

The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



Happy Birthday
Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys!
Remember to Renew Your Membership Dues Before
August 31!

August 2025, Volume 28, Issue 8

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, the Brigadier General Charles Clark Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the Ella Palmer Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose, and our friends and followers who read this newsletter. For some of us, the lazy days of summer are about over, as another School year is about to begin. During the summer people relax and seem to be less in a hurry with fewer commitments of time. Vacations are taken and days are spent at the pool, on the golf course, or just sitting in the back yard enjoying the time. Perhaps you spent some of those long and peaceful days reading a good book about the Confederacy or a related subject. Maybe you watched a good documentary or movie about the War of Southern Independence or visited a Battlefield. Or perhaps you took the opportunity to attend the Mississippi Division or National Reunion.

You do not have to attend School to educate yourself about the Confederate States of America, the Confederate Cause, the leadup to the War, the War itself, Reconstruction, or any related topic. However, it is very important to continually educate yourself about the Cause for which your ancestors fought. The War of Southern Independence is the single topic in American history that fascinates the most people, and for which there is the greatest amount of study and research. Since the day the War ended (April 9, 1865), people have been writing about it and conducting research to learn more. There are literally thousands of books written and hundreds of documentaries and movies produced about the War. Educating yourself about the War, the Cause, and anything else related is very important not just for your own personal knowledge, but so you can then be a teacher to others. Most learning is not done in a classroom and most teaching is not done by paid educators. That book you picked up to read to pass the summer days may help you the next time somebody asks you "Why should I join the Sons of Confederate Veterans"? Or perhaps you will have an evidence based refute to the oft-spoken "The Civil War (their words) was about perpetuating slavery". Or you will feel more confident if you have to speak before your city council or county supervisors about why the local Confederate monument needs to remain where it was placed.

There are so many good sources of information about the War, the Cause, and their related topics, but there are also far more knowledgeable people than I to make a reading recommendation to you. I will just tell you that I am currently reading a great book about the years leading up to the War and what caused North and South to move apart from each other. So even though the summer is rapidly coming to a close and you may have to go back to School, find the time to read a book, watch a movie or documentary, or even visit a Battlefield if you have the time. However you educate yourself about the War, the Cause, or a related topic it will make you a better teacher about the Cause for which your ancestor fought.

Deo Vindice,
Michael

Adjutant's Report — Dan McCaskill (Report on June's Minutes No July Camp Meeting to Report)

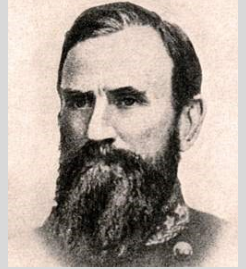
Call to Order: At 6:00 PM CDT by Commander Michael Anthony
Opening Prayer and Blessing: Chaplain Earl McCown, Jr.
Pledge and Salutes: Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.
Reading of The Charge: Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.

Commander Michael Anthony welcomed everyone to our monthly Camp Meeting. While the ladies prepared the evening meal, Commander Anthony moved on to new Camp Business.

New Camp Business: 1) Purchase a canopy: Dan McCaskill proposed purchasing a canopy for the Camp to use at events like Carrollton Pioneer Days and other outdoor events. The cost would be \$100 plus or minus \$10. Kenneth Ray made the motion to purchase the canopy. The motion was seconded by Gator Stillman and passed without objection. The Camp name will be put on the canopy. 2) 250th Anniversary of the U.S.: At the Division Reunion, a resolution was passed to give Camps the option to use the Betsy Ross Flag in place of the 50 Star Flag until 2033 in celebration of the American Revolution. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Kenneth Ray and second by Gator Stillman, Adjutant Dan McCaskill was charged to explore the cost of such a flag.

Old Business: 1) Confederate Headstones – Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the funds needed for the purchase of two headstones for Thomas Henry Ruddick and Thomas H. Ward has been raised. The stones will be ordered as soon as practicable.

Officer Reports: Commander: Michael Anthony thanked the Ladies of the OCR for the evening meal. Michael gave a synopsis of the Reunion; reported about the SPLC Resolution adopted at the Reunion and reported that Stan Rhoda was elected 1st Brigade Commander and that he was elected 1st Brigade Executive Councilman. The Camp received its second Superior Camp Award. The next MS DEC Meeting will be August 9th at the War memorial Building in Jackson. The 2026 Division Reunion will be held at Beauvoir. Our annual dues are now due and asked that everyone pay early. Dues must be paid before August 31st. 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney reported he will be searching for a speaker for our July Camp Meeting. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the account balance stands at \$3,087 which includes \$299 for Heritage Defense, \$871 in Confederate Headstone Fund, \$804 in Capitol Reserve, and \$45 in collected dues. To date, the Camp has spent \$54.60 or 5% of the Operating Budget. The Membership Renewal Statements were mailed just before the Reunion so all should have received their statement. Please pay your annual dues as early as possible.



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Larry McCluney, Editor:
Confederate @suddenlink.net

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Guest Speaker for August 9, 2025

Our guest speaker for our August Camp meeting is Jimmy Atwood, Camp Commander of the Attala Yellow Jackets Camp in Kosciusko, MS. Jimmy is also a member of the Co. C, 1st MS Lt. Artillery reenactment group for many years.

Camp Meeting Dinner Menu provided by the OCR:

- ◆ Chicken Delight, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Tea

Newsletter Editor: Larry McCluney asked if everyone enjoyed the latest issue and if there were any problems. Kenneth Ray reported that the link he was sent did not work. Adjutant McCaskill stated he would resend the link. MOSB: Commander Earl McCown reported the Chapter has grown as have the MS Society and our Chapter is looking for more members. OCR: Chapter President Sandra Stillman reported that the Ella Palmer Chapter is the oldest Chapter in the MS Society and the Chapter was awarded the Chapter of the Year Award at the recent Reunion.

Upcoming Event: Carl and Nancy Ford Southern History and Heritage Educational Conference, August 16 at the War Memorial Building in Jackson, Mississippi. With no other business coming before the Camp, Gator Stillman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kenneth Ray and the motion passed without objection. Attendance for the meeting was 12. Next Camp Meeting will be August 9, 2025.

The Camp Meeting was closed with a prayer and the singing of Dixie.

The Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

*"Bear one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2*



When God places people in your life who are in need, He is aware of what they lack, and He knows He has given you the resources to meet those needs. You know God does nothing by accident. When a need surfaces around you, immediately go to the Father and say, "You put me here for a reason. You knew this was going to happen. What did You intend to do through me that would help this person become closer to You?"

Recognizing a need in someone's life can be one of the greatest invitations from God you will ever experience. It's easy to become frustrated by the problems of others. They can overwhelm you as you become aware of need after need. Rather than looking at each new problem as one more drain on your time, energy, or finances, as God why He placed you in this situation. Allow God to help you see beyond the obvious needs of others to the things He wants to accomplish in their lives. Don't miss God's activity because you're reluctant to carry the load of others.

Is God blessing you materially? It may be He is developing a "supply depot" in your life through which He can provide for others. Has God granted you a strong, healthy family life? It may be that He requires such a home to minister to the hurting families all around you. Has God released you from your sinful habits? Has God's peace comforted you in a time of great sorrow? Has God miraculously provided for your needs? It may be that He has been purposefully building things into your life so that you can be the kind of person who will carry the burdens of others.

May God bless each of us!

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.

Time to Renew Your Dues!

Its Almost that time of year to renew your dues. Two years in a row we have been 100% renewal, lets go for a third year. Don't be a shirker and do your duty. Remember to pay before August 31. You should have your renewal notice by now and you can pay online to the Camp through Venmo on our website. Just go to www.humphreys1625.com



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

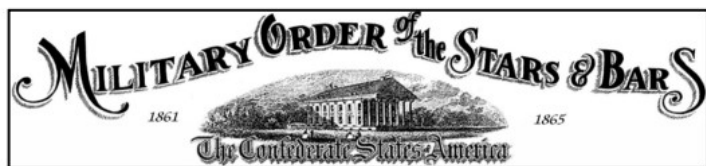
For as little as \$25 annually, you can become a member of the Friends of Beauvoir. Membership includes tour admission and a 10% discount at the Beauvoir gift shop.



*The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library located on the grounds of
Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi.*

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



Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter 253, MOS&B

Greetings: Finding myself at a loss for something to write for the Delta General, I thought you might like to read of some of the activities in the month of August 1862.



August 9: The Battle of Cedar Run (or Cedar Mountain or Slaughter's Mountain) takes place in Virginia as the Confederates attempt to block Union advances into the state. A heavy artillery duel is followed by an attack led by Union General Nathaniel Banks. His outnumbered forces are proving very successful until Stonewall Jackson rides into the conflict and rallies his troops, leading to a Confederate victory.

August 28-30: The Second Battle of Bull Run (aka Second Manassas) is much larger than the first battle and pits the Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by General Robert E. Lee, against the Army of Virginia led by General John Pope. Lee is victorious and Pope is forced to retreat.

* Also this month blockade running, especially through Wilmington, is getting some sorely needed commodities into the Confederacy, but when the Kate docks from Nassau, she also brings yellow fever and an epidemic sweeps the city. When the Kate sets out again, she takes with her a Confederate official carrying funds to buy a ship in England. That ship, the Giraffe, when purchased by the Confederate government, becomes the blockade runner R. E. Lee.

* All month: The problem of desertion from the armies is increasing. In North Carolina, the rate is particularly high in men from Randolph County and the mid-state area around it where Union sentiment had been strong before secession. Deserters and other Unionist hiding out in the area are known as "outliers". The conflict in this area becomes a miniature civil war, an increasing cycle of violence marked by outrages on both sides. It is estimated between 250 and 400 people died in this internal conflict, usually known as the "Randolph County War," which lasts until the end of the war.

And, so, the conflict continues...



Mississippi Division News:



Save the Date
AUGUST 16, 2025

War Memorial Building
Jackson, MS

\$40.00 Registration Fee
Includes Lunch

CHECK THE DIVISION WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

Come join us for a day filled with fascinating discussions and insights into the rich history and heritage of the American South at the 2nd Annual Carl and Nancy Ford Memorial Southern Culture, History, and Heritage Educational Conference. The event will take place on Saturday, August 16, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM CDT at the historic War Memorial Building, located at 120 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. This conference is designed for all ages and is open to non-SCV members. We will feature four distinguished speakers, with the final speaker list being confirmed soon. The program will explore a broad range of topics, including the colonial period, post-bellum/turn-of-the-century history, Southern literature, and more than just

the War Between the States. Education is the key to preserving our heritage and securing the South's victory over those seeking to undermine our cultural legacy. The registration fee includes lunch for those who preregister by August 11, 2025. Registration is available online https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carl-nancy-ford-southern-history-and-heritage-educational-conference-tickets-1377930219379?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawLKZCFleHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlKETFNagMzn3iHR1Bua1ZNOUY0AR7aZMw1SFKFSSJ8-dfBElvzScX4aE-IFw9yHn0GjIHjVimmmsqDi2yBCRgsVA_aem_C-napcYlvz48T15FTHTXXA.

For those preferring traditional registration, you may complete a registration form and submit payment by check; please contact me at gcbmosb007@gmail.com to obtain the form. Registration will also be available at the door, but lunch cannot be guaranteed for late registrations. All SCV Camps, OCR, and UDC chapters wishing to sell items, as well as authors looking to sell books, are welcome to participate as vendors, but all vendors must register for the conference. For additional details as they become available, please check the Mississippi Division website. Don't miss this opportunity to dive deep into the stories and events that have shaped our Southern region. Join like-minded individuals passionate about preserving and celebrating our Southern history and heritage. Save the date and come be part of this enriching experience!

Forward the Colors,
George Conor Bond, Division Chief of Heritage Operations
Past Division Commander

Over 16,000 Brave Confederate Heroes Need Your Help!



There is no greater honor that you can pay to our ancestors than to erect a grave marker at an otherwise unmarked grave!

The Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee wishes to thank The Society of the Order of the Southern Cross for their generous grant which has allowed us to mark the graves of forty-two Unknown Confederate Soldiers. This project has enhanced the appearance of the cemetery and honors our revered Confederate ancestors who rest here.



We are respectfully challenging SCV Divisions to consider sponsoring upright markers for unmarked graves from your respective states. The Oakwood Restoration Committee will walk you through the process of sponsoring a veteran, ordering the marker, having it properly lettered, etc. **We have found another, less expensive source for upright granite markers. The cost has dropped to \$450 engraved. We will install the markers at no charge!** Donations for the upkeep of the cemetery are also greatly appreciated.

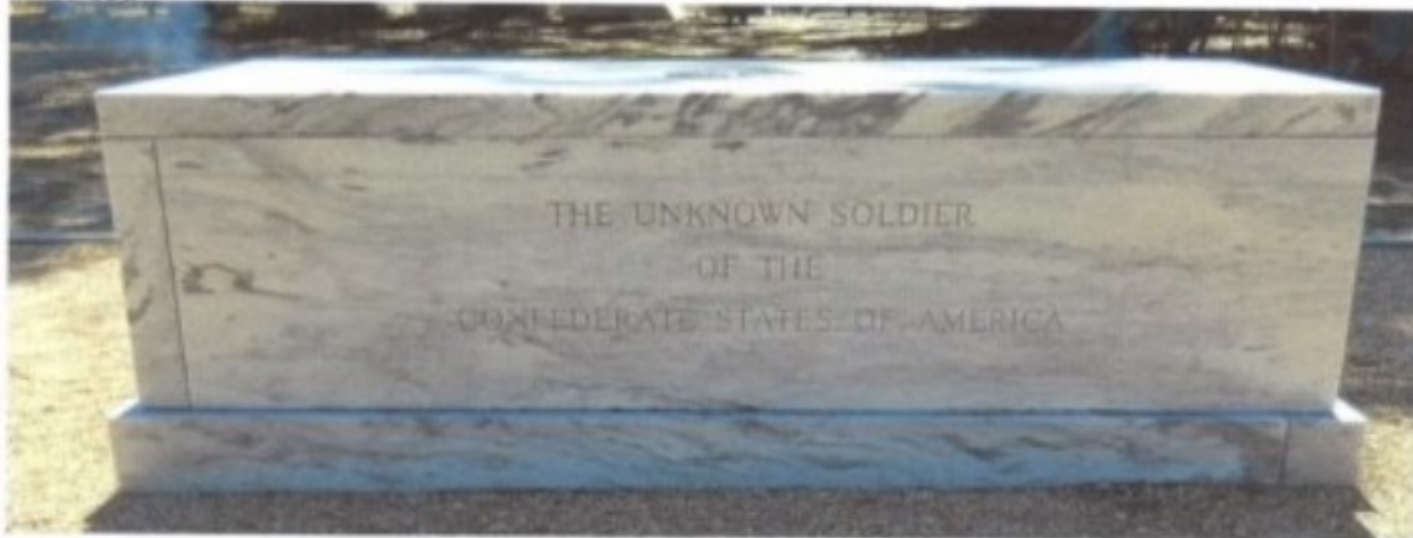
The Confederate soldiers buried in Oakwood Cemetery deserve to be remembered. Won't you help us?

Oakwood Restoration Committee
C/o Richard A. Moomaw
69 Old Kiln Lane
Mt. Jackson, Va. 22842
rmoomaw@shentel.net

Learn more about Oakwood at: <https://www.scvvirginia.org/oakwood-overview>

Bricks for Beauvoir and the Tomb of the Unknown Solider

Honor your confederate Ancestors by purchasing an Ancestral Memorial Brick for \$50.00 each in the Memorial sidewalk of the Confederate Cemetery at Beauvoir. The plans for the sidewalk are nearing completion, so if you want a brick put down for your ancestor you need to get your order in soon, so as not to miss out.



Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit and company. Memorial bricks will be laid, memorializing your ancestor, in a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Solider at Beauvoir.

Detach and send in the form below to the address listed to order your bricks.

Ancestral Brick Order Form

Instructions: Use the lines as laid out no more than 15 spaces per line..You may use abbreviations when necessary. Please include your name and address, for confirmation letter. (See Sample Below)

Line 1: _____
(First and Last Name)

Line 2: _____
(Rank)

Line 3: _____
(Unit)

ORDER YOUR ANCESTOR'S BRICK TODAY!

Make Checks out for \$50.00 per brick to:

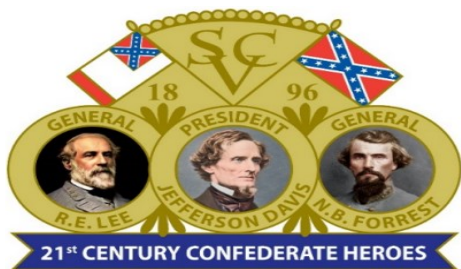
Bricks for Beauvoir
Mail to: Bricks for Beauvoir
2244 Beach Blvd
Biloxi, MS. 39531

OR Visit our gift shop where you
can pay by cash or credit!

Example:

Pvt. JAMES W.
McCluney
6th MS CAV, CO. F

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



THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT ELM SPRINGS

The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is under attack as never before. The National Battlefield Parks have been taken over by the "it's all about slavery" provocateurs. Museums have changed their collections and interpretations to present what they call the cultural history of the War for Southern Independence. In reality this new perspective is nothing more than South bashing. The forces of political correctness have gone into high gear. They attempt to ban any and all things Confederate through their ideological fascism.

There needs to be at least one place where the people of the South and others can go to learn an accurate account of why so many struggled so long in their attempt to reassert government by the consent of the governed in America!

The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building that will have two purposes. One of the uses of this new building will be to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. At the SCV Reunion in July of 2009 the GEC set up a building fund for this purpose. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and in the media.

These plans have now become a reality. The ground breaking has taken place and the museum is now open.

Take this journey with us and support the museum as a donor or join the Friends of the Museum today!

Send Donations to:
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Attn: National Confederate Museum
P.O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card.

www.theconfederatemuseum.com



SCV_CHAT
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE
ONE WEEK AT A TIME

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

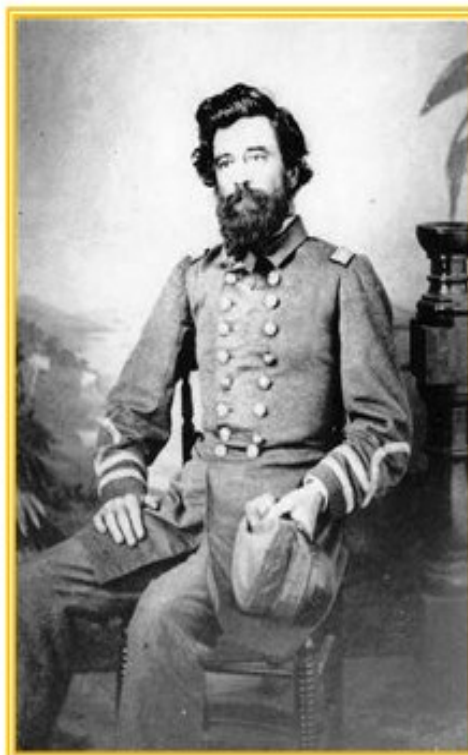
JOHN MAFFITT CSN-THE BRAVE BATTLER



Bob Maffitt, seen on the left, re-enacting his Great Grandfather, is a member of the *Cape Fear and Brunswick Civil War Roundtable*. Bob is known as *'The Ambassador'* because of his work greeting tourists and welcoming them to the city of Wilmington, North Carolina and relating its colourful history, he wears the title with honour. *"My Great Grandfather,"* Bob says, *"was Captain John Newland Maffitt, of CSS Florida, while his son was ensign on board CSS Alabama. I have family connections in Australia who are also connected to Captain Maffitt. I thought that, by putting my family's story in your newsletter, The Bugle, people in Australia might be interested to read it."*

Hopefully a copy of this issue will find its way to the doorstep of one of Bob's relatives in Australia and prompt them to join our ACWRTQ in Brisbane. The ACWRTQ encourages members and people world-wide to share their stories; for many of us in Australia, these are often stories so far untold. *Captain Maffitt* is a legend and we are very familiar with his

courageous exploits but there is something magical about hearing the story from a descendant and not some cobweb covered journal, or cranky 'Yankee' researcher. Bob spent 20 years in the U.S. Army and was Supervisor and Instructor with Air Defence, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He too has had an interesting and adventurous life; must be in the genes.



Bob's Great Grandfather, *John Maffitt*, was literally born to the sea, on a ship bound for New York City; his parents were emigrating from Ireland. *Reverend John Newland Maffitt* and his wife *Ann* settled with their son in *Connecticut*. At the age of 5, *Maffitt* was adopted by his uncle, *Dr. William Maffitt* and they moved to *Fayetteville, North Carolina*. As a young midshipman, *John* entered the U.S. navy in 1832. Only 13 when first serving aboard *USS St Louis* in the West Indies, renown for its pirates down the centuries. *John* was later posted to the *Pensacola Navy Yard* where, in 1835, he was assigned to the famed *USS Constitution*, serving as an aide to *Commodore Jessie Elliott* in the Mediterranean. His adventurous service aboard *Constitution* would later inspire *John* to write the book *Nautilus; Cruising under Canvas*, published 1871.

The *Constitution* (seen on previous page) is truly a remarkable vessel. A 44 gun frigate nicknamed "*Old Ironsides*," she was destined for the scrap yard in 1830, when **Oliver Wendell Holmes** wrote his poem and used that name. It so stirred up public interest that plans were made to restore the old ship. She had no 'iron sides' being all wood, although **Paul Revere** had hand-forged some of the copper bolts and metal parts on her. Over many years in existence, there is not much that is original on board but she is fully restored and still sailing. The photograph of her, was taken in 2010 while celebrating the 213th anniversary. *U.S.S. Constitution* didn't see service during the *Civil War* and instead was secured in **New York** as a cadet ship, to keep her safe for the duration; by this time she had become an icon of American Independence. Britain's great equal to this ship, *The Victory*, upon which my own ancestors sailed, is said to be lacking proper maintenance and is rotting and collapsing in her dry dock. **A national and international shame!!**

Maffitt served on numerous vessels, each famous in its own way but by 1841 he was aboard the frigate *USS Macedonia* as its acting Master. Two years later, with the *U.S. Coast Survey* he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Some fourteen years in the hydrographical survey saw *Maffitt* become expert on the waters of **Nantucket, Massachusetts, Wilmington, Charleston and Savannah in Georgia**. A channel in **Charleston Harbour** still bears his name. The skills he learned there would be put to good use later in the War Between the States.

In 1857, *Maffitt* was placed in command of the brig *USS Dolphin* and ordered to capture pirates and slavers in the West Indies; on 21 August 1858, *Dolphin* captured the slaver *Echo* with 318 Africans on board and sent her into **Charleston**; the liberated slaves were later all sent back to Africa. *Dolphin* returned to Norfolk on 22 December 1860 and laid up at the Navy Yard there. Fearing she might fall into the hands of Confederates *Dolphin* was burnt on 21 April 1861 by Union forces.

Maffitt was commander on *USS Crusader* in 1859 and continued his assignments to suppress Slavers in the West Indies until 7 February 1861. With the onset of war, *Maffitt* resigned a U.S. commission to become 1st Lieutenant in the Confederate navy. He was naval aide to General Robert E. Lee, who was then preparing coastal defences in Savannah. *Maffitt* would soon find a new use for his extensive knowledge of the South's waterways.



Confederate naval uniforms display a fouled anchor emblem on the sleeve.

In 1862 he was sent to take the helm of a civilian steamer *Cecile* and run the blockade to bring urgently needed supplies into the Confederacy. *Maffitt* also commanded the ship *Nassau* effectively, quickly earning a reputation for his achievements. On promotion to Commander, *Maffitt* took the cruiser *CSS Florida* out to sea for the first time, skilfully avoiding the blockade again at **Mobile**. Such was his service on *Florida* that he earned a reputation second only to the irascible **Raphael Semmes** of *CSS Alabama*. *Maffitt* was *Florida*'s first commanding officer and he took her through the difficult stages of outfitting; unfortunately it was during this period most of the ship's company was struck with yellow fever, eventually even *Maffitt* came down with the disease in Cuba, a disease that would catch up with him in later life.



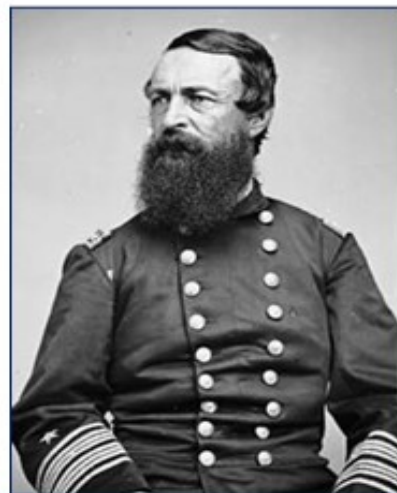
C.S.S. Florida slashes the seas. A painting from the era by Samuel Waters.

Still very ill and feverish, the Commander bravely sailed his ship from **Cardenas** in Cuba to **Mobile** in Alabama. With the way into the port blocked by Union warships, *Florida* received a hail of projectiles from blockaders but defiantly raced through them to anchor beneath the protecting guns of **Fort Morgan**. The bombardment was so severe and damage to *Florida* so great, that *Maffitt* didn't return to sea for more than three months. To prevent his escape, the Union Navy increased the blockading force near **Mobile**.

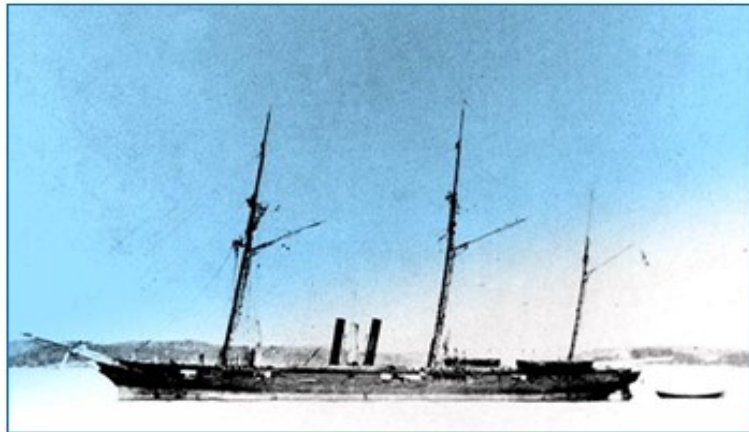
Taking aboard stores and gun accessories, along with added crew members, Maffitt waited for a violent storm before setting out on 16 January, 1863. With clever tactics he outmanoeuvred and lost six pursuing blockaders. When *Florida* so blatantly eluded the blockade, U.S. Admiral, David Dixon Porter later said, "During the whole war, there is not a more exciting adventure than this escape...the gallant manner in which it was conducted excited great admiration. We do not suppose there was ever a case where a man...displayed more energy or bravery." Praise indeed from such an illustrious enemy, (seen on the right.)

After 'coaling' at Nassau, CSS *Florida* spent 6 months off North America, South America and West Indies; calling at neutral ports, all the while making captures and eluding the large Federal squadron sent out to pursue her. During this period, Maffitt acquired the nickname "Prince of Privateers." This title is ludicrous; all Confederate navy personnel were branded in the same way and threatened with hanging when caught, yet all were naval officers, not privateers. This attitude of the U.S. is an indication of the barbaric treatment often handed out to many legitimate soldiers and sailors who were prisoners of war. John Maffitt was certainly a *Prince of the Seas*, under his command, C.S.S. *Florida* captured 23 ships in 8 months, all in the name of the Confederacy. Far from being a pirate, John Newland Maffitt took pride in being always a gentleman in the truest Southern sense and treated his captors with dignity and respect. When *Florida* intercepted a Yankee giant clipper *Jacob Bell*, Maffitt sent over a boarding party to determine what to do with the vessel. In his journal he says, "February 12th, 4PM, made a prize of the ship 'Jacob Bell' of New York. Her tonnage was about 1,300 and she is esteemed one of the most splendid vessels out of New York, trading with China. A message came that the captain had ladies aboard and his wife was on the 'eve of confinement' (Editor: having a baby) Sent Dr Garretson on board to investigate and that the ladies must leave the ship as I was determined to burn it. The ladies came aboard and with tons of baggage, I surrendered the cabin. The party consisted of Mrs Frisbee (Captain's wife) Mrs Williams, whose husband is a customs officer at Swatow in China; a lad, Louis Frisbee and another son of a missionary from Rhode Island now stationed in Swatow. Passengers and crew amount to 43 persons. Jacob Bell had a cargo of choice tea, camphor, 'chow-chow' etc valued at \$2,000,000 or more. We took such articles as we required and on the 13th set her on fire. Mrs Frisbee was a very quiet, kind hearted lady. Mrs Williams, I fancy, is something of a tartar, she and Captain Frisbee were not on terms. They remained in possession of my cabin for five days, when I put the entire party on board the Danish brig 'Morning Star' bound for St Thomas. If they speak unkindly, such a thing as gratitude is a stranger to their abolition hearts."

Maffitt probably knew of the many instances in the past where women were treated with respect, afforded every comfort but were full of tales of woe and abuse when they reached a neutral port. This was mentioned more than once by Midshipman Morgan in his account, *Recollections of a Rebel Reefer*, covered in an earlier issue of The Bugle. These malicious reports acted to fuel the myth of them being pirates and resulted in the violent retribution unfairly meted out by the Federal government without fair justice.



Union signallers keep a sharp eye for an elusive Maffitt.



CSS *Florida* anchored in the port of Brest, 1864.

In an interview with *Illustrated London News* in Brest, Maffitt says, "We only make war with the United States' Government and respect little property. We treat prisoners of war with the greatest respect. Most of those captured have spoken well of us. To be sure, we have met with some ungrateful rascals; but you meet with those the world over. The last prize we took was the 'Anglo-Saxon,' which we took in the English Channel the other day; in mid-channel, about sixty miles from Cork. She had coal on board, and we burnt her.

The pilot was a saucy fellow and maintained he was on his piloting-ground and insisted on being landed in an English port but we could not do that. I brought him and 24 men here and sent

them to the English Consul. If the pilot has any just claim upon us, it will be settled by the Confederate Government. That's not my business, my business is to take care of the ship."

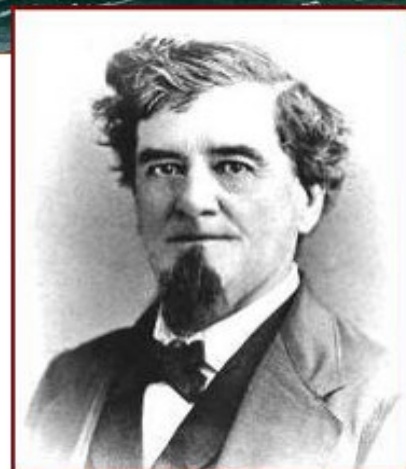
Ill health, due to the lingering effects of yellow fever forced him to relinquish command of *Florida* at **Brest** in France on 12 February 1864. Maffitt was promoted to Captain 31 May 1864, "*For gallant and meritorious conduct in command of the steam sloop Florida.*" The ship would later be captured in a neutral port illegally by Union Navy forces. The same port used by C.S.S. *Alabama* and *Georgia*. It is easy to surmise, that had Maffitt been in command, *Florida* would never have been so casually taken.

Not one to give up, on return to the South, Maffitt took command of blockade runners *Florrie* (named after his daughter) and *Lillian*. After a brief tenure as commander of the ironclad *C.S.S. Albemarle*, where the ship dominated the **Roanoke River** and approaches to **Plymouth** in North Carolina, he returned to **Wilmington** to command the blockade runner *C. S. S. Owl*, in which he was to make some of the last and most spectacular runs into **Wilmington** and **Galveston**. The painting below of *Owl* scooting away from the blockading fleet, is indicative of his nightly runs. Daring and yet so well controlled; because of his immense knowledge of tides and water ways, he was able to go where pursuers couldn't, or even dare and in almost total darkness. It is difficult to analyse a man like Maffitt; his courage is obvious but his sense of duty and honour was paramount and is what so propelled him; such devotion to one's country is rare these days but not uncommon in the South then.

On 3 October *C.S.S. Owl* escaped back to sea from **Wilmington**; the blockaders wounded her captain and several crewmen but nine shots failed to stop them, and *Owl* arrived in **Bermuda** on 24 October with a large and valuable cargo of cotton.

Under cover of darkness, knowing the waters like the back of his hand, Maffitt made several more successful runs through the Union blockade in the gallant *Owl* before war ended. During his service to the Confederacy, the "*Brave Battler Maffitt*" repeatedly ran the blockade to carry much needed supplies and capture or destroy more than seventy prizes estimated to be worth then, \$10 to \$15 million dollars.

When Bob Maffitt steps out onto a **Wilmington** street to attend re-enactments, wearing a replica of his Great Grandfather's uniform, he has some pretty big boots to fill. Strange as it seems, the charisma of the man seems able to reach down these 150 years to place a hand on the shoulder of his descendent and fill him with the same sense of honour and duty to his country. That's an interesting inheritance of war.



Editor's Footnote:

Thanks to Robert Maffitt for his assistance in writing this story. When war ended, John Maffitt refused to surrender his ship to Federal authorities and instead sailed to Britain to relinquish command. Captain Maffitt apparently had no desire to return to a defeated South and remained in England. However, in 1868, North Carolina beckoned and the seafarer settled on a farm he called "*The Moorings*," located on the sound at **Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County**. He married his third wife, **Emma Martin**, in **Wilmington**, November 1870. The couple had three children, **Mary Read, Clarence Dudley, and Robert Strange Maffitt**. Emma helped her husband write several magazine articles



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and the novel, *Nautilus*; or, *Cruising under Canvas*. Published in 1871, it described three years of Maffitt's early life in the United States Navy. Maffitt died of liver disease, an inheritance of his yellow fever, on 15 May 1886, and was buried in *Wilmington's Oakdale Cemetery*. (All pictures this issue restored by the Editor.)

On 5th May 2010, the *Honourable Mike McIntyre* of North Carolina, rose from his bench in the U.S. House of Representatives and delivered a statement in Recognition of Captain Maffitt,



"Madam Speaker, it is with great honour and pleasure that I rise and ask you to join me in recognising one of North Carolina's great historical figures... A sure leader of his time, Captain John Newland Maffitt serves as an example across generations, by acting as a man of courage, of duty and a man devoted to serving his homeland... I ask colleagues to stand with me in recognition of a man North Carolina and the United States should be proud to call their own."



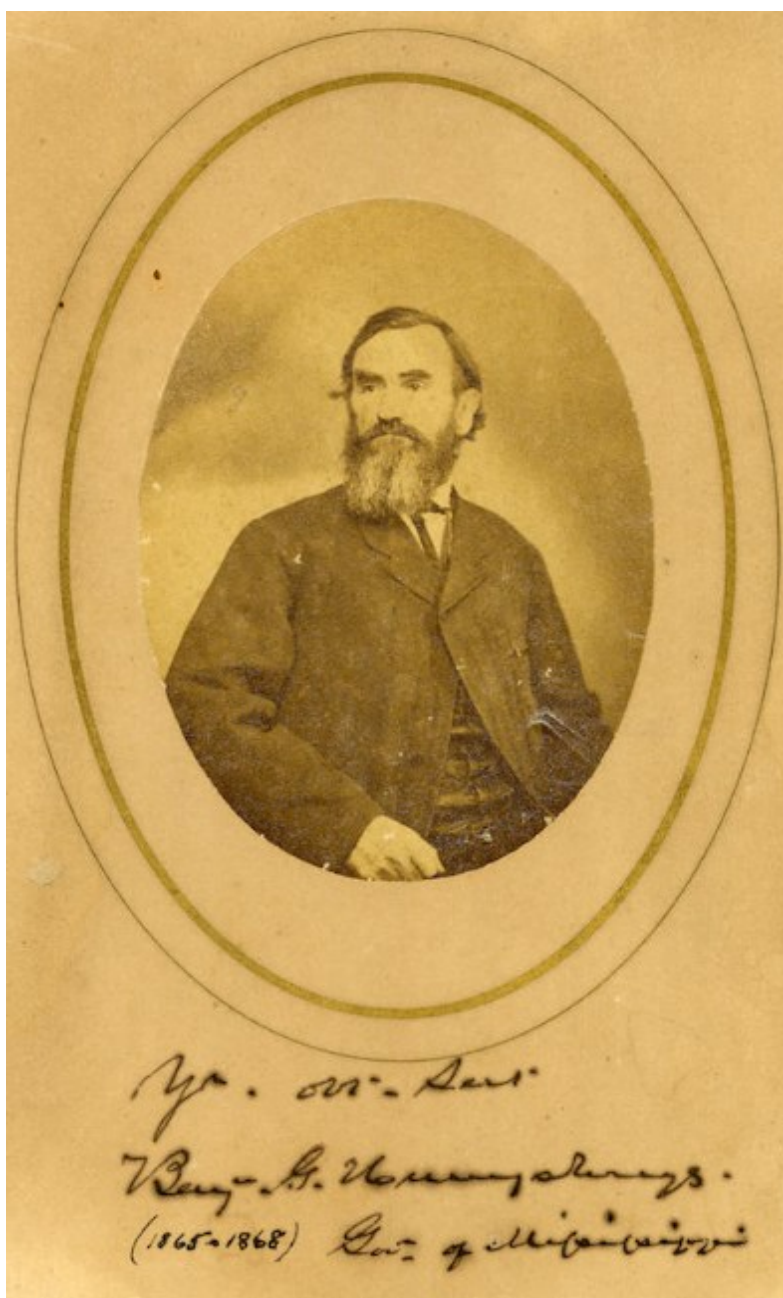
Happy Birthday to Our Camp

Namesake

Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Benjamin Grubb Humphreys was born in Clairborne County, Mississippi, on August 24 or 26, 1808. He was one of 16 children, and went to school in Kentucky and New Jersey. Entering the US Military Academy in 1825, he and a number of other cadets were dismissed after a Christmas Eve riot in 1826. Humphreys returned to Mississippi, studied law, worked as a farmer and served in both houses of the state legislature. He opposed secession, but supported the Confederacy by raising a company of infantry. In May of 1861, he was commissioned captain of the 21st Mississippi, later became colonel of the regiment and commanded it until the summer of 1863. As part of Brig. Gen. William Barksdale's brigade, he led the 21st Mississippi in the Seven Days', Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville Campaigns. At Gettysburg, Brig. Gen. Barksdale was mortally wounded, and Humphreys took over command of the brigade. Promoted to brigadier general as of August 12, 1863, he took his regiment west, fighting at Chickamauga and Knoxville. Humphreys participated in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor. In August of 1864, Humphreys and his troops were sent to the Shenandoah Valley to reinforce the II Corps, under Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early. Wounded in September, Humphreys was eventually unable to remain in field service. At the end of the Civil War, Humphreys was leading a military district in Mississippi. He was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson, and elected Mississippi's first post-war governor on October 2, 1865 in the general election and would serve as governor of Mississippi during a most difficult and confusing period. Mississippi and other southern states were expected to voluntarily reconstruct themselves and extend the rights of citizenship to their former enslaved peoples.

When Mississippi and other ex-Confederate states failed to reconstruct themselves under President Johnson's lenient plan, Congress placed the southern states under military law and installed military governors. That action did not automatically remove the civil governor. It did, however, create a rivalry between the military and civil authority which led eventually to Governor Humphreys's removal from office in 1868 by the federal military, than three years after his inauguration. He spent the rest of his years as an insurance agent and planter, and died on his plantation in Leflore County, Mississippi, on December 20, 1882.



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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.