

THE HOWLING DAWG

Christmas Issue 2018



"A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast" – Proverbs 12:10

16th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Company G
"The Jackson Rifles"



An Apple for Traveller by Mort Kunstler

General Robert E. Lee was known for his kindness to animals as well as people and his thoughtfulness was legendary. There are few relationships more appreciated than that of a horse soldier and his mount. During the War, over a million horses perished. The dappled grey Traveller is buried at Lee Chapel, with his commander. General Lee acquired him in 1862, and rode him throughout the war and beyond...

Traveller by Mort Kunstler (concluded)

In a letter penned during the war, Lee described his horse to Mrs. Lee's cousin, Markie Williams, who wished to paint a portrait of Traveller. He wrote:

"If I was an artist like you, I would draw a true picture of Traveller; representing his fine proportions, muscular figure, deep chest, short back, strong haunches, flat legs, small head, broad forehead, delicate ears, quick eye, small feet, and black mane and tail. Such a picture would inspire a poet, whose genius could then depict his worth, and describe his endurance of toil, hunger, thirst, heat and cold; and the dangers and suffering through which he has passed. He could dilate upon his sagacity and affection, and his invariable response to every wish of his rider. He might even imagine his thoughts through the long night-marches and days of the battle through which he has passed."

CATHY'S CLOWN The Humor of Kenny Stancil



All the grand-kids were visiting for Thanksgiving. Before dinner, Grandma made a lengthy speech about being thankful for her extra-special blessings, her four grandchildren. Two seconds after she stopped speaking, the kids were yelling and grabbing for the home-made rolls. Grandma sat there, eyes closed with a tight squint on her face. When asked what was the matter, she replied, "I'm just praying for a little patience to handle all these blessings."

A friend of mine went on a date with a blonde woman last night. "Do you have any kids?" she asked. "Yes," my friend replied. "I have one child that's just under two." She said, "I might be blonde, but I know how many one is."

Your debt will stay with you if you can't budge it..

Merry Christmas!!

Kenny

His Brother's Voice



Picket duty in Winter was an unpleasant task especially on Christmas Day December 25, 1861

A nineteen year old private in the Confederate army, Valerius Cincinnatus Giles, was on guard detail along the Potomac River this Winter day, pacing back and forth and occasionally staring over at the Yankees of General Sickles' New York Brigade on the Maryland side. Private Giles of the 4th Texas was on picket duty on December 21, 1861, when he had an uncanny encounter. As a picket, his duty was give the alarm of any enemy activity, lest the vile Yankees should decide to leave the comfort of their warm huts and brave the bleak cold outside. Private Giles' unit, a detachment of the 4th Texas Infantry, had just relieved another unit guarding that sector. The men would rather have been back in camp, enjoying the holiday as best they could; but duty called, and someone needed to be on duty, no matter what. Private Giles and his two brothers had all answered the call of duty and volunteered for the Confederate army. Giles, still smartly dressed in his long grey frock coat with black waist belt and black strap over his right shoulder, and adorned with a black Hardee hat with one side turned up, looked the model of a military man. One of Giles's brothers was serving with the Tenth Texas Infantry in Arkansas, while the other, brother Lew, was with Terry's Rangers (8th Texas Cavalry), somewhere in Kentucky. There was little

likelihood of Valerius being in any personal danger that Christmas; the Yankees desired a break from war that day as much as the Rebels. That afternoon there was a brief to-do when a Yankee steamboat came in sight. But it was soon recognized as a hospital ship and not a gunboat, and so was left alone to ply its trade on the opposite shore.

More out of boredom than necessity, Private Giles began to walk his post, tramping through snow knee deep in places. The colder clime of northern Virginia was a change of scene for the Texas boy and there in the piney woods in midwinter, when the earth and green branches of the trees were covered with snow, there was no sound of birds singing or crickets chirping. With not a breath of air blowing, the stillness all around him seemed oppressive. Valerius's thoughts naturally started to wander, thinking about his home and family members on that Christmas Day.

It was at four p.m. that afternoon when he heard it. He remembered that he was not sleepy or drowsy and perfectly wide awake when he heard it. He heard his brother Lew Giles's voice, clear as day, calling out his name: "It was then 4 P.M., December 25, 1861. I was not sleeping or dreaming and firmly believed at the time that I heard my brother calling me, but it must have been a delusion of the imagination." Knowing Lew was far away to the west somewhere in either

Kentucky or Tennessee; Val thought at first that somehow it was just his homesickness playing on his imagination; that it was some kind of delusion. Yet he knew his brother's voice and knew that the voice he had heard was his brother's. Gallatin, Tennessee was where Valerius' brother Lew was brought after being wounded in Kentucky. It was only later that Val learned that Lew had been wounded at the Battle of Mumfordsville, in Kentucky, on the seventeenth of December. Seriously injured, he had been taken to Gallatin, Tennessee, to the home of a family friend, where he lingered for several days. That at about the same time that his brother was dying, Valerius heard his voice cry out was unbelievable, but in his heart the young soldier knew it to be true. According to information the family later received from their father's friend in Gallatin, Lew Giles expired at exactly 4 p.m. on Christmas Day of 1861.

From: *Strange Tales of the Dark and Bloody Ground and Ghosts and Haunts of the Civil War* by Christopher K. Coleman



CHRISTMAS IN GEORGIA

One of the most infamous Christmas gifts reported in the War was when Sherman captured Savannah in December of 1864. It is said that after the capture of Savannah, Sherman's thugs reportedly dressed their horses like reindeer to deliver food and supplies to hungry families in Georgia. These accounts conjure up images of fair play, generosity and good will toward your fellow man, but Ms. Dolly Sumner Lunt Burge in her memoirs entitled, "*A Woman's Wartime Journal*", tells a far more realistic tale of what a Christmas Season in Civil War Era Covington Georgia was like:

December 22, 1864: On Tuesday, the 19th, I attended Floyd Glass's wedding. She was married in the morning to Lt. Doroughty. She expected to have been married the week after the Yankees came, but her groom was not able to get here. Some of the Yankees found out in some way that she was to have been married and annoyed her considerably by telling her that they had taken her sweetheart prisoner; that when he got off the train at the Circle they took him and, some said, shot him. The Yankee's found Mrs. Glass's china and glassware that she had buried in a box, broke it all up, and then sent her word that she would set no more fine tables. They also got Mrs. Perry's Silver.

December 23, 1864: Just before night Mrs. Robert Rakestraw and Miss Mary drove up to spend the night with me. They had started down into Jasper County, hoping to get back their buggy, having heard that several buggies were left at Mrs. Whitfield's by the Yankees. Nothing new! It is confidently believed that Savannah has been evacuated. I hear nothing from my boys. Poor fellows, how I miss them!

December 24, 1864: This has usually been a very busy day with me, preparing for Christmas not only for my own tables, but for gifts for my servants. Now how changed! No confectionery, cakes, or pies can I have. We are all sad; no loud, jovial laugh from our boys is heard. Christmas Eve, which has ever been gaily celebrated here, which has witnessed the popping of firecrackers [the Southern custom of celebrating Christmas with fireworks] and the hanging up of stockings, is an occasion now of sadness and gloom. I have nothing even to put inside Sadai's stocking, which hangs so invitingly for Santa Claus. How disappointed she will be in the morning, though I have explained to her why he can't come. Poor children! Why must innocent suffer with the guilty?

December 25, 1864: Sadai jumped out of bed very early this morning to feel her stocking. She could not believe but that there would be something in it. Finding nothing, she crept back into bed, pulled the cover over her face, and I soon heard her sobbing. I pulled the cover over my face and was soon mingling my tears with Sadai's.

This Christmas when you raise your glass or begin your holiday meal, take a moment to remember those brave soldiers and civilians who gave their lives and service during the Civil War in Covington, Ga.

To learn more about Mrs. Dolly Sumner Lunt Burge and the Burge Farm history, log on to their website at <http://www.burgeclub.com>.

Christmas Day in 1861

It had been a year and five days since South Carolina had seceded, and ten months since the formation of the Confederate States of America. The mood in the South was festive this Christmas because their new country had sustained any attacks put forth by the Northern armies. In the North, however, the mood was less so because they had not been able to put an end to the rebellion.

General Robert E. Lee was inland at his headquarters at Coosawatchie, South Carolina and thus separated from his family for Christmas in 1861. He had been sent there to see to the coastal defenses. He wrote his wife Mary, "I cannot let this day of graceful rejoicing pass without some communication with you. I am thankful for the many among the past that I have passed with you, and the remembrance of them fills me with pleasure. For those on which we have been separated we must not repine. Now we must be content with the many blessings we receive." In this letter, General Lee also expressed sadness over the seizure of their home in Arlington and the precious items they had lost. He wrote, "They cannot take away the remembrance of the spot, and the memories of those that to us rendered it sacred. That will remain to us as long as life will last, and that we can preserve."

President Jefferson Davis spent Christmas in Richmond with his wife Varina. They were celebrating a new addition to their family. William Howell "Billy" Davis had been born in the Confederate White House less than three weeks earlier. Christmas time was likely quite special for this couple, since they had first met in 1843 during the holidays at Jefferson's brother's home.

General James Longstreet also spent the holiday in Richmond with his family. Little did he know that this would be his last Christmas with his three youngest children - Mary Ann, James Jr. and Augustus Baldwin fell ill with scarlet fever soon after the holiday. Mary Ann succumbed on January 25. Within a week, all three were dead. General Longstreet never appeared to fully recover from his grief.

Lincoln spent much of Christmas day meeting with his Cabinet and debating the developing crisis known as the Trent Affair. He and Mary Todd Lincoln hosted a dinner for two dozen guests that evening. The Lincoln children spent Christmas day at the home of U.S. Patent Office clerk Horatio Nelson Taft. Taft wrote in his diary, "It has been quite a noisy day about the house. Our three boys and the Two Lincoln boys have been very busy firing off Crackers & Pistols. Willie & Thomas Lincoln staid to Dinner at 4 o'clock." Days later young Willie Lincoln fell ill with typhus and died in February. I wonder if President Lincoln lamented not spending the past Christmas day with his boys, particularly Willie.

For these men and all the people, both North and South, this would be their last "peaceful" Christmas for several years to come. Even now thinking about that makes me feel a little sad.

Source: "The Rites of Innocence" by James S. Robbins

A CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

I sure wish someone had sent me a few pictures of the Christmas parades that the unit marched in. - Wayne

*Pray as though **everything** depended on God. Work as though **everything** depended on you* - Saint Augustine

You may not recognize many of the names on this page, but does that really matter? They represent real people - genuine needs. Just because you do not know them personally nor the nature of their circumstance does not mean that you cannot bow your heart and head for a moment - just a moment - and ask God to meet these needs - ALL OF THEM - according to HIS will ...



Gary Banks Steve Smith & family James Boyd J.C. Nobles Elaine Wallace Al McGalliard Ty Burnsed Cathy Wheeler Reba Aultman Kasey Larson Harold Buchanan Gale Red Bill Cameron Jenny & Ryan Ricky Smith Rev. Joey Young and family Ed & Val Elliott Lee Murdock Steve Galegor Michael Pierpoint Calbeb Brantley Ben (Cooter) Jones Dale & Becky

Rankin Roy and Dana Myers Alan Farley Gerald Robbins Sherrie' Raleigh Mrs.& Mrs. Burns Richard Durham James Morgan Kay Busbee Becky Mason & family as well as, those who preach & teach The WORD UDC C.S.A., U.S.A., Israel, Law Enforcement, Paramedics & Firefighters, Judges Political Leaders, Missionaries, Our Compatriots, Ministers, Travelers, The lonely, bereaved families, The Cannonball House Staff Our enemies ...And for Me & You, that we witness boldly, risking awkwardness and seeming to be foolish. And, please, let me know of others that should be on this list.

(For privacy, in some cases, I do not publish the details but will share if you contact me

AMONG THE WOUNDED AT GRISWOLDVILLE - NOVEMBER 1864

Colonel Beverly Daniel Evans was born in Marion, South Carolina on February 6, 1826 and educated at the Marion Academy, where he gained an appreciation for the Classics. Following his graduation, he studied law and was a school teacher. Beverly was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in Charleston in January of 1847. In 1852, he left South Carolina and relocated to Sandersville, Georgia. In Georgia, he resumed his law practice.

At the outbreak of the War, Beverly joined the "Washington Rifles" as a 2nd Lieutenant and became Captain of the Company. He eventually attained the rank of Brevet Colonel of the 2nd Regiment of Georgia State Troops, the Regiment he served with throughout the war. He was wounded early in the fighting at Griswoldville, GA. Following the war, Beverly returned home to Sandersville, Georgia and again took up his law practice. He survived an additional 32 years following the end of the War and died in Sandersville, Georgia on March, 21, 1897 at the age of 71. He is buried in the Old City Cemetery in Sandersville, Washington County, Georgia. He is the brother Brigadier General Nathan George "Shanks" Evans.

150 Years Ago - by Larry Upthegrove

December 5, 1868: In Atlanta, GA, from the "Constitution" we learn: *"Gen. N. G. Evans, ("Shanks") of South Carolina, late of the C.S.A., died last week near Union Springs, Alabama."*...Evans was always a management problem for his superiors, but always a warrior. He fought at the following: Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, Secessionville, Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, Kinston, and the Vicksburg Campaign. Robert E. Lee's son, General Fitzhugh Lee will write of him: *"Shanks" Evans, as he was called, was a graduate of the military academy, a native South Carolinian, served in the respected old "Second Dragoons", and was a good example of the rip-roaring, scorn all-care element which who largely abounded in that regiment. Evans had the honor of opening the fight (First Manassas), we might say he fired the first gun of the War."*...He also escorted President Davis from Washington to South Carolina when fleeing to Georgia at the War's end. His life ends at age 44 as a high-school principal, of complications from injuries sustained during the War.



THE 16TH GEORGIA CO. G - "The Jackson Rifles"

Colonel (Ret.)–Steven L. "Red Bone" Smith–478-951-4863 or 478-956-3858
Honorary Colonel J. C. Nobles - 478-718-3201
Rev. Joey Young – Honorary Member - 678-978-7213
Captain Wm. "Rebel" Bradberry, Commanding – 404-242-7213
1st Lt. Noah Sprague – 706-491-9755
2nd Lt. Charles Whitehead – 478-986-8943
Color Sgt. Kevin Sark - 478-731-8796
Adjutant: 5th Corp. "Duke" Dobson 478-731-5531
Treasurer: 6th Corp. Earl Colvin – 478-214-0687
1st. Sgt. (Ret.) James "Barefoot" Boyd - 770-219-8302 or 706-344-7588
1st Sgt. Alan "Cookie" Richards - 478-308-9739
2nd Sgt. Nathan Sprague – 478-320-8748
Corp. (Ret.) Mike "Beezer" Banks – 770-467-8123
1st Corp. Brick Lee Nelson - 478-986-1151
2nd Corp. Tommy Shover - 478-230-3483
3rd Corp. Avery Allen - 478-662-3732
4th Corp. Cody Sprague – 478-542-1802
Lead Chaplain – Joel Whitehead, Jr. - 478-986-8798
Hon. Chaplain Ronnie "Skin" Neal – 478-808 8848
Assistant Chaplain – Charles Hill – 770-845-6878
Musician – Drew Edge – 478-365-1897
Musician – Chance Sprague – 706-491-9755
Musician - Aaron Bradford – 302-668-8029
Musician - Oliver Lummus – 302-668-8029
Musician - Al McGalliard - 478-259-5786

ON FACEBOOK: "JACKSON RIFLES". And @ scv2218.com,
thanks to Al McGalliard

SCHEDULE OF 2018-2019 EVENTS

JANUARY 12 – JAMES H. BOUNT MEMORIAL – UDC CHAPTER 25

JANUARY 17 – LEE-JACKSON BANQUET CAMP 2218 – GRAY, GA 6PM.

JANUARY 18 – LEE-JACKSON BANQUET CAMP 18 – MACON, GA.

JANUARY – WINTER DRILL – DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

FEBRUARY – BATTLE OF OLUSTEE

MARCH – BATTLE OF BROXTON BRIDGE AND BATTLE OF MANASSAS, GA

"The Nash Farm event will be held April 12-14, 2019. It will be the 155th Anniversary of the battles of Nash Farm and Jonesboro, Georgia. It will be hosted by the 30th Georgia Infantry regiment and the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans." Tim Knight 30th Georgia June 23, 2018

Georgia Confederates Youth Camp

Our Christian/Southern Heritage:
“Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ”,
And protecting the good name of the Confederate Veteran.

Breaking News !!!!!

The Georgia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
has approved a scholarship fund
for the 2019 GCYC.

Tuition: \$350.00

Scholarship: [\$200.00]*

Net: \$150.00

*Available to the first 30 Campers to apply.

georgiaconfederatesyouthcamp.weebly.com

Go to the web site, fill out your applications, and

eMail or send them to: asp3@planttel.net

GCYC

4300 S. US Hwy 301

Jesup, GA 31546-2105



CHUCK JOHNSON 678-576-0475



**RUM
CREEK
SUTLER**

ART, MUSIC, BOOKS, VIDEOS, CLOTHING, JEWELRY AND MORE



Al McGalliard, RPh PHARMACY MANAGER


- Free delivery in Jones County
- Fast & friendly service • Compounding
- The Jones County News Reader's Choice Award Winner each year from 2010 to 2016

236 W. CLINTON ST. • GRAY • 478.986.4827

**WE'RE
HERE FOR
YOU AT**



**HomeTOWN
PHARMACY**



Barn Lucky

IVIS BRADFORD

Preservation Parcels
HISTORIC CLOTHING &
ACCESSORIES

barnlucky@yahoo.com
www.etsy.com/shop/BarnLucky

KARSTEN & DENSON HARDWARE STORE

Johnny Davis
Owner/Manager
karstendenson@yahoo.com

Phone (478) 745-3306 2323 Ingleside Avenue
Fax (478) 743-7555 Macon, GA 31204
Monday-Friday 8:30am-6:00pm Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm

Ivis Bradford whose business card appears (above) in this newsletter writes: "I finally updated my Etsy store with new sleeping caps. A few other things are in the works to be added in the near future. Perhaps there are some in need of a cap for the upcoming cooler events, or I would appreciate everyone's assistance in spreading the word about my business. The best kind of advertising is through people you know and trust!!! I would be indebted to you and the other members for any help with advertisement. I continue to welcome custom sewing projects at this time. Here is the link to the store:" <https://www.etsy.com/shop/BarnLucky>

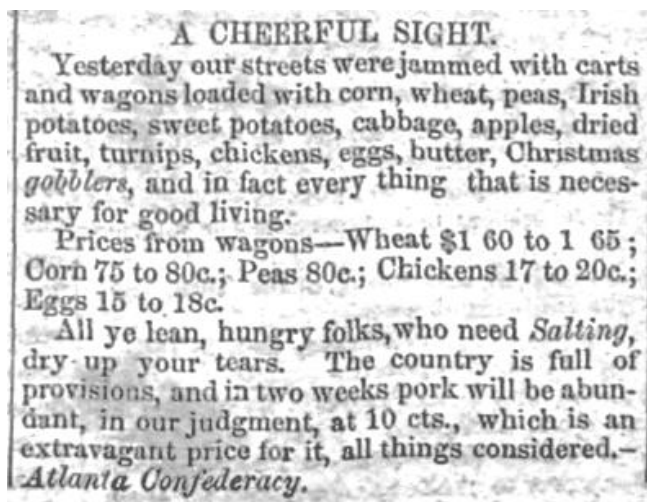


THE CAMP OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER #2218 *Of Old Clinton, Jones County, Georgia*

We had no regular meeting in November due to being at the Griswoldville Commemoration and no meeting was scheduled for December.

Please apply to Adjutant Dobson if interested in speaking engagements in 2019. Guest speaker for slots through May have already been booked, leaving June, July, August, September and October to be filled. We are honored to announce that our guest speaker for our 2019 Griswoldville commemoration will be Tim Pilgrim, current Commander of the Georgia Division SCV. Joint speakers for our Lee-Jackson Banquet will be Commander Earl Colvin and Adjutant Wayne Dobson.

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit 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 he loved and 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."



**Georgia Weekly Telegraph,
Dec. 20, 1861 - page 2**

More ... 150 Years Ago by Larry Upthegrove

December 8, 1868: One of the greatest objections of critics to the United States buying Alaska has been that the Russians have already trapped out the vast quantities of fur-bearing animals, leaving nothing of cash value in the land.....This week's "Federal Union" published today from Milledgeville, Ga, has this retort: "Alaska, it is being demonstrated, contains many valuable resources. The official survey of the coast, made by order of our government, confirms the reported anthracite coal discoveries in that region. The mines were traced by the official party, and the coal tested on board a United States steamer. Besides coal beds and a valuable fur trade, the cod fishery in the Gulf of Alaska has already become a flourishing interest, and the product has taken possession of the markets of California. This fishery business will support a large population in Alaska. The catch last year was 100 tons.".....

December 10, 1868: In Atlanta, Ga, the "Constitution" has this: "Ladies Memorial Association.—Was organized on the 7'th day of May, 1868, in Bell Hall, Marietta street. Its object is the collection and proper burial of the remains of Confederate dead, and the erection of a monument to their memory. It has labored faithfully and energetically. In the Spring more than three hundred dollars were raised by a supper and went to a similar association in Virginia. A considerable sum of money has been accumulated for the erection of a monument, but much less than the requisite amount. Donations can be made at any time either to an officer or member of the Association. The present officers are, President, Mrs. John B. Gordon; Vice-Presidents, Mrs John Gannon and Mrs. John Johnson; Treasurer, Mrs. W.S. Clayton; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. S. Walker; Recording Secretary, Miss Cordele Meredith. The Association meets at Wesley Chapel the 8'th of each month, in the afternoon.".....

Today, the first traffic light of any sort is in use on the northeast corner of Parliament Square on



Westminster Street in London, England. Designed to control a chaotic junction, the lights that can change from green to red with mechanical arms are powered by gas. The light will function somewhat well, but next month will explode, killing the policeman operator. It will be taken down, and 58 years will lapse before electric street lights will be installed in 1926.

December 12, 1868: In Atlanta, GA, the "Constitution" The "Constitution" in

Atlanta has this news from Richmond, Virginia: "The corner stone of the monument to the Confederate dead at Hollywood Cemetery was laid



today.".....Hollywood Cemetery was established with 40 acres in 1847, with the first lot sold in 1849. It is the burying place for two United States Presidents, Madison and Tyler. It, also, is the final resting place for Confederate Cavalry General JEB Stuart. In the future, General George Pickett and Jefferson Davis will spend their days of eternity here. This year, some 3,000 Confederate soldiers from the battlefields of Pennsylvania at Gettysburg will join the Generals; in total, over 18,000 Confederate soldiers will be here. The cemetery will grow to over 135 acres and become the 2'nd most visited in the U.S., second to Arlington. This 90 ft high monument, being completed this year, is a memorial for those resting nearby that gave their lives for their states and their Southern families.

CHRISTMAS - or NOT

"He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the LORD; and he that regardeth not the day, to the LORD he doth not regard it..." - Romans 14:6

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."- Romans 14:5

Satan loves anything that divides believers and he does not mind using Christians to do it. The debate seems to grow with each passing year - should Christians celebrate CHRISTMAS; should it be in December; should it be celebrated at all? The argument is often the most intense among those who name the name of CHRIST. Human nature teaches us that many people just do not think for themselves. They do what they are told and even think what they are told and say what they are told by others who may have received their information in the same way; scripture is rarely consulted. Some believers dislike the season and refuse to celebrate it for a number of reasons. It has been called a pagan holiday, and said that CHRIST could not have born in December. The CHRISTMAS tree is attacked as an idolatrous abomination (Jeremiah 10:2-4, Isaiah 44:14-15 & Jeremiah 3:13). Is it wrong to celebrate CHRISTMAS?" Is it idolatry?

It is true enough that the birth of CHRIST has been commercialized until the real meaning of the season has been all but lost. The very story of the birth of CHRIST is often distorted, mocked, or misrepresented. Moreover, many believers are already carnal or marginal in their spiritual life so they are easily trapped by the secularization of the season.

The meaning of CHRISTMAS is said to be the spirit of giving. No one ever gave more to mankind than the LORD JESUS CHRIST but HE has always been rejected, or ignored by so many of those HE came to save. If worldly CHRISTMAS traditions are a legitimate reason for discarding the entire celebration of CHRIST's birth at the traditional time of CHRISTMAS, it would seem logical that we also throw out everything we hold dear because Satan and man distort and ruin everything that pertains unto life and GODliness. We just can't throw out our beliefs because they are misrepresented.

Do the Holy Scriptures clearly authorize the celebration of the birth of CHRIST during a season? Scripture does tell us to remember HIS death in the ordinance of the LORD's Supper (Luke 22:14-20), but there is no written precedent for celebrating HIS birth. Do we need one or do we completely miss the spirit and intent of the Bible by paying too much attention to the details? When mountains are made out of mole hills and the truth is overlooked it is like someone counting the number of letters in a sentence rather than understanding what it says. If we applied this argument consistently, we would need to discontinue the use of musical instruments (some do), hymnals, chorus books, the church building, pews, Sunday school, Christian schools, and many other things. There would be no special services or seasons, such as Thanksgiving, to commemorate what GOD has done for us. We could have no dedication service for a new building because the only illustrations of such things are found in the Old Testament and not the New Testament. However, the New Testament never canceled the Old Testament but, rather, fulfilled it through JESUS.

If the Bible does not authorize a December 25th Christmas celebration does it forbid the observance? It is claimed that Scripture actually warns of and forbids the observance of any special months, seasons, days or religious festivals based on [Colossians 2:16-17](#): "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of CHRIST.*" This scripture ONLY forbids such celebrations or holy days when they have been prescribed as religious duty and necessary for holiness or spirituality. The Apostle Paul is saying don't let anyone tell you these things are requirements for fellowship with GOD. They were only the fore shadows of the person and work of CHRIST. This does not forbid believers from commemorating the birth of CHRIST if it is done out of love, devotion, and the joy the season. It is not a religious duty, but rather the joyous celebration of one of the most important events in all the pages of history!!!

Maybe there is a scriptural precedent for commemorating and remembering the birth of CHRIST after all. The early church, at first, met daily and took the LORD's Supper daily, but we don't do that today because we are not bound under the Law. Most believers meet on Sunday because of its significance and because the early church set a precedent for it, but it was never commanded in the Bible. If the early church could celebrate the resurrection without a specific command from GOD, only the spirit of legalism or the letter of the law would forbid the celebration of CHRIST's birth as a special

season of joy and adoration. Ultimately, the issue is not the CHRISTMAS season; it is the "holier than thou" attitude, the "Pharisee reasoning" behind it that leads to the distortion of it all. Let's not throw out the baby with the bathwater.

Another argument against the traditional celebrations of CHRISTMAS is the claim that many of these practices were brought into Christianity from pagan observances. While there were customs that Israel and the pagan nations shared, they were not wrong and the pagan associations were lost over time. "Israel is the birthplace of the Jewish culture and its culture encompasses the foundations of many Jewish cultural characteristics, including philosophy, literature, poetry, art, mythology, folklore, mysticism and festivals; as well as Judaism, which was also fundamental to the creation of Christianity and Islam." (*Jonathan Daly (19 December 2013). The Rise of Western Power: A Comparative History of Western Civilization. A&C Black. pp. 21-. ISBN 978-1-4411-1851-6.*) Old Testament passages in Jeremiah and Isaiah used to condemn the use of CHRISTMAS trees had to do with the idolatry of cutting down trees to be carved into idols that would be worshipped. We worship the LORD, not trees. Similarly, pagan practices were transformed or absorbed by Christianity. The Bible says it like this: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21) The evergreen tree is a valid symbol of the eternal life which CHRIST, the SON of GOD, offered to man on another tree, the cross (Revelation 2:7; 22:2, 14). Presents under the tree can remind us of GOD's gift and our need to give of ourselves to others. Even without seeking special significance in CHRISTMAS traditions we could still celebrate this season for the joy that family togetherness can bring. We can use it as an extra opportunity to demonstrate love for others or we make something evil out of a time that could just as well be good.

Nevertheless, some folks will use any excuse to do away with CHRISTMAS. Among the most unreasonable is that CHRIST was not born in on December 25 or even in the winter. On that basis they declare that the entire celebration is wrong. If CHRISTMAS critics are so brilliant then let them pick a day and worship THE KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS. The traditional December 25th date goes back to as early as (Hippolytus) A.D. 165-235. There is also ample evidence (Luke 2:1) to conclude that CHRIST's birth occurred sometime in the winter of 5/4 B.C." (Jews, Idumaeans, and Ancient Arabs: Relations of the Jews in Eretz-Israel ... Hoehner, p. 350). The concern here is not with the year or the month Christ was born. CHRISTMAS critics occasionally pretend to be sheep experts by saying the flocks were kept inside during a Bethlehem winter. Shepherds, they conclude, could not have been in the fields with their flocks on a winter night. It is true that during the winter sheep were brought in from the far wilderness but it is not at all certain that they were kept in enclosures. The shepherds were near Bethlehem, not in what was considered the wilderness. This indicates, if anything, the nativity was in the winter months. One of the major written collections of Jewish oral traditions (The Mishnah) reveals shepherds were outside around Bethlehem all year and some in the fields even in February, one of the coldest, rainiest months of the year. Late December remains a very reasonable date. James Kelso, an archaeologist who spent a number of years living in Palestine says that "the best season for the shepherds of Bethlehem is the winter when heavy rains bring up a luscious crop of new grass, changing the once-barren, brown desert earth to a field of brilliant green." When the rains stop in the spring, the land quickly takes on its normal desert look once again. It has been claimed that the three wise men could not have arrived in Bethlehem at the time of CHRIST's birth as their travel would have taken months. While this really does not affect whether one should celebrate Christmas or not, this argument is used to throw further doubt and contempt for the entire tradition of celebrating Christmas.

The Bible is silent concerning many CHRISTMAS traditions. Because of our freedom in CHRIST under grace, we are at liberty to celebrate CHRISTMAS. The Bible does not condemn the celebration of CHRISTMAS, thus, we have liberty in CHRIST to choose to do so. Other than Easter, no day in history means more to mankind than the birth of JESUS. It should be celebrated as often as we breathe. Since no one seems to be smart enough to know the exact date, "me and my house" (Joshua 24:15) will celebrate it on December 25th. Jwd 12/16/18

"Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of GOD." - Matthew 22:29

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Bobbie Lowery Edge (1929 - 2018)



February 18, 1929 - December 9, 2018

Macon, GA- Bobbie Lowery Edge, 89, passed away Sunday, December 9, 2018 at her residence at Pinegate. A Celebration of her Life will be held at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Mt. Zion Baptist Church off of Highway 41 in Monroe County with burial in the church cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10: 00 AM. Rev. Andy Oxford will officiate. The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Mission Fund, 7015 Rivoli Road, Macon 31210.

Mrs. Edge was born in Dublin, Georgia in 1929 and moved to Macon when she was seven, where she lived for the rest of her life. She attended Whittle School and Miller High School where she graduated in 1948. After studying at Georgia-Alabama Business College she worked as a legal secretary and bookkeeper until her marriage in 1955. She was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, LaRue Wesley Edge, her stepfather and mother, Charles and Wylene Ellison, and her father, William T. Lowery. Her sister, Peggy Lowery Sutton also preceded her in death. Mrs. Edge had been an active member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church for over 60 years where she was involved in many activities including Sunday School teaching, choir, and WMU. Her faith and her church were the center of her life. She adored children and worked for a number of years with Mothers Morning Out at Vineville Baptist Church. Mrs. Edge is survived by her children, Wesley Edge (Tanya) of Macon and **Scott Edge (Heidi)** of Macon; grandchildren, Chrystle Thompson (Christian), Anneliese Reagan (Wesley), James Edge, and **Drew Edge** all of Macon; brother, Charles L. Ellison, Jr. (Joyce) of Macon; nephews, Charles Ellison, III and William Ellison (Emily). Snow's Memorial Chapel, Cherry Street, had charge of arrangements.

Published in The Telegraph on Dec. 10, 2018



"Christmas In Dixie"

By now in New York City.
There's snow on the ground.
And out in California.
The sunshines' falling down.
And maybe down in Memphis, Graceland's all in lights.
And in Atlanta, Georgia, there's peace on earth tonight.
Christmas in Dixie, it's snowing in the pines.
Merry Christmas from Dixie to everyone tonight.
It's windy in Chicago.
The kids are out of school.
There's magic in Motown.
The city's on the move.
In Jackson, Mississippi to Charlotte, Caroline.
And all across the Nation, it's a peaceful Christmas time.
Christmas in Dixie, it's snowing in the pines.
Merry Christmas from Dixie, to everyone tonight.
And from good ol' Macon, Georgia
Merry Christmas tonight...

Artist: Alabama Album: Alabama Christmas Released: 1985
Songwriter(s): Jeff Cook; Teddy Gentry; Mark Herndon; Randy Owen