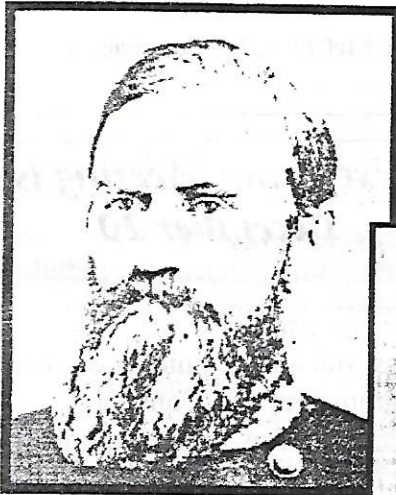
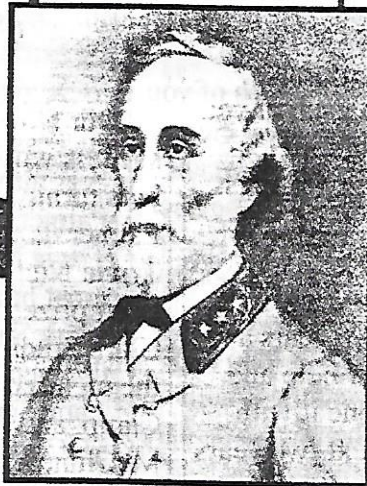


# *The Delta General*

A Publication of the  
Brig.-General Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, SCV  
Brig.- General Charles Clark Chapter #253, MOS&B  
Ella Palmer Chapter #9, OCR



**B/Gen. Benjamin  
Grubbs Humphreys**



**B/Gen. Charles Clark**



**Ella Palmer**

**December 2001 – Volume 4, Issue 12**

## Camp and OCR News

### *Commander's Note —*

Greetings,

I extend my sincere condolences to Ann McCaskill on the death of her mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Ann.

Well Alan didn't let us down at the November meeting, his trivia games were excellent. Thanks Alan!!

I look forward to seeing each of you at our meeting on the 20th of this month. It is important that each of you show up, this is the meeting for election of officers for the next two years. We will also finalize plans for the Lee/Jackson Banquet for January.

I have enjoyed serving as your Commander for the past two years and I thank each of you for your help and support, I couldn't have done it without you. I know that the next two years will be outstanding with our new leadership. Your help will still be needed, the officers can't do it without you.

For you MOS&B members, I have some information about scholarships and if you will see me at the next meeting I will bring you up to date on this

matter.

See you at the next meeting, bring a friend and your family.

God Save the South,

Earl M. McCown, Jr., Commander

### *Next Camp Meeting Is December 20*

Our November meeting was a great success with a large number of members turning out. Lt. Commander Palmer dazzled us with his ultimate Trivia Night. He had picked out some great prizes compliments of Amelia Clark Studios. The winners were for the men Larry Cox of the Grenada Camp, and in second place Larry McCluney. For the women, Annette McCluney and Jeannette McCaskill.

Also discussed at the meeting was the Lee/Jackson Dinner. Our annual Lee/Jackson Birthday get-together will be held on January 19, 2002, Saturday night at the Leland Town and Country

Racquet Club. The Social begins at 6:00 pm and dinner is at 7:00 pm. Invitations will be mailed soon.

As you know, our December meeting will be our election night of new officers. The following candidates were nominated and approved by the Executive Committee and are now officially presented to the Camp as Nominees 2002-2004:

Commander - Alan Palmer

Lt. Commander - Thomas Haik

2nd Lt. Commander - Kenneth Ray

Adjutant - Dan McCaskill

Treasurer - Larry McCluney

Judge Advocate - Walter Swain

Surgeon - Dr. Joe Pulliam

QM/Color Sgt. - Trey Davis

Chaplain - Lofton Davidson

Historian - undetermined and open for nominations

Also, keep in mind that if you have not paid your dues, that you need to get those caught up by the December meeting. Please forward those dues to:

Dan McCaskill

205 Cypress St.

Leland, MS 38756

Hope to see you all in December and remember to bring a friend as well renew our common fellowship.

## *Ella Palmer Chapter #9, Order of the Confederate Rose*

Ladies of the South,

Another holiday season has fast come upon us and if any of you are like me, you are very busy decorating, shopping, and planning out the holiday for the family to get together. But, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you not to loose sight of what the "true reason for the season," is and never forget the four Christmas' that our ancestors spent away from home. The made sacrifices in a Cause they believed in and still hold true today.

As you may know our next meeting will be on December 20 at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola at 7:00 PM. It is the men's election night for their officers and to settle plans for the Lee/Jackson Banquet. We will need all our ladies in attendance as we make plans for this all important annual Banquet.

Until then, God Bless Our Southland,  
Annette McCluney, President

### *Christmas at Florewood*

On December 7-8, many of the camp reenactors participated in the Christmas candlelight tour of Florewood River Plantation. Every year at this time the park decorates the plantation in period decorations and lights the park up by candles. Over the course of the weekend, the park was illuminated by some 600 candles. Many visitors as far away as Florida visited the plantation over the weekend.

Of course a Civil War theme was followed to portray troops far from home on Christmas. Highlighting the night was Henry McCabe who brought over the Blakely cannon that fired every hour on the hour. Many loved the opportunity to see a piece of history come to life with night firings, partaking of period foods, music, and enjoying the holiday season of a by-gone era. If you have not visited Florewood when it has the Candlelight tour, mark it on your calendar for next year. Its something your really don't wan to miss.

### *MOS&B Scholarships*

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars awards three college scholarships of \$500 each. These scholarships are appropriately named for Confederate Generals Lee, Cleburne, and Forrest. Application forms will be available from IHQ soon.

To be eligible for consideration the applicant must be:

1. Enrolled in or applied to a community college, junior college, or four year college/university which is a degree-granting institution.
2. A genealogically proven descendant of a Confederate Officer or descendant of a member of the Confederate Executive or legislative branches of government or a descendant of the Confederate Executive, Legislative, or Judiciary branches of state governments.

Contact Earl McCown for more information as the applications become available. Or go to the national website <http://www.scv.org/mosb/mosbinf9.htm> for further information as it comes available.

## National News

### Hunley apparently steered by lever controlling rods and cables

THE POST AND COURIER,  
Charleston, SC, Saturday,  
November 17, 2001  
BY BRIAN HICKS

Archaeologists have discovered that the H.L. Hunley was steered by a lever resembling a joystick that most likely controlled a series of rods and cables used to turn the Confederate submarine's rudder.

The lever is one of the most surprising discoveries in the excavation of the 138-year-old submarine, which was recovered from the Atlantic in August 2000 after it was lost on Feb. 17, 1864.

Most contemporary drawings and reminiscences of the submarine hinted that the Hunley was steered with a wheel that turned cables running along the sub's crew compartment roof. But those accounts bear little resemblance to reality.

The steering rod, mounted forward

of the front conning tower, is hinged at the bottom of the interior floor to connections that lead to a pipe that runs underneath the crew bench mounted on the portside wall. It moved side to side, from port to starboard.

"This could be the world's first joystick for navigating a vessel," Hunley Commission Chairman Sen. Glenn McConnell said Friday. "It appears to be part of an involved system of rods and cables used to connect the submarine rudder while neatly placing it in the limited quarters out of the crew's way."

From his station beneath the forward conning tower, sub commander Lt. George E. Dixon would have been able to control most of the sub's functions - he operated the dive planes that controlled the depth at which the Hunley sailed; the pump to the forward ballast tank and the steering. It makes sense that he controlled most operations: Dixon's post was the only one with a window.

Maria Jacobsen, the chief

archaeologist on the project, said that the steering mechanism seemed consistent with much of the rest of the sub's design. She said it is "both simple and elegant, representing a design for efficiency and space."

Also found this week in the sub was a metal file, some canteen stoppers and a length of chain. The chain was probably carried as a spare to connect the hand cranks with the gears that turned the propeller. Friends of the Hunley Chairman Warren Lasch said that if the chain connecting those gears broke, the crew of the sub would be in a bit of a jam.

"The submarine not only was advanced in its engineering, but these men planned in advance for any contingency that they could foresee would occur," Lasch said.

But even as the Hunley gives up another mystery, it clings to others. Scientists have now excavated the sediment that was in the sub's forward conning tower and have found no evidence of the glass or iron shards from the grapefruit-size hole in it.

Now the archaeologists will focus their search on the sediment in the bottom of the submarine. The location

of the glass and iron from the damaged tower could give some hint to what happened to the Hunley. One theory is that the submarine sank after the eyepiece on the conning tower was shot out by sailors on the Housatonic shortly before the Hunley detonated a 90-pound charge in the Union ship's flank.

"It is a scientific fact now that the glass and iron pieces of the shattered eyepiece are not in the sediment in the front conning tower. It is still too early to say that this eyepiece contributed to the sinking," McConnell said.

"Time and further excavation should ultimately settle this question."

## 'Gods and Generals' come to life

THE WASHINGTON TIMES,  
Tuesday, November 27, 2001

By Robert Stacy McCain

HARPERS FERRY, W. Va. - Snowflakes fall as a squad of rifle-wielding skirmishers moves warily down the street, followed by a column of Confederate infantry.

Behind them, on horseback, ride the top commanders of the Army of Northern Virginia: Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, J.E.B. Stuart and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. An old man steps into the street and accosts the Confederate leaders, complaining that the Yankees have ransacked the town.

"Cut," yells Ron Maxwell, director of "Gods and Generals," a Civil War epic currently filming on locations around Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

The generals on horseback are actually actors Robert Duvall, Bruce Boxleitner, Joseph Fuqua and Stephen Lang. The "snow" is actually feathers, blown into the air by special-effects technicians.

The Confederate troops are among

hundreds of Civil War re-enactors who have volunteered to participate in this new movie by the director of the 1993 spectacular "Gettysburg." Even the town itself is playing a part, with Harpers Ferry transformed by Hollywood magic into Fredericksburg, Va.

The film, planned for release in December 2002, is based on the novel "Gods and Generals" by Jeff Shaara, whose father, Michael Shaara, wrote "The Killer Angels," the novel that was the basis for "Gettysburg."

"Gods and Generals" returns some of the same cast as "Gettysburg," with Jeff Daniels reprising his role as Union Col. Joshua Chamberlain, but the leading Confederate characters have been recast.

Mr. Duvall stars as Lee, a part played by Martin Sheen in "Gettysburg." Mr. Duvall, whose father was from Fairfax County and whose mother was a distant relative of the Lee family, said he had "always thought it would be more than interesting" to play the famous Virginia general. "It's an honor to play a man like this," the Oscar-winning actor said during a lunch break on the set. He spoke of Lee's "very righteous upbringing, taking care of his invalid mother."

The film's director says Mr. Duvall's portrayal of Lee will differ from Mr. Sheen's. "No two actors would play any role the same," said Mr. Maxwell. "You need look no further than productions of 'Hamlet.' The basic interpretation will be the same, but the nuances of character will be different. He's still a leader of men, a fiercely patriotic man, a deeply religious man."

While thousands of history buffs will watch Mr. Duvall's portrayal of Lee with a critical eye, the actor is not worried. "You just have to do what you can do and not worry about it," Mr. Duvall said.

Perhaps the most interesting character in "Gods and Generals" is that of Jackson, played by Mr. Lang. The role is "alluring," the 39-year-old actor says. Jackson was "a man of absolutely heroic stature who has not been portrayed before," says Mr. Lang, a veteran Broadway actor who played Gen. George Pickett in "Gettysburg."

The film portrays Jackson's strong Christian faith. "God had everything to do with everything Jackson did," Mr. Lang says of the Presbyterian general who frequently credited the "blessings of Providence" for his victories. "He gave credit to God for everything."

He describes Jackson as a "stunningly complex man," and says playing him "requires all I've got and more." The actor says that, as a mathematics instructor at Virginia Military Institute before the war, Jackson "could never be acknowledged to be more than competent. Yet when it came to leading men, when it came to being a tactician, he was peerless, in my opinion."

"Gods and Generals" follows Jackson from the Battle of First Manassas where his resolute stand earned him the nickname "Stonewall" to his death in May 1863 in the battle of Chancellorsville.

Chancellorsville, where Jackson's surprise flanking maneuver crushed two corps of the Union army, "should have been his greatest victory, and the South's greatest victory," Mr. Lang says. But when Confederate troops accidentally fired on Jackson, who was scouting beyond the front lines at nightfall, the victory turned "into a very, very bitter day," he says. The production of "Gods and Generals" depends upon the efforts of hundreds of Civil War re-enactors, some of whom have traveled from as far away as Wisconsin and Georgia to participate



in the project. "This movie would be absolutely impossible without the support of the re-enactor community," says associate producer Dennis Frye, former chief historian at Harpers Ferry National Park. "Re-enactors supply all of their own uniforms, their own weapons, their own accoutrements and, more importantly, bring their own extensive knowledge and skills. They come trained as mid-19th-century soldiers."

The story of "Gods and Generals" differs significantly from "Gettysburg," Mr. Maxwell notes. Where "Gettysburg" focuses on three days of battle in a single location, "Gods and Generals" spans a two-year period and multiple battles. But Mr. Maxwell said that focusing on the "unifying concept of the main central characters gave us a through line" for the new film.

"Gods and Generals" involves a wider variety of characters than the earlier movie, including the wives of the generals. Sen. Phil Gramm, Texas Republican, makes a cameo appearance as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. The movie also will show urban combat, Civil War-style. The final battle scene to be filmed Dec. 15 in Washington County, Md. will be the effort of Union engineers to build a

pontoon bridge across the Rappahannock while under fire from Confederate sharpshooters posted on the Fredericksburg waterfront.

The looting of Fredericksburg, Union troops plundered the homes there of descendants of the Founding Fathers, provoked a contemporary comparison from Mr. Duvall. In costume as Gen. Robert E. Lee, the actor surveyed the debris-strewn streets of the film set and said, "This is like the Taliban, the way the federal troops ravaged."

**Editor's Note:** One of our own, Scott Blaylock has had the opportunity to participate in this film. We hope to see him on the "Big Screen" and he plans on participating on others in the near future. Way to go Scott!!



## **CHRISTMAS DURING THE CIVIL WAR**

As a rule, the armies of the North and South generally spent December 25th in their winter quarters, but this wasn't always the case. There were many soldiers whose Christmas was spent on the move or engaged in a battle. In their diaries and letters home, many would note the irony of how they spent this day when traditionally it was a day to be surrounded by loved ones and toast one's blessings.

Private Philip D. Stephenson, Co. K, of the 13th Arkansas, recalled his Christmas of 1863 in his memoirs: "It was a typical Christmas Day - snow and ice and keen cold. Spent by the camp at large in the cabins toasting their feet before blazing fires, smoking, and talking of home, and what they used to have for dinner on Christmas, and what they would like to have then, and wondering when the war would end. Some of the officers of the various regiments were favored with an invitation from the Division and Brigade Headquarters to a Christmas Dinner. None of the men. That wouldn't do! After the rest were gone, we resolved

to have a Christmas Day too!"

Stephenson explained how they "borrowed a little here and there and gathered together some rice, brown sugar, whiskey, spice, flour and corn meal," out of which they concocted a rice pudding and an oven cake of "batter bread." "The cooking of that dinner! Shall I ever forget it. Neither of us knew anything about cooking, nor had any "turn" for it. We did other needed things in the mess... The batter bread was reasonable enough to look at, but the Rice Pudding was a sight to see, ominous, threatening to play havoc with our insides. But that Rice Pudding did not know soldiers' stomachs. We ate that pudding, all of it. It was vile, but we ate it and laughed as we ate it until the tears ran from our eyes and our sides ached! We shook as we sat turn fashion, around it, and reeled in our seats, and shouted over it."

In sharp contrast were Stephenson's remarks of his Christmas of 1864, while he and the shattered Army of Tennessee waded the icy waters of Shoal Creek at Bainbridge, Alabama. "Drenched, like drowned rats from the icy waters of that creek, men huddled together on that little strip of land without room to form a line of battle. If the enemy had attacked,

where would we have been? Not one half of the men that Christmas evening expected to reach the other side safely."

Sergeant Lewis Hart, of the 14th Pennsylvania, as part of General William Averell's December 1863 raid to Salem, Virginia, tells of how the grueling raid thankfully ended on Christmas day: "Some were without boots or shoes; some without trousers or shirts, others without coats or clothes of any kind, covered only with pieces of blanket or corn sacks, having burned their clothes off hovering around fires after swimming streams or rivers in zero weather."

Hart's comrade, Private Slease, would never forget that Christmas Day when "we drew rations, cooked, ate, slept, and thanked God that through the hardships and perils, threatened death and imminent danger, we were still alive and permitted to look into each other's faces."

Captain Charles Wills, of the 8th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, writes home about how his camp celebrated the New Year of 1862: "Yesterday, New Year, the camp enjoyed a general frolic. A hundred or two cavalry boys dressed themselves to represent

Thompson's men and went galloping around camp scattering the footmen and making noise enough to be heard in Columbus. The officers of the 11th Infantry were out making New Year calls in an army wagon with 30 horses to it, preceded by a splendid band. The "boys" got a burlesque on the "ossifers." They hitched 20 mules to a wagon and filled it with a tin pan and stovepipe band, and then followed it in 60- mule wagon around camp and serenaded all the headquarters.

During a lull in the three-day battle of Stones River, Tennessee, in 1862-63, John Nourse of the Chicago Board of Trade Battery recalled the horrors of New Years Eve: "If I live to be a hundred years old, I shall never forget this day or night-this watching out the old year. May it be the last to be spent in such an unfavorable manner." Whether the soldier's Christmas was spent in camp or enduring the hardships of war on some distant battlefield, how far away their hearth and home must have seemed, as they remembered many a Christmas past and wondered if they should survive to see the next.

**Editor's Note:** May we never forget their sacrifices!!

**The Delta General**

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**Camp Web Page:**  
<http://humphreys1625.homestead.com/Index.html>

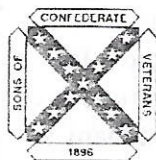
**Welcome New Members**

**Paul W. Stone**  
His Ancestor was his Great,  
Great-Uncle Daniel M. Shannahan  
Pvt., Co, D, 28th MS Cavalry

**The Delta General**

P.O. Box 63  
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*“Remember, it is your DUTY to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations” —*

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee*