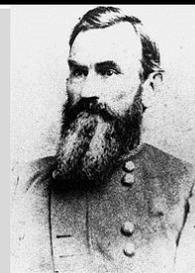




The Delta General

December, 2013 Volume 16, Issue 12

Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys



CONTENTS

Camp News – pp. 1-2

- Commander's Note
- Adjutant's Report
- OCR News

Division News – pp. 3-4

National News –pp. 5-6

Sesquicentennial Articles: - December 1863 - pp. 7

Santa Claus and Robert E. Lee – pp. 7-8

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5 – Camp Meeting

January 2, 2014 – Camp Meeting

January 25, 2014 – Saturday Camp Lee/Jackson Meeting

No Camp Meeting in February

February 24-26, 2014 – 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Quitman

Camp News:

Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes

My Friends and Compatriots,

As the holiday season gets in full swing, we have some important events and activities in the works.

For our December meeting, we will have an update on the website for the Nathan Bedford Forrest campaign. This website will be up and running very soon, and you will be promptly notified when it is.

Furthermore, we will continue working on plans for the Lee-Jackson Banquet at the December meeting. We will have our monthly meeting in January, but that will be a "last minute detail" type meeting.

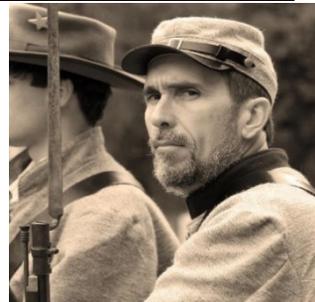
Next, Camp Elections will take place at the December meeting. Remember, if you do not attend, you cannot vote. (And you cannot reject a nomination if you are not there.)

I have been seeing and hearing good things about the upcoming Christmas at Beauvoir. The dates are November 29 through January 5. If you get a chance to take that trip, it will be well worth your time.

I wanted to share with you part of a story from R. A. Jarman's account *The History of Company K 27th Mississippi Infantry*. In December 1863, Sgt. Jarman and the 27th went into winter quarters near Dalton, Georgia after the retreat from Chattanooga. He details how the men had to build winter quarters with approximately one axe per company. But that did not bother them so much as a shortness of rations. In an effort to supplement their rations, Jarman and some of the men sent their servants to buy any extra foodstuffs they could find. Luckily, the servants returned with potatoes, flour and molasses, and ginger cakes. As so many men wanted the ginger cakes, a brisk trade began, and Sgt. Jarman relates that "the ginger cakes sold like 'hot cakes' . . . and it enabled us to get for our mess many extras that winter." This brief anecdote just goes to show that even though the boys were far from home during this time 150 years ago, food was never far from their minds and working together, they made the best of their situation. I think we all could learn a lesson about appreciating the truly important things this holiday season: good food, working together, and being together. I believe that if we focus more on these things rather than so much on the technological marvels, we will not only honor our ancestors, but we will put ourselves in a much better, more positive frame of mind.

Wishing you and your family happy holidays, I remain your humble servant,

Joe Nokes, Camp Commander



Late Due \$\$\$\$

If you have not paid your dues by now, this will be your last issue of the Delta General. Please forward all dues, plus a \$5.00 late fee to Dan McCaskill our adjutant. You should have received a notice in the mail. By the time you read this, the deadline of October 31 has passed and now you owe a late penalty to your dues. Also, you are in danger of this being your last issue of the state newsletter Jeff Davis Legion, and your Confederate Veteran Magazine. Please make all efforts to renew your dues and help fight political correctness. Remember, our ancestors sacrificed more than just membership dues every year. This could be the greatest Christmas gift to yourself by rejoining your compatriots as we fight side by side to preserve our heritage.

Election Year for Our Camp During the December Meeting

We will not have a guest speaker for our December meeting as we will be conducting our elections for the Camp positions. Thus far, Joe Nokes has announced for Camp Commander, Richard Dillon for Lt. Commander, Dan McCaskill for Adjutant. I hope I have not left out any announcements for positions. The OCR will also be holding their Chapter elections this meeting as well.

Lets make all efforts to come out and choose our new Camp leadership for the 2014-2016 administration. They will be carrying us through the end of the Sesquicentennial.

Also, this editor would like to take the time to wish all Camp members a Very Merry Christmas and I hope you will take the time out to remember the sacrifices of our ancestors as they were separated from their families for four Christmas's fighting for a just cause.

Adjutant's Report for December, 2013 – Dan McCaskill

Commander Joe Nokes was absent so 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. Larry welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. After the meal, Larry reconvened the Meeting. Compatriot Jimmy Alford led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney then read "The Charge" given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

Program: Larry announced that our scheduled guest speaker Ron Kelly was unable to attend the meeting so Johnny McKenzie volunteered to be the substitute speaker. Johnny is the Adjutant of the 7 Generals Camp in Helena, AR. Johnny get a report on what the Camp was doing around Helena, AR. They are involved in the re-enactment of the Battle of Helena, helped with the rebuilding of Fort Curtis; they are working on building a Confederate Park near Fort Curtis. They plan to hold the re-enactment every two years in conjunction with Cleburne's birthday. The Camp is also advising the city on the re-construction of Batteries A, C and D. Battery B is forever lost. Johnny welcomed us to attend a meeting and participate in the re-enactment.

Announcements: The Re-enactment of Wirt Adams' Raid will be at Jefferson College north of Natchez the weekend of November 8 – 10; a Division EC Meeting will be held on November 16th at the War Memorial Building in Jackson which is open to all Division Members; Camp Officer elections will be in December, members are encouraged to seek the office of their choice.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney reported there would not be a speaker for the December Meeting since we will be having Camp Officer elections and finalizing details for the Lee – Jackson Banquet; 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman announced that John Hallman had moved back to Columbus, MS and had made several contacts but on commitments; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that 55 of the Camp's 58 members had renewed their membership. This represents 95% of the membership. Members not paying were Wade Johnson of Sidon, John Kelley of Shaw, and Ronnie Stewart of Greenville. The Camp has plenty of money in the checking account but still needs \$ 30 for the Church Fund. As Camp Editor, Larry inquired if anyone had problems receiving the Camp Newsletter; AOT Councilman Larry McCluney announced C-I-C Givens would like for every Camp to start recording their Camp meetings on CD or digital tapes for their Camp Archives. Larry also reported that the Board of Directors at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond had voted to turn over all artifacts to Tredegar Iron Works effective January 1st which would effectively close the museum; MOS&B Commander Earl McCown announced that annual dues would be sent out by MOS & B Commander Chris Cummins; Missy Stillman asked that anyone wishing to donate an item for the Lee-Jackson Banquet Raffle to please give it to any member of the OCR Chapter.

Camp Business: Richard Dillon gave a report of the Forrest Campaign Committee to the Camp regarding different avenues of advertising the truths of Nathan Bedford Forrest. The cost of all types of printed advertisement was out of reach of the Camp. It was suggested and discussed to create a Facebook account to conduct the advertisement campaign. Larry McCluney made a motion to create a Facebook account to promote N. B. Forrest separate from the Camp's Facebook account. The motion was 2nd by Richard Dillon and passed. Larry volunteered to create the account and let Camp members review it before going public. It was confirmed that the Lee – Jackson Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 25th at the Church Fellowship Hall with Curt Fields as our speaker. Earl McCown made a motion to hold the January Meeting on the 9th instead of the 2nd and to substitute the Lee- Jackson Banquet for the February Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Larry placed the name of Jasmine Taylor in nomination for the H. L. Hunley Award. A motion was made by Dan McCaskill to accept the nomination which was 2nd and passed. The medal and certificate will be presented at the Lee – Jackson Banquet.

Larry opened the floor for anyone wishing to declare their desire to run for a Camp Office. Those declaring were: Joe Nokes for Camp Commander; Richard Dillon for 1st Lt. Commander; Dan McCaskill for Adjutant; and Jimmy Alford for Color Sergeant. The office of 2nd Lt. Commander is still up for grabs. Elections will be held at the December 5th Camp Meeting. With no other business coming before the Camp, Larry turned over the Meeting to the ladies of the OCR for the raffle and "Capture the Yankee". Richard Dillon won the Forest comic books and Kenneth Ray won the Beauvoir wine glasses. The Yankee eluded capture for another time.

1st Lt. Commander McCluney asked Chaplain Earl McCown to dismiss the meeting with a word of prayer. Attendance for the Meeting was 20.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

Order of Confederate Rose Report: Annette McCluney

Ladies,

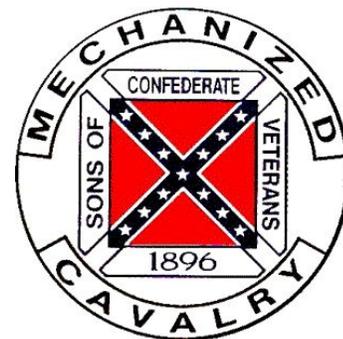
The Christmas is upon us and I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and survived Black Friday. December is our election time and we need to have a quick meeting and to also discuss planning for our Lee/Jackson Banquet. If you have any raffle prizes for the Lee/Jackson Banquet to donate, please make sure to get those to Missy Stillman or myself as soon as possible. I have some new and refreshing raffle prizes from Beauvoir. For the Black Tie event held at Beauvoir in honor of the opening of the Library and Jefferson Davis' 205th Birthday, I have wine glasses that were used at the event and mason jars with handles that were used to serve beer. All of these have the Beauvoir logo on them and make a great addition to your wine glass collection. Remember, these proceeds from the raffles pay for the meal we serve every month. Our Capture the Yankee is now over \$100.00 and is doing well.

As this year begins to wind down, the 15th Anniversary of our Chapter comes to a close. We have come a long way and have seen many faces travel through our Chapter and some have crossed over during those 15 years. Thanks goes out to our founding members as we look forward to another 15 years.

Annette McCluney, President



Interested in joining the Mechanized Cavalry, See Richard Dillon for more details!



Hello Men,

It's hard to believe, but December is here, which means we will have an SCV meeting this Thursday. Also, Captain Bert sent an email stating that the statewide meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2014. The time and place are TBA, but go ahead and mark the day on your calendars.

In case you are not already subscribed, there is a monthly newsletter published by the Florida Mech Cav Company called "The Cracker," www.crackernews1.com. It is always interesting and is becoming the unofficial newsletter of the Mech Cav. You can subscribe at the link above.

If you are not receiving emails from Bert let me know and I will send him your email address.

Let's all attend the Camp meeting Thursday and be sure to wear your vest.

Richard Dillon

Mississippi Division News: 2014 Mississippi Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans State Meeting Corinth Mississippi, June 6-8 2014 - Information

Compatriots!

The Colonel William P. Rogers Camp is honored to host the 2014 State Convention. The following is some additional information that may be helpful to you. The registration forms are available at this site - battleofcorinth.com.

- **Motels**

Headquarters Motel – Holiday Inn Express is located at the junction of Routes 45 & 72, the Hampton Inn is across the street. The SCV rate of \$89 a night is good if rooms are booked before May 23, 2014. The price is the same at both motels.

- **Historical Tours:**

1. We are offering an early bird tour of the Davis Bridge Battlefield on Friday June 6, at 1:00 pm. The tour will be led by NPS Ranger Tom Parson the leading expert on the battle. This is a pristine site that is seldom seen by visitors. A real treat!

2. On Saturday afternoon we will offer a bus tour of the many battlefield sites in Corinth- (Limited to 55 persons). A driving/walking tour will also be available for those who want to do it on their own.

We do need to know the number of persons wanting to go on these tours so we can provide guides and buses so please indicate your interest on the Registration Form.

3. On Sunday we recommend a tour of nearby Shiloh and the Brice's Crossroads Battlefields.

- **For the Ladies:**

Corinth has a number of very interesting shops with many different choices. On Saturday morning from 8:00 am to approximately 3:00 pm there will be Corinth's monthly "Green Market" where local persons sell their Arts and Crafts and homemade items like jellies, pickles, baked goods, clothes, and jewelry. No trip to Corinth would be complete without a trip to Borroum's Drugstore (opened in 1865) for an old fashion ice cream treat and a "Slugburger." Directions will be provided.

- **Friday Evening Reception:**

Our Friday night opening reception will be held at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center. It is a wonderful building on the Corinth Battlefield with great exhibits on the Battle of Shiloh and the Battle of Corinth. We look forward to having you in Corinth where history comes alive!

Note - See Registration form on page 4 for more information . . .

Christmas at Beauvoir Kicks Off

The kickoff gala last evening was a beautiful event. I took my family down to the event, and to watch our Governor's wife, Mrs. Deborah Bryant throw the switch lighting all our oaks and Varina's Garden. Absolutely beautiful, great food, accompanied by big band tunes and the huge St. James Catholic Children's Choir singing Christmas songs. I just wanted to share these pics with those of you who were not able to attend. Having all the oaks lighted every evening is absolutely stunning. There will be events between now and January every evening, so you guys load up your families and please take the opportunity to go down and see this magnificent display of Christmas spirit at Beauvoir during this Christmas season. (At right is ole Saint Nick inside the Hayes Cottage)

Ed Funchess



OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

119TH REUNION – MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
AND 20TH REUNION – MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY, ORDER OF CONFEDERATE ROSE

Corinth, Mississippi – June 6-8, 2014

Hosted by the Colonel William P. Rogers Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #321

SCV MEMBER'S NAME: _____

TITLE: _____ SCV CAMP & NUMBER _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: (H) _____ (C) _____ EMAIL _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (for badge): _____

OCR MEMBER'S NAME: _____

OCR CHAPTER NAME AND NUMBER _____

GUEST NAME: _____

All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies. Those registering at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last.

REGISTRATION AMOUNTS:

SCV before May 23, 2014 \$30.00 AT THE REUNION \$35.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

OCR before May 23, 2014 \$10.00 AT THE REUNION \$15.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

Ancestor Memorial: EACH MEMORIAL IS \$10.00 _____ \$ _____

(Please print or type each memorial on a separate page and submit them with this form.)

Program Ads: \$100 for a full page; \$50 for half a page; \$25 for a quarter page; \$15 for a business card size ad

(Please submit ad information on a separate page before May 2.)

Banquet—\$30.00 per adult plate QTY _____ \$ _____

\$15.00 per child plate (12 and under) QTY _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Make checks Payable to the Col. William P. Rogers SCV Camp #321

MAIL TO: Larry Mangus - 56 CR 615 - Corinth, MS 38834

HISTORICAL BUS TOURS – NO COST – RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED

Please sign up for those you wish to participate in:

_____ Friday Early Bird Tour – June 6th, 1:00 p.m. – Tour of Davis Bridge battlefield

_____ Saturday Tour – June 7th, 1:30 p.m. – Tour of Corinth battlefield sites

_____ Sunday on Your Own Tours – June 8th – Shiloh National and/or Brice's Crossroads National Battlefields

CONTACT INFORMATION

Larry Mangus - lmangus1941@gmail.com or (H) 662-287-0766 (C) 662-872-9180

Hotel Information: Holiday Inn Express is the headquarters hotel.

Holiday Inn Express 2106 Hwy. 72W (662-287-1407) – SCV Rate \$89 if booked before May 23

Hampton Inn: 2107 Hwy. 72W (662-286-5949) – SCV Rate \$89 if booked before May 23

National SCV News: National Reunion in Charleston, SC

Editor's Note: If you plan to attend the Reunion in Charleston, SC in 2014, then you need to at least reserve a room at the Embassy Suites as soon as you can. I reserved my room on July 24 and the impression they gave me was they were going quick. But never fear, if you cannot get a room there, or if you want something within your budget, go to <http://www.scv2014.org> and see what they offer. Early registration form for the Reunion is offered on the next page. As of the October GEC meeting, the Reunion Committee reported that all rooms at the Embassy Suite in North Charleston are sold out. If you plan to attend the reunion, you must use alternative motels that are provided for reservations.



Executive Director Announces Retirement; CIC appoints search committee

Compatriot Ben Sewell has announced his intention to retire as SCV's Executive Director. Exec. Dir. Sewell has pledged to the General Executive Council that he will remain in office until his successor is selected.

"Although we are certainly sad to see Ben retire, we are grateful for the many years of dedicated service he has rendered to our organization," Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens said. "Ben has helped lead the organization through some challenging times and I know the whole Confederation joins me in saying how much we appreciate his work."

CIC Givens has appointed a search committee to begin the process of vetting candidates for a full time replacement. The chairman of the search committee is Past CIC Christopher Sullivan.

The committee expects to get to work right away and Chairman Sullivan said that more details will be forthcoming as soon as the committee has been able to meet and get organized, but he expects they will begin accepting applications sometime after the first of the year.

Questions should be directed to:

Christopher M. Sullivan, SCVSearchComm@Gmail.com
(864) 660-9188
P.O. Box 3743 Greenville, SC 29608

Case puts all Confederate Monuments in Danger

Gentlemen,

Yesterday (November 19) the Appeals Court issued a non-appealable ruling stating that the Sons of Confederate Veterans does not have standing in the Reidsville Statue case. In my opinion they simply found a way not to rule against the State. Even if the laws are on your side if the judicial/political system is not, you lose. There is little doubt in my mind that politics played a major role in this process from start to finish. It is important to point out that our original argument still has never been ruled on. They simply ruled we had no standing so they would not have to take it up. Obviously the judges took the easy way out on this one choosing to pick the fruit on the lower part of the tree. In essence the City of Reidsville has been allowed to give the City's Confederate Statue to a private party (UDC) removing it from public land in a closed-door deal involving the exchange of more than \$100,000. The ruling states this exchange cannot be contested. The ruling leaves our statues and monuments with little to no protection in the future. They can now be moved without due process. The next ten years or so will certainly be telling as our statues start to migrate from courthouse lawns to graveyards. As this happens responsibility can be laid at the feet of the UDC. It is important to note that the ruling never did establish ownership of the statues and monuments but rather who gets to control them. This is a dark day for those who of us who strive to protect and preserve our heritage. The role of the NC UDC's president along with her board, including their collusion with the City and State, has been disappointing to say the least even though not entirely surprising. We knew we were dealing with someone that was more concerned about her organization and herself than the protection of our statues and monuments. An example of this was the fact that she recently bolted a bronze plaque to the new statue base with her name on it. I have asked the NC SCV members to refrain from calling or emailing any of these ladies concerning this matter. The matter is settled. It is time to move on. I want to thank Judge Advocate Tim Wyatt for all his hard work. He couldn't have done a better job. I also want to thank the GEC and Headquarters for standing with us from start to finish in this fight. I have attached our two page Press Release, which has already been issued to the media outlets. Please take time to read it in its entirety as it pretty much sums it up. I want to point out that the press release was sent to the media outlets yesterday but in today's newspapers no mention of our side was mentioned but was, as expected, slanted to the other side. We shall fight on in whatever capacity presents itself.

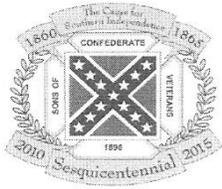
Respectfully,

Tom Smith, NC Division, Commanding

Are you eligible for membership in the MOSB?

The members of the MOS&B are descendants of the Confederate Officer Corps and elected government officials. We are dedicated to the preservation and education of the memory of our ancestors and the traditional values of our Southern Heritage.

Address all general business or advertising correspondence to MOS&B IHQ, P O Box 1700, White House, TN 37188-1700. Or you can contact Earl McCown for information. Join in the fight to preserve the memory of the Officer Corps.



**Sons of Confederate Veterans
119th National Reunion
North Charleston, SC
July 16-19, 2014
1864 - H. L. Hunley - 2014**



Individual Member Registration (Basic Registration is required for ALL members attending the reunion)

Early Registration (Thru March 31, 2014) (\$55.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 55 = _____
Late Registration (After March 31, 2014) (\$65.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 65 = _____
Wed, July 16: Harbor Meet & Greet Tour (\$65.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 65 = _____
Thurs, July 17: General Forrest Cavalry Breakfast (\$30.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 30 = _____
Thurs, July 17: C. Irvine Walker Preservation Luncheon (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 35 = _____
Thurs, July 17: General Johnson Hagood Heritage Dinner (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 35 = _____
Thurs, July 17: Ladies Tour (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 35 = _____
Thurs, July 17: Fort & Battlefield Tour (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 35 = _____
Fri, July 18: Gen. Ellison Capers Chaplains Breakfast (\$30.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 30 = _____
Fri, July 18: Lt. Richard Kirkland Awards Luncheon (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 35 = _____
Fri, July 18: H.L. Hunley Tour (\$40.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 40 = _____
Sat, July 19: Mary Boykin Chesnut Debutante Luncheon (\$30.00 Each) (Debutantes Free)	Qty. _____	x 30 = _____
Sat, July 19: Gen. Wade Hampton III Grand Banquet and Debutante Ball: (Single: \$70.00) (Couple: \$130.00)	Qty. _____ Qty. _____	x 70 = _____ x 130 = _____
Numbered Medal (\$150.00 Each) (Limited to 150 Medals)	Qty. _____	x 150 = _____
Additional Reunion Medals (Non Numbered) (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____	x 35 = _____
Ancestor Memorials (Printed in Program) (\$10.00 Each) (Attach Ancestor Memorial Form)	Qty. _____	x 10 = _____

Make Check payable to Low Country SCV and mail to address below

Grand Total _____

Due to the nature of tour booking and catering demands, all tour and meal purchases are considered to be final. No refunds will be issued. The 2014 National SCV Reunion Committee does reserve the right to limit or cancel any tour prior to the reunion due to limited booking of reservations. In the event there is a cancellation of any tour, the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part

Name: _____ SCV Member # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

SCV Division: _____ Real Son:

Camp Name: _____ Camp #: _____

Guest(s) _____

Contact the Embassy Suites, North Charleston, SC at 1-843-747-1882 for room rates, availability and reservations. Ask for the 2014 SCV Reunion Rate.

Tenth Brigade, South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
David Rentz, 2014 SCV Reunion Chairman,
www.scv2014.org
Mail Checks To: Low Country SCV, P. O. Box 1170, Ladson, SC 29456-1170

Sesquicentennial Of the War for Southern Independence Articles: American Civil War December 1863

The armies on both sides of the American Civil War were effectively driven to a halt by the weather. The impact on the soldiers in the field was huge with scurvy and dysentery affecting many. The Army of the Potomac was actually withdrawn from Richmond to allow its men to recover from the constant rain and mud.

- December 1st: Meade decided to withdraw the Army of the Potomac away from Richmond. In the previous few days, his army had suffered badly from the very poor weather.
- Bragg offered his resignation to Jefferson Davis after the defeat at Chattanooga. Even now, in the aftermath of a significant defeat, Bragg chose to blame others in his army, namely Major-General John Breckenridge, who he described as a drunk, and Cheatham who Bragg claimed was unfit for duty.
- December 2nd: Lieutenant-General W H Hardee was appointed on a temporary basis to succeed Bragg as commander of the Army of the Tennessee.
- December 3rd: General Longstreet concluded that he did not have sufficient resources to take Knoxville, so he ordered his army to withdraw to its winter quarters at Greenville.
- December 4th: Persistent heavy rain made Longstreet's withdrawal very difficult for his troops who had to endure very harsh conditions.
- December 7th: The fourth session of the Confederate Congress met in Richmond. Despite brave words from Jefferson Davis, all present knew that it had been a bad year for the Confederacy.
- December 8th: President Lincoln announced the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction to Congress. He offered a full amnesty to those who fought for the Confederacy except to former Federal army officers who had resigned their commission to fight for the South. Anyone who was found guilty of mistreating Union prisoners was also exempt from any Presidential pardon as were senior government officials. Lincoln also promised that all property in the South (except former slaves) would be restored to their legal owners. He also guaranteed that any Southern state would be allowed back into the Union if just 10% of those in a state swore allegiance to the Union. Each of these states would also have to abandon slavery.
- December 10th: The Army of the Potomac went into its winter quarters as no more manoeuvres were expected in view of the weather and the great difficulty this placed on movement.
- December 15th: The lack of money available to the Confederacy was all too clear to Brigadier-General E P Alexander, part of Longstreet's command, when he noticed men marching in their bare feet as there were no replacements for broken shoes. Longstreet ordered his men to exchange their footwear with the boots worn by captured Union soldiers.
- December 16th: General J E Johnston was appointed commander of the Army of Tennessee. General Bragg went to Richmond and became the military adviser to President Jefferson Davis.
- December 18th: Union troops were suffering the same hardships as those in the South. Union troops at Knoxville had no winter clothing and they slept under their ponchos as no tents had been sent there. Both North and South had more casualties as a result of ill-health and disease as opposed to actual combat. Despite their hardships, General Grant applauded the work done by the men at Knoxville and praised Burnside's leadership.
- December 21st: By this day most military operations had ceased because of the weather.
- December 26th: The strength of the Confederacy was put at 465,000 men but only 278,000 were actually present at their colours. The discrepancy was accounted for by those men off through illness and the many thousands who had deserted. Those that remained at their colours were experienced soldiers. The North was not in a particularly good position either as it was having major problems enforcing conscription.
- December 29th: The first signs of scurvy were reported in both camps along with frequent outbreaks of dysentery.

General Lee and Santa Claus submitted by Randy Hill

Note from Randy: First appearing in 1867 as part of Mrs. Louise Clack's *Christmas Gift To Her Little Southern Friends*, this wartime exchange between General Robert E. Lee and three young girls has become a bit of Yuletide warmth shared among Southerners -- even if only connected by the internet.

Originally published by Guild Bindery Press, Mrs. Clack's children's book contributed quite a bit to the post-War revelation of another side of Lee's character. His personal honor and courageous audacity on the battlefield was the given. The kind and gentle nature with all, particularly children, was the other. But the story was never intended for profit. All the royalties from Mrs. Clack's gift to her little Southern friends went to the orphans of the South. She wanted it that way. And in 1996, when the tale was reprinted by Alexander Books, a part of the profits were earmarked to assist in the upkeep of Stratford Hall, Lee's birthplace.

Is it a true story? Who knows? But historical wisdom gently admonishes and reminds: Is there any evidence it didn't happen? If not, then let us believe it. As the undisputed inspiration of them all goes: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!"
[This piece is taken from the book *GENERAL LEE AND SANTA CLAUS*, originally published in 1867, pages 32-35, now in the public domain.]

Dear General Lee:

We think you are the goodest man that ever lived, and our auntie says you will go right straight to heaven when you die; so we want to ask you a question, for we want to know the truth about it, and we know that you always speak the truth. Please tell us whether Santa Claus loves the little rebel children, for we think he don't; because he did not come to see us for four Christmas Eves. Auntie thinks you would not let him cross the lines, and we don't know how to find out unless we write and ask you. We all love you dearly, and we want to send you something; but we have not any thing nice enough; we lost all our toys in the war. Birdie wants to send you

Continued on page 8 . . .

THE DELTA GENERAL
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS 38930

We are on the Web!
www.humphreys1625.com



one of our white kittens--the one with black ears; but Auntie thinks maybe you don't like kittens. We say little prayers for you every night, dear General Lee, and ask God to make you ever so happy. Please let us know about Santa Claus as soon as you can; we want to know for something very, very, very particular; but we can't tell even you why until Christmas time, so please to excuse us.

Your little friends,
Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie

The above letter was sent the following day, and in about a week the answer was received:

My dear little friends:

I was very glad to receive your kind letter, and to know by it that I have the good wishes and prayers of three innocent little girls, named Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie.

I am very glad that you wrote about Santa Claus for I am able to tell you all about him. I can assure you he is one of the best friends that the little Southern girls have. You will understand this when I explain to you the reason of his not coming to see you for four years.

The first Christmas Eve of the war I was walking up and down in the camp ground, when I thought I heard a singular noise above my head; and on looking to find out from whence it came, I saw the queerest, funniest-looking little old fellow riding along in a sleigh through the air. On closer inspection, he proved to be Santa Claus.

Halt! Halt!, I said; but at this the funny fellow laughed, and did not seem inclined to obey, so again I cried Halt!. And he drove down to my side with a sleigh full of toys. I was very sorry for him when I saw the disappointed expression of his face when I told him he could go no further South; and when he exclaimed, Oh, what will my little Southern children do! I felt more sorry, for I love little children to be happy, and especially at Christmas. But of one thing I was certain--I knew my little friends would prefer me to do my duty, rather than have all the toys in the world; so I said: Santa Claus, take every one of the toys you have back as far as Baltimore, sell them, and with the money you get buy medicines, bandages, ointments, and delicacies for our sick and wounded men; do it and do it quickly--it will be all right with the children. Then Santa Claus sprang into his sleigh, and putting his hand to his hat in true military style, said: I obey orders, General, and away he went. Long before morning he came sweeping down into camp again, with not only every thing I had ordered, but with many other things that our poor soldiers needed. And every Christmas he took the toy money and did the same thing; and the soldiers and I blessed him, for he clothed and fed many a poor soul who otherwise would have been cold and hungry. Now, do you not consider him a good friend. I hold him in high respect, and trust you will always do the same.

I should be pleased to hear from you again, my dear little girls, and I want you ever to consider me,

Your true friend,
General Robert E. Lee