

# September 2013 - National Patriotic Instructors Page

## The Civil War and its Memory to US 150 years later.

While we observe these days, our remembrance's of our National Heritage and its struggle for survival in the period of 1861-1865, we should all take the time to "pass the History on". In today's world, dominated so much by electronic media, it is sometimes hard to reach an individual and converse with them one on one, about any subject, never mind the message our allied orders bring. It is certainly wonderful to be able to reach so many people quickly, but I sometimes wonder if we do not lose the meaning and substance of what we are discussing by the social networks many of us are involved with.

I am, however not saying we should not use mass methods of communicating, I am just urging us all to converse one on one when possible and or practical. In my own personal case, (like many of us, I am sure)I had the extraordinary privilege of being told to me (by my paternal Great Grandmother) the exploits and survival of one of my Civil War Ancestors, her Grandfather William Jones Wright. As a young man of 15 and 16 , I can still recall her telling me about him and some of the things he did. She would always end her stories with the phrase "Now don't forget Jackie (as she called me) The things he and they (meaning all the boys in blue) did" PLEASE keep the memory of their lives within your life." Well I might have not completely understood everything she was saying, I did get the message and have taken it to heart every day all these many years later.

That is what I will ask you all to do-"pass the History on" to all you know one on one. Talk not only to your families, but to all your friends and neighbors. Go to your local schools and churches and offer to speak on subjects about The Boys in Blue and related subjects. Let them know that what all those Folks From Mr. Lincoln to the Average Union Soldier accomplished was nothing short of True COURAGE and PATRIOTISM. Their examples have come on down to us 150 years later, and we have to all keep their spirit and sacrifices in our lives and memories. A famous man once remarked that those who forget their past cannot understand their future. This is the lesson of which I speak- Our past, and its Triumphs and failures can teach us to live our lives for the better, if we are willing to listen and profit by what we observe. That is a lesson for all of us.

Preserve and remember the past, it will guide you in the present and the future.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John W. Bates- National Patriotic Instructor