

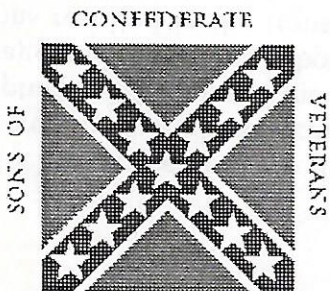


B. G. Humphreys
Constitutional Governor of Mississippi



THE DELTA GENERAL
SCV NEWSLETTER FOR THE
B.G. HUMPHREYS CAMP.
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STONEVILLE, MS. 38776

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1896

THE DELTA GENERAL

SCV NEWSLETTER FOR BRIG-GEN BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS
CAMP # 1625

INDIANOLA, MS.

VOL- 3 # 2

MARCH 16, 1995



EDITOR IN CHIEF:
GARY W. SHELTON
P.O. BOX 291
STONEVILLE, MS.
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B. G. HUMPHREYS

THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY : MR. RANDLE FURR SR.

EVERYONE
SHOULD HEAD
ON OUT OF THE
HOUSE ON
MARCH 16, 1995.
AND COME TO
INDIANOLA,
WHERE OUR
FEATURED
SPEAKER WILL BE

MR. LARRY A.
McCLUREY
OF WEBB
MISSISSIPPI.

HE WILL GIVE US

A PROGRAM ON
CONFEDERATE
UNIFORMS.

HEY! HOW ABOUT
EVERYONE
COMEING OUT TO
GREENWOOD ON
SATURDAY
MARCH 18 FOR
THE CANNON
SHOOT. ALL WILL
HAVE A REALLY
LOUD, FUN TIME.

THE CANNON
SHOOT WILL
HAVE 3
DIFFERENT
CATEGORIES OF
COMPETITION
AND A GREAT
WAY TO SPEND
THE DAY. TURN
TO THE SOUTH
OFF HY-82 ON 430
AND GO 7.2
MILES AND MAKE
A LEFT

I have been informed that we are back up to 47 members. One of our new members is John A. Woods of Indianola, Ms. I'll have the names of our other new member next issue.

Our January meeting (dedicated to "Stonewall" Jackson was a great success we had 31 members and guests, And we hope to get Bo Morgan to join our camp.

Don't forget about the Division/Society Convention in Vicksburg on June 2 and 3 at the Park Inn International. Contact me if anyone wants to share a ride.

Fellow compatriot Earl McCown has been unable to attend our meetings while caring for his

wife, remember them in your prayers. He sent an interesting article that I hope to print in the next issue.

We have great artists in our camp and most of us don't even realize it. Ann McCaskill (wife of our color Sergeant Dan McCaskill) will hand paint the SCV emblem on any shirt for only \$10 (you supply the shirt). For some reason it looks best if the shirt is grey.

I am enclosing a SCV pamphlet in the newsletter. I want everyone to give it to a prospective member.

BACK IN TIME

MARCH 16, 1861

Arizona votes to leave the Union and join the Confederacy.

MARCH 16, 1864

RED RIVER CAMPAIGN

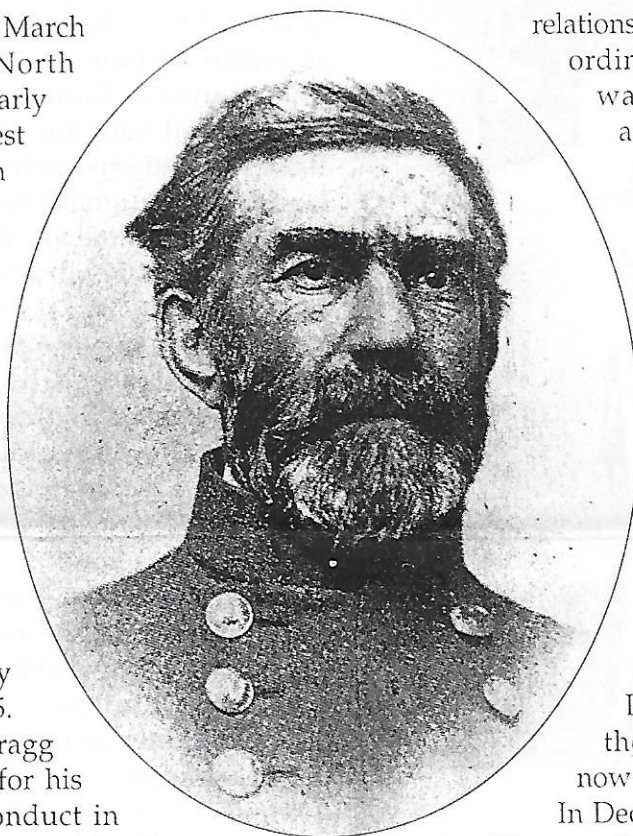
Nine Union gunboats arrive in Alexandria, Louisiana; federal troops occupy the town and await the arrival of further land forces. Elsewhere, a ten-day Federal reconnaissance begins in Missouri.

☆ Braxton Bragg ☆

Braxton Bragg was born on March 22, 1817, at Warrenton, North Carolina. After receiving his early education there, he entered West Point in 1833. He finished fifth among fifty graduates in the class of 1837 and entered the army as a 2d lieutenant in the 3d Artillery on July 1, 1837. He served as the 3d's regimental adjutant from November 19, 1837 to March 8, 1838. Promoted to 1st lieutenant on July 7, 1838, Bragg experienced combat against the Seminoles in Florida during the 1830s before he joined Major General Zachary Taylor's forces in Texas in 1845.

During the Mexican War, Bragg earned the brevet of captain for his gallant and distinguished conduct in defense of Fort Brown, Texas, on May 9, 1846, a rank he actually achieved on June 18. His performance in several engagements near Monterrey, Mexico earned him the brevet of major on September 23. As captain of Battery C, 3d Artillery, he truly distinguished himself at Buena Vista on February 23, 1847, where he managed his artillery in such a way as to fill the gaping holes in the American infantry lines and finally repulse the numerically superior Mexican force. The victory largely won by Bragg helped make Taylor and, to a lesser extent, Mississippi Colonel Jefferson Davis national heroes. In return, the young captain received a brevet lieutenant colonelcy from Taylor and inaugurated a longtime bond with Davis.

Described as being "naturally disputatious" by Ulysses S. Grant, Bragg had difficulties in almost every



relationship with either a superior or subordinate officer. Unable to have his way regarding the use of horse artillery in the army or duty stations, Bragg resigned on January 3, 1856. He had married a wealthy woman from Louisiana, Eliza Brooks Ellis, in 1849, and now he moved to Thibodaux, Louisiana, to become a substantial sugar planter. He also served his adopted state as a commissioner on the Board of Public Works, a position that involved his designing of the state's drainage and levee system. Bragg soon realized the need for trained engineers in Louisiana and worked to establish the State Military School in 1860, now Louisiana State University.

In December 1860 Louisiana Governor Thomas O. Moore appointed Bragg to the state military board to organize a 5,000-man army, and on January 11, 1861, Bragg captured the Baton Rouge Arsenal at the head of 500 volunteers. Following the secession of Louisiana and its creation of an army, Bragg became its commander with the rank of major general on February 6. On March 7, he was commissioned a brigadier general in the Confederate Army to rank from that date, and assigned to command a portion of the Gulf Coast which included Mobile and Pensacola. On September 12, 1862 he was appointed a major general, to rank

A late war portrait of Bragg, and the only one that shows him in a uniform with buttons arranged for major general or higher rank. (William Turner Collection)



Another outstanding view of Bragg was taken in Montgomery, Alabama, by the photographer A.C. McIntyre, probably in 1862 or 1863. (Confederate Museum, New Orleans, La)

immediately, and on February 15, he suggested to the secretary of war that his forces along the Gulf be ordered north. Bragg's advice was accepted, and he moved to Corinth, Mississippi, where he helped General Albert Sidney Johnston organize what eventually became the Army of Tennessee. Bragg served as chief of staff and commanded the II Corps. At Shiloh, much of the Confederate success on April 6 resulted from Bragg's supervision of the right flank.

Promoted to full general on April 12, Bragg relieved General P. G. T. Beauregard of command of the army at Tupelo on June 27. Following the breakup of the Union forces at Corinth, Bragg determined to strike Corinth and continue to Nashville. Threats to east Tennessee and especially Chattanooga forced Bragg to modify his original plan; instead, most of Bragg's army moved by rail via Mobile to Chattanooga.

On August 27, Bragg headed northward from Chattanooga. Bypassing Nashville, he entered Kentucky in the wake of Confederate Major General Edmund Kirby Smith. Although he captured Munfordsville on September 17, Bragg felt his force insufficient to assault the enemy at Bowling Green. While Bragg busied himself meeting with Kirby Smith and installing a Confederate governor in Frankfort, Major General Leonidas Polk moved Bragg's army eastward into central Kentucky. The campaign culminated on October 8 at Perryville, where a bizarre chain of circumstances enabled the heavily outnumbered Confederates to win a tactical victory. By darkness Bragg had learned his opponent's true strength and wisely withdrew during the night. The retreat continued into Tennessee where, despite substantial criticism of him by his corps commanders and others, he retained command of the army.

On December 31, Bragg countered the Union advance from Nashville by attacking it near Murfreesboro. The considerable success achieved by the Confederates that day was followed by a day of inactivity, and then heavy fighting on January 2. The next day Bragg withdrew to Tullahoma. Between June and September 1863, Federal forces fought a campaign of maneuver that culminated in Bragg's withdrawal into northwestern Georgia. After receiving substantial reinforcements from Virginia, however, Bragg assumed the offensive.

He fought at Chickamauga September 19-20, the only major victory he ever won, but failed to quickly follow it up. Instead, he laid siege to Chattanooga,

which gave the Federals time to reinforce the beleaguered town while reducing Confederate chances for capturing it because of the strained relations between Bragg and numerous subordinates. These tense relations resulted in the transfer of senior officers and substantial numbers of troops to other regions. When the Confederate line cracked on Missionary Ridge on November 25 and his troops retreated into Georgia literally on the run, Bragg asked to be relieved. His career as the commander of the principal field army in the western theater ended on December 2, 1863.

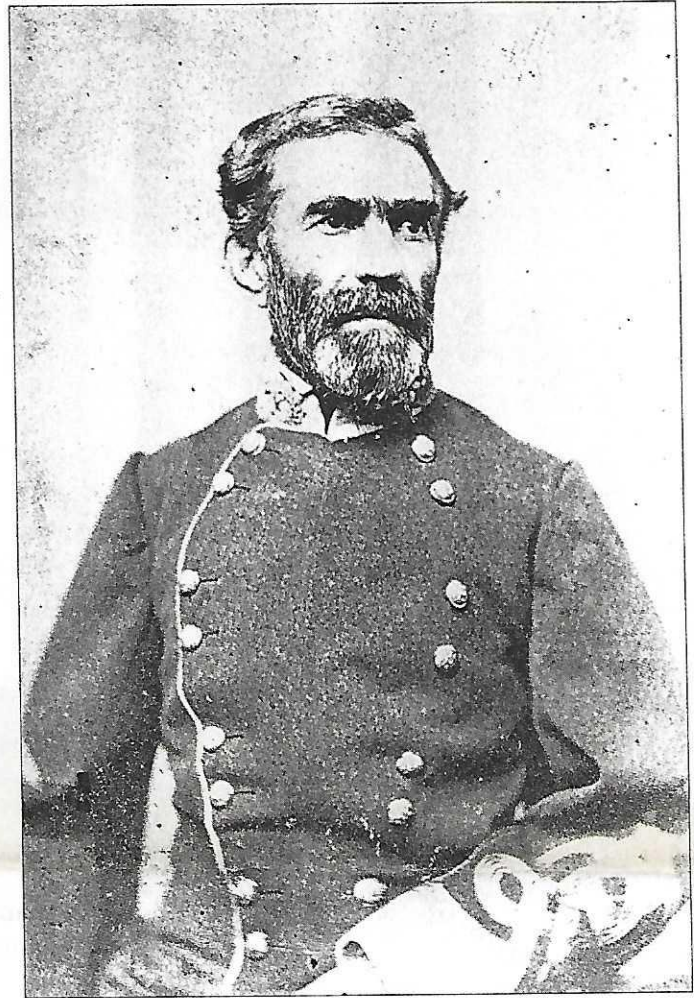
During 1864 Bragg served in Richmond, nominally as general-in-chief but actually only as a military advisor to President Davis. He held several minor commands during the final six months of the war, primarily in North Carolina. His last battle as senior officer on the field occurred at Kingston on March 8, 1865. He joined Davis in his flight from Richmond and was captured in Georgia on May 9 and paroled.

After the war Bragg worked as a civil engineer, first in Mobile and later in Texas. He also served as Commissioner of Public Works for the state of Alabama for four years, during which time he supervised harbor improvements at Mobile. Later he briefly served as chief engineer of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad. His death came unexpectedly in Galveston on September 27, 1876, while employed by the state of Texas to monitor the progress of railroads being constructed that involved state land grants. His body was returned to Mobile for interment in Magnolia Cemetery.

In Bragg, the Confederacy found its strictest disciplinarian and, at least in the western theater, its best organizer. Long the most detested of Confederate generals, Bragg is enjoying somewhat more favorable treatment by Civil War historians and some of the tarnish is receding from Bragg's star. However he is regarded, Bragg's association with the American military will continue as long as Fort Bragg, the enormous military base in North Carolina named in his honor, continues to operate.

Lawrence L. Hewitt

Hewitt, Lawrence L. "Braxton Bragg and the Confederate Invasion of Kentucky in 1862," Roman J. Heliak and Lawrence L. Hewitt, eds., *The 1989 Deep Delta Civil War Symposium: Leadership During the Civil War*, Shippensburg, Pa, 1991.



Bragg's best known portraits come from an early war sitting that cannot be dated, but was probably 1863 or before. (Chicago Historical Society)