

APRIL is



CONFEDERATE
HISTORY
MONTH

The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

April 2025, Volume 28, Issue 4

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Commander's Comments — Michael Anthony

Greetings men and ladies of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp and the Ella Palmer Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose and our friends and followers who read this newsletter. By the time you read this edition of "Commander's Comments" the calendar will tell us it is spring, and I hope the weather will too. Spring is the time of renewal and hope; and it is also the time for Confederate Heritage Month. So while we remember our valiant and noble ancestors and the Cause for which they fought, we also look forward with hope that Confederate Heritage and History will live forever.

April was chosen as the time for all of us to honor and recognize our ancestors. Every year the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp pays homage and tribute to our Confederate dead with a Memorial Service at the Confederate Cemetery in Greenville. Due to conflicts with the days in April, our Memorial Service will actually be in May: Saturday, May 3 to be exact. On that special day, we will not only honor our brave and virtuous ancestors, but we will have the privilege to dedicate a Confederate soldier's headstone. Richard McAtee will finally have the memorial marker he richly deserves. Please come and join us for this special Saturday afternoon.

Our friend Brother Terry Arthur and his wife Brenda were the Camp's special guests for our March meeting. Most of you know Terry and Brenda, but it must be said that few people Live the Charge as vigorously and with such dedication and Terry. Not only in his home Camp, the Calhoun Avengers, but in the Mississippi Division and at Beauvoir, Terry puts in countless hours defending, protecting, and promoting the good name of the Confederate soldier and the Cause for which he fought. Terry is running for First Lieutenant Commander of the Mississippi Division, and his speech focused on the reason he chose to run for this prestigious office this year. He said that all of the members of the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans must contribute their talents and their energy toward the common goals of increasing the profile of the Mississippi Division through expanding its scope of work for the SCV at large. Through personal examples and Biblical scripture, he described why the time for divisive personal attacks and fights among the members of the Mississippi Division needs to end. He pledged to surround himself with men who have the knowledge, skills, and experience he does not have so he can be the most effective servant to the Mississippi Division he can be. His speech was well received with hearty applause from the members of the Camp.

Like Terry, I too, and running for an office this year; but I am running not for a Division Office, but for a Brigade Office. I sincerely believe and value the words of the Charge, and I think that the best way I can Live the Charge at this time in my life is to be the First Brigade Councilman for the Mississippi Division. I constantly tell you how it is our responsibility and our duty to Live the Charge and to defend, protect, and promote our Confederate ancestor's good name and the Cause for which he fought. I want to learn from other Camps in our Brigade how these men Live the Charge and then use those ideas at the Brigade level. I know I have a lot to learn about the First Brigade and the Mississippi Division. I appreciate your faith and confidence in me and your vote. I promise to do my best to learn and improve your experience at a member of a First Brigade Camp in the Mississippi Division.

Former Camp member Zack Kiker attended our meeting with his beautiful and charming daughter Bonnie. It was my first time meeting Zack, though he was well known to the other members of the Camp. Zack recently moved back to the area after a time living in Arkansas. He would like to rejoin the Camp and we are very excited to have him back. Welcome home Zack and Bonnie!

Remember it is your duty to Live the Charge every day the best way you can. It is your responsibility as the Son of a Confederate Veteran to defend, protect, and promote Confederate Heritage and History. Nobody else will do it for you.

Guest Speaker for April 12, 2025

Past MS Division Commander Alan Palmer will Give a Trivia on Shiloh

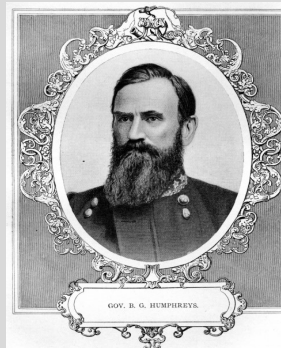
__Past Mississippi Division Commander, and Camp member, Alan Palmer will be our speaker for April. He will be giving one of his famous Trivia Quizzes on the Battle of Shiloh. He asks member to study up on the week before the battle, the battle, and the week after for this quiz.

Adjutant's Report — March 8, 2025 Minutes — Dan McCaskill

Call to Order: At 6:00 PM CDT by Commander Michael Anthony
Opening Prayer and Blessing: Camp Chaplain Earl McCown
Pledge and Salutes: Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.
Reading of The Charge: Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.

Commander Michael Anthony welcomed everyone to our monthly Camp Meeting. Checking with the ladies and learning the evening meal was not quite ready, Commander Anthony moved on to Officer Reports.

Officer Reports: Commander: After Officer Reports were given, Commander Anthony stated he was disappointed in the level of participation of members in the Division Billboard Project. We are in a cultural war against those who want to wipe out our Confederate Heritage. The ammunition for this war is money. Each member can Live The Charge by supporting projects like the billboard project, purchasing headstones and any other Heritage related project. This can be easily done by contributing. 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney was absent. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the \$500 the Camp pledged for the Division Heritage Billboard was given to the division Adjutant at the Executive Council Meeting on February 22, 2025, and that only five Camp members contributed to the project. Because excess money was raised from member donations and from donations at the Greenville Gun Show, the \$200 from the Heritage Defense Fund was replaced and other excess monies were put in the Confederate Headstone Fund. The only funds spent from the budget since the last meeting was \$14.60 for stamps. The checking account balance stands at \$2,329.39 including all funds. Newsletter: Dan McCaskill reported that when emailing the link to the newsletter to members, all those who had Bellsouth accounts, five emails bounced. Two members have submitted substitute accounts. Solutions for the others are being explored. MOSB: Commander Earl McCown reported he attended the MS Society Annual Meeting in Corinth along with Chapter Adjutant Dan McCaskill. The Society Meeting was well attended with several National Society Officers present. The Society inducted its 100th member at the meeting. MS Society Commander Stan Howell and Society Adjutant Mike Moore presented awards. The Chapter garnered one National award and two Society awards. Earl McCown and Dan McCaskill each re-



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Larry McCluney
Camp Commander / Editor:
Confederate @suddenlink.net

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a Society award. The Chapter membership stands at ten with one membership pending and ten Camp members eligible for membership. The OCR: Chapter President Sandra Stillman did not have a report.

Camp Business: 1) Dan McCaskill reported that there will be a Celtic Fest the Saturday, March 29th at the J. Z. George Home at North Carrollton and asked if the Camp wanted to have a Recruitment Table at the event. During discussion, since this was a first-time event that someone should attend the event to determine if it would be worth having a table at future events. 2) Dan McCaskill reported the Tallahatchie Rifles Camp will be conducting a cemetery cleanup at the Sandy Bayou Cemetery west of Drew and if anyone wanted to help would be welcomed. When the time was set, Dan would inform members. 3) Past member Zach Kiker attended the meeting and expressed an interest in joining the Camp. To assist past and new members in joining the Camp, Dan McCaskill made a motion that the Camp allow prororation of Camp dues in the same manner as National and Division. The motion was seconded by Earl Allen and passed without objection.

With no other business coming before the camp, the Business Session was closed.

Camp Events and Announcements:

- ◆ **The Camp will hold its Annual Confederate Memorial Service on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the UDC Plot in the Greenville Cemetery. The Service will start at 2:00 pm, CDT. Our Speaker for the Service will be Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. During the Service, there will be a headstone dedication to Richard McAtee by the Honor Guard led by Larry McCluney. Re-enactors are needed for the Honor/Rifle Guard and are asked to be at the cemetery no later than 1:30. The Ladies of the OCR Chapter will be providing refreshments. Bring your chairs! There will also be a short Camp Meeting after the Service. May 10 will be an alternate date in the event of rain. A reminder will be sent as the event draws near.**

- ◆ The MS Division Memorial Service will be held at Beauvoir, Saturday, April 26, 2025. Times to be announced.

Program: Our speaker for the evening was MS Division 2nd Lt. Commander Terry Arthur. Before getting into his program, Terry announced that he is a candidate for the position of Division 1st Lt. Commander. Terry's subject for his program was "The Sons of Confederate Veterans". Using Holy Scripture, Terry talked about unity even though we are all different. We all have different ideas on how to accomplish a task. One is not necessarily better than the other and we should not fight among ourselves but to come together as one. We all have one goal in the SCV and that is to do all things that will honor them!

With no other business coming before the Camp, Kenneth Ray made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gator Stillman and the motion passed without objection. Attendance for the meeting was 14. Next Camp Meeting will be April 12, 2025.

The Camp Meeting was closed with a word of prayer by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown and the singing of Dixie.

Our Confederate Ancestors



*John Bell Hughes
Capt; Co. G, 11th AL Inf
Robert Strawbridge*



*Joel Pearson Dillon
Pvt; Co. E, 33rd MS Inf
Steve Sweet*



*William Riley Hughes
Sgt; Co. A, 41st AL Inf
Robert Strawbridge*



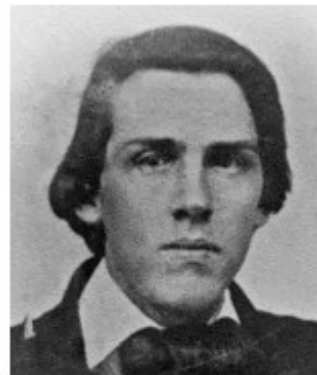
*John Glen Neal
Pvt; Co. D, 43rd MS Inf
Philip Neal*



*Francis Marion Furr
Pvt; Co. K, 3rd MS Inf
Randle E. Furr, Sr.*



*George Washington McCown
Col; Chief of Artillery
McCown's Division; AOT
Earl, Mitch, John McCown*



*Wyndham Robertson Trigg
1st Lt; Co. D, 28th MS Cav
Buried in Greenville Cemetery*



Thomas Sylvanus Aderholdt
Pvt; Co. F, 32nd NC Inf
Charlie Craig



Wesley Dowe Allen
Pvt; Maxwell's Co.,
MS State Troops
Earl B. Allen, Jr.



Anthony Hughes
Pvt; Co. F, 2nd AL Lt. Arty
Robert Strawbridge



Basil Manley Hughes
Sgt; Co. G, 11th AL Inf
Robert Strawbridge



Aaron Charles Creech
Pvt; Co. H, 8th AL Inf
John Bruce Creech



William Charles "Savez" Read
Lt; Confederate States Navy
Medal of Honor Recipient
John Read, Junior



John Teasdale Newman
Pvt; Co. B, 33rd MS Inf
Ryan & Keith Chunn



John Norris
Pvt; Co. A, 1st AL Inf
Brad Hartsfield



John Porter McCown
Maj-Gen; McCown's Div
Army of Tennessee
Earl, Mitch, John McCown



John Wesley McCluney
Pvt; Co. F, 6th MS Cav
Larry A. McCluney



Jesse Hughes
Pvt; Co. G, 11th AL Inf
Robert Strawbridge



Joel Hughes
Capt; Co. D, 3rd MS Inf
Robert Strawbridge



*Alexander Young Bagley
Pvt; Co. D, 38th AL Inf
George & Kenneth Ray*



*Alexander Young Harper
Pvt; Co. F, 62nd AL Inf
George & Kenneth Ray*



*Francis Marion Keith
5th Sgt; Co. I, 1st NC Inf
McCaskills & Mark King*



*Frank Henry Guinn
1st Cpl; Co. A, 22nd AL Inf
George & Kenneth Ray*



*George Eaton Keith
Pvt; Co. E, 18th NC Inf
McCaskills & Mark King*



*Alexander McCaskill
Train Engineer, M&O RR
McCaskills*



*Joseph Hughes
Pvt; Co. G, 38th TN Inf
Robert Strawbridge*



*Leonidus Norfleet Keith
1st Sgt; Co. K, 14th NC Inf
Medal of Honor Nominee
McCaskills & Mark King*



*Robert Ransom
Maj. General; ANV
Frank Aderholdt*



*Stephen Smith Dill
Pvt; Co. K, 18th MS Inf
Robert Strawbridge*



*Thomas Martin Murphree
3rd Cpl; Co. F, 4th MS Inf
Stanley Ayres*

When We Remember, They Will Not Be Forgotten!

*Confederate Memorial Service and
Headstone Dedication
Saturday, May 3, 2025
Greenville Cemetery
South Main Street, Greenville, MS*



*Hosted by
B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys 1625, SCV
Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR*

*Service Starts at 2:00 pm at the UDC Plot
Speaker: Camp Chaplain Earl McCown*

The Camp will hold its Annual Confederate Memorial Service on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the UDC Plot in the Greenville Cemetery. The Service will start at 2:00 pm, CDT. Our Speaker for the Service will be Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. During the Service, there will be a headstone dedication to Richard McAtee by the Honor Guard led by Larry McCluney. Re-enactors are needed for the Honor/Rifle Guard and are asked to be at the cemetery no later than 1:30. The Ladies of the OCR Chapter will be providing refreshments. Bring your chairs! There will also be a short Camp Meeting after the Service. May 10 will be an alternate date in the event of rain. A reminder will be sent as the event draws near.

The Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

*"But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly: the LORD will hear when I call to Him."
Psalm 4:3*

No one is more precious in the LORD's sight than a godly person. God is pleased whenever He finds someone who strives to live a righteous life and bring glory to Him. God sets such people apart in a special place in His heart. They are always kept before Him, and He stands ready to respond to their faintest cries for help.



Sin separates us from God, causing Him to close His ears to our praying. It is futile for us to pray when we are knowingly practicing sin. But the opposite is also true. God chooses to honor us by listening to our every cry when we are living a godly life. An abiding security comes with living a blameless life. The righteous person never has to wonder whether God has listened to his prayer. (1 John 5:14-15). The godly person has confidence that God has indeed heard her prayer and will immediately respond in all of His power.

It is exhilarating to be set apart by God, knowing that God observes your consecrated life, and is pleased with what He sees. What a tremendous privilege to know that your life holds a special place in God's heart! The world may not accord any special status to you, but you will know that you are cherished by God. The world continues to find new ways to honor people, but even the world's most extravagant accolades are pitiful compared to the unfathomable blessing of holding place in the heart of God.

Mississippi Division News

2025 Mississippi Division Reunion Pickwick Landing, TN June 6-8, 2025

Compatriots of the Mississippi Division SCV and Ladies of the Mississippi Society OCR,

We are honored to invite you to the 2025 Mississippi Division Annual Reunion, hosted by Col. William P. Rogers Camp 321. The Reunion will be held on June 6-8, 2025, at the Lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park, Pickwick Landing, TN.

Our Annual Reunion serves as a gathering of our compatriots, families, and friends. It is a time when we come together to transact the business of our organization but also as a time to celebrate our shared honorable heritage, reflect on our achievements from the past year, and envision the future of our organizations. Please make plans to join us for a memorable weekend.

Our host hotel is the Lodge at Pickwick Landing, located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Pickwick Landing, TN. The Lodge offers 119 rooms, all of which directly face the Tennessee River, as well as a great restaurant and bar. Room Rates are \$155.00 a night. Please use Group Code 8244 to receive this room rate when booking.

Pickwick is close to many sites of the War for Southern Independence: the battlefields of Shiloh, Brice's Crossroads, Corinth, and Davis Bridge. The state park also offers some amazing fishing and golfing. Registration is now open, and we encourage you to secure your spot at the reunion at your earliest convenience. Please take advantage of our early registration rates.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Reunion Planning Committee at msdivadjutant@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you next June at Pickwick!
In the Bonds of the Old South,

Mike Moore, Chairman
2025 Reunion Host Committee



Commander Michael Anthony Declares for 1st Brigade Councilman

To the Members of the First Brigade of the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; my name is Michael Anthony and I am proud to announce my candidacy for First Division Brigade Commander for the Mississippi Division. I am a proud resident of Clarksdale and I have been a member of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp for four years, where I currently serve as Camp Commander.

I am running for Brigade Commander because as the Camp Com-

mander, I am constantly telling my Camp members to Live the Charge; and one of my personal mottos is "Be the Change You Want to See in Others." So now is my time to step out of my Camp and step up. I sincerely believe the words of the Charge; trying to "emulate his virtues" every day. As a student of my favorite Confederate: General Robert E Lee, I model my life after his, carrying within me compassion, empathy, grace, honor, and dignity in all I do. I want the Mississippi Division to move forward and move past the personality conflicts of the past. I want our Division to be a leader among all divisions of the SCV and show the rest of the world how Sons of Confederate Veterans protect, preserve, and promote the Confederate Soldiers' good name. All of us share one of God's greatest gifts: we are sons of Confederate soldiers. Men who laid down their plows, their axes, their oars, their ledgers, their pulpits to fight for the Constitutional Liberty and Freedom given to us by our Revolutionary forefathers. Our Confederate ancestors are true American heroes. Our bond should unite us to Live the Charge every day. Whether I personally like you or not, I respect your desire to Live the Charge and promote Confederate history and heritage; and I will work with you.

Men of the First Division of the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; I appreciate your vote for Brigade Commander. Your trust and faith in me will never be forgotten or dismissed. I will work for you because we all will work together to Live the Charge. Thank you.

BEAUVIOR

Beauvoir, the historic post-war home of President Jefferson Davis, is owned and operated by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. There are several ways that you can participate in the continued preservation of this beloved landmark located in Biloxi, Mississippi.



*Beauvoir - Post-war home of Jefferson Davis.
Biloxi, Mississippi*

Friends of Beauvoir

For as little as \$25 annually, you can become a member of the Friends of Beauvoir. Membership includes tour admission and a 10% discount at the Beauvoir gift shop.

Bricks for Beauvoir

Honor your Confederate ancestors while supporting Beauvoir. Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit, and company. The memorial bricks will be laid creating a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate soldier. For more information on these opportunities, please visit www.visitbeauvoir.org or contact Beauvoir directly at (228) 388-4400



2025 SCV MS Division Reunion
Registration Form

129th Reunion – Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
31st Reunion – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose
Pickwick Landing, TN – June 6-8, 2025

Hosts: Col. W.P. Rogers Camp 321 SCV and Ladies of Col. W.P. Rogers Chapter 25, OCR



SCV Member Name: _____

Title: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____

OCR Member Name: _____

Title: _____

OCR Chapter Name & Number: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies (quantities limited). Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. OCR members will receive a medal if payment is provided below.

REGISTRATION AMOUNTS

SCV Member – on or before May 6, 2025, \$60.00 / After May 6, 2025, \$70.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

OCR Member – on or before May 6, 2025, \$30.00 / After May 6, 2025, \$35.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

Commander’s Reception - on or before May 6, 2025, \$25.00 per person QTY _____ \$ _____

Awards Banquet – on or before May 6, 2025, \$50.00 per person QTY _____ \$ _____

(NO RECEPTION OR BANQUET REGISTRATION AFTER MAY 6, 2025, **INCLUDING WALK-UPS**)

Individual Ancestor Memorial - \$10.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

Half Page Ancestor Memorial - \$40.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

Full Page Ancestor Memorial - \$100.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT =====> \$ _____

Please Make Checks Payable to **Col. W.P. Rogers Camp 321** & Mail to:
Camp 321 C/O: Dwight Johnson, 3470 CR 100, Corinth, MS 38834

SCV Contact: Mike Moore (732) 962-5335 OCR Contact: Laura Moore (662) 416-7949

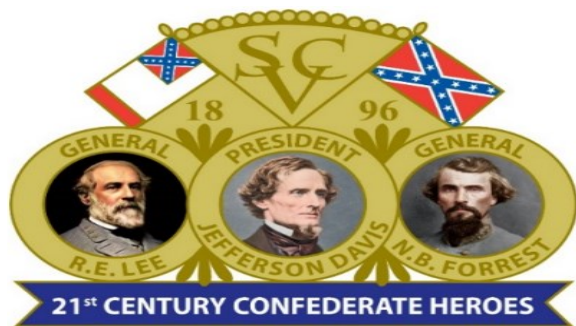
HOTEL INFO

The Lodge at Pickwick Landing
120 Playground Loop, Counce, TN 38326
(888) 867-2757
or online at:

www.tnstateparks.com/lodges/pickwick-landing

Use Group Code **8244** when booking for \$155.00 room rate.

SCV National News



21st Century Confederate Heroes

The National Sons of Confederate Veterans welcomes you to the 21st-Century Confederate Heroes. Your generous donation will serve to remember and honor our Confederate Heroes and our beloved Southland. The program comes with many perks.

- 1) Flag streamer or Neck Ribbon a. If you submit as an individual, you will receive a neck ribbon with a 21st Century Confederate Heroes medal on the ribbon. b. If you submitted as a camp, division or organization, you will receive a 21st Century Confederate Heroes streamer for your flag.
- 2) Paver – a paver placed on the Walkway of Confederate Heroes from the Museum to the Forrest Plaza
- 3) Certificate – A certificate documenting for future generations your membership as a Confederate Hero
- 4) A copy of the hardcover book 21st Century Confederate Heroes with a page dedicated to the information provided by you that details the individual or camp, etc. you wish to memorialize. Up to three photos may be included
- 5) Donor recognition in the National Confederate Museum – A Television will be placed inside the Museum's gift shop. This TV will display PowerPoint slides of the information 21st Century Confederate Heroes members provide. It can be you, your family, your ancestor, your camp, etc.
- 6) A Flag flown from the Forrest Plaza – One of the purposes of the 21st Century Confederate Heroes is to restore the Forrest Plaza. Once the plaza has been rebuilt and the flagpole is placed, every month for a year a donor will be drawn to receive the flag flown the previous month.
- 7) A QR Code on a sign will be placed near the Forrest Plaza identifying all those who donated \$1,000 or more to the restoration of the Forrest Plaza prior to the 21st Century Confederate Heroes campaign.

Notes:

Make checks out the Sons of Confederate Veterans and note 21st CCH in the memo line of your check.

For more information contact Commander-in-Chief Walter D. Kennedy at: CiC@scv.org

Or contact National HQ by mail or email:

SCV, P.O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402

exedir@scv.org



SCV_CHAT
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE
ONE WEEK AT A TIME

LAMAR



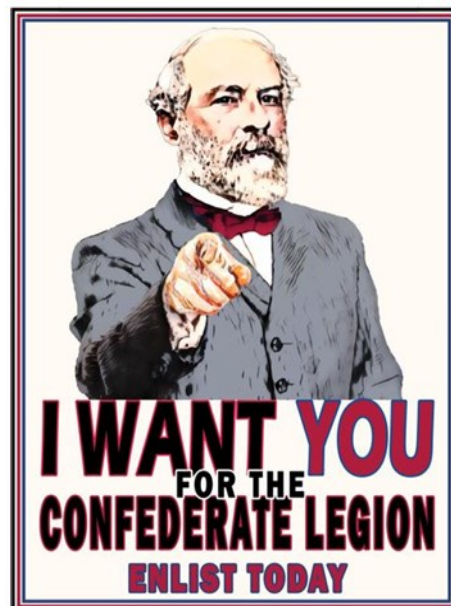
Billboards Across Dixie—April Confederate History Month

Lt. C-i-C Anthony (Tony) Griffin is leading the effort to promote the Cause during Confederate History Month. Virginia has conducted a billboard campaign every April for the past several years. This year, the SCV will have billboards across Dixie! For example, every Brigade in Louisiana raised enough money to purchase at least one billboard, and two Brigades have multiple billboards! This is happening in numerous Confederate States and a non-Southern state! Thanks to Lt. C-i-C Griffin for orchestrating this South-wide effort, and a special thanks to Division, Brigade, and Camp commanders for working to make this effort a success. This is not the first time the National, Division, or Camps have used billboards to get our name and ideas out to the public. It is the first coordinated South-wide effort. We want folks who drive across Dixie during April to see SCV billboards on interstate highways. We also want our elected officials to see that the SCV is organized and fighting for our right to celebrate our honorable heritage.

Editor's Note: The Mississippi Division has made arrangements to purchase one of these Billboards for the entire month of April on Interstate 20, a high traffic area that is sure to get a lot of attention.

Recruiting for the Confederate Legion

Past C-i-C Jason Boshers is sending out CL renewals. Keep an eye out for your renewal. Special thanks to Jason for sending out renewals and printing CL certificates for new members. Thanks to past C-i-C Chuck McMichael for creating the website on our billboards, scv-info.org. Good Southern Warriors never retire. Thanks to Chief of Heritage Promotions Paul Graham for putting together the CL ad on the left. We plan to begin running it in the Confederate Veteran. Also, thanks for taking care of the design and production of our new CL Lapel pins. We will begin mailing the pins to CL members in April.



SCV Chat — Every Monday Night on Facebook at 7:00 PM Central time and on Thursday Nights at 7:00 PM for Look

PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED RESTORING TRUTH IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order restoring truth and sanity to American history by revitalizing key cultural institutions and reversing the spread of divisive ideology.

- President Trump aims to ensure that the Smithsonian is an institution that sparks children's imagination, celebrates American history and ingenuity, serves as a symbol to the world of American greatness, and makes America proud.
- The Order directs the Vice President, who is a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, to work to eliminate improper, divisive, or anti-American ideology from the Smithsonian and its museums, education and research centers, and the National Zoo.
- The Order directs the Administration to work with Congress to ensure that future Smithsonian appropriations: (1) prohibit funding for exhibits or programs that degrade shared American values, divide Americans by race, or promote ideologies inconsistent with Federal law; and (2) celebrate women's achievements in the American Women's History Museum and do not recognize men as women.
- The Vice President will work with congressional leaders to appoint members to the Smithsonian Board of Regents who are committed to advancing the celebration of America's extraordinary heritage and progress.
- **The Order also directs the Secretary of the Interior restore Federal parks, monuments, memorials, statues, markers, or similar properties that have been improperly removed or changed in the last five years to perpetuate a false revision of history or improperly minimize or disparage certain historical figures or events.**
- In preparation for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, the Order directs the Secretary of the Interior to complete restorations and improvements to Independence Hall by that date.

COMBATING CORROSIVE IDEOLOGY: In the last decade, Americans have witnessed a concerted effort to rewrite American history and force our nation to adopt a factually baseless ideology aimed at diminishing American achievement. President Trump is fighting back by reestablishing truth in the historical narrative and restoring Federal sites dedicated to American heritage.

- The prior administration pushed a divisive ideology that reconstrued America's promotion of liberty as fundamentally flawed, infecting revered institutions like the Smithsonian and national parks with false narratives.
- At Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, the Biden Administration sponsored training by an organization that advocates for dismantling "Western foundations" and that taught Park Rangers that their racial identity should dictate how they present history to visitors.
- The Smithsonian Institution—once revered throughout the world as a symbol of American excellence—has recently promoted divisive ideology that American and Western values are harmful.
- The American Art Museum currently features an exhibit that purports to address how "sculpture has been a powerful tool in promoting scientific racism" and claims that the United States has "used race to establish and maintain systems of power, privilege, and disenfranchisement."
- The National Museum of African American History and Culture has proclaimed that "hard work," "individualism," and "the nuclear family" are aspects of "White culture."
- The American Women's History Museum plans to celebrate male athletes participating in women's sports.

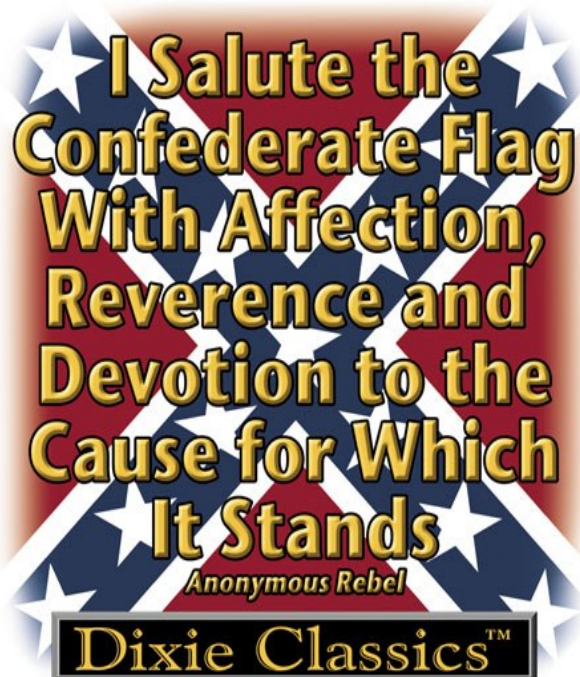
CELEBRATING AMERICAN GREATNESS: President Trump is committed to honoring America's extraordinary heritage and building a sense of national pride.

- President Trump signed an Executive Order on his first day in office to establish a task force to prepare for America's 250th birthday.
- This Order also protects America's monuments from vandalism and calls for construction of the National Garden of American Heroes.

- President Trump signed a memorandum ensuring Federal buildings reflect the timeless grandeur of traditional, classical architecture. By signing this Executive Order, President Trump is ensuring that American history is celebrated accurately, fairly, and with pride—honoring the remarkable progress, liberty, and ingenuity that define our great nation.



Confederate Monument at Arlington National Cemetery in the Confederate Section Removed by the Biden Administration's Name Changing Committee





130th Annual National Reunion Houston, Texas

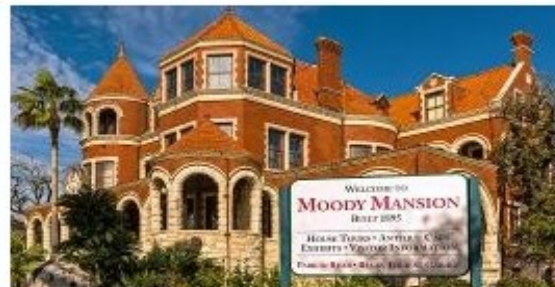
In the heart of Texas, Houston stands as a city of dualities—a place where the “Spirit of the Confederacy” monument whispers tales of valor, while rockets at the Johnson Space Center defy gravity. Here, Hermann Park cradles tranquility—a lush oasis with McGovern Lake and the bronze gaze of Sam Houston. Moody Mansion guards secrets within its red-brick walls, and Sabine Pass, where sea meets land, echoes bravery from the Civil War. But it’s San Jacinto that resonates—a battlefield where Texas won its independence, and the bay murmurs courage and sacrifice. Houston isn’t just a city; it’s a symphony of resilience, launching expectations beyond the stars.



Battle of Galveston Tour



Dick Dowling Grave / San Jacinto Tour



Moody Mansion



Host Hotel

Houston Marriott South Hobby Airport

9100 Gulf Fwy.

Houston, TX 77107

(713) 943-7979



Sons of Confederate Veterans

130th Annual National Reunion

Houston, Texas July 17-20, 2025



Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

SCV Camp Name: _____ Number _____ Division _____

Current Rank, Title, or Position: _____

Spouse Name (For Name Badge): _____

*Note: Please only provide your spouse's name if they are attending a Reunion Meal or Tour. Spouses **DO NOT** need to pay for registration.*

Date	Time	Event	Price	Qty	Total
SCV REUNION EARLY BIRD	REGISTRATION	ALL SCV MEMBERS MUST REGISTER (through May 31, 2025) includes medal & program	\$75.00		
SCV REGULAR REUNION	REGISTRATION	ALL SCV MEMBERS MUST REGISTER (June 1, 2025 through July 7, 2025) includes medal & program	\$85.00		
Thursday, July 17, 2025	12:00 PM	Heritage Defense Luncheon	\$48.00		
Thursday, July 17, 2025	1:45 PM	Battle of Galveston Tour/Dinner/Cemetery Tour	\$100.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	7:30 AM	Chaplain's Breakfast	\$38.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	12:00 PM	SCV Awards Luncheon	\$48.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	1:45 PM	Battle of San Jacinto Tour/ Dick Dowling Grave	\$40.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	7:30 AM	Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast	\$38.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	8:30 AM	Ladies Tour to Galveston - Moody Mansion/ Lunch/ Museum	\$70.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	6:00 PM	Commander in Chief Reception	\$30.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	7:00 PM	SCV Banquet/Debutante Presentation/Grand Ball <i>Note: Dress Attire is Coat & Tie or Period Uniform</i>	\$80.00		
Ancestor Memorials ~ Each		<i>You Must Submit Ancestor Info on Separate Form</i>	\$10.00		
Extra Reunion Medal		Note: 1 Medal is included with your registration, order extras here	\$25.00		
Reunion Medal		Limited Edition - Numbered 1-100. Note: This medal is NOT included with registration.	\$100		
		FINAL TOTAL - Registration, Tours, Extra Medals			

Please Make Checks Payable to: "Texas Division SCV"
Mail the Form & Check to 733 W 3rd Ave. Corsicana, TX 75110

THE FIRING ON FORT SUMTER, CHARLESTON, S.C. – APRIL 12, 1861

On March 5, 1861, the day after his inauguration as president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln received a message from Maj. Robert Anderson, commander of the U.S. troops holding Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. The message stated that there was less than a six week supply of food left in the fort.

Attempts by the Confederate government to settle its differences with the Union were spurned by Lincoln, and the Confederacy felt it could no longer tolerate the presence of a foreign force in its territory. Believing a conflict to be inevitable, Lincoln ingeniously devised a plan that would cause the Confederates to fire the first shot and thus, he hoped, inspire the states that had not yet seceded to unite in the effort to restore the Union.

On April 8, Lincoln notified Gov. Francis Pickens of South Carolina that he would attempt to resupply the fort. The Confederate commander at Charleston, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, was ordered by the Confederate government to demand the evacuation of the fort and if refused, to force its evacuation. On April 11, General Beauregard delivered the ultimatum to Anderson, who replied, "Gentlemen, if you do not batter the fort to pieces about us, we shall be starved out in a few days." On direction of the Confederate government in Montgomery, Beauregard notified Anderson that if he would state the time of his evacuation, the Southern forces would hold their fire. Anderson replied that he would evacuate by noon on April 15 unless he received other instructions or additional supplies from his government. (The supply ships were expected before that time.) Told that his answer was unacceptable and that Beauregard would open fire in one hour, Anderson shook the hands of the messengers and said in parting, "If we do not meet again in this world, I hope we may meet in the better one." At 4:30 A.M. on April 12, 1861, 43 Confederate guns in a ring around Fort Sumter began the bombardment that initiated the bloodiest war in American history.

In her Charleston hotel room, diarist Mary Chesnet heard the opening shot. "I sprang out of bed," she wrote. "And on my knees--prostrate--I prayed as I never prayed before." The shelling of Fort Sumter from the batteries ringing the harbor awakened Charleston's residents, who rushed out into the predawn darkness to watch the shells arc over the water and burst inside the fort. Mary Chesnut went

to the roof of her hotel, where the men were cheering the batteries and the women were praying and crying. Her husband, Col. James Chesnut, had delivered Beauregard's message to the fort. "I knew my husband was rowing around in a boat somewhere in that dark bay," she wrote, "and who could tell what each volley accomplished of death and destruction?"



Inside the fort, no effort was made to return the fire for more than two hours. The fort's supply of ammunition was ill-suited for the task at hand, and because there were no fuses for their explosive shells, only solid shot could be used against the Rebel batteries. The fort's big-



gest guns, heavy Columbiads and eight-inch howitzers, were on the top tier of the fort and there were no masonry casemates to protect the gunners, so Anderson opted to use only the casemated guns on the lower tier. About 7:00 A.M., Capt. Abner Doubleday, the fort's second in command, was given the honor of firing the first shot in defense of the fort. The firing continued all day, the federals firing slowly to conserve ammunition. At night the fire from the fort stopped, but the confederates still

lobbed an occasional shell in Sumter. Although they had been confined inside Fort Sumter for more than three months, unsupplied and poorly nourished, the men of the Union garrison vigorously defended their post from the Confederate bombardment that began on the morning of April 12, 1861. Several times, red-hot cannonballs had lodged in the fort's wooden barracks and started fires. But each time, the Yankee soldiers, with a little help from an evening rainstorm, had extinguished the flames. The Union garrison managed to return fire all day long, but because of a shortage of cloth gunpowder cartridges, they used just six of their cannon and fired slowly.

The men got little sleep that night as the Confederate fire continued, and guards kept a sharp lookout for a Confederate attack or relief boats. Union supply ships just outside the harbor had been spotted by the garrison, and the men were disappointed that the ships made no attempt to come to their relief.

After another breakfast of rice and salt pork on the morning of April 13, the exhausted Union garrison again began returning cannon fire, but only one round every 10 minutes. Soon the barracks again caught fire from the Rebel hot shot, and despite the men's efforts to douse the flames, by 10:00 A.M. the barracks were burning out of control. Shortly thereafter, every wooden structure in the fort was ablaze, and a magazine containing 300 pounds of gunpowder was in danger of exploding. "We came very near being stifled with the dense livid smoke from the burning buildings," recalled one officer. "The men lay prostrate on the ground, with wet handkerchiefs over their mouths and eyes, gasping for breath."

The Confederate gunners saw the smoke and were well aware of the wild uproar they were causing in the island fort. They openly showed their admiration for the bravery of the Union garrison by cheering and applauding when, after a prolonged stillness, the garrison sent a solid shot screaming in their direction.

"The crasing of the shot, the bursting of the shells, the falling of the walls, and the roar of the flames, made a pandemonium of the fort," wrote Capt. Abner Doubleday on the afternoon of April 13, 1861. He was one of the Union garrison inside Fort Sumter in the middle of South Carolina's Charleston harbor. The fort's large flag staff was hit by fire from the surrounding

Confederate batteries, and the colors fell to the ground. Lt. Norman J. Hall braved shot and shell to race across the parade ground to retrieve the flag. Then he and two others found a substitute flagpole and raised the Stars and Stripes once more above the fort.

Once the flag came down, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, who commanded the Confederate forces, sent three of his aides to offer the fort's commander, Union Maj. Robert Anderson, assistance in extinguishing the fires. Before they arrived they saw the garrison's flag raised again, and then it was replaced with a white flag. Arriving at the fort, Beauregard's aides were informed that the garrison had just surrendered to Louis T. Wigfall, a former U.S. senator from Texas. Wigfall, completely unauthorized, had rowed out to the fort from Morris Island, where he was serving as a volunteer aide, and received the surrender of the fort. The terms were soon worked out, and Fort Sumter, after having braved 33 hours of bombardment, its food and ammunition nearly exhausted, fell on April 13, 1861, to the crushing fire power of the Rebels. Miraculously, no one on either side had been killed or seriously wounded.

The generous terms of surrender allowed Anderson to run up his flag for a hundred-gun salute before he and his men evacuated the fort the next day. The salute began at 2:00 P.M. on April 14, but was cut short to 50 guns after an accidental explosion killed one of the gunners and mortally wounded another. Carrying their tattered banner, the men marched out of the fort and boarded a boat that ferried them to the Union ships outside the harbor. They were greeted as heroes on their return to the North.



Eyewitness to the Battle of Shiloh – April 6-7, 1862

In April 1862 General Ulysses S. Grant's army was encamped along the Tennessee River just north of the Mississippi border; poised to strike a blow into the heartland of the South. Grant had been at this location for about a month, awaiting the arrival of additional troops under General Buell before he began his march southward. Twenty miles to the south, in Corinth, Mississippi, Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston ordered his troops northward with the plan of attacking Grant before Buell arrived. The stage was set for one of the Civil War's bloodiest battles.

On the morning of April 6, Johnston's force surprised Grant in an attack that slowly pushed the Union troops back from the high ground they occupied towards the Tennessee River. Fighting was fierce. Many of the Union troops fled to the rear upon the initial Confederate assault and by afternoon General Johnston was confident that victory was within his grasp. However, Union resistance stiffened. Fighting around the white-washed Shiloh Church was particularly vicious. In a wooded thicket the Confederates labeled "the Hornets' Nest" the Northern troops struggled for nearly six hours before finally surrendering. The Union soldiers stalled the Confederate onslaught by exchanging their precious lives for time in which reinforcements could arrive. With nightfall, fighting subsided. Grant's forces were pinned against the Tennessee River but the exhausted Confederates were short of their goal of complete victory. One casualty of the afternoon's combat was General Johnston who lost his life while directing his troops from the front lines. His death severely affected the Confederate's morale and their belief in victory.

Buell's reinforcements finally arrived during the night as did forces under General William H. Wallace, strengthening the Union lines with 22,500 fresh troops. With the break of dawn, Grant attacked, pushing the exhausted Confederates steadily back until they finally began a retreat in the early afternoon that left the field to the Union forces.

The confrontation had been a slaughter on both sides. Corpses littered areas of the battlefield to the extent that, as General Grant described, "it would have been possible to walk across the clearing in any direction stepping on dead bodies without a foot touching the ground." Nearly 100,000 troops had faced each other and almost 24,000 ended as casualties. This horrendous outcome was a wake-up call to the nation announcing that the continuing war would be costly for both sides.

The Battle Begins - Violets for Protection:

Henry Morton Stanley earned fame in 1872 for his discovery of Dr. David Livingstone in the interior of Africa. Ten years earlier, the 21-year-old Stanley had enlisted in the Confederate Army and on April 6, 1862 he found himself preparing for battle at Shiloh. He later described that day and we join his story as his unit readies itself for the fight:

"Day broke with every promise of a fine day. Next to me, on my right, was a boy of seventeen, Henry Parker. I remember it because, while we stood-at-ease, he drew my attention to some violets at his feet, and said, 'It would be a good idea put a few into my cap. Perhaps the Yanks won't shoot me if they see me wearing such flowers, for they are a sign of peace.' 'Capital,' said I, 'I will do the same.' We plucked a bunch, and arranged the violets in our caps. The men in the ranks laughed at our proceedings, and had not the enemy been so near, their merry mood might have been communicated to the army.

We loaded our muskets, and arranged our cartridge pouches ready for use. Our weapons were the obsolete flintlocks and the ammunition was rolled in cartridge-paper, which contained powder, a round ball, and three buckshot. When we loaded we had to tear the paper with our teeth, empty a little powder into the pan, lock it, empty the rest of the powder into the barrel, press paper and ball into the muzzle, and ram home. Then the Orderly-sergeant called the roll, and we knew that the Dixie Greys were present to a man. Soon after, there was a commotion, and we dressed up smartly. A young Aide galloped along our front, gave some instructions to the Brigadier Hindman, who confided the same to his Colonels, and presently we swayed forward in line, with shouldered arms. Newton Story, big, broad, and straight, bore our company-banner of gay silk, at which the ladies of our neighbourhood had laboured.

As we tramped solemnly and silently through the thin forest, and over its grass, still in its withered and wintry hue, I noticed that the sun was not far from appearing, that our regiment was keeping its formation admirably, that the woods would have been a grand place for a picnic; and I thought it strange that a Sunday should have been chosen to disturb the holy calm of those woods. Before we had gone five hundred paces,

our serenity was disturbed by some desultory firing in front. It was then a quarter-past five. 'They are at it already,' we whispered to each other. 'Stand by, gentlemen,' - for we were all gentlemen volunteers at this time, - said our Captain, L. G. Smith. Our steps became unconsciously brisker, and alertness was noticeable in everybody. The firing continued at intervals deliberate and scattered, as at target-practice. We drew nearer to the firing, and soon a sharper rattling of musketry was heard. 'That is the enemy waking up,' we said. Within a few minutes, there was another explosive burst of musketry, the air was pierced by many missiles, which hummed and pinged sharply by our ears, pattered through the tree-tops and brought twigs and leaves down on us. 'Those are bullets,' Henry whispered with awe."

The Power of the Rebel Yell:

Stanley and his regiment come under fire but advance towards the Union lines steadily firing, loading, and firing their muskets as they proceed:

"After a steady exchange of musketry, which lasted some time, we heard the order: 'Fix Bayonets! On the double-quick!' in tones that thrilled us. There was a simultaneous bound forward, each soul doing his best for the emergency. The Federals appeared inclined to await us; but, at this juncture, our men raised a yell, thousands responded to it, and burst out into the wildest yelling it has ever been my lot to hear. It drove all sanity and order from among us. It served the double purpose of relieving pent-up feelings, and transmitting encouragement along the attacking line. I rejoiced in the shouting like the rest. It reminded me that there were about four hundred companies like the Dixie Greys, who shared our feelings. Most of us, engrossed with the musket-work, had forgotten the fact; but the wave after wave of human voices, louder than all other battle-sounds together, penetrated to every sense, and stimulated our energies to the utmost.

'They fly!' was echoed from lip to lip. It accelerated our pace, and filled us with a noble rage. Then I knew what the Berserker passion was! It deluged us with rapture, and transfigured each Southerner into an exulting victor. At such a moment, nothing could have halted us. Those savage yells, and the sight of thousands of racing figures coming towards them, discomfited the blue-coats; and when we arrived upon the place where they had stood, they had vanished. Then we caught sight of their beautiful array of tents, before which they had made their stand, after being roused from their Sunday-morning sleep, and huddled into line, at hearing their pickets challenge our skirmishers. The half-dressed dead and wounded showed what a surprise our attack had been. "

Under Fire:

Continuing to advance, Stanley and the Confederates come upon another Union camp and are met by a hail of bullets and cannon fire: "After being exposed for a few seconds to this fearful downpour, we heard the order to 'Lie down, men, and continue your firing!' Before me was a prostrate tree, about fifteen inches in diameter, with a narrow strip of light between it and the ground. Behind this shelter a dozen of us flung ourselves. The security it appeared to offer restored me to my individuality. We could fight, and think, and observe, better than out in the open. But it was a terrible period! How the cannon bellowed, and their shells plunged and bounded, and flew with screeching hisses over us! Their sharp rending explosions and hurtling fragments made us shrink and cower, despite our utmost efforts to be cool and collected. I marveled, as I heard the unintermitting patter, snip, thud, and hum of the bullets, how anyone could live under this raining death. I could hear the balls beating a merciless tattoo on the outer surface of the log, pinging vivaciously as they flew off at a tangent from it, and thudding into something or other, at the rate of a hundred a second. One, here and there, found its way under the log, and buried itself in a comrade's body. One man raised his chest, as if to yawn, and jostled me. I turned to him, and saw that a bullet had gored his whole face, and penetrated into his chest. Another ball struck a man a deadly rap on the head, and he turned on his back and showed his ghastly white face to the sky. 'It is getting too warm, boys!' cried a soldier, and he uttered a vehement curse upon keeping soldiers hugging the ground until every ounce of courage was chilled. He lifted his head a little too high, and a bullet skimmed over the top of the log and hit him fairly in the centre of his forehead, and he fell heavily on his face. But his thought had been instantaneously general; and the officers, with one voice, ordered the charge; and cries of 'Forward, forward!' raised us, as with a spring, to our feet, and changed the complexion of our feelings. The pulse of action beat feverishly once more; and, though overhead was crowded with peril, we were unable to give it so much attention as when we lay stretched on the ground.

Just as we bent our bodies for the onset, a boy's voice cried out, 'Oh, stop, please stop a bit, I have been hurt, and can't move!' I turned to look, and saw Henry Parker, standing on one leg, and dolefully regarding his smashed foot. In another second, we were striding impetuously towards the enemy, vigorously plying our muskets, stopping only to prime the pan and ram the load down, when, with a spring or two, we would fetch up with the front, aim, and fire.

Our progress was not so continuously rapid as we desired, for the blues were obdurate; but at this moment we were gladdened at the sight of a battery galloping to our assistance. It was time for the nerve-shaking cannon to speak. After two rounds of shell and canister, we felt the pressure on us slightly relaxed; but we were still somewhat sluggish in disposition, though the officers' voices rang out imperiously. Newton Story at this juncture strode forward rapidly with the Dixies' banner, until he was quite sixty yards ahead of the foremost. Finding himself alone, he halted; and turning to us smilingly, said, 'Why don't you come on, boys?' You see there is no danger!' His smile and words acted on us like magic. We raised the yell, and sprang lightly and hopefully towards him. 'Let's give them hell, boys!' said one. 'Plug them plum-centre, every time!'

It was all very encouraging, for the yelling and shouting were taken up by thousands. 'Forward, forward; don't give them breathing time!' was cried. We instinctively obeyed, and soon came in clear view of the blue-coats, who were scornfully unconcerned at first; but, seeing the leaping tide of men coming on at a tremendous pace, their front dissolved, and they fled in double-quick retreat. Again we felt the 'glorious joy of heroes.' It carried us on exultantly, rejoicing in the spirit which recognises nothing but the prey. We were no longer an army of soldiers, but so many school-boys racing; in which length of legs, wind, and condition tell. "

Captured!

The ferocious fighting continues throughout the morning and into the afternoon with horrendous consequences for both sides. As light gives way to dark, Stanley and the remnants of his exhausted unit take refuge in an abandoned Union camp to await the dawn and the continuation of the attack:

"At daylight, I fell in with my Company, but there were only about fifty of the Dixies present. Almost immediately after, symptoms of the coming battle were manifest. Regiments were hurried into line, but, even to my inexperienced eyes, the troops were in ill-condition for repeating the efforts of Sunday. However, in brief time, in consequence of our pickets being driven in on us, we were moved forward in skirmishing order.

With my musket on the trail I found myself in active motion, more active than otherwise I would have been, perhaps, because Captain Smith had said, 'Now, Mr. Stanley, if you please, step briskly forward!' This singling-out of me wounded my amour-propre, and sent me forward like a rocket. In a short time, we met our opponents in the same formation as ourselves, and advancing most resolutely. We threw ourselves behind such trees as were near us, fired, loaded, and darted forward to another shelter. Presently, I found myself in an open, grassy space, with no convenient tree or stump near; but, seeing a shallow hollow some twenty paces ahead, I made a dash for it, and plied my musket with haste. I became so absorbed with some blue figures in front of me, that I did not pay sufficient heed to my companion greys; the open space was too dangerous, perhaps, for their advance; for, had they emerged, I should have known they were pressing forward. Seeing my blues in about the same proportion, I assumed that the greys were keeping their position, and never once thought of retreat. However, as, despite our firing, the blues were coming uncomfortably near, I rose from my hollow; but, to my speechless amazement, I found myself a solitary grey, in a line of blue skirmishers! My companions had retreated! The next I heard was, 'Down with that gun, Secesh, or I'll drill a hole through you! Drop it, quick!'

Half a dozen of the enemy were covering me at the same instant, and I dropped my weapon, incontinently. Two men sprang at my collar, and marched me, unresisting, into the ranks of the terrible Yankees. I was a prisoner!"

References: Stanley's account appears in - Stanley, Henry M., *The Autobiography of Henry M. Stanley* (1909); Foote, Shelby, *The Civil War vol. I* (1986).



T

he battles around **Fort Donelson** are worthy of a little more discussion for two main reasons, not the least being Nathan Bedford Forrest's disapproval of plans to surrender the Fort when there was still a chance to fight their way out. With **Brig. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow** and **Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd** eager to slip away, they handed command over to **Lt. Gen. Simon Bulivar**

Buckner who, because of the ludicrous position the men had been put in by "Strange Orders" of incompetent officers, was determined to surrender. What looked like turning a retreat into victory, with the Union in disarray, these two Generals, **Pillow** and **Floyd**, bungled their commands and failed to take advantage of an opportunity to evacuate, opting instead to withdraw back into **Fort Donelson**.

Union morale was restored by the return to the field of **U.S. Grant** who calmly issued orders that put the Union back in control. **Nathan Bedford Forrest** was amazed to learn of the plan to surrender and protested that Federals were not in control of the right flank by



the river and that the way was still open. His scouts had braved the freezing conditions and reported there was no resistance there and what was thought to be campfires were in fact brush fires set alight by earlier battles. *Lt. Gen. Buckner* believed the men could not survive the icy waist deep water needed to wade through and determined to seek surrender terms. That night, the two bunglers *Pillow* and *Floyd* crept away and *Forrest* with his entire cavalry, accompanied by possibly a thousand infantry, disappeared into the night. *Forrest* didn't lose a single man: he correctly knew that soldiers could endure much worse and survive. These were early days and *Buckner*, who would one day be the Governor of Kentucky, not wishing to see the men suffer more, accepted what he called, "***Grant's ungenerous and unchivalrous terms.***" *Buckner* became the first Confederate General to surrender an army in the War Between the States.



The other story of note to spring from this battle at *Fort Donelson*, apart from the heroic and triumphant gun engagement for the South, where Union gunships were smashed to pieces, is that of a Confederate colour bearer of the **14th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, Andrew S. Payne**, who was taken prisoner and who decided not to let the enemy take his flag; many a brave soldier had died fighting under it. The flag was beautifully hand painted and had been presented to the ***The Shubuta Rifles*** by a group of patriotic Southern women. Before the prisoners were shipped off to ***Camp Douglas***, near Chicago, *Payne* cut out the centre of the flag and stitched it into the lining of his tunic. He carefully preserved the emblem that had an image on both sides; ***Lady Liberty***, dressed in a toga holding a large picture of ***Jefferson Davis*** in one hand and a beribboned sword in the other. On the reverse was an eagle with its claws gripping a snake that had invaded a nest of eaglets in magnolia branches. Safely concealed in his coat, the flag was still there when he and most of the ***Fort Donelson*** prisoners were exchanged in October 1862 and sent back to Mississippi. It was there at last, a triumphant *Payne* returned the flag to his regiment. He had kept his secret, his honour and his solemn duty as a colour bearer right to the end.



Above is an extremely rare picture of Confederate prisoners of war at *Camp Douglas* after their capture at *Fort Donelson*. Many pictures of prisoners show them reluctantly posing, these soldiers were obviously proud to come together for the portrait. It is very likely that Colour bearer *Payne* is amongst them.

Brig/Gen. Benjamin G.
Humphreys Camp
#1625
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS
38930

E-mail:
confederate@suddenlink.net

Website:
www.humphreys1625.com



Charge to the 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.