

THE DELTA GENERAL

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B. G. HUMPHREYS

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THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY : Mr. OLIVER L. McCASKILL

Camp Officers For 1994

1. Commander Rickey Palmertree - Greenwood, MS
2. 1st Lieutenant Commander Kendall Payne - Jackson, MS
3. 2nd Lieutenant Commander Tommy McCaskill - Leland, MS
4. Adjutant/Treasurer David Williford - Leland, MS
5. Quartermaster/Color Sergeant Oliver McCaskill - Leland, MS
6. Historian Gary Pierce - Greenwood, MS
7. Editor Gary Shelton (appointed by Commander) - Leland, MS

"LETTER FROM THE EDITOR"

HELLO FRIENDS !

I'm glad y'all could come back and visit with us again. With this issue I hope to define the format that the Newsletter will take as long as I am the Editor. I hope to put out 6 issues this year, and every one of them should contain the following: My editorial; a profile of a General you may or may not have heard of; reports from any officers who wish to contribute; anything submitted by any member (things that interest you); books and movie reviews; and lots of good down home stuff.

EDITORIAL

During the holidays, while I was visiting kinfolk, I come across an article of an artist attempting to give the city of Columbus, Ohio a gigantic (bigger than the STATUE OF LIBERTY) statue of Columbus. Local Indian tribes were crying foul and the city wasn't sure it wanted this instant tourist attraction. People were yelling "shame" and "how dare you " for bringing a shrine of such a horrible man and traitor to the new world to the city. How dare they celebrate a killer of so many Indians.

Today, too many people are telling us who our heros should and shouldn't be. While Columbus has been much maligned during his time and ours, why should we let certain groups of people rewrite history just to make it more theologically pleasing. This same argument should stand for our fallen Confederate heros.

*With the liberal reeducation of our society underway, we must stand firm at graves of our fallen heros; we must not step back but march forward. The next thing you know, someone will be calling you a traitor to the country because you are watching a movie with that horrid **JOHN WAYNE**. That sir, is when I take up my gun.*

GARY W. SHELTON

I MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR MY VIEWS EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY NOT REFLECT THE ATTITUDES OF ANYONE LIVING OR DEAD.

"A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR"

Mr. Oliver L. McCaskill would like to dedicate this issue to his great uncle James Douglas McCaskill, who was a railway train engineer.

James Douglas McCaskill was born 1833 in Camden, S.C. and was baptized in the Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden which is still standing.

The first official date of him being in the confederate Army was January 1864 at Tiller's Ferry on Sullivans Island, S.C. Here he was part of the 7th Battalion South Carolina Infantry also known as NELSON'S ENSFIELD RIFLES. One time (while AWOL), he was found in the Jackson Hospital in Richmond, Va with a severe right shoulder wound. He was wounded at Drewry's Bluff with Haygood's Brigade. Upon recovery, he rejoined his unit for the duration. He was paroled at Greenboro, N.C. on May 1, 1865; he is buried at Friendship Cemetery, Columbus, Ms.

Commander's Notes

By outgoing Camp Commander
Kendall A. Payne

Ladies & Gentlemen,

This months' meeting will feature well-known and respected author Grady Howell of Madison. Grady is author of Going to Meet the Yankees A History of the "Bloody Sixth" Mississippi Infantry, C. S. A. The 6th Mississippi will be the subject of his discussion.

He is also the author of To Live and Die in Dixie A History of the Third Mississippi Infantry, C. S. A. His latest work is Champion's Hill. Mr. Howell will have Champion's Hill for sale at \$5.35 and a limited number of the Third Mississippi. The Sixth Mississippi has long been sold out. He assures me he will autograph any of his books--whether bought from him or not.

So, please turn out (waving your books for autograph) to hear this excellent historian. Grady is a member of President Jefferson Davis Camp, SCV-Jackson.

Along with our regular January meeting, we planned to have our first annual Lee & Jackson celebration. However, we surmised that an

extra meeting this close to the new year would be burdensome. So, next year, we plan to have our 1st Annual Lee & Jackson Dinner on a Saturday Evening in Lieu of our regular meeting. I plan to recommend your new Commander, Rickey Palmertree, appoint a committee to begin planning this fall. Your participation on the committee and ideas are welcome.

In the meantime, I suggest you celebrate in your own homes the birthdays of Lee and Jackson. Robert Edward Lee's birthday is January 19, 1807 and Thomas Jonathan Jackson's Birthday is January 21, 1824. They are both celebrated on the 3d Monday in January.

Also George Washington's birthday is February 22, 1732. 130 years later (1862) the Confederate States of America was permanently established. These holidays are celebrated on the 3d Monday if February. Please fly the appropriate flags at your homes for these occasions.

Deo Vindice!

Adjutant's Report

The past month has been a very productive one for our Camp. We have three new members: Frank Burdine of Greenville and Brian and Thomas McClure of Shaw. Let's all welcome these gentlemen to our Camp. This brings our number to 39. Also, 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Tommy McCaskill informs me he has contacted several more who are interested in joining when they get their proof of eligibility.

Let's all remember our goal of passing out at least one SCV brochure each month to prospective members. I think each member should set himself the goal of bringing in at least one new member in 1994. Our Editor and myself would like to announce we have established the "Editor's Choice Award" to be awarded at the December meeting to the member (officers excluded) who brings in the most new members to our Camp this year.

Our average attendance for our regular Camp meetings in 1993 was 20, including the organizational meeting in January. Let's all work hard to encourage all our fellow members to make all our regular meetings this year. And remember, all family and friends are welcome at

any of our meetings. We want everyone who has an interest in history and the War Between the States to come enjoy our speakers and the company of those of similar interests. Our officers brought us some excellent speakers in 1993 and, I am sure, will continue to do so this year. Also, we have several members who are virtual storehouses of information concerning the War and they are always excited to discuss and share information and ideas.

I personally would like to extend a hearty thanks to all those involved in making our December "Christmas In Dixie" meeting such a great success, especially Mr. and Mrs. Oliver McCaskill (and family) and Mr. and Mrs. Randle Furr. Also, a big thanks to all the ladies who brought or sent all the delicious food. A very special thanks is also due to Mrs. Rebecca McCaskill and the girls she brought from her All-Girls Choir to sing for us. It was a real treat to have the opportunity to hear these talented young ladies. Thanks, too, to all of you who brought your family and friends out to support our evening.

If I can be of any assistance to any of you, please call.

Your Adjutant,
David Williford

GENERAL REVIEW

William Wirt Adams was born on March 22, 1819, in Frankfort, Kentucky, but when he was six the family moved to Natchez, Mississippi. After attending college in Bardstown, Kentucky, William returned to Mississippi in 1839 and enlisted as a private in a regiment bound for Texas. Adams served as adjutant of the unit and briefly fought against the Indians in northeast Texas before returning to Mississippi that fall, following the death of his father. In 1846 he was a sugar planter in Iberville, Louisiana, but upon his marriage to Sallie Huger Mayrant of Jackson Mississippi, in 1850 he returned to Mississippi once more. Between 1850 and 1861 he was a successful planter and banker in the Vicksburg-Jackson area, and won election to the state legislature in 1858 and 1860.

When his adopted state seceded, Adams served as a commissioner to Louisiana whose purpose was to secure the secession of that state. In February 1861, President Jefferson Davis offered

him the position of postmaster general, but Adams declined because of business interests. In June he began organizing a unit initially known as the 1st Mississippi Cavalry but which was officially redesignated by the secretary of war on December 24 as "Wirt Adams Regiment of Cavalry."

Mustered into Confederate service in Memphis, Tennessee, in August, the regiment was ordered to Columbus Kentucky, in September, and to Bowling Green in October. In February 1862, the regiment covered the Confederate withdrawal from Kentucky to Corinth, Mississippi. Adams' regiment fought with the infantry on the extreme right at the Battle of Shiloh and remained in the vicinity to observe the enemy when the Confederate army withdrew to Corinth. During the Union investment of that town, the regiment served on outpost duty, participated in a raid on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, and engaged in several skirmishes.

In late July and again in late August-early September, Adams participated in a raid into West Tennessee. He fought at Bolivar on August 30 and on September 1, at Britton's Lane, near Denmark, his regiment charged down a narrow lane and captured an enemy battery posted on a hill after three other regiments had failed. With his own and an Arkansas regiment, Adams covered the withdrawal following the battle of Iuka and, on September 17 near Burnsville, captured a train loaded with Union reinforcements. During the unsuccessful Corinth campaign, Adams' charge at the Hatchie bridge on October 4 probably saved Major General Earl Van Dorn's only line of retreat which he desperately needed and used the following day.

The regiment next served along the Mississippi River in Washington County, Mississippi, where Adams labored to prevent enemy raids and to warn of any movement down river against Vicksburg. In February 1863 the regiment patrolled the river between Warrenton and Grand Gulf. In March in contested Acting Rear Admiral David D. Porter's attempts to reach Yazoo City by way of Deer Creek (sic). During Union Colonel Benjamin Grierson's raid in late April and early May, Adams commanded all the cavalry south of Jackson. Although he failed to capture Grierson, the stubborn resistance by part of his old regiment at Union Church on April 28 forced Grierson to abandon his plan of linking up with Union forces at Natchez and to

attempt to reach Baton Rouge.

Adams' forces were quickly redirected to the Union landing at Grand Gulf in an effort to block any movement toward Jackson. His first encounter with the enemy occurred at Fourteen Mile Creek on May 12, where he delayed their advance for three hours. Adams kept Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton correctly informed of enemy movements prior to the Battle of Baker's Creek on May 16. When Pemberton withdrew to Vicksburg he left Adams to harass the enemy's rear, which the latter did, particularly at Bear Creek and Mechanicsburg. During late June and early July, Adams opposed Major General William T. Sherman's advance against Jackson.

On September 28, 1863, Adams was commissioned a brigadier general for his services during the Vicksburg Campaign, to rank from September 25, though the Senate only confirmed it the following January 25. That same day Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant reported that Adams' men "infest the country from about Rodney [Mississippi] to Port Hudson [Louisiana]." Adams' cavalrymen appeared to be everywhere, skirmishing with Union expeditions, disrupting Union shipping on the Mississippi, destroying cotton, and transporting small arms across the Mississippi to Lieutenant General Edmund Kirby Smith. In December Adams received orders to threaten southeastern Louisiana if Major General Richard Taylor wishes to advance in southwestern Louisiana. Adams promptly occupied Bayou Sara on the Mississippi and skirmished before Port Hudson on January 8 1864. After threatening Baton Rouge, Adams' men hurried to Mississippi and were engaged near Natchez on the twenty-fourth.

In February, Adams was ordered to contest Sherman's movement toward Meridian. Much of the Confederate success in thwarting Sherman's advance was due to Adams whom Major General Stephen O. Lee reported deserved his thanks for his "distinguished gallantry on the field and the able management" of his command. During the Union expedition up the Yazoo River in mid-April, Adams' men engaged the enemy at and near Mechanicsburg and captured the U.S. gunboat *Petrel* near Yazoo City. Adams managed to remove eight 24-pounder cannon before burning the vessel. During the next few months his command would engage in numerous skirmishes throughout Mississippi.

Late in 1864 his brigade formed part of

Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest's command and it remained under Forrest until the end of the war. He defeated a Union brigade near Eutaw on April 5, 1865, one of the last Confederate victories. Adams surrendered his command near Ramsey Station, Sumpter County, Alabama, on May 4, 1865, delivered his farewell address on the 6th, and received his parole on the 12th at Gainesville. Despite numerous encounters with the enemy, he was never wounded.

After the war Adams retired to Vicksburg and labored for that city's economic recovery. In 1880 he received an appointment as state revenue agent but resigned three years later to accept an appointment by President Grover Cleveland to become postmaster of Jackson. On May 1, 1888, Adams encountered John Martin, a local editor, walking along a street. Martin had criticized Adams in his paper and the two faced each other with Weapons now. When the smoke cleared both men had been killed. Adams is buried in Jackson. His brother, Daniel Webster Adams, also served as a brigadier general in the Confederate army.

Lawrence L. Hewitt

MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

A society of male descendants of the military and governmental leadership of the Confederate States of America. The society is dedicated to preserving the history, ideals, and chivalry of the South.

Following the success of the United Confederate Veterans and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, a small group of men decided to form an honor society to commemorate the deeds of Southern leadership. Thus, the Order of Stars and Bars was chartered on August 30, 1938. In 1976 the organization was renamed the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Today after four decades of existence, the M.O.S.B. is still dedicated to the preservation of all Southern history, commemoration of the exploits of all Confederate leaders, and the maintenance of liberty and constitutional government.

Membership in the M.O.S.B. is limited to male descendants, either lineal or collateral, of the Confederate officer corps, members of the

Confederate Congress, or any elected or appointed member of the Executive branch of the Confederate government. All members must be at least sixteen years old and maintain membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Ancestral documentation must accompany all applications for membership.

Brochures with instructions for preparation of application papers will be available on our display table at all of our Camp meetings, as well as application work sheets for those who may be interested.

Sincerely,
Randle Furr

The Official Military Atlas of the Civil (sic) War

Gramercy Books, New York
\$59.99 at Bookland, Waldenbooks etc.
CPT Kendall A. Payne

This book is a reprint of *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Confederate and Union [Enemy] Armies*. Originally published 1891-1895 in Washington City, D. C., it is public domain.

Strategic, tactical and terrain maps indicate troop locations, defensive lines, redoubts, fortifications, picket positions, signal stations and lines of march. Reproduced with precision and accuracy, it is fully indexed both to itself and the Official Records.

Included in this Full-Color edition are 821 maps, 209 drawings and 106 engravings created by participants in the War between the States. This book is an invaluable aid to historians, researchers, relic-hunters and re-enactors. For example, some of the maps covering the War in Mississippi are Corinth, Baker's Creek (Champion's Hill), Vicksburg Campaign, Fort Pemberton, Jackson Campaign and Brice's Cross Roads. The Jediaiah Hotchkiss maps of the Virginia are crucial to the study of Stonewall Jackson.

This book was so valuable to me that while it was out of print, I was willing to pay \$200 to a book dealer in Richmond for a copy. At that price they could not find one before it was reprinted. If this book is something you might need, I recommend you take a trip to Bookland in the Greenville Mall and have a look.

It may be obtained from Bargain Books Fall

Village, CT 06031-5000 for \$47.95. They have a regular catalog of top values. They will send one upon request. 5

Antietam Restoration to cost \$6.2 million, take 20 years to finish

By DEB RIECHMANN "THE ASSOCIATED PRESS"

SHARPSBUGRG, Md. - The Battle of Antietam lasted one day, but it has taken three years to come up with a plan to return the battlefield to the way it looked at the dawn of the civil War's bloodiest day.

At odds are historic conservationists, groups who oppose government land purchases, and western Maryland residents who fear the restoration will lure too many tourists.

During the past three years, the National park Service has heard from more than 4,000 individuals, groups and government agencies.

It finally approved a 20-year plan to restore the 3,245-acre battleground to the way it looked before the first shots were fired at dawn on Sept. 17, 1862. The fighting left 23,110 soldiers dead, wounded or missing.

Under the plan released last week, farm fields, woodlands and orchards would be replanted. The exterior of the Pry House, which Union Gen. George B. McClellan used as his headquarters, would be restored.

"Now people will stand and see a 50-acre cornfield," said Rich Rambur, the site's superintendent. "They won't have to imagine where the woods were - they'll be there."

The part would lost 3.4 miles of paved roads. Some roads that did not exist at the time of the battle would be removed, and some that did exist would be restored to their original condition.

The part service would buy about 220 acres of land, accept 140 acres donated by the Conservation Fund, a non-profit group based in Arlington, Va., and expand the battlefield by 95 acres.

The project would cost about \$6.2 million, excluding the land purchases. The public may challenge an environmental impact statement accompanying the plan until next month, when the plan is scheduled to become official.

The battlefield 60 miles north-west of Washington is already among the best-preserved Civil War sites and attracts thousands of tourists each year.

"Obviously not everyone is going to like it. But this plan has been changed to accommodate concerns of all people," Rambur said. Civil War groups, government agencies and preservation groups generally applaud the plan, but some residents and property rights groups oppose it.

"We oppose government acquisition or management of any additional land unless an equal amount of acreage be sold and returned to the private sector," said Margaret Ann Reigle, chairman of the Fairness to Land Owners Committee, based in Cambridge. "Taxpayers can no longer afford the insatiable land-grab appetite of big government." Opponents also fear the restoration is part of a grand plan by the park service to attract more tourists - an accusation the agency has denied.

Frobouck said more tourists would bring more traffic and development of hotels and restaurants, which would ruin the local farming community.

Antietam, and the Battle of South Mountain three days earlier, ended Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's attempt to invade the North in 1862.

Some historians consider the battle the turning point of the war. Although it was not a tactical victory for the North, it was the improvement that President Lincoln had awaited to make his Emancipation Proclamation.

The proclamation changed the tone of the war from one to preserve the union to a crusade against slavery, some historians say.

Putting Civil War on Screen Easier than Raising Ships

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOBILE - Putting the Civil War on the silver screen - the latest example being "Gettysburg" - has been accomplished more often than raising sunken vessels from that turbulent period.

"One thing we've learned in the last 25 years is the enormous difficulties with restoring ships," said Dean Allard, director of the Naval Historic Center in Washington, D.C.

Allard and other maritime historians have all but given up hope of ever raising the ironclad USS Tecumseh, which sank with an estimated 93 sailors on board during the Battle of Mobile Bay on Aug. 5, 1864.

The cost of salvage and restoration is just

"astronomical," experts on the vessels say. A movie about it could cost less, even by "Gettysburg" estimates. That Ted Turner film cost \$20 million, according to Misty Skedgell, a Turner spokeswoman in Atlanta.

Civil War buffs still venture to Tecumseh's watery grave to probe its hidden secrets. Some artifacts were removed in the 1960's and put on display in Mobile. The ship's site is marked by a buoy. But Coast Guard warnings for boaters urge them to avoid the wreckage site as the Tecumseh went down with ammunition aboard and its 15-inch guns loaded.

Any movie of the Battle of Mobile Bay would show Admiral David Glasgow Farragut and his Union war fleet desperately needed a major victory to boost the North's spirits.

By taking Mobile, Farragut drove a mortal wound into the South.

The North was thrilled later by newspaper accounts of how Farragut went into battle "lashed to the mast." And historians recorded his most famous command: "Damn the torpedoes. Full speed!" Cannon balls were flying from Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan, the Confederate compounds that protected the entrance to the bay.

When the crossfire ceased, the Union fleet had suffered 165 killed and 170 wounded. The Confederates reported only 10 dead and 16 wounded.

The Tecumseh was the lead ship in Farragut's column, but the 225-foot-long vessel turned too early out of the channel and struck one of the mines - or torpedoes - which exploded beneath the hull.

The Smithsonian Institution attempted to raise the Tecumseh in the late 1960s, but that effort became mired in legal battles over ownership and where the vessel would be displayed.

J. O. Wintzell Jr., the last Mobile seafood dealer, claimed in an unsuccessful federal court complaint that he owned the salvage rights to the Tecumseh. He claimed he found it in 1945, and, if ever salvaged, the vessel should be displayed in Mobile, a sentiment that lingers in this Alabama port today.

Since the Civil War, the ownership has passed through a string of federal agencies, starting with the Navy, then to Treasury, then to General Services Administration, then Smithsonian, back to GSA. The Navy finally got back custody of the vessel this spring, but GSA continues to hold title.

title.

The Tecumseh is buried almost completely in mud near the Mobile ship channel. Down about 40 feet, archaeologist David Cooper said it's pretty easy to reach, but there's "zero visibility" in a "nasty tidal spot." Cooper, who works with Allard, is part of a team that represents several agencies trying to manage the Tecumseh's future under the National Park Service's battlefield protection project.

"It really would require a national level of commitment" to raise the Tecumseh, Cooper said in a telephone interview. Maritime historian William N. Still of East Carolina University agreed with that assessment. Still recalled that the cost of raising only an anchor from the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor cost \$70,000.

The Monitor wreckage was found 20 years ago lying upside down in 230 feet of water about 16 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras.

Still said the Navy has become increasingly protective of sunken vessels that contain human remains, such as the Tecumseh.

"We don't know the condition of the ship. It's going to take a fairly long, extensive underwater project to determine its condition," Still said.

Graduate students from East Carolina dive at the sites of sunken Civil War vessels, including the Tecumseh, as part of their archaeology studies, Still said.

Maureen Foster of the National Park Service's battlefield protection project said the service awarded a \$19,312 grant to East Carolina to map the Tecumseh's watery grave "so that we know where it is."

Letters reveal how life was during Civil War THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Escatawpa, Miss - When Sarah Barton's great aunt, Keturah Povall, died 12 years ago, she and her husband, Manly, began cleaning out the woman's home. They came across boxes of letters, receipts and records dating back to the 1820s.

Most of the letters were written by Sarah's great-great-aunt, Elizabeth Binns, to her brother, Richard Thomas Bailey.

Portrait of life

The faded blue ink on yellowed paper paints a portrait of life in Mississippi during the Civil

War.

"It was like a discovery every night," said Manly Barton, who stayed up late studying the documents. "It wasn't even my family, but there was so much there. After a while, it was almost like I knew them. They were all so powerful, touching in a way. I hated to put them down."

Manly plans to keep some of the historical writings to pass on to their children, Kennon, 11, and Jennifer, 15, but he said he would look into offering copies to the state archives.

"In some ways, I almost feel guilty having all this," Manly said. "But I'd like for (the children) to have it. It's their heritage, and I would hate for any of it to get away from them."

Author and Civil War historian Shelby Foote of Memphis, Tenn., urges anyone who makes similar finds to submit the documents to the Mississippi State Department of Archives.

They can donate either originals or photocopies of the documents.

Document history

"My God, it is the best way to document our history," Foote said. "No matter what they want to do, what they should do is store them with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. It is a wonderful collection. So many things would be lost if they were not put there."

Facts confirmed

Foote said the documents help to confirm other facts about the Civil War era.

"A fellow is getting ready to charge Gettysburg and takes a moment to make a note that he needs a new pair of shoes. That is of historical value," he said.

Many of the works contained in the controlled environment of the state archives in Jackson came from people like the Bartons. And there are still countless letters and records in private hands and some awaiting discovery.

"There's a lot out in the state that hasn't been collected," said Michael Hennen, curator of manuscripts at the archives. "It's just waiting to be discovered."

"There is a lot of historical source material in virtually every town in the state worthy of preservation. We are fortunate that a lot of people in the 19th century had that kind of mentality where they saved everything," he said.

Little attention was paid to grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Loss of brothers

Every letter contains entries on the illnesses or passings of friends and relatives. In one letter to "My dear Mary," Elizabeth Binns describes the loss of two brothers, her nephews, killed in the war. "You know (sic) doubt heard of the death of Br. Watkins two sons William T. Bailey and Robert W. Bailey. William died the 3d of May, Robert the 2nd of July just two months between," she wrote.

"The first shot through the neck and killed instantly at the battle of Chancellersville, the latter shot through the left thigh little above the knee cut the sinew and bled to death in less than one hour, left word by his attending friend to tell his Pa his trust was in God. Br. Watkins had both funerals preached at one time. Poor Anna their sister seemed almost heartbroken," she wrote.

Other letters contain passages about sickness, fevers and "sickly seasons."

Death discussed

Death is a common thread.

"In every letter, they talk about so-and-so had a son that died, or so-and-so's three children died of the fever," Manly said.

If someone were improving, they were "on the mend." Those with worsening symptoms were "turning poorly."

Fevers and illnesses were not the only thing people of the day dealt with, even in letters.

"Cousin Jane and her old man is doing but a poor business," Binns wrote. "He drinks and does not treat her well, so it is said."

On April 18, 1861, six days after the shots rang out at Fort Sumter that began the war, R.T. Bailey received a letter from his young nephew, Sam D. Robertson. The news traveled fast.

"It's amazing they knew as much about what was going on as he did at that point," Manly said. "The telegraph wires must have been burning up."

Rumors of war had been simmering for some time and young men pondered their fate.

"I suppose we will all have to go to war soon, as there seems to be a great difficult in settling matters between Davis and Lincoln," Robertson wrote. "Two or three companies has been ordered up from Sardis or at least from about Sardis. The Sardis Blues was ordered off to Mobile but they only got as far as Memphis and received a telegraph dispatch from governor that they were not needed as yet."

There was no doubt as to his preference for sides. Robertson concluded, "Most of all of my schoolmates belongs to the Sardis Blues. I suppose if I stay in Arkansas I will have to fight under Lincoln finally and I do not admire that so very much."

Something in common

Manly, who served in the Army during the Vietnam War, feels like he had something in common with the men who fought on their homeland instead of continents and oceans away.

"The people that end up being hurt the most had very little say-so in it."

"They did things because of duty. Most of them who fought and got killed in the Civil War didn't even own slaves or never would and that's one of the things the Civil War was about. You wonder, what was their reasoning. They just felt they had to defend the South for whatever reason. It's kinda crazy in a way, but people today do the same thing," he said.

CLOSING REMARKS

I want to take this time to wish Rickey Palmertree good luck in the coming year as our new commander. I know we made a good choice in Rickey and our other officers.

I also want to thank David for all the help he gave in getting this issue out.

We have come a long way in just a year. We have gone from just talking about creating a camp to a good membership base of 40 members.(so far)

I also want everyone who has been unable to attend our meeting that I have been video-taping all the speakers since last October. If anyone wishes a copy of any meeting ,give me a call and I'll make you a copy.

Any new member who wishes back issues of the Newsletter can pick one up at the monthly meeting or get in touch with me.

I also would like to print any thing you members send to me. I'm sure the other members would like to hear your views of the late "war" as well.

GARY W. SHELTON

Please continue to give me your feedback what you think of our Newsletter.