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February – 2008



CAMP COMMANDER: DAN MCCASKILL
CAMP WEBSITE: WWW.HUMPHREYS1625.COM

The Delta General

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Commander's Corner:

Dan McCaskill, Camp Commander

January 26, 2008 marked our Camp's 12th Lee-Jackson Birthday Banquet. We had a great dinner, a wonderful speaker in Dr. William Parrish and lively fellowship with a rather small gathering (20 less than last year) of fellow compatriots and friends. The year 2008 has been designated the "Year of Jefferson Davis" by the Confederation with Davis' 200th birthday falling on June 3, 2008. Appropriately, Dr. Parrish's program talked of President Davis' travels and business ventures he undertook ten years after the War. During our Candle Light Memorial, we added Randle E. Furr, Sr. to our growing list of members who have "crossed over the river". Mr. Furr crossed over on March 19, 2007.

That evening, MS Division Commander Larry McCluney swore in new Camp Officers for the next two years. These officers are: Dan McCaskill, Commander, Adjutant, & Treasurer; Charles Stillman, 1st Lt Commander, Claude Stillman, 2nd Lt Commander; and Ralph Washington, Color Sergeant. These Officers are faced with three big tasks over the next two years. First, find a way to reverse the apathy and inactivity that has griped so many of our Camp Members. Without your participation in the Camp, we will be forced to curtail what few events the Camp sponsors. Second, the Officers and everyone in the Camp needs to recruit new members. Our Camp Membership has been on a slow steady decline for the past four years. The Membership peaked at 72 and now stands at 55. If this decline continues, we may have to discontinue the Camp Website and Newsletter for lack of funds. Third, our Camp will be hosting the 2009 MS Division State Reunion in Greenwood, MS in June of that year. We will need inputs and suggestions from everyone concerning every aspect of the Reunion such as but not limited to the host hotel, business meeting location, banquet, menu, program, door prizes, Reunion Medal, Speaker, goody bag, local attractions and anything else anyone can think of that will make the Reunion enjoyable.

We have some big challenges ahead of us over the next two years. Where we go will be determined by the members, the officers and the six other active members can do only so much and the members of the Ella Palmer OCR Chapter have become an indispensable part of the Camp. The Ladies have taken up much of the slack. My challenge to you is Will you help the Camp to become more active and growing or allow it to slip into oblivion and become a "has been" Camp?

God Bless the South,
Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Commander

Our February Speaker will give a program on "The Georgia Militia"

The speaker for Feb. will be the rev. Dr. Richard "Dick" Hill pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Leland. He will be speaking on the Georgia Militia to which his gggrand father was the bugler. Dr. Hill is also an accomplished author of several books of faith and grace. He brings with him not only the ability to preach, but to teach in depth the word of God and any other subject he studies. Lets all turn out and renew our fellowship and hear this interesting program that I know will enlighten everyone on a part of our heritage.

February is "Confederate" Black History Month

Black Confederates Why haven't we heard more about them? National Park Service historian, Ed Bearrs, stated, "I don't want to call it a conspiracy to ignore the role of Blacks both above and below the Mason-Dixon line, but it was definitely a tendency that began around 1910" Historian, Erwin L. Jordan, Jr., calls it a "cover-up" which started back in 1865. He writes, "During my research, I came across instances where Black men stated they were soldiers, but you can plainly see where 'soldier' is crossed out and 'body servant' inserted, or 'teamster' on pension applications." Another black historian, Roland Young, says he is not surprised that blacks fought. He explains that "some, if not most, Black southerners would support their

Continued on back page . . .

Editor's Comments

Please keep the Palmer family in your prayers. Katie Moon, Alan Palmer's daughter is expecting any day this month. On the flip side though, Alan's dad will have major heart surgery this month as well.



71st MOS&B General Convention

May 15-17 2008

Holiday Inn - Springdale, Arkansas

Order of Confederate Rose Concord, 2008 – July 16 - July 20



Registration Form

Member: _____ Lifetime Member: _____ Guest: _____

Name: _____
(Please Print your name - the way you want your nametag)

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Home: _____ Ofc: _____ Cell: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Position Held Chapter: President: _____ VP: _____ Sgct: _____ Treasurer: _____ Other: _____

Position Held State: President: _____ VP: _____ Sgct: _____ Treasurer: _____ Other: _____

Description Qty Cost Total
OCR Registration * \$25.00
Black Rose Seminar N/C N/C
Total Amount of Check \$
Please make your check payable to: NC OCR
Mail check and registration to: Suzy Hager
1033 Ashford Drive
Charlotte, NC 28214
(704) 393-2132
sz@carolina.rr.com

*Registration includes:
OCR ID Badge
Ditty Bag (first 100 to register)
OCR Welcome Reception
Thurs., July 17, 2008 from 5:00-10:00
Black Rose Mourning Seminar at n/c
Friday, July 18, 2008 @ 2:00 pm
(we need a head count)
General OCR Business Meeting/Social including
a Continental Breakfast and Guest Speaker Mrs.
Mary Anna Jackson (by Nora Brooks)

General Information for our OCR Family:

The OCR will be headquartered at the Comfort Suites Exit #49 Concord, North Carolina, (704) 979-3800 when making your reservations. The Comfort Suites have an indoor pool and fitness center and provide a full breakfast. The rooms are \$79.99 per night (be sure to tell them you are with the SCV/OCR). Restaurants in walking distance of the hotels are the Texas Roadhouse, Bob Evans, Cook-Out, Sonic Drive In and KFC/Taco Bell. There are plenty of other restaurants if you wish to drive. There is a shuttle bus to the Concord Mills Outlet all that will pick and return you to the hotel complex for \$1.00 each way and the shuttle runs hourly.

OCR Registration will be at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center and OCR registration hours will be posted. If an individual member or state society wishes to donate to the ditty bags, we are asking for your 100 items to be sent to Suzy Hager, 1033 Ashford Drive, Charlotte, NC 28214 by May 1, 2008. We want to have all "Ditty Bags" stuffed and ready for our guests at the time you register and pick up your name badges. You may either send your "Ditties" by US mail or UPS.

Tours: Will be handled by the SCV, you will need to register on the SCV Registration form.

Locations of Activities:

SCV Registration : Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

OCR Registration: Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

(Registration hours will be posted and we will be set up next to SCV Registration)

Vendors: Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

OCR Welcome Reception: Comfort Suites (Thursday, July 17, 2008 from 5:00-10:00)

Black Rose Seminar: Comfort Suites (Friday 2:00 PM)

General Business Meeting & Social Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

Our Saturday General Business Meeting & Social will be on Saturday July 19, 2008 from 8:30 -12:20 (tentatively). This will include a continental breakfast starting at 8:30 AM, with our very special guest Mrs. Mary Anna Jackson (Nora Brooks). Our time together will be fun filled, sisterly camaraderie, entertainment, and reports from the states, door prizes and maybe even a few good surprises. We are asking each state society to donate a door prize(s). If an individual member wishes to donate a door prize (s) we will welcome your thoughtfulness.

The North Carolina Society, Order of Confederate Rose, wishes to welcome all members and guests to the Order of Confederate Rose Confederation of States Societies Re-union for 2009. If you have any questions or if we may be of further assistance please email Laura Stallard, NC State President at laura21net@earthlink.net or you may telephone at (3360 993-8330).

Mississippi Division News

Fourth Brigade's Annual Carey Lee Johnson Picnic, March 1, 2008

The picnic will start at 10 AM, Saturday March 01, 2008 at the Newton County Historic American Legion Post 89 in Decatur, Mississippi.

Good Fun, Good Fellowship, Good Food, Good Speakers will be on hand.

Bring a covered dish and your own beverage All Mississippi Division Members Welcome

Directions:

Coming from the south:

Take I-20 to Newton exit 109. Take MS15 north toward Decatur. Go a little over 5 miles and look to your right. The American Legion Building is a large log cabin with a pond and large flag pole in the front with an Army Tank parked by the pond.

If you reach the traffic light in Decatur,

you've gone too far, turn around and go back south about a half to three quarter mile.

Coming from the north:

**Good Fun, Good
Fellowship, Good Food,
Good Speakers will be on
hand.**

Take MS 15 south from Philadelphia to the traffic light in Decatur (the one and only) continue south about half to three quarter mile, Post 89 will be on your left.

For more details contact: 4th Brigade Councilman: Louis Foley or Stephanie Foley at 1-601-683-3266

There will also be an Executive Council Meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 1, 2008** following the Mississippi Division SCV Carey Lee Johnston Memorial 4th Brigade Picnic.

We will meet after the picnic to discuss potential by-laws, convention, and finance budget. This short meeting is important before our Convention. Please make all effort to attend. If you have something that needs to go on the agenda please forward to me by February 15.

Respectfully,
Larry McCluney, Commander
MS Division, SCV

Army of Tennessee Meeting

9am Sat, February 16, 2008 – Birmingham, Alabama

AOT Commander Kelly Barrow is pleased to invite you to the 2008 meeting of the Army of Tennessee. This meeting will provide National SCV Speakers, good food, and good camaraderie with other AOT members.

Registration \$12 (includes dinner, program, etc.). Must pre-register by February 9. 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 (no doubles left), 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.

Tentative Agenda:

- 8 am Registration
- 9 am Opening
- 9:20 Membership/Retention
Bryan Sharp
- 10:00 Importance of the Adjutant
Mark Simpson
- 10:40 How the SCV Can Make a Difference – Ed Butler
- 11:20 Parliamentary Procedure
Joe Warnke
- 12:00 BBQ Dinner
- 1:00 The Operation and Responsibilities of the GEC – Chris Sullivan
- 1:30 Our Financial Picture / Per Capita Tax – Ben Sewell
- 2:10 Planning Events, and Communication – Kelly Barrow
- 2:20 Beauvoir TBA
- 3:00 Benediction/Adjourn

Mississippi Division, SCV Pins are now available! Be Proud of your state and let others know you're from Mississippi
Wear a Mississippi Division pin!

See Dan McCaskill at the Camp meetings to purchase one for only \$5.00.



Looking for a bargain?

Life Membership in the Confederation is a bargain, especially between now and August 1. The contribution to the Confederation Life Endowment Fund is based on 25 times the annual dues. Because the annual dues are being increased effective August 1, 2008 Life Membership Contributions will increase from \$500.00 to \$750.00. Or from \$250.00 to \$375.00 if you happen be of the golden age of 65.

So if you've considered Life Membership now is the time. In addition to exempting you from paying Confederation dues you will have the pleasure of knowing you are leaving a legacy for our cause.

Want an even bigger bargain? For a \$125.00 contribution you can become a conditional life member and lock in the lower contribution of \$500.00 (or \$250.00). You will have three years to complete your life membership contribution.

Please note that Life Membership in the National Organization does not exempt a member from paying Division and Camp dues; however Life Memberships are available in the Mississippi Division.

For details and application forms for both National and Division Life Memberships click http://www.mississippiascv.org/membership.html#Life_Memberships

Beauvoir curator finds 100-year-old artifact on eBay

By KAT BERGERON

BILOXI -- A century-old flag immortalized in a postcard is back home at Beauvoir, the museum estate of Jefferson Davis that once served as an early-20th-century "Old Soldiers Home."

The image shows two veterans displaying a Confederate First National Flag in front of antebellum Beauvoir House, now a National Historic Landmark. The Beauvoir staff recognized the original flag because it is a variant with 13 stars instead of seven for the first seceded states. The identifying clincher is the 13th sits alone in a circle of stars.

What makes this story poignant, besides the return of missing history, is Beauvoir lost at least 40 percent of its artifacts to Hurricane Katrina, including two flags. Davis' retirement house will

reopen in the spring, and the large flag encased in glass will hang in the presidential library when that structure is complete.

The re-acquisition began when Rick Forte Sr. received a tip about a flag for sale on eBay. He is Beauvoir's acting director, chairman of Beauvoir's combined boards of trustees and directors and a military-antiques dealer.

Forte questioned the seller's claim the flag was flown by Davis when he lived at Beauvoir from 1877 until his 1889 death. "We know he never flew a flag of any kind, because he wasn't a citizen," said Forte. "His citizenship wasn't restored until long after his death."

Research by Beauvoir's curator, Richard Flowers, helped unravel the mystery, beginning with the postcard. They now believe the flag was made for the soldiers'

home, possibly by the Mississippi United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1903. "This is a true Beauvoir artifact, not a Jefferson Davis artifact or a Civil War artifact," said Forte, "and that's what makes its return so important."

In 1904 the flag flew over a replica of Beauvoir at the St. Louis World's Fair; then it was returned until the 1908 Jamestown Exposition. That year UDC flew it in Richmond for the 100th anniversary of Davis' birth, but it was never returned to Beauvoir.

In the 1960s, a Richmond UDC chapter sold it to a Civil War collector, who resold it to a Kentucky collector - the one who listed it on eBay. A Beauvoir supporter donated an undisclosed amount for Forte to buy it for the museum.

National SCV News

SCV Camp Seeks Proper Stone for NC CSA Soldier

But now NPS wants to hold mock "trial"

By Terry W. Ayers, Adjutant SCV Camp 2068, member SCV PR/Media Committee

There is such a thing as being in the wrong place at the wrong time. For Sgt. Ivy Ritchie, CSA, the problem is he has been in the wrong place for a long time. According to Joel Fesperman of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Ivy Ritchie Camp # 1734 Albemarle, NC the namesake of their camp, one of the last soldiers – and perhaps the last - to die in the battle of Appomattox Court House, has been lying in a grave at the National Park Service's Poplar Grove Cemetery in Petersburg Virginia for almost 150 years with the name of a fictitious Union soldier, Sgt. J. Ritchie, Co. "H", 14th New York Infantry, on his tombstone. Ritchie, from Stanly County, North Carolina fought with the 14th NC in nearly every major battle of the war in Virginia. The end was in sight when he was killed on the morning of April 9, 1865.

Fesperman and members of his camp have been trying for years to get Sgt. Ivy Ritchie's remains moved to North Carolina or at least get his tombstone corrected. They say that his remains were removed from Appomattox after the war and buried at a national cemetery for Union dead by mistake. The Sons of Confederate Veterans feel that a DNA analysis is the best means of determining that the soldier in grave #4824 is Sgt. Ivy Ritchie. But the National Park Service has refused to exhume the remains. Fesperman says despite the refusal, the National Park Service seemed to be cooperative. "We have a letter from them (NPS) telling us the stone would be changed. Then they decided to have (a) mock trial." According to Fesperman, without warning the NPS suddenly changed their mind and decided to invite three experts to hear testimony on whether or not Ritchie is buried with Union soldiers. So they scheduled a mock trial to be held on Wednesday February 13th at Dinwiddie Court House and both sides – Fesperman and the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Chris Calkins, a historian from the National Park Service, will present evidence to the three-man panel. Calkins has written a book that reveals that there is compelling evidence that Ritchie buried in that grave. Now Calkins has changed his mind, citing mysterious new evidence that he says he will reveal at the trial.

It all seems very suspicious to Fesperman and his SCV camp. He says he has a letter written by Ritchie's brother positively identifying the remains as Ritchie and has a newspaper article that indicates the body was moved to Poplar Grove Cemetery. "It was him" the newspaper article says, according to Fesperman. "We have done our research," indicates Mr. Fesperman, a process that has taken years and many hours of time for the camp, the largest in the state of North Carolina. "We contacted the National Archives. There is no other Ritchie that it could be other than Ivy Ritchie. There are no spelling variations from New York, New Jersey or any surrounding states. We pulled all the records with an "I" or a "J" in their name. Then we determined if they survived, when they were discharged and accounted for every one of them. The only "I" Ritchie it could be is him (Ivy Ritchie). We are convinced it has to be him."

Story Continued on page 6 . . .

For Fesperman and the camp members, this is about more than just correcting a mistake in history. "This is personal. He's my double cousin. Twenty members of our camp share blood (with Ritchie)." So Joel Fesperman and members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1734 will don their Sunday best and attend the hearing on February 13 to plead their case. They are confident of victory but say "If they (the National Park Service) are playing games, it won't stop at that courthouse. If we have to do an environmental study (the next step in the process) we'll do an environmental study." The study would cost an estimated \$5,000 dollars but Fesperman and his camp are willing to do it.

"We've come this far, we're not going to stop now. This is personal."

The NPS mock trial is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday February 13th just west of Petersburg at Dinwiddie Court House. It is hoped that members of the Sons of Confederate Soldiers will show their support for their Compatriots in Camp 1734.

CIC Sullivan Will Not Seek Second Term

January 16, 2008

Compatriots:

I wanted to let you know about a decision I have made. After prayer and careful consideration, I have decided that I will not be a candidate for a second term as Commander-in-Chief. Although the duties are challenging, I consider it one of the great honors of my life to have served as our CINC. I also want to thank the many of you who have encouraged me to seek a second term; I am deeply grateful for your trust and the confidence you have in me. I had hoped to be able to serve a second term but, as I am still in full-time employment and the demands of serving as CINC are significant I must regrettably step aside. My term as CINC has allowed me the opportunity to travel across the South and see first-hand the work of the SCV. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities this job has presented and the many friends I have made during this time. During my more than 25 years of membership in the SCV, I have spent almost 14 years in a leadership position. I am very proud of the work of our Confederation, and I look forward now to continuing my service in a less demanding capacity. I wanted to go ahead and make this announcement now so that any Compatriots who may desire to offer themselves as a candidate may have ample time to do so. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you, and I look forward to seeing you all at our General Reunion in July (if not sooner).

Regards,

Christopher M. Sullivan - Commander-in-Chief,
Sons of Confederate Veterans

"Gen. Forrest a Railsplitter"

from *The Independent*, Gainesville, Alabama, November 7, 1863

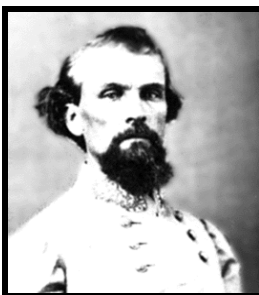
Many plantations have been ruined and much unnecessary damage done to farms all over the country where troops have been encamped in consequence of the too thoughtless and often really wanton burning of fence rails.

Not long since, Gen. Forrest's command encamped near a nice, well-enclosed farm. The General, after night, as is his custom, took a little stroll around and among the camp fires, where he discovered large piles of good rails brightly burning and this, too, in the immediate presence of two colonels and all the captains. He observed it all, but said nothing. Over his stern features, a significant smile played, which the boys interpreted to mean "pile 'em on," and the rails were brought with alacrity, and the cheerful blaze was much enjoyed.

Early the next morning, the old farmer came out and discovered his rails were nearly all gone and were still being offered up as a burnt offering. He sought the presence of Gen. Forrest,

and, being justly indignant, exclaimed, "I have hearn [*sic*; "*heard*"? *dialectical form of "heard"?*] of you a heap, and that you was a good general and a good farmer; but you are neither. No good man would burn his neighbor's rails."

The General said but little, and all his boys were surprised at his not pitching into the old man, who used language plainer than was common for anybody to use to the great fighting man of the army.



After exhausting himself, the old man returned, indignant and in disgust, to his residence.

On the third morning, the last rail

of a twenty-acre field was in ashes when an order was issued for a detail of men to press axes from the surrounding country. It was a strange order, but was obeyed, and, by 12 o'clock, hundreds of axes were in camp. Order No. 2 then came, which ordered every man and officer under the immediate supervision of the two colonels to take hand in felling trees and splitting rails. In twenty-four hours, a bran [*sic*] new ten-rail fence, well put up, enclosed the plantation.

Since that big rail-splitting, the General's command always look around in the woods for fuel. [*Atlanta Confederacy*.]

Forrest once summed up his military theory as "Get there first with the most men."

Jefferson Davis

By: Charley Reese

Jefferson Davis, one of America's greatest statesmen, said that a question settled by violence would inevitably arise again, though at a different time and in a different form. And so it has. Lovers and sycophants of the great empire on the Potomac must be feeling uneasy that at least some Americans are again questioning the efficacy of a gargantuan central government.

Perhaps the recent shift of control of Congress to the Democrats has made them nervous, though God knows there are precious few Jeffersonian Democrats in the modern Democratic Party. And what, you might well ask, is a Jeffersonian Democrat? He's a person who hasn't forgotten that the sovereign states created the federal government, not the reverse, as some today seem to assume.

He believes that what the Constitution created was a republic of sovereign states, and that the carefully limited powers assigned to the federal government were all the powers it had, in peace or in war. He believes the Constitution is a binding contract, not a rubbery document that can mean anything a judge or a politician says it means. He believes in a

system of checks and balances. In short, he believes in the Declaration of Independence. That document, you might recall, says that the only purpose of government is to protect rights already granted by God, and that when a government fails to protect those rights and begins to abuse them, the people have the right to alter or overthrow it. "Sounds communistic to me," grumbles old Jack Jingoist. "That guy Jefferson must have been some kind of a pinko." Why else would Lord Acton, the great British philosopher of liberty, have written to Robert E. Lee, America's greatest soldier, that, "I grieve more for what was lost at Appomattox than I rejoice at what was gained at Waterloo." Lord Acton saw clearly what many American professors of history do not – that the defeat of the South was the end of America's experiment in liberty and self-government and a conscious choice to emulate the central governments of Europe. H.L. Mencken, the Baltimore journalist, in his usually blunt way said the only thing wrong with Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was that it was the South, not the North, that was fighting for government "of the people, by the people and for the peo-

ple." Davis had said, "I love the Union and the Constitution, but I would rather leave the Union with the Constitution than remain in the Union without it." On another occasion, he said: "We feel our cause is just and holy; we protest solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice save that of our honor and independence. We ask no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the states with which we were lately confederated; all we ask is to be let alone; that those who never held power over us shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms." A newspaper in New Hampshire said: "The Southern Confederacy will not employ our ships or buy our goods. What is our shipping without it? We must not let the South go." So to add to the definition of Jeffersonian Democrats, they were a majority of the Founding Fathers, a majority who fought the American Revolution, a majority who wrote the Constitution, and a majority who fought for Southern independence. No wonder the precious few still extant make big-government lovers so nervous.

Battle of Okolona, MS February 22, 1864

From Vicksburg, Mississippi, Sherman launched a campaign to take the important railroad center at Meridian, Mississippi, and if the situation were favorable, to push on to Selma, Alabama, and threaten Mobile. Sherman ordered Brig. General William Sooy Smith to lead a cavalry force of 7,000 men from Memphis, Tennessee, on February 1, 1864, south through Okolona, along the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, and to meet the rest of the Union force at Meridian, on February 10. With the main force of approximately 20,000 men, Sherman set out on the 3rd for Meridian, but made feints on various other locations. Against orders, Smith delayed ten days, while waiting for reinforcements, and did not start out until February 11. Destroying crops and railroad track along the way, Smith's force met almost no opposition, and, before long, 1,000 former slaves were traveling with them. Smith was supposed to rendezvous with Major General William T. Sherman at Meridian on the 10th, but he never arrived there. Sherman left Meridian on the 20th, due in part to apprehension over Smith's whereabouts. Smith neared West Point, 90 miles north of Meridian, on the 20th, and he fought with Confederate cavalry units at Prairie Station and Aberdeen. Smith—knowing that Nathan Bedford Forrest commanded the troops he was fighting, concerned about the fate of the former slaves with him, and not knowing how many of the enemy he faced—decided to concentrate at Prairie Station, and, on the morning of the 21st, he set out for West Point.

Shortly after dawn on the 21st, the brigade engaged Smith. Withdrawing at times, Forrest drew Smith into a swamp west of the Tombigbee River. Other Rebel troops arrived and the fighting intensified. Smith was sure that this was a trap set for him, and, discerning that he was greatly outnumbered, he ordered a retreat, leaving a rearguard. The rearguard held off the Confederates for about two hours before withdrawing in good order. About the same time, Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest arrived and ordered a pursuit. Skirmishing occurred the rest of the day. At sunup on the 22nd, the Rebels attacked Smith just south of Okolona on the prairie. More Confederate troops arrived, causing breaks in the Union battle line, precipitating a retreat. For most of the rest of the day, they engaged in a running battle for a distance of eleven miles, with both sides attacking and counterattacking. Col. Forrest was killed during one Rebel charge. The Yankees finally broke off the fighting and headed for Pontotoc.

Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest, the commander on the field, realized that his men were nearly out of ammunition and did not order a pursuit. Mississippi militia harassed Smith to the state line. Smith arrived in Collierville, Tennessee, near Memphis, on the 26th. Although Smith had caused much destruction during his expedition, Okolona forced him to retire before he could do more. Smith's actions against Sherman's orders jeopardized the Meridian Expedition.



The Delta General
1412 North Park Drive
Greenwood, MS 38930



We're on the Web!
www.humphreys1625.com

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country" and that by doing so of slavery and love one's can Americans showed during nians, even though the British

It has been estimated that ranks. Over 13,000 of these, combat. These Black Confed- Congress did not approve sicians), until late in the war. ate officers did not obey the with the simple criteria, "Will units" were frequently organ- Commanders in response to Leonard Haynes, an African- stated, "When you eliminate the history of the South."



The Chandler Boys of Co. F, 44th MS Inf

they were "demonstrating it's possible to hate the system country." This is the very same reaction that most Afri- the American Revolution, where they fought for the colo- offered them freedom if they fought for them.

over 65,000 Southern blacks were in the Confederate "saw the elephant" also known as meeting the enemy in erates included both slave and free. The Confederate blacks to be officially enlisted as soldiers (except as mu- But in the ranks it was a different story. Many Confeder- mandates of politicians, they frequently enlisted blacks you fight?" Historian Ervin Jordan, explains that "biracial ized "by local Confederate and State militia immediate threats in the form of Union raids". Dr. American professor at Southern University, the black Confederate soldier, you've eliminated

As the war came to an end, the Confederacy took progressive measures to build back up its army. The creation of the Confed- erate States Colored Troops, copied after the segregated northern colored troops, came too late to be successful. Had the Con- federacy been successful, it would have created the world's largest armies (at the time) consisting of black soldiers, even larger than that of the North. This would have given the future of the Confederacy a vastly different appearance than what modern day racist or anti-Confederate liberals conjecture. Not only did Jefferson Davis envision black Confederate veterans receiving bounty lands for their service, there would have been no future for slavery after the goal of 300,000 armed black CSA veterans came home after the war.

Look > Address Changes:

If anyone in our camp has a snail mail or e-mail address change or has not been receiving their Camp Newsletter, please let Larry McCluney know calling him at 662-453-7212 or e-mail to confederate@roadrunner.com

***Disclaimer:** Editor reserves the rights to edit all material submitted and all submissions to the newsletter must be in proper format (all caps not excepted)