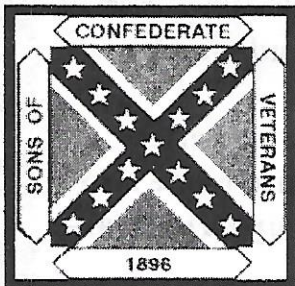




The Delta General

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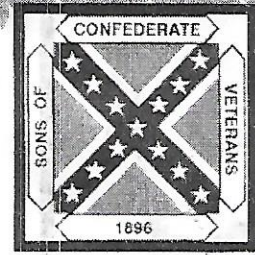
THE DELTA GENERAL
 P.O. Box 63
 Webb, Ms . . . 38966



Mr. Dan McCaskill
 205 Cypress Street
 Leland, MS 38756

"Remember, it is your DUTY to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations" — Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee

Commander's Note: Earl McCown Jr.



Greetings;

We are entering a most Holy Season with the Christmas Holidays upon us. We are indeed comfortable, warm and Blessed. Consider the hardships that our Confederate Ancestors endured and remember them at this time of the year. I take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Happy Holiday Season.

The end of the year is approaching and I urge those of you who have not paid your dues to do so now. We need you as part of our camp and we also need the support that you give in protecting our Heritage.

We have had a very successful year and look forward to an even better year in 2001. I hope to see you all at our December meeting. Please come and bring your family and freinds. Please continue to remember Compatriot Har- tley Sanford in room 505 Greenwood Leflore Hospital.

Your Obedient Servent,
Earl M. McCown Jr., Commander


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Recap Of the November Meeting, Our Next Meeting is December 21

If you missed the November meeting then you missed a treat in deed. Our meeting featured several events, first, the War Medal presentation was made to Earl McCown, Dan McCaskill, Oliver McCaskill, Ralph Lindsey, Sr., and Randle Furr. These men were honored by the Camp for their self sacrifice in defending our nation through three various wars, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Second, we discussed plans for the Lee/Jackson Banquet and set the time, place, date, and guest speaker.

Our guest speaker that night was Jeff Gaimbrone who dazzled us with his pictures of Vicksburg during the war. It was amazing to see the landscape and buildings in Vicksburg during the war and some of those that are still standing.

Our next meeting will be on December 21 featuring our guest speaker He will be speaking on Mississippi during the Reconstruction period. Also, there will be an induction ceremony of new OCR members as well. We will be finalizing plans for the Lee/Jackson Banquet so make plans to attend this meeting.



Battle of Liberty Reenactment: A first event for many

On November 10-12, 2000, the Camp reenactors took part in the Battle of Liberty Reenactment in Liberty, MS. This was the first time many in our group attended this event but it was great getting back to portraying Confederates since the last two events we were at we had to put on the blue suite.

At Liberty, we had the honor of portraying Co. K., 30th Mississippi Infantry, CSA. Two members of our Camp had ancestors in this distinguished regiment, Lt. Commander Alan Palmer and Commander Earl McCown, so it was an opportunity to honor their ancestors. Alan's ancestor was the Captain of Company K.

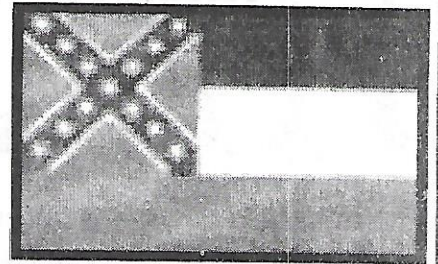
There was great fellowship as always with Cary and Gary Devers from Starkville who have joined our CS Marine Unit. If you have not met these gentlemen you need to take the opportunity to meet them at the Reenactment of Fort Pemberton. These guys are "Hardcore" in portraying the true lifestyle of the Confederate soldier. They are well respected in the area and it is an honor to us that they requested joining our unit.

We were well received by the event sponsors. So well received that we were given the opportunity to make the death charge on the Federal lines that opened the gap for the Confederate main body to move in. Let it be known that we all died with honor . . . Oh and for the first time at an event, Earl did not actually get shot!!! The Brigade honored Earl McCown as a true Veteran of the States' Rights Brigade with his many wounds at every event this year. Also honored was Brian McCraven for his "SPY" tactics at Grenada which saved our unit from great embarrassment at the Grenada event and allowed us to be prepared for an ambush at night.

The meal provided by the event sponsors was delicious. Everyone received half of a BBQ chicken. A fine meal indeed for everyone. The best time was just enjoying the fellowship around the Campfire and getting away from the rigors of the 20th Century. If you have never been to a reenactment, please take the time to see one and step back into a more simpler time.

Winter: Flag panel likely to endorse vote

The state flag advisory commission will probably recommend having a referendum on a new flag design, former Gov. William Winter told The Clarion-Ledger editorial board Tuesday. It was one of the first public hints about what commissioners might recommend to lawmakers when the commission meets next week. Winter, the advisory commission's chairman, said he thinks a vote of the general public will be racially "divisive." But he said after talking to several rank-and-file legislators, he thinks it's a "political reality" that many legislators don't want to decide the flag controversy and the only way to adopt a new flag design would be to send it to a vote of the general public. "If we do make a change, it's probably necessary to validate it with a vote," Winter said during a meeting with The Clarion-Ledger editorial board. The commission meets at 1:30 p.m. next Tuesday at the Capitol. It is expected to recommend a new state flag that eliminates a Confederate emblem.



While some say the symbol represents Southern heritage, others say it's a reminder of slavery and oppression. In a separate development Tuesday, the secretary of state's office said paperwork has been filed for an initiative to get a public vote on whatever design the advisory commission recommends. This is the start of the second petition drive to get the flag issue on ballots. Several months ago, people who want to readopt the flag with the Confederate emblem started gathering signatures to get a vote on that flag. Supporters say they've gathered about 40,000 of the 91,673 names needed to get that on ballots. The paperwork for the new initiative was mailed in last week by John Thomas Cripps of Wiggins, who is already working on the first petition drive. In a phone interview, Cripps said he won't support the commission's recommendation and he doesn't intend to gather any signatures on the new initiative. But he said he wants to make a point that people should get to vote on flag design.

"I don't do this to be mean-spirited," Cripps said Tuesday. "All I'm looking for here is a fair handshake. We've said it from the beginning, let's put this to a vote."

Flag design is up for debate because the state Supreme Court ruled in May that Mississippi doesn't have a flag or coat of arms. A flag with the Confederate battle emblem in the upper left corner was adopted in the post-Reconstruction days of 1894. But when state laws were updated in 1906, sections dealing with the flag weren't carried forward.

The 17-member commission recently completed five public hearings. Some people at the hearings said they want a referendum and others said they want legislators to adopt a new flag. Those requests frequently were made along racial lines: Most of the people calling for a referendum were white, and many who said legislators should resolve the issue were black. Mississippi's population is about 37 percent black, and some people who want to change the flag said they fear a vote along racial lines would overrule the wishes of a sizeable minority.

Winter said commissioners have not decided on their recommendation as to how or when a referendum might be conducted. For example, he said he did not know if there would be only the recommended new flag on the ballot or whether the 1894 flag would also be a choice. Lawmakers can adopt or ignore the commission's advice. Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck and House Speaker Tim Ford said last week they couldn't tell what lawmakers in their respective chambers will do.

A Jackson voter Tuesday said he doesn't care if it's done by legislators or by referendum — he just wants Mississippi to adopt a new flag. Mario Johnson, 23, a computer salesman, said he thinks the Confederate emblem is not a fitting symbol for a state flag.

"It definitely needs to be changed," Johnson said. "I know people have been saying the Civil War wasn't fought over slavery, but how can they say that? It was a war about civil rights, and African Americans were enslaved."



Ella Palmer Chapter #9: OCR President's Note: Annette McCluney

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Ladies of the South,

A busy time of the year is coming up for us as we make preparations for the Lee/Jackson Banquet. We need to decide what each of us are to bring for the social and what decorations will be needed for that night. Also, now that we have several ladies in our Chapter, we need to decide who can help out on the decorating of the Banquet hall that night as well. Larry will be making the programs for that night so if there is something special needed in the program, please let him know.

If you haven't noticed, we now have 14 members in our Chapter. Please take the time to welcome our new members and make them feel a part of the family. The men will have a guest speaker Thursday, December 21, and since it is close to Christmas, maybe we can do something special for the snacks that night.

As the holiday season comes upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a Dixie Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless the Southland,
Annette McCluney, President

Ancestor Memorials and Adds for the Fort Pemberton Reenactment Program

As you know, the Camp voted to sponsor and support the Reenactment of the Siege of Fort Pemberton. Ancestral memorials are being sold by the Camp Reenactors at the rate of \$5.00 an ancestor. That information should include the ancestors name, rank, unit, and any other particulars that are important about him. Also pages are being sold as well at the following rates:

\$50.00 — for a whole page

\$25.00 — for a half page

\$15.00 — for a quarter page

If you are interested, please see Larry McCluney, Scott Blaylock, or Alan Palmer for further information. It is fascinating to have found out that several of our Camp members actually had ancestors that were at Fort Pemberton so don't miss the opportunity to honor your ancestors in such a way. Please get all ancestral memorials turned in by no later than December 31, 2000. You can make checks out to the Civil War Maritime Education Foundation and mail all information to:

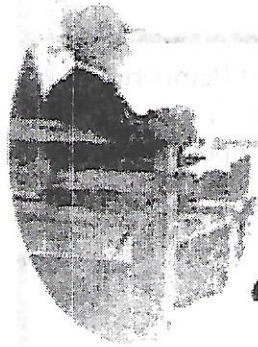
Larry McCluney
P.O. Box 63
Webb, Ms 38966

Candlelight Christmas at Beauvoir
December 15 - 16, 2000 from 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Visitors will witness Christmas traditions starting with our antebelleum roots, the Civil War, through the Davis period and the Soldiers' Home. The "Davis Family" will hold a traditional Victorian open house in their home. Jefferson, Varina and Winnie will share their favorite Christmas traditions as they take you through Beauvoir House.

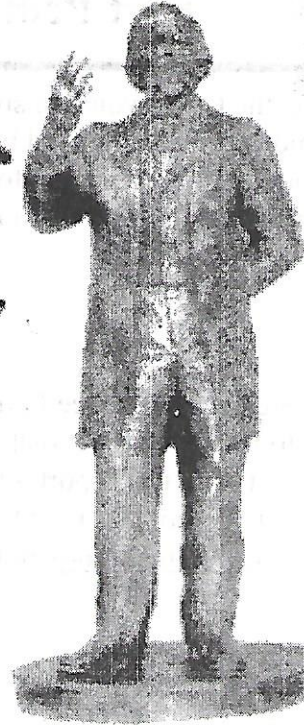
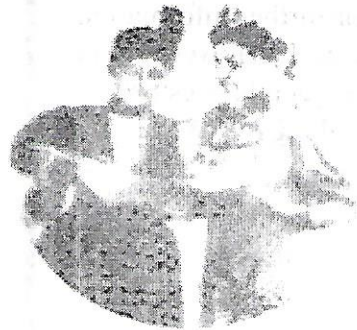
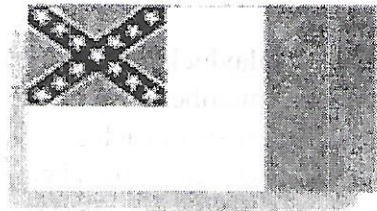
Beauvoir House will be decorated in true Victorian style by the Beach Garden Society. The gilded magnolia leaves and pine cones will be provided by the Bessie Hunt Dantzer Chapter 14, Children of the Confederacy. The Victorian tree located in the back parlor will be adorned with hand-made ornaments created by the Margaret Davis Hayes Chapter 520, Children of the Confederacy.

Jolly old St. Nick will be on hand to listen to the children's (and grown-ups) Christmas wishes. There will also be a special workshop in which guests may participate in making Victorian style crafts and ornaments.



BEAUVOIR

*Jefferson Davis Home
and Presidential Library*






A Quiet Place

by Thomas E. Guinn

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In a quiet, still and lonely graveyard, down a forgotten dirt road, near the edge of nowhere. A Confederate Soldier died alone, without a friend.



Some time ago, while traveling through North Carolina and Tennessee, the family and I, having grown weary of the many miles, decided, as is our custom, to pause along the way for a rest. When an old wooden sign appeared along the highway, with a few simple words - "Confederate Graveyard" and an arrow pointing down a small country road. We decided to take the time and see where this would lead. A few more miles after making the turn, we spotted a similar sign, now pointing down a dirt road, so we followed the directions. After another mile and a half, we came upon an entrance, built of old wooden posts, a rusty broken down fence and the same words "Confederate Graveyard" hand painted on a faded dry rotting board.

We decided to park the car just inside and walk the rest of the way. The family began looking about, and I noticed a pathway leading back into a spread of trees. Across the field at the edge of the woods, overgrown with many years of neglect, I spotted a tombstone among the weeds. Using my foot, I pushed aside the brush, and flattened it, so I could see more clearly. After looking about, in the distance I saw a broken down old shack of a house, obviously abandoned. Perhaps the occupants once cared for this lonely graveyard, at the edge of nowhere. Using my fingers, I brushed away the years, so I could see if possible, what was written on the stone. I was deeply saddened, for all it had to say was "Unknown Confederate Soldier." My God I thought, he died alone with no one to care, and nobody with whom he could share a dying word. No tears shed for him and no one to know if perhaps he had family waiting back home, or where home might have been. My eyes strained at the aged carvings; smaller words were written below. "Lord, I know him not, but don't let him be alone anymore."

On my knees, among the weeds and shrubs, at the backside of a graveyard, at the edge of eternity, I knelt in the holiest of all places, and prayed. "Precious Lord and Heavenly Master! I have lived my life, having never known the suffering, this unknown Southern Soldier must have experienced. Lord, I have never been called upon to sacrifice or to bear, even a portion of his burdens and torments. If I could but roll back the pages of time, and stand at his side, that his suffering might have been lessened. In the comfort of our modern society, we have so easily forgotten the meaning and the price of liberty and honour. Give us precious master, an understanding and a determined heart, that we might seize the moment, and liberate our Southern Land, before it once more comes to this. As the stone says Lord, I know him not, but perhaps he had a wife, children, mother, father, brothers or sisters. Kinfolks who never knew his end, that they could come to him. Thus he died alone, in pain and agony, in rags, as life slowly slipped away. Maybe it was a cold chilly, rainy and dark night, in this, the loneliest of all places, without even a blanket for comfort. Lord and Master, I ask for your blessing, that this Unknown Soldier's death be not in vain. In the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Amen and Amen!

While my prayer came to a close, I remained kneeling for what seemed like a moment, but the family soon called, indicating time was passing and we had been there a long time. I don't know how you might feel, but as for me. The above pictures so much remind me of the day, when I turned down a dirt road, and left a part of myself, beside an Unknown Confederate Soldier's Grave, in an out of the way, overgrown and lonely place, at the back side of nowhere. God Save the South!

CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF '62

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by William Gordon McCabe
(1841-1920)

The wintry blast goes wailing by, the snow is falling overhead;
I hear the lonely sentry's tread, and distant watch-fires light the sky.

Dim forms go flitting through the gloom; the soldiers cluster round the
blaze to talk of other Christmas days, and softly speak of home and home.

My sabre swinging overhead gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow, while
fiercely drives the blinding snow, and memory leads me to the dead.

My thoughts go wandering to and fro, vibrating between the Now and Then;
I see the low-browed home again, the old hall wreathed with mistletoe.

And sweetly from the far-off years comes borne the laughter faint and
low, the voices of the Long Ago! My eyes are wet with tender tears.

I feel again the mother-kiss, I see again the glad surprise that light-
ened up the tranquil eyes and brimmed them o'er with tears of bliss,

As, rushing from the old hall-door, she fondly clasped her wayward boy--
Her face all radiant with the joy she felt to see him home once more.

My sabre swinging on the bough gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,
while fiercely drives the blinding snow aslant upon my saddened brow.

Those cherished faces all are gone! Asleep within the quiet graves
Where lies the snow in drifting waves,-- and I am sitting here alone.

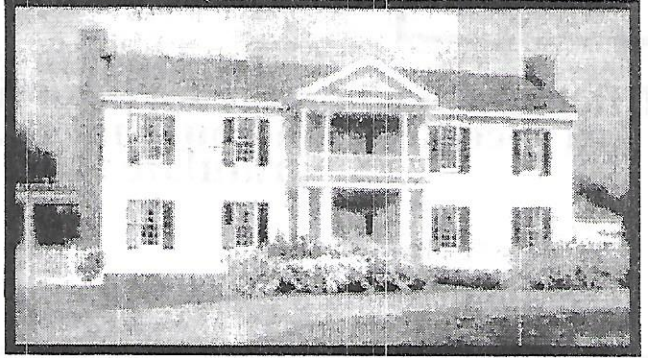
There's not a comrade here to-night but knows that loved ones far away
On bended knee this night will pray: "God bring our darling from the
fight."

But there are none to wish me back, for me no yearning prayers arise.
The lips are mute and closed the eyes-- my home is in the bivouac.

Christmas at Florewood River Plantation

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The Florewood River Plantation 2000 Christmas Candlelight Tour was a great success for the park. They surpassed last year's attendance but could have done even better if not for the bone chilling night Saturday night. The staff at Florewood sought to recreate a 1850's holiday atmosphere with things that would have been typical of a 1850's working plantation. Christmas was a special time of the year on a working plantation when everyone could enjoy a brief respite from work: the crops had all been harvested, the preserving of food had been taken care of and plantation life overall moved at a slow pace.



If you have never been to the candlelight tour you missed a great treat. All of the buildings were decorated in period decorations and various smells of fruits, cinnamon's, and pastries filled the air. The Camp reenactors had the opportunity to portray troops that were garrisoned at the plantation during Christmas 1862 preparing for the building of Fort Pemberton and taking time out for the Holiday season. We portrayed men that wrote letters home to our sweet hearts and the ladies of the OCR period attire wrote letters back to us. Of course, the highlight of the night were the letters written between Katie Palmer and Trey Davis.

If you missed it, mark it on your calendar for next year. It is always the first weekend in December and it is something that your don't want to miss.

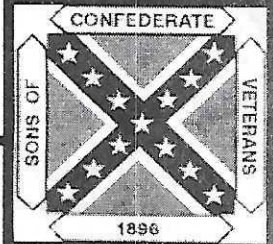


**Here is a good reason
to renew your dues
and remain an active
SCV member!!**

**Renew your dues at
the December 21
meeting so we can
continue to honor
them!!**



Congratulations



Congratulations goes out to Stan and Michelle Spell on the forthcoming addition to their family. Michelle just recently found out that she is with child. Take time out to congratulate them at our next meeting.

Mississippi Flag Order Form

As the struggle moves toward the Legislature in January of 2001, the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, now offers a 3 X 5 Mississippi Flag at a price of \$10 + \$2 postage and handling for a total of \$12. Order one or more of these flags to hang on your porch, business, or other appropriate place to inspire your neighbors and let your Senator and Representative know how you feel. If you can, order them for your children and friends. By the time the Legislature convenes in January, the state should be covered with these flags. Equally importantly, all proceeds from the sale of these flags will go to the Heritage Defense Fund to help fund the "Save Our Flag Campaign." We can win this fight but we need your help. When you buy one of these flags, the funds raised are sufficient to have 350 postcards printed or 53 bumper stickers produced or some of the many other things necessary for this effort. Be a partner in victory and order your campaign flag today.

Please send me:

3X5 Mississippi Flags (\$10 each) _____

Keep Our Flag bumper stickers (# of Stickers at \$1 each) _____

Mail with check or Money Order to:

Save Our Flag P. O. Box 1186 Taylorsville, MS 39168

SHIP TO:

Name-

Address-

Add \$2 shipping and handling plus above. TOTAL _____