



Joe Nokes, Commander Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



The Delta General

February / March, 2012 Volume 15, Issue 2
Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Commander's Corner

Compatriots,

Let me start by expressing my thanks for the honor of being elected Camp Commander for the next two years. I am proud to be asked to serve in this capacity, and I hope to do justice to both the office and the men who have preceded me. Furthermore, our camp has an excellent staff of officers who are ready and willing to serve the next two years. I am very excited when I think about the upcoming events that our camp has in store.

First, I would like to take a moment to remind everyone that of our meeting time and place – 7:00 pm, the FIRST Thursday of each month at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola, MS. Our guest speaker for March 1 is Reverend James Taylor of the Calhoun Avengers camp. Reverend Taylor is always an engaging speaker with a message that we can take to heart.

Second, I do not think that I need to remind anyone that we are in the second year of the Sesquicentennial for the War of Southern Independence. What I would like to stress is that we, as the leading historians of this time, need to do our very best to ensure that we live up to the honor of our ancestors by comporting ourselves as leaders, scholars, and above all, gentlemen to the general public. We need to go above and beyond our normal efforts in attending camp meetings, living histories, memorials, dedications, educational opportunities and any and every chance to show our loyalty and dedication to the cause which we believe.

I would like to share with you some of the recent happenings of our camp. At the annual Lee and Jackson Banquet, we awarded the McCaskill Scholarship to our newly elected Color Sergeant, Christopher Lewis. We also awarded the H. L. Hunley Medal to Gentell Halsell of Greenwood High School. Our attendance at the Banquet was over 70; the upside of this number is that we may indeed have to move to a bigger banquet location next year for the sake of seating.

Furthermore, at the yearly Executive Council meeting, we discussed many plans for the upcoming year's events including our Sesquicentennial program at Cottonlandia in May. We will need your help and participation to make this event something special. Our event last September drew a large crowd, and the Cottonlandia staff are excited to have us back. Therefore, we need to put forth even more effort for this event.

I could go on and on but will pause for now. Let me again say that I am thankful for this trust and eager for the upcoming days. I hope to see all of you at as many of our events as possible. As always, bring a friend or family member with you.

Confederately,
Joe Nokes, Commander

February IS National Recruiting Month!

There is NO better month to PUSH recruiting; as an individual, as a Camp, or as a Division!! The National "Proration" membership policy makes February the very BEST month to recruit new members to our organization! Check the "explanation" of the program at <http://www.scv.org/pdf/proration.pdf>.

Become familiar with it and USE IT! Reinstating former members are also eligible for the prorated dues structure which is another incentive to sign up our former members living in your community. There is no better time for a new recruit or a returning delinquent member to get the "best bang for his buck!" This means that for a total of \$50, he will be paid in full until July 31, 2013, and receive nine issues of the Confederate Veteran magazine and membership privileges!

The prorated dues amount decreases on May 1st as our fiscal year winds down but of course the bargain benefits do as well! NOW is the time to do it!

Divisions, Camps or possibly individual members may even want to offer to pay the proration fee as an additional incentive to recruitment! NOW is the time to begin Camp and Division recruiting contests, as there is no better time to recruit or to simply give that gift membership that you always meant to give. If YOU don't make use of this GREAT recruiting tool you're missing the very best opportunity we have to offer during the year. "Every ONE, Recruit ONE!" Let's DOUBLE the membership of the Sons of Confederate Veterans!

Deo Vindice!
Charles Kelly Barrow, Lt. Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans - 1800mysouth.com

Inside this Issue:

- Camp News – pp. 1-2
- Division News – pp. 3-5
- National News – p. 5
- Fort Donelson – pp. 5-7
- Battle of the Ironclads – p. 8

Upcoming Events:

- 2/18/12 – GEC Meeting, Columbia, TN
- 2/24-26/12 Battle of the Texas Hospital – Quitman, MS
- 3/1/12 – Regular Camp Meeting
- 3/29-4/1/12 – Battle of Shiloh Reenactment

Copyright Notice: *The Delta General* is the publication of the Brig./General Benjamin G. Humphrey's Camp and should not be reproduced in any form without permission. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, any copyrighted material published herein is distributed under fair use without profit or payment to those who are inter-ested in receiving the provided information for non-profit research and educational purpose only. Reference: [Http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml)

Camp Adjutant's Report

The Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625, Sons of Confederate Veterans held its 16th Annual Lee – Jackson Birthday Banquet Saturday, January 28, 2012 at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Indianola, Mississippi. The weather for the event was near perfect although a little on the chilly side. Attendance for the evening festivities was fantastic with 72 attending. This is the largest turnout in several years. Camp Commander Claude "Junior" Stillman presided over the banquet as his last official duty as outgoing Camp Commander. The banquet was called to order at 7:15 pm with the presentation of the Colors by members of the Camp Color Guard commanded by Chaplain Earl McCown. After the Blessing and Salutes led by Mr. Earl, Commander Stillman welcomed everyone to the banquet and introduced our distinguish guests. The guests not familiar to those in attendance were Army of Tennessee Commander Tom Strain and Former Chief of Heritage Defense Paul Grambling from Louisiana who is a candidate for Lt. Commander-in-Chief on the National Level. After introductions, Commander Stillman had the pleasure of inducting Wade Johnson into the Camp as our newest member. Following this, Dan McCaskill presented the Oliver and Jeffrey McCaskill Memorial Scholarship Award to our own Christopher Lewis for his use to further his education. The next item of business was the presentation of the H. L. Hunley JROTC Award to Cadet. Lt. Commander Gentell Hasell by Joe Nokes. Hasell is the Naval JROTC Commander at Greenwood High School. He was accompanied by 9 members of his family and his JROTC Instructor Gunnery Sgt. Donald Alderson, USMC Ret. With business taken care of, Tom Strain led the procession to the banquet table. We

had an abundance of delicious food and I want to thank all who brought a dish. The meat provided by the Camp was cooked by Tabb's Bar-B-Que in Greenville. After satisfying our hunger, Tom Strain satisfied our need for knowledge with an informative talk on the life and accomplishments of General Robert E. Lee after the "late Unpleasantness". After presenting his program, Tom had the honor of installing new Camp Officers who will serve the Camp for the next two years. New Commander Joe Nokes took over emcee duties at the banquet. The tradition of remembering our Confederate Ancestors and Camp members who had "crossed over the river" was continued with our Candlelight Memorial conducted by Dan McCaskill. The ultimate fun event of the evening was the OCR Raffle conducted by Missy Stillman and Patty Nokes. Mr. Earl allowed a few of us to take home prizes this year. The evening was concluded with the singing of Dixie. If you missed this year's banquet, you missed a great time of fellowship. Make plans to be at next year's event. In closing, I want to thank everyone who helped setup and decorated the Fellowship Hall and with the cleanup. Thanks to everyone who brought food, all of it was great. Thanks to the Ladies of the OCR for taking time to have the raffle which will benefit both the Camp and their Chapter in the coming year. Finally, I want to thank all our members, family and friends for your participation in making this a memorable event.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Camp Adj.

County Board Approves State Flag

Posted: Feb 6, 2012 05:29 PM CST (WXVT Delta News)

The Washington County Board of Supervisors on Monday agreed to allow the Mississippi state flag to fly at county properties. The decision was made after a tense discussion involving members of the board, five military veterans who requested the action and some audience members.

In 2001, the county board voted to take the flags down from their board room and from all county buildings. The order was made after voters were overwhelmingly in favor of adopting a new state flag.

The Confederate symbol that's part of the design has been a controversial issue for many years. After other Southern states, like Georgia and South Carolina, adopted new flags that don't have the symbol, there was widespread interest in Mississippi following suit. However, the complicated process resulted in voters having to choose between keeping the flag, or adopting a design that bears close resemblance to the original Confederate National Flag.

The image most people refer to as the Confederate, or "rebel," flag was the battle flag of Northern Virginia. Apart from representing the Confederacy during the Civil War, that emblem has been linked to several organizations that favored segregation or committed acts of violence or terrorism against blacks and other groups.

Five men who served in the U.S. armed forces, during World War II or subsequent conflicts, asked the board to reinstate the Mississippi flag. Among them were Tony Provenza and Joe Bordelon. Among those supporting their effort was Claudette Skelton, who for many years attended board meetings wrapped in a state flag.

Supervisors Ernest Holmes and Troy Wesley were against restoring the flag to county buildings. Audience members Rev. Frank Hall, Rev. Jackie Davis and attorney Willie Griffin also spoke out against it. Griffin was attorney for the board of supervisors when the 2001 decision was made.

Opinions about the flag often fall along racial lines, with black people wanting it taken down and white people wanting it up. However, Supervisors Jesse Amos and Mike Gordon both said the majority of their black constituents don't have a problem with the flag, so they voted in favor of the veterans' request. Wesley and Holmes voted against it. Board President Paul Watson broke the tie, siding with Amos and Gordon.



Division News: **A Grave Matter!**

LIBERTY — A landowner has filed a complaint with the state Attorney General concerning the way the Mississippi Department of Transportation is handling a suspected cemetery site in the path of the Highway 24 four-lane project. Attorney David H. Ogwyn, acting on behalf of landowner Buddy Dupuy, filed the complaint late Tuesday afternoon after Dupuy became dissatisfied with the way MDOT was surveying the property at the southeast corner of Highway 24 and Middle Glading Road. MDOT officials and consultants arrived Tuesday morning to investigate a tract that elderly residents say was a cemetery that was bulldozed decades ago. No records of the cemetery are known to exist. Last month Dupuy hired “grave dowser” Don Estes of Natchez to examine the property, and he identified what he said were 18 graves. On Tuesday, MDOT workers laid out a 70-by-80 meter (275-by-315 foot) rectangle and began checking it with a ground-penetrating radar device. “The sled that he’s dragging emits a pulse into the ground,” explained MDOT chief archaeologist John Underwood, referring to a lawnmower-size device pulled by Bryan Haley of Tulane University and University of Mississippi. “Different things underground reflect signals.” MDOT planned to spend four to five days at the site, also using a magnetometer to examine the area. Underwood said it would take a couple weeks to analyze the findings and prepare a report. But work was suspended Tuesday due to a scheduling conflict and other issues. Ogwyn said MDOT originally planned to cover the property in one day and use a dual-antenna radar device. Instead it scheduled several days and brought a single-antenna instrument. “The research is pretty clear that the dual-antenna system gives you a better depiction,” Ogwyn said. “The rules have been changed, so it’s frustrating.” Dupuy had hired an independent consultant — LSU geophysicist Jeff Nunn — to observe the survey, and he wasn’t able to be there Wednesday, Ogwyn said. “We agreed to meet and conduct the testing on Jan. 3. It was not until we were at the site that we were notified that the testing would necessarily extend beyond today,” he wrote in Tuesday’s letter to Jimmy Isonhood, Special Assistant Attorney General with the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office. Ogwyn also said the radar wasn’t used Tuesday on the sites that the grave-dowser identified. “If the purpose of today’s work was to confirm the existence of the cemetery why wasn’t that area tested?” Ogwyn said in Tuesday’s letter. Ogwyn said he’s hopeful

that laws protecting sites of cultural and historic significance will force MDOT to make a serious effort to find the graves. “The Federal Highway Administration would, I guess, be the final arbiter as to whether the project qualified for federal funding if it were to take a cemetery,” Ogwyn told the Enterprise-Journal. Dupuy said he learned about the cemetery site from members of the Amite County Historical and Genealogical Society and from elderly neighbors. “Those people told them (MDOT officials) that there was a graveyard there and they didn’t want to hear about it,” Dupuy said, noting the cemetery was reported to MDOT at public hearings years ago, as were possible Indian mounds nearby. Dupuy said he believes MDOT routed the highway across his land to avoid land across the road where there are several tracts of property, including a residence that doubles as a daycare. “I’m one man on this side to deal with. Over there you’ve got six or eight people,” he said. MDOT officials maintained the agency is making a good-faith effort to find the graves. Right-of-way director Dan Smith said Ogwyn was notified by e-mail on Dec. 27 that the testing would take place from Tuesday to Friday or Saturday of this week. MDOT location engineer Rhea Vincent, who was present at Tuesday’s survey, said he was surprised by the letter to the Attorney General. “We thought we were on a good path and a good footing with this gentleman,” Vincent said. “We were trying to communicate with him. This letter came out and we were surprised. “We’re simply trying to locate where the graves are.” He said workers intentionally laid out an area bigger than that identified by the grave dowser. “You may have a whole bunch more (graves) around it, and we’re simply trying to encompass that area to do that,” he said, noting that the process takes several days. As for single vs. dual antenna, Vincent said MDOT is using two methods — ground-penetrating radar and magnetometer — to increase chances of finding graves. “I’m happy with what he (Haley) is doing,” he said. Vincent said he hopes to resume the survey when Dupuy’s consultant can be present. “We’re not trying to hide anything,” he said. “We’re simply trying to pursue that (survey). We’ve got to find out what’s there.” MDOT District Engineer Albert White said this morning that a compromise appears to be in the works. “They’re trying to reschedule,” White said.

Mississippi Division Executive Council Meeting Scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2012 in Columbus, MS

Gentlemen of the Mississippi Division,

I would first like to inform you, that Ben Gadis, fourth brigade councilman, resigned his position for personal reasons and I have appointed Tim Cupit to fill this position until the next convention in June. I would like to thank Ben for his work on the EC for these past months and wish him well.

The fourth brigade will elect a new permanent councilman at their picnic in March to serve out the term and he will be sworn in at the next convention as per the bylaws.

We will be holding our next EC meeting on Saturday Feb 25 in the S.D.Lee home in Columbus and holding an officer training session immediately after. Below you will find a preliminary schedule for the meeting (subject to slight modifications).

I will post an agenda for the EC portion of the meeting soon. Please submit requests to be placed on the agenda to division Chief of Staff Andrew McCaskill asap.

All division members are welcome but especially camp commanders and camp adjutants should attend the training sessions. These are most



Continued on page 4 . . .

MS Executive Council continued . . .

in May, after that we will hold another EC meeting/training session below Jackson so that all camp officers will have an opportunity to attend a training session this year. I am open to suggestions for a location to hold such a meeting. Important positions and are the key to a successful camp. Our next EC meeting will be held in the War Memorial Building in Jackson sometime.

In your Service,
Alan Palmer, Cmdr Ms Div SCV

Again the agenda for the day is preliminary but should hold pretty much to this schedule. See schedule at right.

Agenda:

- 7:30 am Coffee, Juice and pastries sponsored by Lee Home and Camp 1220.
- 8:00 am Guided Tours of home, without your colorful commentary a tour is just another walkthrough of an old house.
- 10:00 am Mississippi Division Executive Council Meeting
- 12:30 pm Dinner (to you Yankee's that's lunch) Sponsored by Camp 1221
- 2:00 pm Officer's training
- 4:00 pm Closing
- 4:15 pm Clean up and put up
- 5:00 pm Evacuate

The Hayes Cottage at Beauvoir

Are you looking for a peaceful, quiet get-away in a historic setting? Look no further than the Hayes Cottage on the grounds of the last home of President Jefferson Davis, Beauvoir.

The Hayes Cottage is available for rent for a maximum of 3 nights for recreational purposes. Obviously, for such a historic property and place there are certain rules that must be followed. They are explained below.

1. Reservations must be made in advance, but no reservations for recreational purposes will be taken earlier than 60 days in advance.
2. If an SCV member proof of membership must be pre-sented.
3. Unused reservations not cancelled within 24 hours (by 5 PM on the day prior to scheduled arrival) will be charged to the guest.
4. Donations must be paid at the gift shop and the key picked up before 5 PM. If after 5 PM must be picked up at Security.
5. In all cases, business uses will take precedence over recreational uses. The institution reserves the right to cancel recreational use reservations when the cottage is needed for business purposes.
6. The maximum length of stay for recreational purposes is 3 nights.
7. A maximum of 4 guests may be accommodated in the cottage at one time.
8. Scheduled check-in time is 3 PM on the day of arrival and departure time is 11 AM on the scheduled day of departure. The cottage keys are to be left with the Security guard on duty.
9. Guest must park on the west side of the cottage.
10. No pets of any type will be allowed.
11. Linens, towels and tableware will be provided for the use of all guests.
12. Guests are required to leave the cottage in good order and will be charged for any damaged or missing items.
13. In and out traffic to the cottage must be limited. No outside guests after 6 PM. Call Security to unlock the front gate. (phone numbers are furnished in the cottage)
14. No Smoking in the cottage or within 50 feet of Beauvoir house.

Donation fees are:

\$100 per night for Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans members.

\$125 per night for out-of-state Sons of Confederate Veterans members.

\$200 per night for other individuals with the approval of the Chairman of the Combined Boards of Beauvoir.

Members of the following groups will be provided free accommodations:

- A. Combined Boards of Beauvoir
- B. Elected officers of the Mississippi Division SCV
- C. Individuals providing significant assistance and/or financial support to the institution.
- D. Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Presidents-General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Children of the Confederacy, and President of the Order of the Confederate Rose.
- E. Sponsors and President's Cabinet members of the Friends of Beauvoir (limited basis).

So, when you are wanting to experience Beauvoir call (228) 388-4400 and ask about reserving the Hayes Cottage for a night or two. All donations will be applied to the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Cottage.



2012 will be the Year of Completion at Beauvoir!

Kitchen Replica construction underway! Work has begun on the replica Kitchen on the northeast side of Beauvoir House. This is the LAST FEMA/MEMA funded building at Beauvoir. Work will be completed in May 2012. (See photo's below!)

[Jefferson Davis Presidential Museum and Library Update!](#)

Work continually progresses on our new Jefferson Davis Presidential Museum and Library building. The decorative masonry is nearing completion, and interior work has made major

strides as well. Flooring crews are now polishing the concrete floors on the upper level. The Beauvoir Gift Shop area is now underway, with the walls being installed. The power is now on, and the Beauvoir House is now on the new electrical grid, with underground cabling, and generator backup online and complete. The hardwood paneling is now being installed, and the lighting fixtures are in. Completion is scheduled for Spring 2012!

National News: Real Son Passes

James Brown Sr., 99, of Tellico Village, one of the last real sons of a Confederate veteran, died Thursday afternoon in a Farragut nursing home, his son, James Brown, said Saturday afternoon. James Brown Sr.'s father, James H.H. Brown, served in the 8th Georgia Infantry's Company K and fought throughout the Civil War. Mr. Brown would've turned 100 on Valentine's Day. Norman Shaw, founder of the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable, recalled meeting Mr. Brown. "It is definitely a direct connection to the past when you can say this gentleman's father fought in the Civil War," he said. "We call them real sons and real daughters of Confederate veterans." James Brown said his grandfather was 71 when his father, James Brown Sr., was born in 1912. "My Dad and I are so lucky to be alive," James Brown recalled. James H.H. Brown joined the Confederate army at the beginning of the Civil War and fought in 19 major battles, including Manassas, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, Campbell Station and Fort Sanders. "He made it to the end at Appomattox with the surrender of Lee and then he walked back home," James Brown said. "He was wounded

twice and, back then with the medical situation, he could've had a leg lopped off and bled to death."

James Brown said his father was 11 when James H.H. Brown died. He said his grandfather wasn't bitter with former Union soldiers.

"I always remember about my grandfather telling my dad he had nothing against Yankees," James Brown said. "They were good men and he was a good man. It was just something they had to do."

Brown Sr. also had a daughter by a second wife. Mr. Brown lived in Tucson, Ariz., for 19 years and was close to his daughter's family, his son said. Mr. Brown had lung cancer two years ago and had treatment. His son said Mr. Brown's health began to deteriorate quickly in the past few weeks. "At 100, everything starts to wear out. He went very quietly. He went in peace, comfortable without pain," his son said. "He had a ton of friends who came down to see him the last couple days. He was a popular man, a real country gentleman. He enjoyed people and they enjoyed him."

Ancestry.com Makes a Special Offer to SCV Members

Compatriots,

Here is a special offer from Ancestry.com that generates money for National SCV. This source of records is an asset for every camp to have access to in order to help potential members with their genealogy.

SCV Member Offer From Ancestry.com We are pleased to announce a special opportunity to SCV members. The SCV would like to introduce you to Ancestry.com, a great online resource for researching your family tree. Ancestry.com currently offers access to numerous of genealogy records. SCV members can

now get membership to Ancestry.com by going to SCV.org and scroll down to the Ancestry.com link or go to <http://www.dpbolvw.net/click-5451196-10467607>

In addition, for every purchase of a Ancestry.com membership the SCV will also earn a commission.

Deo Vindice!
Charles Kelly Barrow, Lt. Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans 1800mysouth.com

Battle of Fort Donelson

"No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." - **Ulysses S. Grant, February 16, 1862**

General Grant invested Fort Donelson on the 12th of February, 1862, with 15,000 troops, reinforced that evening by six regiments of infantry and Flag-Officer Foote's fleet of four ironclad and two wooden gunboats--the St. Louis, Carondelet, Louisville, Pittsburg, Tyler and Conestoga. Reinforcements continued to arrive. Wallace's division was brought over from Fort Henry, 10,000 men were sent by General Buell, and the Confederate lines were enveloped by 24,000 troops. General Buckner states, in his report, that at the close of the attack Grant's forces exceeded 50,000. Brig.-Gen. John B. Floyd, of

Virginia, commanded the Confederate forces, amounting to 12,000 men. General Pillow commanded the left, General Buckner the right.

The Tennesseans present were, the Third Tennessee, Col. John C. Brown; Eighteenth, Col. Jos. B. Palmer; Twenty-sixth, Col. John M. Lillard; Thirty-second, Col. Ed. C. Cook; Forty-first, Col. Robert Farquharson; Tenth, Col. A. Heiman; Forty-second, Col. W. A. Quarles; Thirtieth, Col. John W. Head; Forty-ninth, Col. James E. Bailey; Forty-eighth, Col. W. M. Voorhees; Tennessee battalion, Colonel Browder; Fiftieth, Colonel Sugg; five companies of infantry, Col. S. H. Colms; Fifty-third, Col. Alfred H. Abernathy;

Continued on page 6 . . .

Fort Donelson continued . . .

Forrest's regiment of cavalry, Col. N. B. Forrest; Ninth battalion of cavalry, Lieut.-Col. George Gantt; Maney's light battery of four guns, Capt. Grant Maney; Green's battery, Captain Green; Porter's battery, six guns, Capt. Thomas Kennedy Porter. The heavy guns were commanded by Capt. J. H. Dixon; one battery of 32-pounders, one rifle gun, one 10-inch columbiad and two howitzers were commanded by Capt. R. R. Ross; Capt. B. G. Bidwell, Thirtieth Tennessee infantry, was assigned to a battery of four 32-pounders; Capt. T. W. Beaumont, Company A, Fiftieth Tennessee infantry, had charge of a battery of four 32-pounders, and a battery of eight 32-pounders was commanded by Capt. Jacob Culbertson. Brig.-Gen. Gideon J. Pillow, Brig.-Gen. Simon B. Buckner and Brig.-Gen. Bushrod R. Johnson commanded the troops, General Floyd in chief command. The Tennessee brigade commanders were Col. A. Heiman, Col. John C. Brown and Col. James E. Bailey, the latter commanding the garrison of the fort; Col. N. B. Forrest commanded the cavalry.

The investment of Fort Donelson and the works occupied by the Confederate forces was complete by the afternoon of the 12th of February, and on the 13th an unsuccessful assault was made on Bushrod Johnson's left wing. It was met gallantly and repulsed by the Tenth Tennessee, Lieut.-Col. R. W. MacGavock; the Fifty-third Tennessee, Lieut.-Col. Thomas F. Winston; the Forty-eighth Tennessee, Col. W. M. Voorhees; the Forty-second Tennessee, Col. W. A. Quarles, and Maney's battery. General Johnson and Colonel Heiman both commended in high terms the conduct of the men who met this attack. After a second and third assault, the enemy retired, leaving his dead and wounded on the field. He had met three bloody repulses. The principal sufferer on the part of Heiman's brigade was Maney's battery; it was fought without protection and with skill and courage, but his loss, chiefly from sharpshooters, was such that he was afterward unable to man two of his four guns. Colonel Brown, commanding brigade, reports that pending this engagement of two hours' duration, "the enemy planted one section of a battery (of field guns) almost in front of Captain Graves, commanding a Kentucky battery, and opened an enfilading fire upon the left of my line, and at the same time a cross-fire upon Colonel Heiman. Captain Graves, handling his favorite rifle piece with the same fearless courage that characterized his conduct during the entire week, in less than ten minutes knocked one of the enemy's guns from its carriage, and almost at the same moment the gallant Porter (commanding battery) disabled and silenced the other, while the supporting infantry retreated precipitately before the storm of grape and canister poured into their ranks from both batteries." Two hours before this assault on Heiman's brigade, General Buckner reports, "the enemy made a vigorous attack on Hanson's position (the Second Kentucky, Col. Roger W. Hanson), but was repulsed with heavy loss. The attack was subsequently renewed by three heavy regiments, but was again repulsed by the Second Kentucky, aided by a part of the Eighteenth Tennessee (Colonel Palmer). In both of these affairs, also in a third repulse of the enemy from the same position, Porter's battery played a conspicuous part." Col. Roger Hanson, in his report of this action, states that "in resisting these attacks I was greatly assisted by Porter's battery upon the left. It always fired at the right time and to the right place.

General Grant had so far failed to accomplish anything with his army. On the 14th the main attack was made with the enemy's gunboats. Flag-Officer A. H. Foote, United States navy, reported that the action continued one hour and a half, and that "in the latter part of the action his fleet was less than 400 yards from the fort." "The wheel of this vessel [the flagship], by a shot through her pilot-house, was carried away, and the tiller-ropes of the

Louisville also disabled by a shot, which rendered the two boats wholly unmanageable. They then drifted down the river. The two remaining boats, the Pittsburg and Carondelet, were also greatly damaged between wind and water, and soon followed us, the enemy rapidly renewing the fire as we drifted helplessly down the river. This vessel, the St. Louis, alone received 59 shots, four between wind and water, and one in the pilot-house, mortally wounding the pilot and others. There were 54 killed and wounded" on the several vessels.

Capt. Joseph H. Dixon, an officer of great intelligence and courage, was killed on the evening of the 13th when a few shots were exchanged between the fleet and fort. One shot came through the embrasure, striking the left cheek of one of the gun-carriages out of which a screw bolt was driven, striking him in the forehead, killing him instantly. This was the only casualty sustained by the batteries. Colonel Bailey's brigade constituted the garrison of the fort and rendered great assistance to the gunners.

No battle or combat of the war was more decided than that between the heavy batteries and the Federal fleet, and there were no higher intelligence and gallantry displayed on any field of service than that exhibited by Captains Dixon, Culbertson, Ross, Beaumont, Bidwell and Graham. Lieutenants Stankiewitz, Fitzgerald, Spark-man, Bedford, George Martin and W. C. Allen were honorably mentioned. Captain Culbertson reported that "our success is mainly attributed" to Lieut. H. S. Bedford, who directed the 10-inch gun. Captain Bidwell, referring to Private John G. Frequa (or Fuqua) in his report, stated that "at the highest gun in my battery he stood perfectly upright, calm, cool and collected. I heard him say, 'Now, boys, see me take a chimney.' The chimney [of the vessel] and the flag both fell. Very soon he sent a ball through a porthole and the boat fell back." Captain Beaumont makes honorable mention of Major Robertson, who volunteered to serve one of his guns; also of Sergt. J. S. Martin, Corps. W. H. Proctor and Dan C. Lyle, and of Privates Elisha Downs, Poston Coutts, Nelson Davis, Isaac Christie, Wm. Trotter, Thomas Pearce and R. M. Crumpler. But no duty was omitted by officers or men, and Tennessee will always hold in grateful memory the prowess of her sons who manned the heavy guns in the defense of Fort Donelson.

On the 15th of February a combined attack was made by the two divisions commanded by Generals Pillow and Buckner. General Pillow led the left to the attack, soon followed by the right. Pillow's division constituted two-thirds of the army. The battle raged from daylight to 1 o'clock and to that hour was a great success. It was won by the troops of all of the States. Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, all shared alike in the glory of the achievement. The object of this attack is stated in the report of General Floyd to have been, as the result of a consultation with the officers of divisions and brigades, "to dislodge the enemy from the position on our left, and thus to pass our people into the open country."

Col. John G. Brown reported that when his brigade moved out on Saturday morning it "was provided with three days' cooked rations and marched with knapsacks, the purpose being to turn the enemy's right wing and march out on the Wynn's Ferry road to fall back on Nashville." After several fierce combats in cooperation with the left division he reports that he "led the Third, Eighteenth and Thirty-second Tennessee across an open field on the right of Wynn's Ferry road under the fire of a battery posted on that road." The infantry support retreated, leaving one section of the battery in his hands. He pursued the retreating forces. After this another fierce combat ensued, but after the

Continued on page 7 . . .

Fort Donelson continued . . .

firing of a few volleys of musketry the enemy abandoned the field, leaving 800 killed and wounded. In this last combat Colonel Brown was reinforced by the Fourteenth Mississippi regiment and Graves' battery. The brigade lost 50 in killed and wounded, among them Col. Thomas M. Gordon of the Third, wounded, and the accomplished Lieut.-Col. W. P. Moore, mortally wounded.

General Pillow, leaving Heiman's brigade in the trenches, with the balance of the left division, assisted by Forrest's cavalry, engaged the enemy hotly for two hours and succeeded in driving him back on Buckner's division. Forrest's cavalry charged the infantry support of and captured a battery composed of four field pieces and two 24-pounders. Gen. Bushrod Johnson, of Tennessee, always reliable and strong in battle, contributed largely to the success of the movement. His command became united with the forces of General Buckner as the enemy retired, as General Pillow reports, "and engaged the enemy in a hot contest of nearly one hour, with large forces of fresh troops that had now met us. This position of the enemy being carried by our joint forces, I called off further pursuit after seven hours of continuous and bloody conflict, in which our loss was severe, and leaving not less than 1,000 of the enemy dead on the field." The object of this battle seemed to be accomplished, but our council of war was divided, and the troops were ordered to their original position in the intrenchments.

As Buckner returned he found the Federal forces of Gen. C. F. Smith advancing rapidly to take possession of his portion of our works, bravely opposed by Maj. James J. Turner of the Thirtieth Tennessee. He had a stubborn conflict lasting one hour and a half, resulting in the seizure of our extreme right. This position was in rear of the Confederate river batteries and field-work for their protection, and was the key to the Confederate situation. It took Buckner in reverse and necessitated the ultimate surrender of our forces. The position seized by the Federal forces had been occupied by the Second Kentucky. In the struggle to regain it, this gallant regiment was reinforced by the Eighteenth, the Third and Thirty-second Tennessee, and subsequently by the regiments of Colonels Quarles, Sugg and Bailey. General Buckner reported that "the enemy made repeated attempts to storm my line on the right, but the well-directed fire of Porter's and Graves' artillery, and the musketry fire of the infantry, repelled the attempts and forced him to shelter. Porter's battery, from its exposed position, lost more than half its gunners, and the intrepid commander was severely wounded late in the afternoon of Saturday, being succeeded in command by the gallant Lieutenant Morton."

The artillery of Tennessee was especially conspicuous. Colonel Heiman reported that in the battle of the 13th, referring to Maney's battery. "First Lieutenant Burns was one of the first who fell. Second Lieutenant Massie was also mortally wounded. but the gallant Maney, with the balance of his men, stood by their guns like true heroes." Generals Pillow and Bushrod Johnson warmly commended Captains Maney and Green; and General Floyd, commander-in-chief, in his report of the battle of the 13th, said: "Too high praise cannot be bestowed upon the battery of Captain Porter for their participation in the rout of the enemy in this assault. My position was immediately in front of the point of attack, and I was thus enabled to witness the incidents of it." Col. John C. Brown reported that Captains Porter and Graves "excited the admiration of the whole command by an exhibition of coolness and bravery, under a heavy fire from which they had no protection, which could not be excelled. Captain Porter fell dangerously wounded by a minie ball through his thigh while

working one of his guns, his gunners being nearly all of them disabled or killed. The command then devolved upon Lieutenant Morton, a beardless youth, who stepped forward like an old veteran, and nobly did he emulate the example of his brave captain." Lieutenant Morton subsequently became distinguished as captain of Morton's battery of Forrest's cavalry.

Gen. N. B. Forrest, then colonel of Forrest's Tennessee cavalry, disputed the advance of General Grant on Fort Donelson with commendable enterprise and skill, no other obstacle being offered to the march from Fort Henry, and pending the engagement he was actively employed on the flanks of our army. Besides his own regiment, three mounted companies from Kentucky, commanded by Captains Williams, Wilcox and Henry, were assigned to his command, and gallantly assisted him. He also had assigned to him Gantt's Tennessee battalion. Forrest reported that he "charged two batteries of artillery, taking nine pieces of artillery with 4,000 stand of arms." He lost between 300 and 400 men, killed, wounded and missing, a greater loss than was sustained by any other regiment of the army. Among his killed was Capt. Charles May, who fell leading his company to a charge on the enemy. Fort Donelson was the opening of a career to Forrest that carried his name and fame to the civilized world and yet excites the admiration of all who read of his personal prowess and heroic actions. He retired from Fort Donelson before its final surrender. General Floyd with his brigade, and General Pillow with his staff, left on a transport pending negotiations.

The Confederate forces amounted to 12,000 to 14,500 men. General Badeau, in his life of Grant, Vol. I, page 36, says, on the last day of the fight Grant had 27,000 men, and other reinforcements arrived after the surrender; but General Buckner believed that this was far below the number, and General Buell stated in 1865 that Grant had 30,000 to 35,000 exclusive of the naval contingent.

The Federal loss amounted to 2,500 killed, wounded and missing. The Confederate loss was about 1,420. On Thursday there was a rainfall, followed by snow on Friday, with freezing weather, and by the evening of Saturday, the 15th, the men who had spent a week in the trenches without sleep and without fire to warm them, were worn out to such an extent that General Buckner decided he could not longer maintain himself, and surrendered the troops on the morning of the 16th. Soon after the surrender, civilians and relief agencies rushed to assist the Union Army. The U.S. Sanitary Commission was one of the first to provide food, medical supplies, and hospital ships to transport the wounded. Many civilians came in search of loved ones or to offer support. Although not officially recognized as nurses, women such as Mary Bickerdyke cared for and comforted sick and wounded soldiers.

With the capture of Fort Donelson and its sister fort, Henry, the North had not only won its first great victory, it had also gained a new hero—"Unconditional Surrender" Grant, who was promoted to major general. Subsequent victories at Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga would lead to his appointment as lieutenant general and commander of all Union Armies. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox would send Grant to the White House.

After the fall of Fort Donelson, the South was forced to give up southern Kentucky and much of Middle and West Tennessee. The Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, and railroads in the area, became vital Federal supply lines. Nashville was developed into a huge supply depot for the Union army in the west. The heartland of the Confederacy was opened, and the Federals would press on until the "Union" became a fact once more.

The Delta General
C/O Larry McCluney
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS 38930

We are on the Web!
www.humphreys1625.com



Don't be a Straggler!
Come to the Meetings!

Battle between the CSS Virginia and the USS Monitor

The **Battle of Hampton Roads**, often referred to as either the **Battle of the Monitor and the Virginia** (or *Merrimack*) or the **Battle of Ironclads**, was the most noted and arguably most important naval battles of the Civil War from the standpoint of the development of navies. It was fought over two days, March 8–9, 1862, in Hampton Roads, a roadstead in Virginia where the Elizabeth and Nansemond Rivers meet the James River just before it enters Chesapeake Bay. The battle was a part of the effort of the Confederacy to break the Union blockade, which had cut off Virginia's largest cities, Norfolk and Richmond, from international trade.

The major significance of the battle is that it was the first meeting in combat of ironclad warships. The Confederate fleet consisted of the ironclad ram CSS *Virginia* (built from the remnants of the USS *Merrimack* and several supporting vessels). On the first day of battle, they were opposed by several conventional, wooden-hulled ships of the Union Navy. On that day, *Virginia* was able to destroy two ships of the Federal flotilla and was about to attack a third, USS *Minnesota*, which had run aground. However, the action was halted by darkness and falling tide, so *Virginia* retired to take care of her few wounded — which included her captain, Flag Officer Franklin Buchanan — and repair her minimal battle damage.

Determined to complete the destruction of the *Minnesota*, Catesby ap Roger Jones, acting as captain in Buchanan's absence, returned the ship to the fray the next morning, March 9. During the night, however, the ironclad USS *Monitor* had arrived and had taken a position to defend *Minnesota*. When *Virginia* approached, *Monitor* intercepted her. The two ironclads fought for about three hours, with neither being able to inflict significant damage on the other. The duel ended indecisively, *Virginia* returning to her home at the Gosport Navy Yard for repairs and strengthening, and *Monitor* to her station defending *Minnesota*. The ships did not fight again, and the blockade remained in place.

The battle received worldwide attention, and it had immediate effects on navies around the world. The preeminent naval powers, Great Britain and France, halted further construction of wooden-hulled ships, and others followed suit. A new type of warship was produced, the monitor, based on the principle of the original. The use of a small number of very heavy guns, mounted so that they could fire in all directions was first demonstrated by *Monitor* but soon became standard in warships of all types. Shipbuilders also incorporated rams into the designs of warship hulls for the rest of the century.