

MAY 2022

2ND FLORIDA LIVING HISTORY GAZETTE



A Brief History of Memorial Day

By Logan Davis

Memorial Day officially started in 1868 by suggestion of General John A. Logan who was then a leader of a Union veterans group. Similar events had already taken place both North and South by many groups including ladies' societies, families, veterans, and freedmen. Many ceremonies similar to Memorial Day had already started before the war's end but a national holiday was not considered until Logan's suggestion. Another reason for the birth of the holiday was that the Civil War had caused the most deaths of any US conflict, so much so it led to the creation of the first national cemeteries. Originally to honor Civil War veterans solely, it has since grown to honor all veterans after the onslaught of WW1 and has also moved from its original May 30th date to the last Monday in May to give federal employees a three day weekend .

Colonel's Comments

Greetings Fellow Historians!

After a very active campaign season, I trust you are all well and enjoying your furloughs. For those looking for a fight, Resaca Reenactment is May 20-22, 2022 and it's a good one. As General Poythress is always in need of reinforcements, send word to these HQs if you are interested and I will contact the General and make arrangements.

This month, we will celebrate our 154th Memorial Day, honoring all the soldiers who have given their lives for our great nation. Initiated in 1868 by General John Logan, it was first called "Decoration Day." The attached photo of a Decoration Day parade was taken in 1870 in St. Paul, Minnesota. My sincere appreciation of these soldiers is displayed as my American Flag flies proudly over my ranch. May God Bless these patriots and the sacrifices they have made.



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As 160-year time travelers, this month the Peninsula Campaign will be heating up and the 2nd Florida will be tested. We are extremely fortunate to have Steve and Cindy Keck sharing with us their research on the 2nd Florida movements. Stay tuned, much is about to happen.

In other theaters this month 160 years ago, Stonewall Jackson will be culminating a very successful Shenandoah campaign, General Butler will take New Orleans without a fight, and for the first time in history, a telegraph line will be used for military communication when George McClellan runs one a few miles long between his HQs and his advance pickets.

Wishing you all a very blessed month,

I am your servant,

Colonel Clay Kearney

Florida Brigade

Congratulations!

These soldiers made the 2nd Florida proud and are to be congratulated - please read below. Thank you, gentlemen!

Colonel Kearney,

On behalf of the Colonel Samuel St. George Rogers, SCV Camp #1865, I would like to thank you for having the men under your command perform color guard duties for our organization's Confederate Memorial Day ceremony last night.

Sgt. Sealing and Pvt. Davis presented themselves with the utmost professionalism and dedication to their task. They were respectful and gracious.

They honored our Marion County "Hammock Guards" Co. E, 2nd Florida Infantry Regiment ancestors well!

It was truly an honor to have them present at our event. We look forward to a continued partnership between our two groups.

Thanks again, and thank Sgt. Sealing and Pvt. Davis personally for me.

In Service to the South!

Bob Highbaugh, *Camp Commander*

Col. Samuel St. George Rogers

SCV Camp #1865



Chap's Corner

In April, we celebrated Easter and recalled Jesus' instructions to his disciples at the Last Supper, "...this do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). We also remembered Confederate Memorial Day on April 26 and will observe the federal holiday of Memorial Day on May 30. It is fitting that we never forget our fallen comrades whom we represent and honor nor the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Almost a quarter century after the battle of Gettysburg, Joshua Chamberlain stood on the hallowed ground of Little Round Top to dedicate a monument to the 20th Maine. Inscribed on the memorial stone are the words, "Honor abides here." As part of Chamberlain's speech in 1889, he stated...

The lesson impressed on me as I stand here... is that...character...tells...what is [the] firm and seasoned substance of the soul...such qualities or acquirements as intelligence, thoughtfulness, conscientiousness, right-mindedness, patience, fortitude, long-suffering, and unconquerable resolve. We know not of the future, and cannot plan for it much. But we can...determine and know what manner of men we will be whenever and wherever the hour strikes, that calls to noble action, this predestination God has given us in charge. No man becomes suddenly different from his habit and cherished thought. We carry our accustomed manners with us. And it was the boyhood you brought from your homes which made you men...which held you steadfast in mind and body, and lifted these heights of Gettysburg to immortal glory.

We all stand on the shoulders of those who went before us. As we reflect over the course of our lives, who has most influenced us? Whether they're alive or not, this would be a good time to pay tribute to them. And to guide our present and future behavior, seriously ask yourself: What legacy am I leaving? And how will I be remembered?



LADIES CORNER

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

