soldiers that fought for freedom, their freedom, whether they be rooted in the South or the North. And so the ‘war’ continues... Daileycaller.com finally obtained



documents from the US Air Force that outlines the branch’s plan to reduce the number of new ‘white male officer’ applicants. The goal is to allow only 43% of applicants to be white males as the Air Force focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). So, you should take comfort knowing that Air Force pilots are selected to protect this country based on skin color and gender, not ability, talent, or patriotism. Sleep tight.

Fall is in the air and this is the time that many activities are planned. October hosts several reenactments and Living History events. Those associated with Good’s Light Artillery will participate at Ft. Griffin and Ft. Belknap Living History programs. The Living History event at Ft. Belknap will be combined with a Fund Raiser for Kevin Theis to help him defray medical costs.

The 5th Annual Miss Lilly Langtry Birthday Celebration will be going on

(Continued on page 4)

Inside this issue:

Chinese Confederates	2
Were Blacks Involuntarily Conscripted into the Union Army	3
SCV Relief Fund	5
Salt Works Camp #2325 Turkey Shoot	5
Battles & Skirmishes	6

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Ray Johnson - Oct. 13th.

Anniversaries:

Joseph McDonald - Oct. 14th - 12 years.
 Steve Melton - Oct. 18th - 10 years.
 Ray Johnson - Oct. 20th - 11 years.
 Howard Wilson - Oct 30th - 16 years.



BENEFITS OF A GOOD VOCABULARY!

I recently called an old Engineering buddy of mine and asked what he was working on these days.

He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed until, upon further inquiry, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.

Chinese Confederates

By Norman Dasinger, Jr., blueandgreyeducation.org

The Bunker Family was one of the most famous families in all of North Carolina. They were pro-Confederate slaveowners, with two sons fighting in the Civil War—and their patriarchs were the original Siamese twins, Chang and Eng Bunker. The two men, conjoined at the sternum by a flexible circular band of flesh and cartilage about five inches long, married white women and, between the two of them, had 22 children.



Lithograph of the Siamese twins by Currier and Ives, 1860.

The two were born in 1811 in Siam (modern Thailand) of Chinese ancestry. They were “discovered” by a Scottish merchant named Hunter in 1824, who signed a contract with the boys and their mother that stipulated they would tour around the United States for five years. They were inspected by doctors upon their arrival and declared to be healthy xiphophagus twins. Their five-year touring



Family portrait by Mathew Brady, circa 1865: (L-R) Sarah, her son Albert, Eng, Chang, his son Patrick Henry, & Adelaide.

contract was extended to ten years.

After their contract ended, in 1839, they bought land in Wilkes County, North Carolina, and settled down with their families. In 1845 they bought a larger farm and moved to Surry County. They spoke English fluently, became citizens, voted, and filed criminal charges against several white people. They were considered non-white but were afforded many of the privileges of whiteness, being wealthy Southern slaveholders with property rights. In 1850, it was estimated that they had invested \$10,000 in property and had a merchant in New York who managed another \$60,000 for importing, and they lived off the interest. The Bunker brothers were long-time supporters of the Whig Party and voted for John Bell in the 1860 Presidential election.

Chang and Eng’s indifference about slavery is easy to understand, the practice being established in their home state. What’s more striking is their acceptance into the surrounding community, where they lived as local gentry accommodated by neighbors and active in civic life. They were accepted as individuals. It was as individuals that the Bunkers approached the Civil War and, like so many other Southerners, they chose the defense of home and community over abstract principles. They supported the Confederate government with their monetary

(Continued on page 3)

Were Blacks Involuntarily Conscripted Into the Union Army

Much has been made by modern historians of the fact that an estimated 186,000 Blacks fought under the United States flag against the South. However, we are seldom, if ever, told the reason for this. According to the William Whiting, "All the property of rebels [is] forfeited to the treasury of the country," and "slave property [is] subject to the same liability as other property to be appropriated for war purposes" (*The War Powers of the President* [Boston: John L. Shorey, 1862], pages 28, 107). Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, elaborated on this premise in a dispatch to Brigadier-General Rufus Saxton on 25 August 1862: "The population of African descent that cultivate the lands and perform the labor of the rebels constitute a large share of their

military strength, and enable the white masters to fill the rebel armies and wage a cruel and murderous war against the people of the Northern States. By reducing the laboring strength of the rebels their military power will be reduced" (*Official Records of the War of the Rebellion: Armies*, Series I, Volume XIV, pages 377-378). Consequently, the invading Northern army began to seize Southern slaves and conscript them into service to the United States, often against their will. In a 26 February 1864 dispatch from Huntsville, Alabama, General John A. Logan wrote that "a major of colored troops is here with his party capturing negroes, with or without their consent.... [T]hey are being conscripted" (*ibid.*, Series I,

(Continued on page 4)

Chinese Confederates (con't)

(Continued from page 2)

resources, supporting foodstuffs and supplies—and two of their sons, who fought in the war.

Eng's son, Stephen Decatur Bunker, and Chang's son, Christopher Wren Bunker, were first cousins and both served in Company I, 37th Virginia Cavalry Battalion, CSA. Stephen was wounded on

September 3, 1864, near Winchester, Virginia, and Christopher was captured and imprisoned for nearly a year at Camp Chase, Ohio. After the Civil War, both returned to Surry County and their large and prosperous family farm.

By 1865, the twins' finances had taken a hit, so they decided to resume touring. By now, Northern audiences were not so receptive—for they had been Confederate slaveholders. In 1870, they toured in Germany and Russia. On the ship coming home, Chang suffered a stroke. On the morning of January 17, 1874, one of Eng's sons checked on the twins. Chang was dead. Eng died only a few hours later.

They are buried at White Plains Baptist Church in Mount Airy—the fabled namesake of Andy Griffith's Mayberry.



Chang and Eng Bunker around 60 years old.



Commander's Briefing Room

(con't)

(Continued from page 1)

in Iraan, Texas. Check out our Camp calendar for more information on these and many more events.

And speaking of Fall, cooler temperatures and shorter days, members present at the September meeting voted to move our meeting time from 7:00 pm to an earlier time of 6:00 pm. So please make note of the earlier meeting time so you are not late.

The Division and National Reunions time and places have been put out, the Texas Division Reunion will be June 6-8, 2025 in Mineral Wells, Texas. The National 130th Annual SCV Reunion is going to be July 16-20 in Houston, Texas.

If you were not aware, September 15 through October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month in Texas. However, the Fairmount Cemetery board of directors passed their racist discriminating flag policy and now the Mexican flag will not be permitted to be placed on any grave as well as a host of other flags.

At the National Archive Catalog website, I found the "Articles of Association" written by several of our founding fathers October 20, 1774 in which they stated this: "2. That we will neither import nor purchase any Slave imported after the first day of December next, and after which time we will wholly discontinue the Slave trade, and will neither be concerned in it ourselves, nor will we hire our vessels nor sell our commodities or manufacturers to those who are concerned in it." So, why did slavery continue and become ingrained into the American way of life at that time? A few months later, the Declaration of Independence was penned, a few more months after that, the "Shot heard around the world" sounded. Were there external forces at bay keeping the slave trade alive in this land? Just thinking.

Were Blacks Involuntarily Conscribed Into the Union Army (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

Volume XXXII, Part II, page 477). On 1 September 1864, Captain Frederick Martin reported from New Berne, North Carolina, "The negroes will not go voluntarily, so I am obliged to force them.... I expect to get a large lot to-morrow" (*ibid.*, Series I, Volume XLII, Part II, pages 653-654). General Rufus A. Saxton reported, "Men have been seized and forced to enlist who had large families of young children dependent upon them for support and fine crops of cotton and corn nearly ready for harvest, without an opportunity of making provision for the one or securing the other." On at least one occasion, "three

Our Dues Renewal has gone well with the Camp. We should continue to build our Camp and be a force within our community.

As of October 1st, we will have 35 days till elections. I will encourage everyone to go vote.

See you at the meeting, October 17th, new time 6:00 pm!!!



boys, one only fourteen years of age, were seized in a field where they were at work and sent to a regiment serving in a distant part of the department without the knowledge of their parents...." (*ibid.*, Series III, Volume IV, page 1028). It was also reported that, "On some plantations the wailing and screaming were loud and the women threw themselves in despair on the ground. On some plantations the people took to the woods and were hunted up by the soldiers.... I doubt if the recruiting service in this country has ever been attended with such scenes before" (*ibid.*, Series III, Volume II, page 57).

Confederatereprint.com



SCV Relief Fund

Hurricane Helene has plowed through the South land leaving in its wake death and lots of destruction. Many Southerners are being effected by this storm. I am posting the message from CIC Walter D. Kennedy that I received from the SCV Telegraph:

Fellow Confederates:

As you may know, another potentially catastrophic hurricane is headed toward Dixie. As of now, it appears that no less than four Southern States will experience winds from a category 3 to 1 hurricane. Beyond that, several interior states will be under tropical storm, tornado, and flooding watch. As a Confederate Brotherhood, we always stand ready to assist our fellow members of the SCV via our SCV Relief Fund.

Please join me and donate to the SCV Relief Fund today so we can assist our fellow mem-

bers. No amount is too small. Donations can be made online via PayPal or credit card payment. Payment can be made at scv.org, click on "[Donate Today](#)" at the far right, a screen will open, go down the list, and click on "[SCV Relief Fund](#)" and donate. Your donations and prayers for our fellow compatriots are greatly appreciated.

Walter D. (Donnie) Kennedy

Commander-in-Chief, SCV 2024-26



Salt Works Camp #2353 Turkey Shoot

The Lampasas Salt Works Camp #2353 is hosting a Black Powder (no scopes) Turkey Shoot on October 5, 2024.



kickoff BBQ will take place the night before beginning at 5:00 PM at no charge.

The Turkey Shoot will be held at 360 CR 205 San Saba Texas 76877.

Event	Time
Practice	9:00 am.
1st Round	10:00 am.
2nd Round	11:00 am.
Lunch	12:00
3rd Round	1:30 pm.
4th Round	2:30 pm.

The event includes a four-round turkey shoot and a fish fry lunch. The fee is \$30 per shooter, covering targets and meals. Additional guests are welcome for \$10 each. Please bring your own chairs, alcoholic beverages, and cigars. The event is open to all SCV members and their families. To RSVP, please send your registration form to SCVlampasas@gmail.com by September 28, 2024.

Also, for those who wish to camp out, the pasture and or barn is available. Water is accessible on site as well. Please bring your own chairs and drinks. A





Commander: Steve Melton
Lt. Commander:
Adjutant: Howard Wilson
Editor: Steve Melton
Newsletter E-mail:
gentomgreen1613@gmail.com

National website: www.scv.org
Texas Division website:
www.scvtexas.org
Camp website:
www.generaltomgreen.org

Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613 Texas Division, 2nd Brigade Sons of Confederate Veterans



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."

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

"The General's Aide" is a publication of the General Tom Green Camp #1613, Sons of Confederate Veterans. All content is produced by the Editor and authorized by the Camp Commander. All material is copyright by General Tom Green Camp #1613©2024. If you have a news article or photos (high quality jpg) for consideration, email them to the Editor. Photos must not be embedded in articles. Send all as attachments to the Editor at:
gentomgreen1613@gmail.com.

To "unsubscribe", send email to
gentomgreen1613@gmail.com with
UNSUBSCRIBE in subject heading.

Battles & Skirmishes

1861

October 9 – October 19 1861 – Operations at the Mouth of the Mississippi, MS/LA
October 21 1861 – January 24 1862 – East Kentucky Operations, KY
October 29 – November 7 1861 – Port Royal Expedition, SC

1862

October 9 – October 12 1862 –
Stuart's Second Ride in Maryland, MD

1863

October 1 – October 9 1863 –
Wheeler's First Tennessee Raid, TN
October 3 – November 30 1863 – Second Bayou Teche Expedition, LA
October 8 – November 9 1863 –
Bristoe Campaign, VA
October 26 – October 29 1863 –

Chattanooga Cracker Line Operations, TN
October 30 – November 9 1863 – Rio Grande Expedition, TX
October 30 – November 25 1863 –
Chattanooga Campaign, TN

1864

October 26 – October 31 1864 – Siege of Decatur, GA
October 27 – October 31 1864 –
Petersburg Campaign – Boydton Plank Road, VA

