

THE DELTA GENERAL

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

INDIANOLA, MS.

VOL- 2 # 2

APRIL 1994



B. G. HUMPHREYS

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THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY : MR. ALTON ALDERMAN

This month the newsletter is sponsored by our fellow compatriot: Alton Alderman. Mr Alderman ancestor is Pvt. John Henry Alderman late of the 26th Georgia Regiment of the Georgia Volunteers. Pvt. J.H. Alderman was killed in action on August 29, 1862 at the Battle of Second Manassas.

"LETTER FROM THE EDITOR"

HELLO FRIENDS & NEIGHOBORS!

And you all are truly my friends. What an exciting time we are in the middle of....April is Confederate Heratage Month; and I hope everyone celebrates one way or another. There are many ways to show your heritage this month and I have A few suggestions for you.

April 16-17
"BATTLE OF CLINTON" a Civil War (sic) re-enactment involving the Mississippi College Campus and surrounding areas.

April 14-16
HOLLY SPRINGS
spring pilgrimage and a re-enactment at WALLS.

April 21
INDIANOLA
Meeting of SCV camp #1625
Speaker: Lamar Roberts

April 24
BILOXI
CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY.

April 1-30
VICKSBURG
Activities all month long.
Go...I mean it!!

May
"Battle of Champions Hill" off I-20 lots of noise and other good stuff.

I challenge everyone to go to at least one of these events; or maybe even go pick up a good history book at (perchance).....the library.

YOUR EDITOR & FRIEND

GARY W. SHELTON

"Adjutant's Report"

I am happy to report our membership is still growing slowly and steadily. Our newest members are:

Kevin Magee of Leland,
Albert Tidwell of Leland,

Ronnie Hughes of Avon,
and Charlie Craig of Friars
Point.

This brings our membership to 42. If you have any friends who might be interested in joining our Camp, please let me know and I will be glad to send them more information about the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

It is time for all our Charter Members to renew their memberships. That is, all those members who joined the Camp when we first formed. If I failed to send you a notice or if you are unsure if you were a Charter Member, please call me. I need these in soon in order to guarantee your magazine subscription won't be interrupted. My thanks to those of you who responded so quickly with your renewals. I will be sending your 1994 membership cards when I receive them from the General Headquarters.

We had 17 in attendance at our March meeting. If you weren't there, you missed a great slide presentation by Mike Beiser, Commander of the Second Brigade. Let's all make a conscious effort to better support our Camp meetings in 1994. Bring your wives, families, and friends to enjoy our programs and the fellowship of being with others who are interested in our history.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next Camp meeting, April 21. Until then, keep these words in mind: "Our Confederate ancestors left to us traditions of faith in God, honor, chivalry, and respect for womanhood...Our Confederate ancestors bequeathed to us a military tradition of valor, patriotism, devotion to duty, and a spirit of self-sacrifice unequalled in history...It is

the noble and patriotic purpose of all those who join the Sons of Confederate Veterans that the bravery and self-sacrifice of our Confederate forbearers be not forgotten and that the memory of their deeds, and our Southern culture and tradition, be preserved and passed on to our posterity as a proud part of our national heritage."

Deo Vindice,
David Williford, Camp Adjutant

The following was sent to us from Ken Payne who got this from an old CONFEDERATE VETERAN magazine.

The following are a few incidents from the Battle of Spottsylvania Court House from the viewpoint of Pvt. William Meade Dame, 1st Company Richmond Howitzers: In the meantime, while we had been fighting out in that field, events were taking place near us, of which we, absorbed in the work before us and deafened by the roar of our guns, had taken little notice at the time. As had been described, there was a body of woods some distance off to our right, and another, to our left. When we went into position we had not seen any of our troops, and did not know of the presence of any, near us. We thought we were without support, but as I intimated some time back, we were better off than we knew. It seems, that before we came on the ground, Barksdale's Mississippi Brigade, which had been marching behind us, had filed off the road, and which we were up on the hill with the cavalry, had quietly and silently passed into that body

of woods to our right, unseen by the enemy. Along the front edge of that wood ran an old rail fence, covered all over with the luxuriant vine known as "Virginia Creeper." Wide open fields extending in front. Soon, the ground behind that fence was covered with another sort of "creeper," not as good a "runner" as that on the fence, nor as "green," but just as tough of fibre, and as hard to "hold on" when it had once fixed itself, - the "Mississippi Creeper." Silently, as ghosts, the Brigade glided in behind that fence, and lay low, and waited. Right here, was where the Federal' idea of quietly occupying the Spottsylvania line was going to prove a snare. They had not the dimmest suspicion that we were ahead of them, and between them and that line. They came on, with guileless confidence and walked right into trouble. Presently, a line of battle with columns of troops behind came marching across the fields upon the concealed Mississippians. Nearer and nearer they came, unsuspecting any danger, till they got nearly up to the fence. One man had actually thrown his leg over the rail to mount. Suddenly! As lightning out of a clear sky, a blinding sheet of flame flashed into their very faces. Then after one volley, swiftly came the dreadful, venomous roll of musketry, the Mississippians loading and firing "at will," every man as fast as he could. It was just if "the angel of death spread his wings to the blast and breathed in the face of the foe as he passed."

That withering fire tore the ranks of that Division to pieces. It didn't take those fellows half a second to decide what to do. With yells

of dismay, they charged back, out of that hornet's nest, as if the devil was after them. In headlong rout, they rushed wildly back across the fields, and disappeared in the woods beyond.

They left four hundred and two of their number in front of that fence, and before the fugitives got out of range, their General of Division, General Robinson, was seriously wounded.

Some of our men went out among the Federal wounded to do what they could for their relief. An officer of a Mississippi Regiment came upon a Federal Colonel who lay to all appearance mortally wounded, and gave him a drink of water, and did what else he could for his comfort. The Federal took out a fine gold watch, and said, "Here is a watch that I value very highly. You have been very kind to me, and I would like you to have it, as I am going die. If I should get over this, and send to you for it you will let me have it, if not, I want you to keep it. But," he said sadly, "my wound is mortal, I am obliged to die." The Mississippian left him, and went back to his post, supposing him dead.

Many years after the war, the Mississippi officer was in Baltimore at Barnum's Hotel. One day, he got into casual talk with a gentleman, at dinner, and, as he seemed to be a good fellow, they smoked their cigars together after dinner, and continued their conversation. By and by they got on the war. It came out, that both of them had served, and on opposite sides. Finally, in telling some particular incidents his experience, the Federal soldier described this very fight, his being, as he

thought mortally wounded, kindness shown him by a Confederate officer, and his gift to him, of his watch. The Southern man said, "What is your name?" "Col. ----, of Robinson's Division," he replied. "Can you be the man? Have I struck you at last?" cried the ex-Confederate. "I've got your watch, and here it is, with your name engraved in it."

It was a singular incident, that these two should meet again so! The meeting was most cordial; the Federal was delighted to get his watch again, made doubly valuable by so strange a history.

While this bloody episode was enacting by the Mississippi Brigade, in the woods to our right, an almost exactly similar scene was going on, in the woods to our left. A portion of Kershaw's South Carolina Brigade was unwittingly stumbled upon "Griffin's" Division in the pines. Another complete ambush! The South Carolinians suddenly sprang before the Federal, let them have it, broke and routed them, and killed, and wounded eighty-seven of them. Our loss was one man. Things were so sudden, so close here, that one of Kershaw's men killed Federal soldier, and wounded another with an axe happened to have in his hand.

Monumental Mistake:
Mississippi Missing from
Gettysburg Memorial

NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Gettysburg, Pa. - No one's calling it a monumental mistake, but officials at Gettysburg National Military Park are wondering how Mississippi got left off the newest memorial honoring

states whose soldiers fought on the Civil War battlefield.

They're also baffled about how Kentucky made it onto the monument, since that state sent no soldiers to the bloody three-day battle in July 1863.

The monument's designer questions it too, since historians all the way up to President Clinton's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation approved the plans.

"We were the ones who messed up," said George Hohenschildt, grand master for the Pennsylvania Freemasons.

The sculpture depicts a scene from Pickett's Charge, during which a Union captain aided a fatally wounded Confederate general. Both were Masons. The monument is titled, "Friend to friend: A Brotherhood Undivided." Or so everyone thought.

Park officials were unaware of the error until a Mississippi visitor to the battlefield inquired why the Confederate state, which had suffered heavy casualties, wasn't listed.

The goof has just been corrected, at a cost to the Masons of \$4,000.

Architect Ed Junkin of JWF Architects Inc. in Harrisburg said stone masons "took out the Kentucky stone, moved Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan and Minnesota to the left and inserted Mississippi on the right."

Hohenschildt said the Masons, when researching the war for the memorial, accidentally put Kentucky in Mississippi's place. The error was passed on to Junkin's firm, which designed the memorial.

Junkin said he put Kentucky into the drawings of the proposed monument, and five state and federal offices

approved them with the mistake. Among them were park officials, the state Historic Preservation Officer and Clinton's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

"A lot of people had the opportunity to review those plans," he said.

Kathy Harrison, a park historian, said she didn't think the drawings named the states, although she wasn't sure since she never saw them. But her office had faxed the Masons a list of the correct 29 states.

"We're still trying to figure out what happened," she said.

It's not the first time an error ended up on a monument at the park, Harrison said. Quite a few have names misspelled. Some are changed. Others are let go.

The park's largest monument, the Pennsylvania Monument, which honors 35,000 soldiers from the state who fought at Gettysburg, underwent 945 changes in the first four years after it was erected in 1910.

Harrison said 230 names were misspelled, 219 were added and 496 were removed.

Construction Workers Find Civil War Shell

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Memphis, Tenn. What do you do with a 64 pound Civil War (sic) era mortar shell that still has its fuse?

Guy Weaver keeps the one his company dug up a few weeks ago in a 5-gallon bucket of water until he can find someone to defuse it.

He's talking to the Army and thinking about calling the Navy for help. Memphis police wanted to blow it up, he said.

Weaver, an archaeologist, wants to keep it intact as an important artifact.

Weaver is branch manager for Garrow & Associates, Inc., an Atlanta firm that conducts the kind of studies often required before major construction can take place, especially if that construction uses some federal funds.

The live shell was discovered at the site of the new Auto Zone corporate headquarters.

Archaeologists from Garrow & Associates were hired by AutoZone and the City of Memphis to keep an eye out for anything important that might turn up as old buildings go down and the headquarters building goes up.

The shell turned up in one of two wells found when construction crews tore out a concrete basement. The 26-foot-deep wells were filled with artifacts dating to the 1860's and 1870's, Weaver said.

"We got some pretty wonderful stuff from those wells," he said.

Including the mortar shell that looks something like a cannonball or a bowling ball.

Technically, Weaver says, the artifact is an 8-inch mortar shell in a spherical case with a Borman-type fuse. It was built for firing in a 9-inch Dahlgren smoothbore mortar, he said.

It was found in the well at the same level as an 1866 two-cent coin. The shell may be of the type used by the Navy during the federal occupation of Memphis just after the Civil War, Weaver said.

He speculates that the shell was found near the area sometime later.

"Just for safety reasons, they threw it down the well,"

he says.

Now, he said, "There's no danger unless it comes in contact with fire or is dropped," he said. Actually, said Lt. John Dwyer, a spokesman for the police department, the shell is probably harmless because of its time in the dampness of the well.

The mortar shell is among hundreds of 19th Century items taken from the construction site by the Garrow archaeologists.

Workers at the Memphis branch of Garrow & Associates are cleaning and restoring old shoes, belt buckles, bottles, jewelry and other items.

"Mansion on Beale Shares Tantalizing Snippets of History"

By William Thomas
The Commercial Appeal

A photo of Jefferson Davis, made in Memphis at a Main Street studio, may be the only one of its kind. Bill Day found this and another picture of Davis this week among papers from the Hunt-Phelan Mansion. Russ Pritchard, head of the Civil War Library in Philadelphia, told Day that he thought he'd seen every Jefferson Davis picture ever made, but he'd never seen this one.

The house of secrets at 533 Beale has yielded what may be its best stuff so far.

Three boxes of memorabilia, including a Memphis-made photograph of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, were discovered this week at the Hunt-Phelan Mansion.

The memorabilia - most of its dating from the 1860s - includes about 20 handwritten

letters from Jefferson Davis and Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Civil War general.

The discovery was made by Bill Day, heir to the 165-year-old mansion, which Memphis State University historian Charles Crawford has called "the most historic homes in Memphis,"

Because of the richness of its past - Gen. Ulysses S. Grant planned the Vicksburg campaign there - others have called it the best-kept secret in town.

Until last year, the house at the corner of Beale and Lauderdale had been tucked away in a time warp, half-hidden by dense cover and "keep out" signs.

That changed when the owner, Stephen Rice Phelan, 87, a well-known recluse, died and left the home to Day, his second cousin. Day is working to turn the home into a museum.

Day, president of the Hunt-Phelan Home Foundation, said Thursday he found the latest photographs, letters and documents while going through some of the boxes of material he has stored in a large warehouse in East Memphis. He moved thousands of items out of the house and into the warehouse months ago so he could examine them one by one.

As Day remembers it, some of the letters were concealed in the pages of books and in a pile of papers on the floor of a second-story bedroom. All are dated after the war ended in 1865.

"As I was going through these letters, I kept seeing the names of General Forrest and Jefferson Davis," he said. "Suddenly, it hit me what I was looking at. Here are the signatures of some of the most famous men of their time."

For the most part, the

letters are addressed to Col. William Richardson Hunt, who owned the house before and after the Civil War. During the war, the house was occupied by federal troops, and, among other things, served as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

Besides the letters, Day found a set of "cuffbuttons" presented to his great grandfather by the president of the Confederacy. He also found a presidential pardon from Andrew Johnson, who forgave Hunt for taking part in the Civil War, or, as he put it, "the late rebellion against the government of the United States."

According to Day, Hunt was a chief of ordinance for the Confederacy and was in charge of a large arsenal in Selma, Ala.

Although historians have not seen the latest items, Day took them to Collierville Middle School Thursday to show them to a seventh-grade geography class where a nephew is a student.

"Part of the purpose of the Hunt-Phelan Foundation is education," he said, so I thought I'd show these kids what we've found before we turn it over to the historians. Once they get it, it will be a long time before we see it again.

Russ Pritchard, who heads the Civil War Library in Philadelphia, has offered to buy the photo of Davis, the letters and other items, Day said.

But Day, who is Pritchard's cousin, has other plans.

"Everything will stay right here in Memphis," he said.

"First, it will be turned over to historians at Memphis State University and after they've finished with it, we'll put it under glass to preserve it and

display it at the Hunt-Phelan Mansion."

However, that likely won't happen for a while. Day has received a \$145,364 grant from the city to make repairs and he said he's spent another \$300,000 of his own money to restore the house, which was built in 1828.

Problem is he needs another \$1.5 million to complete the work. Thursday, he challenged the Shelby County government to match the city's grant and the federal government to match both grants.

Day is not the only man to seek federal money for the house.

After Hunt was pardoned, he wrote Washington asking for rent on the house during the time it had been occupied by the Yankees.

Pointing out that it had been held and used by military authority 1862-65, he asked for \$2,500 compensation. The federal government said no.

However, on Nov. 1, 1865, the government returned the house, by then called "the soldiers home."

Six generations of the Hunt-Phelan family have dwelt on the property. And they're had some famous visitors - Martin Van Buren, Andrew Jackson, Grover Cleveland, and Jefferson Davis.

Day believes his latest discovery may be only the tip of the iceberg.

"We still have 500-600 boxes to go through, and I'm sure there will be more discoveries to make," he said. "It's slow going, and we could use some help, if anybody wants to volunteer."

**CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS MAKE
GOOD DO-IT-YOURSELF TOUR**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Richmond, VA. - "By George, this is a magnificent field, and if we win this fight it will cover all our errors and misfortunes forever!" said Union General George B. McClellan.

As American interest in the Civil War rages on, vacationers ponder the ability to relive history that occurred primarily in the "magnificent fields" that are so peaceful today. Planning

A week-long trip encompassing the start and finish of the war, as well as major turning points in between, would seem impossible - let alone enjoyable for the entire family. But Hilton's suggested Do-It-Yourself Civil War Tour does just that, without the burden of having to ponder

and plan the prudence of each move as General McClellan did.

Beginning in Richmond and ending in Gettysburg, Pa., the tour uses Richmond and Washington D.C. as home bases from which to travel to other major sites by car. Perfect for a family, there are no long stretches of driving without interesting stops along the way.

Day 1: Start your tour in Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy. "On to Richmond" was the rallying cry of Union troops and the city their primary objective for four years.

Day 2: Petersburg, Va, was site of the longest siege on the largest battlefield. Just 23 miles south of Richmond, this battle is where Generals Lee and Grant struggled 10 months over this vital rail center.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield, Rice, Va., is 50 miles west of Petersburg. This battlefield saw the loss of nearly a

fourth of General Lee's men during his retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox. Appomattox is 40 miles beyond Rice, where Lee surrendered to Grant at the private home of John McLean on April 9, 1865, leading to the war's conclusion. Return to Richmond for the evening.

Day 3: Pack up the bags and head 60 miles north of Richmond to Fredericksburg. Within a 17 mile radius are the sites of four major battles - Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House.

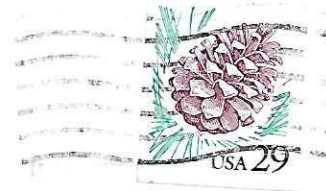
Day 4: Washington D.C. was considered defenseless at the beginning of the war, by the end it was probably the most fortified of cities. Today, it is filled with statues and monuments to Civil War heroes. Notable sites include Ford's Theatre where President Lincoln was shot, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Day 5: Manassas, Va. A close 25 miles southwest of Washington D.C., Manassas was the first major battle of the war. On July 21, 1861, Union troops met the Confederates in the first massive clash of the war - the First Battle of Manassas, referred to by the North as the Battle of Bull Run after a nearby creek.

Day 6: Visit Harper's Ferry, W. Va., then continue north 18 miles to Sharpsburg, Md., where the battle of Antietam was held.

Day 7: The tour ends at Gettysburg, Pa. Across the Mason-Dixon line (the Maryland and Pennsylvania border), 78 miles north of Washington D.C., the three-day battle on July 1-3, 1863, was a turning point in the war. This was also the sight of Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address.

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