

Camp Commander: Dan McCaskill

Camp Websit: www.hummpheys1625.com

The Delta General

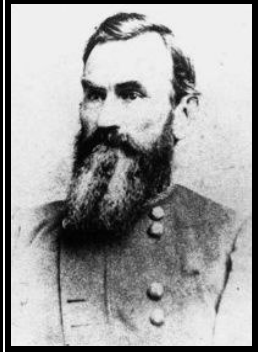
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Upcoming Events

Saturday, Jan. 17,
2009 @ 6:00 PM –

Lee/Jackson
Banquet– Will be
held at the First
Presbyterian
Church

Fellowship Hall
where we have our
meetings in
Indianola – POT
LUCK DINNER-
Speaker will be
James Taylor, MS
Division Chaplain

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Compatriots,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to a Happy and Prosperous New Year. At our December meeting, we had a very nice gathering and pot luck supper to prepare for the Christmas season.

Now is time to get down to business. As all of you know by now, we are working on the 2009 Division Convention. We need to start selling advertisements for the Convention program. I am asking all Camp members who have a business or businesses where they work to consider purchasing an ad. The cost of the ads are as follows: full page, \$100; half page, \$50; quarter page, \$25 and business card, \$15. If you purchase an ad, please develop your ad and mail it with the appropriate check to me at 205 Cypress Street; Leland, MS 38756. Please make your check payable to "SCV". All other members, we are asking you to sell as many ads as possible to help the Camp. (See page 3 for a order form that you can use for the ad.)

I invite all to come to the Camp meetings to keep abreast of what is going on in the Camp. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the fellowship and learn a little more about your Confederate Heritage

God Bless the South,
Dan McCaskill, Commander



HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2009 DID YOU EAT YOUR “LUCKY BLACK-EYED PEAS?”

Every New Year Southerners make sure that they eat their “Lucky Black-eyed Peas” so they may start the new year off right. Ever wonder how that tradition was started? In a news article from Amarillo, TX, they pointed out how new years is considered a day off for most people with plenty of football on TV. And for a lot of you, black-eyed peas are going on the table. The tradition dates back to the Civil War. The north burned most Confederate crops. But they left the black-eyed peas because they thought they were weeds. It kept a lot of southerners from starving. The hog, and its meat, symbolizes prosperity, while greens - collards, mustard or turnip - symbolize cash, as does cabbage and spinach. Cornbread represents gold. Rice is considered lucky in several regions and cakes made with pounds of butter and sugar (sound familiar?) were staples at New Year's Day feasts in the 1800s. So if you want to keep up a tradition started by our ancestors, make sure you eat your black-eyed peas.

ATTENTION: Address Changes

If anyone in our Camp has a mailing address change, e-mail address change, or has not received their Newsletter; please contact Larry McCluney at 662-453-7212 or e-mail – confederate@roadrunner.com

* Newsletter Disclaimer: Editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted and all submissions to the newsletter must be in proper format (all Caps not accepted).

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**MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS:
CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE**

The following individuals have announced their intentions of seeking elected office at the 2009 Division Annual Reunion thus far.

Commander – Bill Atkinson

1Lt. Commander – Alan Palmer

2Lt. Commander – Bill Hinson

Adjutant-

1st Brigade Commander – Donald Wright, Jr.
And Arlin Person

1st Brigade Councilman – Dan A. McCaskill

2nd Brigade Commander

2nd Brigade Councilman

3rd Brigade Commander – Allen Terrell

3rd Brigade Councilman – Joseph Abbott and
Mike Webb

4th Brigade Commander – Louis P. Foley

4th Brigade Councilman – Knox Poole

5th Brigade Commander

5th Brigade Councilman

The Candidates Credentials Committee will review and assure that each candidate is eligible to hold the desired office before placing their names on the ballot. Send your letters of nomination for State-level offices to:

Louis Foley, Chairman

Division Candidates Credentials Committee

2167 Hwy. 503 South Newton, MS 39345

**Motel Information for the 114th
Reunion MS Division, Sons of
Confederate Veterans and 15th
Reunion MS Society, Order of
Confederate Rose**

May 29-31, 2009 . . . Greenwood, MS

Hosted by the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625 and the Ella Palmer Chapter #9, MSOCR. A block of 75 rooms are reserved at the Best Western in Greenwood.

Reservations can be made by calling 662-455-5777. Ask for the Mississippi Division, SCV Convention Discount.

These rooms consist of:

33 Non-Smoking King-size beds - 4 Smoking King-size beds
33 Non-Smoking doubles – 5 Smoking doubles

Rates are \$75.00 + tax a night

Reservations **MUST BE MADE** before March 29, 2009.

Reservations after this date will revert back to the regular rate. Cancellations must be made **BEFORE** May 15, 2009.

All rooms include complimentary hot breakfast every morning. Here is the web site for those who are interested in seeing the motel and directions to it online.

www.bestwesternmississippi.com/greenwood-hotels/

The time is now! Sign up now and save!!! We want to encourage all to register early and save money by registering early. The Convention theme for 2009 is "Welcome to the MS Delta, the Land of Cotton". We have an exciting Convention planned out for everyone. This year the OCR will get their own Convention medal for the first time as well and of course the lots of free tours, free seminars, and a wonderful Convention center, Confederate Memorial Hall. And, it's air-conditioned! The motel is very flag friendly and they will promote our organization on the marquee'.

For information and registration visit:

<http://msconvention2009.homestead.com/index.html>

(Note: Registration forms have been sent out in the State Newsletter, the Jeff Davis Legion)

**Program Ads for Sale For The 114th Annual Mississippi Division Reunion
Sons of Confederate Veterans And The 15th Annual Mississippi Society
Order of Confederate Rose Reunion**

Ad Sizes and Prices Please Circle One Full Page \$ 100 1/2 Page \$ 50 1/4 Page \$ 25 Business Card
\$ 15 Please Submit Your Own Ad Layout, Business Card or Other

Name: _____

Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

114th Mississippi Division SCV Reunion Program Ad Receipt

Quantity: Size: Amount:

Questions: Contact Dan McCaskill at 662-882-1096

SCV National News:

ARMY OF TENNESSEE MEETING – 9am Sat, February 21, 2009

AOT Commander Kelly Barrow is pleased to invite you to the 2009 meeting of the Army of Tennessee. This meeting will provide National SCV Speakers, good food, and good camaraderie with other AOT members.

Tentative Agenda:

8 am	Registration	
9 am	Opening	
9:20	Membership/Retention	Ben Sewell
10:00	Importance of the Adjutant	Mark Simpson
10:40	SCV 101	Scott Gilbert
11:20	Parliamentarian Procedure	Joe Warnke
12:00	BBQ Dinner	
1:00 pm	Children of the Confederacy	William Baber
1:30	Sesquicentennial	Tom Strain
2:00	Communications and Action	Chuck McMichael
2:40	Beauvoir	Larry McCluney
3:10	Benediction/Adjourn	

Registration \$14 (includes dinner, program, etc.). Must pre-register by February 14. 80 seat limit. Send checks payable to Camp 1372 to: Camp 1372, PO Box 43362, Vestavia, Ala. 35243. The meeting will be hosted by Camp Fighting Joe Wheeler #1372 at their meeting place, "The New Merkle House" in Cahaba Hts near the intersection of I-459 (exit 19) and US-280. Take 280 West, through the light at the Summit Shopping Center, turn right at the next light onto Dolly Ridge Rd. Take the third driveway to the right after the first light on Dolly Ridge Rd. Park in the lower or upper parking lot, or park around the Cahaba Heights Elementary School next door. For a map and detail directions see FJW camp website (<http://www.fightingjoewheeler.net/>) on the "Map to Camp Meetings" listing. The map also shows (5) hotels (with phone numbers) on Hwy 280 that are in easy access to the meeting place.

1. La Quinta Inn (shown as Baymont Inn) \$59 single, \$65 double
2. Drury Inn \$99.99 King, or \$124.99 two room suite (up to 4 beds)
3. Best Western (shown as Holiday Inn Express) \$74 (ask for corporate rate)
4. Birmingham Marriott \$119
5. Fairfield Inn \$85

For men whose wives would like to come, the Summit Shopping Center should offer ample diversion and entertainment during the meeting. Other activities may be planned. The ladies are welcome to join us for the meeting or just for Dinner at the New Merkle House for a \$10 registration fee.

MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Compatriots,

On Tuesday December 16, 2008 the General Executive Council held a teleconference. The following items were discussed or voted on.

1. The GEC voted to approve immediate payment of 15K for the Joseph E. Johnston statue to be placed at the Bentonville Battlefield in North Carolina. At the October 4, 2008 meeting the GEC had previously voted to provide this 15K of funding to close out the project. However, donors have come forward that have stated they will match funds raised for the statue and in order to obtain these matching funds the GEC voted to authorize immediate payment of the 15K. The land on which the statue will be placed has been donated to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.
2. The GEC voted, at the recommendation of the Award Committee Chairman, to allow the news letters submitted for the best news letter award to also be submitted on CD in either PDF or Microsoft Word format. Previously the awards manual required the news letters to be submitted in hard copy. News letters may still be submitted in hard copy for judging.
3. Ben Sewell reported that dues collection / retention of members is proceeding generally at the same rate as last year. This is an indication that the dues increase, authorized at the 2007 convention in Mobile, has not adversely impacted membership renewals.
4. Lt. Commander in Chief Givens spoke at the reinstatement initiative now in progress. The GEC voted at the October GEC meeting to contact approximately 16,000 members who did not renew their membership in the last few years. Letters were sent to these members and approximately 366 have thus far rejoined, some making additional donations to the SCV. It is anticipated that for the next 2 to 3 months SCV Headquarters will be receiving renewals from this mailing.
5. The GEC voted to provide a modest Christmas bonus for the employees of the SCV.

Report compiled by:
Chuck Rand, Chief of Staff
chuckrand3@gmail.com

BLACK CONFEDERATE PENSIONERS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

by James G. Hollandsworth Jr.

The service of African Americans with the Confederate army during the American Civil War has long intrigued historians and Civil War buffs. Were these men soldiers or servants? Did they get shot? Why did they serve, and what was the nature of the relationship between black servants and their white masters in uniform? The answers to these questions may never be completely understood, but one thing is clear from a variety of sources: African Americans were an integral part of the Confederate war effort.

Black southerners contributed to the Confederate war effort in four ways. First, as slaves, they provided the labor that fueled the Southern cotton economy and maintained the production of foodstuffs and other commodities. Second, slaves were rented to or drafted by the Confederate government to work on specific projects related to the South's military infrastructure, such as bridges and railroads. Third, black southerners were part of the work force in the Confederacy's war-related foundries, munitions factories, and mines. In addition, they transported food and war material to the front by wagon, and provided services to wounded and sick soldiers in Confederate hospitals. Last, a large number of black southerners went to war with the Confederate army as noncombatants, serving as personal servants, company cooks, and grooms.

The lack of reliable information presents a problem with developing a better picture of what black noncombatants did with the Confederate army. Documentation for the use of slave labor on fortifications and railroads is extensive because that type of labor was a matter of official policy and subject to contractual arrangements. The services of black workers in Confederate arsenals, mines, and hospitals were also documented. Unfortunately, the same sort of documentation does not exist for black noncombatants with the Confederate army because their service was not officially recognized. Consequently, the primary source of information regarding their service is anecdotal, and anecdotes do not provide a reliable basis for drawing historical conclusions. Anecdotes usually originate from a single source and thus lack corroboration. The shortcoming of anecdotes can be illustrated by the widely accepted – but inaccurate – generalization that most African Americans serving with the Confederate army were sent home after 1862.

Fortunately there is another source of information about the service of these men. Although the information it provides is not as colorful as that found in the anecdotes recorded by Confederate veterans, it has the advantage of having been collected systematically and verified by witnesses. That source of information consists of their applications for Confederate pensions after the war.

Black Confederate pensioners – Veterans of the Union army who were disabled as a result of their service during the Civil War were eligible for a federal pension as early 1868. However, disabled Confederate veterans had to wait until their Confederate allies regained political control of the Southern states after Reconstruction to apply for pensions sponsored by the individual states. Although Confederate pensions were limited initially to disabled veterans, it was not long before eligibility was expanded to include veterans who were poor and in need. North Carolina and Florida led the way in 1885, and by 1898 all of the states that had seceded from the Union offered pensions to indigent Confederate veterans. Missouri and Kentucky followed suit in 1911 and 1912, respectively. These states, with the exception of Missouri, also extended coverage to indigent widows of veterans, as long as they did not remarry.

African Americans who had served with the Confederate army were not included – except in Mississippi, which had included African Americans in the state's pension program from its beginning in 1888. It was not until 1921 that another state extended the eligibility for pensions to African Americans who had served as servants with the Confederate army. Unfortunately, black southerners who applied for Confederate pensions in the 1920s were, for the most part, very old men. Consequently, the number of black pensioners was small compared to the large number of Confederate veterans in the states that had allowed for pensions decades earlier. For example, Mississippi, which was the only state to include African Americans from its program's beginning in 1888, had 1,739 black pensioners; North Carolina, which first offered pensions in 1927 had 121; South Carolina, which first offered pensions in 1923, had 328; Tennessee, which first offered pensions in 1921, had 195; and Virginia, which first offered pensions in 1924, had 424 black pensioners.

Initially, Mississippi's pensions for Confederate veterans were limited to soldiers or sailors and their former servants with a disability sustained during the war, such as the loss of a limb, that prevented them from engaging in manual labor, and to women who had been widowed during the war and had not remarried. In 1892, Mississippi expanded the eligibility for pensions to include veterans, their former servants, and unmarried widows "who are now resident in this State, and who are indigent and not able to earn support by their own labor."

Pension applications from African Americans in Mississippi were forwarded to the state auditor's office by pension boards in each county. These applications are now on file in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, where they are intermingled with applications from white soldiers and widows, all of which are filed alphabetically by last name. Black pensioners can be identified by the special application form that servants were required to use. A review of the applications for Confederate pensions in Mississippi – about 36,000 – reveals 1,739 applications from African Americans.

Pension applications – Pension applications for African Americans were different from those used for soldiers or widows. Questions on the applications for servants asked for the applicant's name, age, the name of the person he had served during the Civil War, and the dates of his service. Questions also asked the unit to which the applicant's master had been assigned. This information, coupled with his master's name, allowed pension boards to verify the applicant's service by checking Confederate muster rolls. This step in the approval process was crucial as contemporary records documenting the service of African Americans were nonexistent. There were no muster rolls for these men, most of whom had no last names at the time of their service.

Other Confederate states also wanted to know what black applicants had done in regard to their service during the war, but they limited the applicant's response to a single word or term, such as "body servant." Interestingly, Mississippi did not start asking for this information until 1922, the same year it stopped asking for the applicant's age.

Surprisingly, none of the states, except Mississippi, asked black applicants if they were wounded as a result of their service with the Confederate army. This omission did not mean, however, that such information did not find its way onto application forms, for all states allowed the applicant to state why he should be awarded a pension, and applicants were not hesitant to report wounds received during the war. Nevertheless, information about wounds was not systematically obtained from black applicants, except in Mississippi, and the county pension boards in Mississippi stopped collecting wound information in 1922.

Confederate pension programs were administered by the states, and all applications, including affidavits, were completed at the county level, even in those states where final approval rested with a state pension board. At least two witnesses, preferably former Confederate soldiers, were required to sign affidavits under oath attesting that the information provided by the applicant was accurate. As a result, applicants, white or black, were usually known by the people who asked for the information on pension applications and affidavits. In contrast, the federal pension program for Union soldiers was administered centrally in Washington, D.C., where a small group of over-worked clerks attempted to sort through thousands of applications from all parts of the country, costing the federal government millions of dollars on fraudulent claims

Black noncombatants - The proportion of black pensioners among different work categories varied from state to state. The pension statutes in Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee, for example, were intended primarily to reward the service of servants or cooks whose masters were assigned to units in the Confederate army. Despite state variations, an overall pattern of service among the black pensioners is clear. On average, 85 percent of the black pensioners served as servants or cooks with the Confederate army.

The Delta General

1412 North Park Dr

Greenwood, MS

Camp Officers

Commander
(Adjutant) -

Dan McCaskill

1st Lt Cmdr- Charles
"Gator"Stillman

2nd Lt Cmdr- Claude
Stillman

Color Sgt - Ralph
Washington

Appointed

Officers:

Editor/Webmaster -

Larry McCluney

Chaplain - Earl
McCown, Jr.

Sgt-at-Arms -

Thomas Haik



.The number of black pensioners in Mississippi was large enough to indicate the distribution of black noncombatants within the Confederate army. Unit assignments can be identified for 1,312 black applicants in Mississippi, of which nearly 1,100 were with units raised in the state. Unit assignments of masters (thus that of black noncombatants) by percentage were: infantry, 57 percent; cavalry, 33 percent, artillery, 8 percent; and general staff, 2 percent). Of the seventy-nine infantry and cavalry regiments or battalions with Mississippi designations during the war, only three (4 percent) were not represented by at least one black pensioner after the war.

As black pensioners served in 96 percent of the regiments and battalions from Mississippi, it is evident that African Americans served with every army, in every theater, both early in the war and late. Furthermore, they were at every major battle of the Civil War east of the Mississippi River. When the end came, black noncombatants with Mississippi units were at Appomattox and Bentonville, Mobile, and Selma.

The age at which black noncombatants began serving with the Confederate army can be calculated from information contained on applications in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia. The modal age (the age that occurs with the greatest frequency in the distribution) for all three states was seventeen. All of the states were remarkably similar when it came to the average length of time these black noncombatants served with the Confederate army (2.6 years).

A central question about these men is whether some of them ever became soldiers. Unfortunately, applications submitted by black pensioners do not address this question. By filling out a servant's application, these men acknowledged at the onset that they were noncombatants, not soldiers. African Americans who may have enlisted as soldiers in the Confederate army, which would have entitled them to a larger pension, would have applied using a soldier's pension form.

Although applications from black pensioners provide relatively straightforward answers to questions that can be easily measured, such as wounds and their nature, they have serious limitations when it comes to dealing with personal feelings about their service. The question of the black noncombatants' motivation, for example, is only partially resolved by information from pension applications. Questions about motivation did not appear on application forms, and the vast majority of African Americans who labored for the Confederate war effort were slaves. While it is true that many of the slaves who served as black noncombatants may have served willingly, how many – and how willingly – is a matter of speculation. Some black southerners did volunteer.

The responses to questions on the nearly 3,000 applications from Confederate black pensioners reinforce the conviction that black noncombatants were an important part of the Confederate armies, and shed some light on what they did to support the Confederate war effort.