

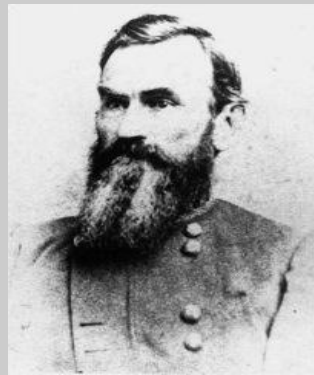
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Camp Commander: Dan McCaskill

The Delta General

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Volume: 13, Issue 4 April, 2010



COMMANDER'S CORNER: CLAUDE STILLMAN

Fellow Compatriots,

Another month has zoomed by and, personally, I have little to show for it. Seems the days have gotten longer, but the list of accomplishments has not. Recruiting is an ongoing job. I have made several contacts and interest has been expressed, but no definite promises have been made. Though it's discouraging at times, recruiting will eventually bear fruit. We each have the responsibility to seek new Compatriots, not just for increasing our numbers but to continue the interest in our Southern heritage.

Alan, Larry, Dan and I attended the First Brigade meeting in Batesville on Saturday, March 27th. Annette attended also and gave a short presentation to discuss and promote the Order of Confederate Rose in our Division. Alan gave an update on the plans for the Sesquicentennial, which will be celebrated in Vicksburg. During the meeting, Larry announced his campaigning for the office of Councilman for the Army of Tennessee. Other business discussed included fund raising for a Mississippi memorial to be erected at Shiloh.

Our own camp memorial service is scheduled for April 18th at 2:00 PM in the Greenville Cemetery. Rev. Rob Thacker, First Presbyterian Church, Indianola, MS, will lead the service. Our ladies of the OCR will again provide light

refreshments following the ceremonies. Please keep in mind the memorial services held by other camps and attend when possible. It's very important for SCV camps to support each other, especially when showing honor to our ancestors and our history. My prayer is that this, too, will promote unity in our Division.

For those interested in re-enactments, Jackson Crossroads is scheduled for April 23-25th. "Lady Ann" will be attending with her crew. If interested, please contact Dan.

Let's each remember one another in our prayers. Be especially mindful of those with health problems and other private issues. Men, let us pray for the future of our camp and the SCV as a whole, but most of all for the welfare of our nation. And it's important, too, to offer prayers of thanksgiving for the safe return home of Tommy McCaskill. He has been greatly missed by his friends and family. WELCOME HOME, TOMMY!

God Bless Ya'll . God Bless the South.
Claude Stillman, Jr., Commander

WELCOME NEW CAMP MEMBER

Earl Allen

Ancestor: Great, Great Grandfather
Wesley Dow Allen
Pvt; Maxwell's Co., MS State Troops

"THE BLUE AND THE GRAY", BY FRANCES MILES FINCH

"From the silence of sorrowful hours the desolate mourners go,
Lovingly laden with flowers alike for the friend and the foe;
Under the sod and the dew, waiting the judgment -day;
Under the roses, the Blue, under the lilies, the Gray."
" So with an equal splendor, the morning sun-rays fall,
With a touch impartially tender, on the blossoms blooming for all:
Under the sod and the dew, waiting the judgment-day:
Brodered with gold, the Blue, mellowed with gold, the Gray."

Upcoming events of interest:

- ⇒ **Confederate Memorial Day Service, Greenville, MS – April 18**
- ⇒ **April 24, MS Division Confederate Memorial Day at Beauvoir**
- ⇒ **April 23-25, Jackson's Crossroads, LA**
- ⇒ **May 8, Dedication of the Kentucky Monument at Vicksburg, MS**

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CAMP NEWS: FEBRUARY 18TH CAMP MEETING REPORT ADJUTANT'S REPORT: DAN MCCASKILL



The Camp Meeting was called to order by Commander Claude "Junior" Stillman. The Camp Chaplain being absent, 1st Lt. Commander Gator Stillman opened the Meeting with a word of prayer. Color Sergeant Joe Nokes led everyone in the Pledges and Salutes to the U. S., State and Confederate Flags.

Commander Stillman welcomed Bill Turney, 2nd Lt Commander of the Patrick Cleburne Camp in Arkansas to the Meeting.

Announcements: 1) 1st Brigade Meeting will be held in Batesville at the Batesville Public Library March 27, 2010 at 1:00 pm; 2) the Camp's Confederate Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, April 18th at the Greenville Cemetery starting at 2:00 pm. Guest speaker will be Rev. Rob Thacker, Pastor of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Indianola; 3) Jackson Crossroads Reenactment will be held Apr 24-26 near Jackson, LA; 4) MS Division Memorial Service will be held at Beauvoir April 24th along with the dedication of the Jefferson Davis statue; 5) MS Division Reunion will be at Grenada June 4-6, 2010.

Junior welcomed new member Earl Allen who submitted his application and dues at the Meeting. A motion was made by Gator Stillman and seconded by Joe Nokes to accept Earl Allen's petition to join the Camp and passed unanimously.

Old Business: Alan Palmer was given a check to purchase drinks for the upcoming Brigade Meeting as the Camp is co-hosting the Meeting. Dusty Davis was absent so the Camp could not act on purchasing an ad in the Grenada Reunion program. This was postponed until next Meeting.

Guest Speaker: Alan Palmer gave a presentation on the events leading to Mississippi getting the nomination for the 2013 National Reunion from the GEC. Alan also talked about the Sesquicentennial. During the events at Elm Springs, he met the Chairman of the MS Sesquicentennial Committee, Bill Surratt of Vicksburg. They were planning a meeting in the near future in Vicksburg. Planned events so far were the reenactment of the Secession speech in Jackson for January, 2011 and Jefferson Davis' farewell speech given in Vicksburg before he left for Montgomery to serve as the President of the CSA. He was encouraging each Brigade to sponsor a Brigade wide event during the Sesquicentennial in addition to Camp events.

Officer Reports: There were no officer reports. Larry McCluney closed the meeting with the benediction. Refreshments were provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter #9, OCR. Attendance: 13

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Adjutant

ELLA PALMER CHAPTER #9, MSOCR: PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Dear Ladies of the OCR,

Spring is finally here and we can pack away the remainder of winter. Flowers and trees dress out in new colors and sneezes last longer. (Annette finally broke her record!) Our camp becomes more active with re-enactments and memorial services. During this time, we have the responsibility of remembering our ancestors and their Great Cause. When I consider the hardships suffered by those who fought in battles and by those who remained behind to preserve homes and families, I am awed; I am honored to be a descendant of such stock.

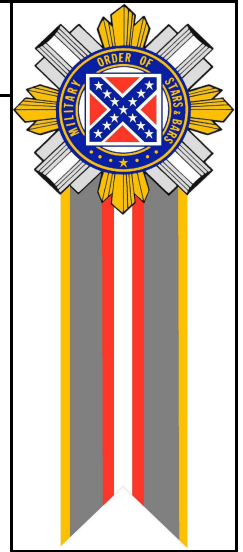
Another day of remembrance, Memorial Day, will be celebrated next month. Several towns in different states (including some above the Mason-Dixon Line) claim to be the original site of "Decoration Day". However Southern Ladies were the first to organize groups for decorating graves actually before the end of the Civil War. In 1867, the hymn, "Kneel Where Our Loves Are Sleeping", was published. The dedication read, "To the Ladies of the South Who Are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead." On April 25, 1866, a group of ladies in Columbus, MS, decorated both Confederate and Union graves. Francis Miles Finch, a poet and New York judge, was in Columbus at the time. He was so impressed and moved by watching the ladies, he wrote the poem, "The Blue and The Grey." (See Poem on page 1)

These Southern women had no idea that their honoring the fallen Confederates would become a national holiday for honoring anyone who has sacrificed all for their nation.

Makes me proud to be a Woman of the South!!

Yours Most Graciously,
Sandra Stillman, OCR President

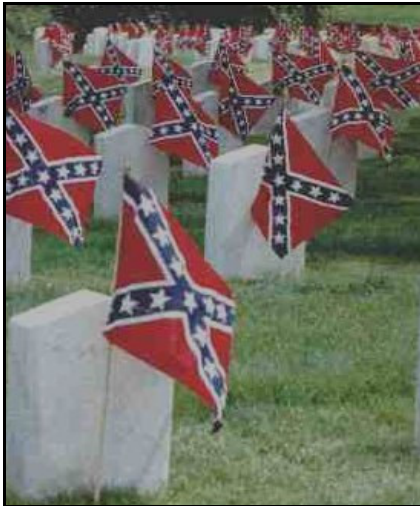
BRIG/GEN CHARLES CLARK CHAPTER, MOS&B HONORS CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY



Confederate Memorial Day, also known as Confederate Decoration Day (Tennessee) and Confederate Heroes Day (Texas), is an official holiday and/or observance day in parts of the U.S. South as a day to honor those who died fighting for the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War. Seven states officially observe Confederate Memorial Day: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

Taken from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs . . . Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped



veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns. Local Observances Claim To Be First. Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, which were neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale

was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

Taken from the May, 1893 issue of "Confederate Veteran," the Origin of Memorial Day. . . It is a matter of history that Mrs. Chas. J. Williams, of Columbus, Ga., instituted the custom of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers, a custom which has been adopted throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams was the daughter of Maj. John Howard, of Milledgeville, Ga. She married Maj. C. J. Williams on his return from the Mexican War. As colonel of the First Georgia Regulars, of the Army in Virginia, he contracted disease, from which he died in 1862, and was buried in Columbus, Ga.

Mrs. Williams and her daughter visited his grave every day, and often comforted themselves by wreathing it with flowers. While the mother sat abstractly thinking of the loved and lost one, the little one would pluck the weeds from the unmarked soldiers' graves near her father's and cover them with flowers, calling them her soldiers' graves.

After a short time while the dear little girl was summoned by the angels to join her father. The sorely bereaved mother then took charge of these unknown graves for the child's sake, and as she cared for them thought of the thousands of patriot graves throughout the South, far away from home and kindred, and in this way the plan was suggested to her of setting apart one day in each year, that love might pay tribute to valor throughout the Southern States. In March, 1868, she addressed a communication to the Columbus Times, an extract of which I give: "We beg the assistance of the press and the ladies throughout the South to aid us in the effort to set apart a certain day to be observed from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and to be handed down through time as a religious custom of the South, to wreath the graves of our martyred dead with flowers, and we propose the 26th day of April as the day."

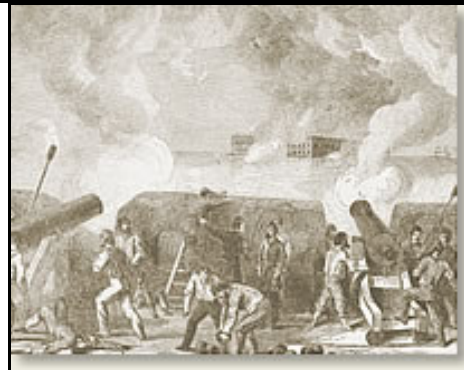
She then wrote to the Soldiers' Aid Societies in every Southern State, and they readily responded and reorganized under the name of Memorial Associations. She lived long enough to see her plan adopted all over the South, and in 1868 throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams died April 15, 1874, and was buried with military honors. On each returning Memorial Day the Columbus military march around her grave, and each deposits a floral offering. The Legislature of Georgia, in 1874, set apart the 26th day of April as a legal holiday in obedience to her request.

THE FIRING ON FORT SUMTER, CHARLESTON HARBOR, SC APRIL 12, 1861 EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT BY LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE

The election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860 provoked the secession of the Southern States from the Union. South Carolina was the first to leave. By the time of the convening of a constitutional convention to establish the Confederacy in February 1861, six other states had joined her. The majority of the Southern leaders who attended the convention expected a peaceful secession; they did not anticipate that their action would lead to bloody conflict. They were wrong. Fort Sumter, lying in the harbor off the city of Charleston, South Carolina, would prove the point.

After her secession from the Union, South Carolina perceived herself as a sovereign state - the presence of Union forces in an armed fortress whose guns commanded her principal harbor was intolerable as it belied her independence. For President Lincoln the voluntary abandonment of this fortress was equally intolerable as it would be a tacit acknowledgment of South Carolina's independent status.

Lincoln learned that the garrison at Fort Sumter was in trouble on the day he took office in March 1861. The garrison was running out of food and supplies and had no way of obtaining these on shore. The President ordered a relief expedition to sail immediately and informed the Governor of South Carolina of his decision. Alerted, General P.G.T. Beauregard, commander of the Confederate military forces, realized he had to quickly force the evacuation of the fort before the relief expedition's arrival. He would try threats first, and if these failed he would bombard the fort into submission.



Firing on Fort Sumter
From a contemporary
illustration.

"...that shot was a sound of alarm that brought every soldier in the harbor to his feet."

On the afternoon of April 11, waving a white flag, two members of General Beauregard's staff were rowed across Charleston's harbor to Fort Sumter carrying a written demand for surrender. One of the emissaries - Stephen D. Lee - wrote of the experience after the war:

"This demand was delivered to Major Anderson at 3:45 P.M., by two aides of General Beauregard, James Chesnut, Jr., and myself. At 4:30 P.M. he handed us his reply, refusing to accede to the demand; but added, 'Gentlemen, if you do not batter the fort to pieces about us, we shall be starved out in a few days.' The reply of Major Anderson was put in General Beauregard's hands at 5:15 P.M., and he was also told of this informal remark. Anderson's reply and remark were communicated to the Confederate authorities at Montgomery. The Secretary of War, L.P. Walker, replied to Beauregard as follows:"

'Do not desire needlessly to bombard Fort Sumter. If Major Anderson will state the time at which, as indicated by him, he will evacuate, and agree that in the meantime he will not use his guns against us, unless ours should be employed against Fort Sumter, you are authorized thus to avoid the effusion of blood. If this, or its equivalent, be refused, reduce the fort as your judgment decides to be most practicable.'

"The same aides bore a second communication to Major Anderson, based on the above instructions, which was placed in his hands at 12:45 A.M., April 12th. His reply indicated that he would evacuate the fort on the 15th, provided he did not in the meantime receive contradictory instructions from his Government, or additional supplies, but he declined to agree not to open his guns upon the Confederate troops, in the event of any hostile demonstration on their part against his flag. Major Anderson made every possible effort to retain the aides till daylight, making one excuse and then another for not replying. Finally, at 3:15 A.M., he delivered his reply. In accordance with their instructions, the aides read it and, finding it unsatisfactory, gave Major Anderson this notification:"

'FORT SUMTER, S.C., April 12, 1861, 3:20 A.M. - SIR: By authority of Brigadier-General Beauregard, commanding the Provisional Forces of the Confederate States, we have the honor to notify you that he will open the fire of his batteries on Fort Sumter in one hour from this time. We have the honor to be very respectfully, Your obedient servants, JAMES CHESNUT JR., Aide-de-camp. STEPHEN D. LEE, Captain C. S. Army, Aide-de-camp.'

"The above note was written in one of the casemates of the fort, and in the presence of Major Anderson and several of his officers. On receiving it, he was much affected. He seemed to realize the full import of the consequences, and the great responsibility of his position. Escorting us to the boat at the wharf, he cordially pressed our hands in farewell, remarking, 'If we never meet in this world again, God grant that we may meet in the next.'

Continued on page 8 . . .

**MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS:
DIVISION CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY AT BEAUVOIR**

Confederate Memorial Day – April 24, 2010
Beauvoir – Biloxi, Ms

This year Confederate Memorial Day at Beauvoir will be Saturday April 24, 2010. On the agenda will be Commander in Chief McMichael dedicating the new Jefferson Davis monument at 11:00 am on Saturday. Commander McMichael will be the guest speaker at the memorial service at the cemetery at 2:00 pm. At noon there will be a pot luck dinner on the grounds. This year will also mark the 30th anniversary of the Unknown Soldier. The Unknown Soldier stands for so many that sacrificed everything.

Everyone participating in the color guard/musket please be on the grounds and ready by 10:00 am. Anyone who would like to bring their cannon please let me know.

On Friday I am organizing a living history at Beauvoir. Please let me know if you can help. We need to let the public know that Southern heritage is not dead and the only way to do that is to take the lead.

Confederate Memorial Day at Beauvoir is Division organized. Your participation is important. We are the last stand. What we do today will decide what our children learn tomorrow.

If you have any question please contact me at email: harrywjrmason@bellsouth.net or 228-832-3343.

Duty Honor Sacrifice,
Wallace Mason, Chairman Of the Confederate Memorial Day Committee at Beauvoir
Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

NEWS FROM BEAUVOIR

Greetings from Beauvoir!

160 foundation piers 30-60 feet deep are now being installed(scroll down to see photos below). Completion time will be August 2011 for the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum.

Confederate Memorial Day at Beauvoir-April 24,2010 – Confederate Memorial Day for the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, is April 24, 2010 at Beauvoir. The Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, The Honorable Chuck McMichael, will be the Keynote Speaker. At 11:00 a.m. Presentation of the new Jefferson Davis Statue by The Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, The Honorable Chuck McMichael.

At 12:00 p.m. Dinner on the grounds of Beauvoir, bring your favorite covered dish!
2:00 p.m. Memorial Service and Wreath-Laying Ceremony. Sons of Confederate Veterans camps and United Daughters of the Confederacy chapters will be laying wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier. Keynote Address by The Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, The Honorable Chuck McMichael. Contact Wallace Mason for details (228) 832-3343.



**CONFEDERATE HERITAGE MONTH
POSTER – REMEMBER APRIL IS
CONFEDERATE HERITAGE MONTH!!**

April, as you know, is Confederate History Month, and the Division has planned something new for this year. A poster has been produced for distribution to all the schools and libraries in the state. This means that we have a lot give out in our area. Please make all effort to help the Camp get these posters out during the month of April. Pick some up at the next Camp meeting and distribute them as much as possible. These posters should be distributed to schools and public libraries. Larry McCluney has covered Leflore County with 50 posters so far.

**The Month of April is
BY PROCLAMATION OF THE
GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI**

CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH

Holt Collier (1848-1936) was a noted African-American bear hunter and sportsman who contributed to popular culture by helping to create the Teddy Bear phenomenon. Born about 1848 and raised in Mississippi, he joined the Confederate military during the War for Southern Independence, serving with Company 7 of the North Texas Cavalry in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama. Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge in the Greenville/Holmdel area and the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #2119 in West Point are named in Collier's honor. He died on August 1, 1936 and is buried in Greenville, Mississippi.

A native of Noxubee County, he served in Company D of Perrin's Regiment of Volunteer Cavalry. He was wounded at Lost Mountain, Ga., June 12, 1864.

Some of the almost 2250 Confederate soldiers that lie at rest beneath the sweeping Magnolia trees at Friendship Cemetery in Columbus, site of the Nation's first Memorial Day. There are over 8000 known Confederate graves in Mississippi.

The flag in the upper left corner is the "Magnolia Flag", the official flag of the Sovereign Republic of Mississippi from January 26, 1861 till 1864. The flag in the upper right corner is the current official flag of the State of Mississippi as adopted by the legislature in 1894 and affirmed by the Citizens of the State by a 2 to 1 margin in a special election held in 1894.

The main background depicts the "Barnie Blue Flag". This flag was presented by Virginia Barry McArthur during a concert in Jackson, Mississippi, in the spring of 1861.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

**115TH REUNION - MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
AND 16TH REUNION - MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY, ORDER OF CONFEDERATE ROSE
Grenada, Mississippi – June 4-6, 2010**

Hosted by the Major-General E. C. Walthall Camp #211 and Belle Edmondson Chapter #14, MSOCR

NAME(S) / TITLE _____

SCV CAMP and/or OCR CHAPTER
NAME & NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # (H) _____ (C) _____ E-MAIL _____

SPOUSE NAME (for badge) _____

GUEST NAME _____

GUEST NAME _____

REGISTRATION AMOUNTS

SCV and OCR Registration: (NOTE - All registered members will receive a name badge, a SCV convention medal*, program, and a bag of goodies. Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. *OCR registrants will have a Tea in lieu of the medal.) Please register for your respective organization below.

On or before May 1, 2010 \$ 25.00 for each organization's registration Qty: _____ \$ _____

After May 1, 2010 \$ 30.00 for each organization's registration Qty: _____ \$ _____

Ancestor Memorials: Each memorial is \$10.00. **PLEASE** Print or type each memorial on separate page. Qty: _____ \$ _____

Program Ads: \$100.00 for full page; \$50.00 for half a page; \$25.00 for quarter page; \$15.00 for a business card size advertising (**Please submit ad information on a separate page before April 30 or with registration form**) \$ _____

Banquet Registration (per plate) \$ 20.00 Qty: _____ \$ _____
(No Meal Registration after May 25, 2010) Buffet Dinner (Pulled Pork, Rotisserie Chicken, and Fixings)

Tours: Confederate Tour of Grenada 1:30 to 4:30 No. _____ FREE
Non OCR ladies that would like to attend the Tea \$10.00 Qty: _____ \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cecil Fayard – 662-417-6089; e-mail: cecilafayard@msn.com , Keith Spence – 662-226-8797; e-mail: spencecsa1@aol.com

OCR Information, Contact: Mary Leigh Stoker – 662-226-1332; e-mail: marystoker@cableone.net or
Kathy Latham– 662-417-2422; e-mail: kathylatham@cableone.net

Convention Motel – Hampton Inn in Grenada. Reservations can be made by calling 662-226-1886, ask for the Mississippi Division, SCV Convention rate. Rates are \$79.00 + tax a night. Reservations MUST BE MADE before May 15, 2010. Reservations after this date will revert back to the regular rate. Cancellations must be made BEFORE May 25, 2010. All rooms include complimentary hot breakfast every morning.

**Make Checks payable to: SCV Camp #211
Mail Checks to: Keith Spence, 2880 Mt. Carmel Rd., Grenada, MS 38901**

THE "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" - SURRENDER AT APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE

On April 9, 1865 after four years of Civil War, approximately 630,000 deaths and over 1 million casualties, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, at the home of Wilmer and Virginia McLean in the town of Appomattox Court House, Virginia. General Lee arrived at the McLean home shortly after 1:00 p.m. followed a half hour later by General Grant. The meeting lasted approximately an hour and a half. The surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia allowed the Federal Government to bring increased pressure to bear in other parts of the south and would result in the surrender of the remaining field armies of the Confederacy over the next few months.

On April 26th General Joseph Johnston surrendered to Major General W. T. Sherman near Durham, North Carolina (Bennett Place State Historical Park), on May 4th General Richard Taylor (son of Zachary Taylor 12th President of the United States) surrendered at Citronelle, Alabama, on June 2nd General Edmund Kirby Smith surrendered the Confederate Department of the Trans Mississippi to Major General Canby, and on June 23rd General Stand Watie surrendered Cherokee forces in Oklahoma. The following is an account of that event . . .

On the morning of April 9, while General Robert E. Lee realized that the retreat of his beleaguered army had finally been halted, U. S. Grant was riding toward Appomattox Court House where Union Cavalry, followed by infantry from the V, XXIV, and XXV Corps had blocked the Confederate path.

Lee had sent a letter to Grant requesting a meeting to discuss his army's surrender and this letter overtook Grant and his party just before noon about four miles west of Walker's Church (present-day Hixburg). Grant, who had been suffering from a severe headache, later remembered that upon reading Lee's letter the pain in his head had disappeared. He stopped to prepare his reply to Lee, writing that he would push to the front to meet him. The location of the meeting was left to Lee's discretion.

Lt. Colonel Orville E. Babcock and his orderly, Capt. Dunn, took Grant's reply and rode ahead. Babcock found Lee resting under an apple tree near the Appomattox River. After reading Grant's letter, Lee, his Aide-de-Camp Lt. Colonel Charles Marshall, and Private Joshua O. Johns rode toward Appomattox Court House accompanied by Federal Officers Lt. Col. Babcock and Capt. William McKee Dunn. Marshall and Johns rode ahead of Lee in order to find a place for the generals to confer. As Marshall passed through the village he saw Wilmer McLean in the vicinity of the courthouse. He asked McLean if he knew of a suitable location, and McLean took him to an empty structure that was without furniture. Marshall immediately rejected this offer. Then McLean offered his own home. After seeing the comfortable country abode, Marshall readily accepted and sent Private Johns back to inform General Lee that a meeting site had been found.

Lee arrived at the McLean house about one o'clock and took a seat in the parlor. A half hour later, the sound of horses on the stage road signalled the approach of General Grant. Entering the house, Grant greeted Lee in the center of the room. The generals presented a contrasting appearance; Lee in a new uniform and Grant in his mud-spattered field uniform. Grant, who remembered meeting Lee once during the Mexican War, asked the Confederate general if he recalled their meeting. Lee replied that he did, and the two conversed in a very cordial manner, for approximately 25 minutes. The subject had not yet gotten around to surrender until finally, Lee, feeling the anguish of defeat, brought Grant's attention to it. Grant, who later confessed to being embarrassed at having to ask for the surrender from Lee, said simply that the terms would be just as he had outlined them in a previous letter. These terms would parole officers and enlisted men but required that all Confederate military equipment be relinquished.

The discussion between the generals then drifted into the prospects for peace, but Lee, once again taking the lead, asked Grant to put his terms in writing. When Grant finished, he handed the terms to his former adversary, and Lee -- first donning spectacles used for reading-- quietly looked them over. When he finished reading, the bespectacled Lee looked up at Grant and remarked "This will have a very happy effect on my army."

Lee asked if the terms allowed his men to keep their horses, for in the Confederate army, men owned their mounts. Lee explained that his men would need these animals to farm once they returned to civilian life. Grant responded that he would not change the terms as written (which had no provisions allowing private soldiers to keep their mounts) but would order his officers to allow any Confederate claiming a horse or a mule to keep it. General Lee agreed that this concession would go a long way toward promoting healing. Grant's generosity extended further. When Lee mentioned that his men had been without rations for several days, the Union commander arranged for 25,000 rations to be sent to the hungry Confederates.

After formal copies of the surrender terms and Lee's acceptance had been drafted and exchanged, the meeting ended. In a war that was marked by such divisiveness and bitter fighting, it is remarkable that it ended so simply. Grant's compassion and generosity did much to allay the emotions of the Confederate troops. As for Robert E. Lee, he realized that the best course was for his men to return home and resume their lives as American citizens. Before he met with General Grant, one of Lee's officers (General E. Porter Alexander) had suggested fighting a guerilla war, but Lee had rejected the idea. It would only cause more pain and suffering for a cause that was lost. The character of both Lee and Grant was of such a high order that the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia has been called "The Gentlemen's Agreement."

**The Delta General
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It was then 4 A.M. Captain James at once aroused his command, and arranged to carry out the order. He was a great admirer of Roger A. Pryor, and said to him, 'You are the only man to whom I would give up the honor of firing the first gun of the war'; and he offered to allow him to fire it. Pryor, on receiving the offer, was very much agitated. With a husky voice he said, 'I could not fire the first gun of the war.' His manner was almost similar to that of Major Anderson as we left him a few moments before on the wharf at Fort Sumter. Captain James would allow no one else but himself to fire the gun.

The boat with the aides of General Beauregard left Fort Johnson before arrangements were complete for the firing of the gun, and laid on its oars, about one-third the distance between the fort and Sumter, there to witness the firing of 'the first gun of the war' between the States. It was fired from a ten-inch mortar at 4:30 A.M., April 12th, 1861. Captain James was a skillful officer, and the firing of the shell was a success. It burst immediately over the fort, apparently about one hundred feet above.

The firing of the mortar woke the echoes from every nook and corner of the harbor, and in this the dead hour of the night, before dawn, that shot was a sound of alarm that brought every soldier in the harbor to his feet, and every man, woman and child in the city of Charleston from their beds. A thrill went through the whole city. It was felt that the Rubicon was passed. No one thought of going home; unused as their ears were to the appalling sounds, or the vivid flashes from the batteries, they stood for hours fascinated with horror."

References: Stephen Lee's account appears in: Buel, Clarence, and Robert U. Johnson, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. I (1888, reprinted. 1982); McPherson, James M. Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era (1988); Niven, John, The Coming of the Civil War 1837-1861 (1990).



Fort Sumter after the battle
The Confederate Flag flies above it

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