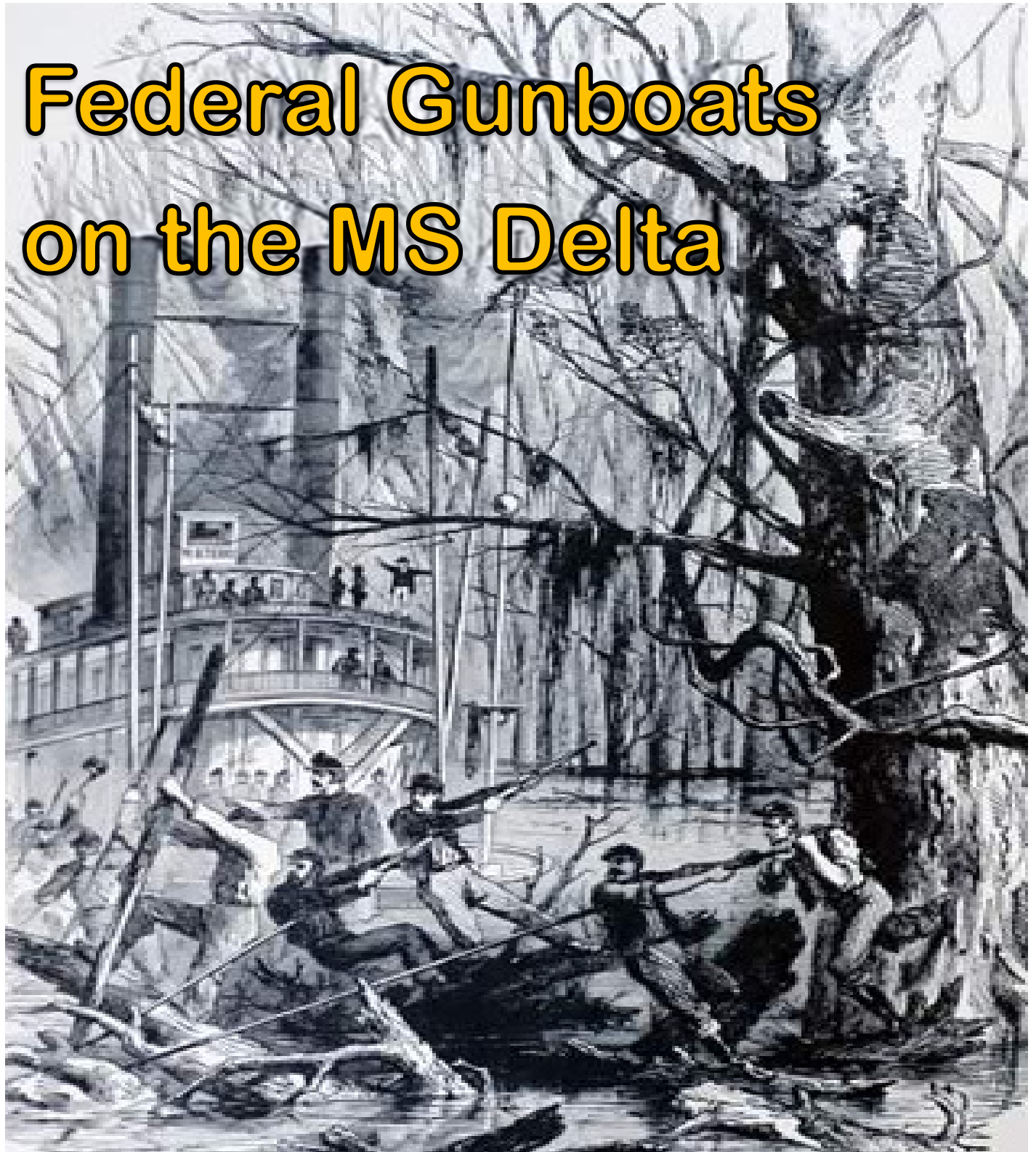


The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

Federal Gunboats on the MS Delta



February - 2018, Volume 21, Issue 2

Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys

The Delta General

February Issue - 2018, Volume 22, Issue 2

Camp News:

Commander's Report

My fellow Compatriots,

Thank you for your confidence to elect me as your new Camp Commander for 2018-2020. I am drawn back to the time I was first elected as Camp Commander, 20 years ago this year. Just as then, our Camp needs to rededicate itself to Stephen Dill Lee's Charge. We need to look to the future if our Camp, Division, and Organization is to continue. That's why I am asking you to help me as I try to revigorate our Camp and make it, as it once was, one of the leading Camps in our Division. This means we will have to participate in Camp meetings, answer the call to duty when it comes to Initiative 62, and recruiting new members. I know we are in difficult times, but think of the difficulties our ancestors faced on the front lines. They gave their all and sometimes their lives for a Cause that was just. All I ask is to attend your Camp meetings once a month, become involved in its activities, and help recruit.

Our next Camp meeting is February 1. I challenge all of you to come to this very important meeting as we adopt our new Camp budget, plan our Camp's 25th Anniversary, and plan on a recruiting / Initiative 62 in Greenville. My congratulations to our newly elected officers. On our shoulders rest the success of this Camp the next two years as its leaders. To you members, on your shoulders rest the responsibility of this Camp's success from today and into the future.

Deo Vindice,

Larry McCluney, Commander



Camp Meeting Minutes, January 2018

Adjutant's Report

The Lee/Jackson Banquet was a small turnout, as many of our members were avoiding the cold or fighting sickness, but we did have approximately 40 people to attend. Our speaker for the banquet was Army of Tennessee Chaplain Bro. James Taylor who spoke on the "Faith of Jackson and Lee". It was a very inspirational presentation. The new Camp Officers were installed by Division Lt. Commander George Bond:

- Larry McCluney – Camp Commander
- Zack Kiker – Lt. Commander
- Dan McCaskill—Camp Adjutant
- Jimmy Gaugh – 2nd Lt. Commander
- Earl Allen – Color- Sgt

We also honored JROTC Student Cadet Lt. Commander Brian Bell as the recipient of the Hunley Award as well as Tommy McCaskill with his 25 year membership pin. Past Camp Commander Richard Dillon was also pinned by Cadet Lt. Commander Brian Bell with his Hunley Envoy pin for presenting the award.

There are still a few members who have not renewed their dues and have missed the deadline and will have to pay a late fee. Lets get them in ASAP. Please make checks of 57.50 to SCV and send dues to:
Larry McCluney
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS 38930



More on page 13



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- Camp Meeting – February 1, 2018

Camp Commander

Larry McCluney
confederate@suddenlink.net

Editor

Larry McCluney - (662) 453-7212
confederate@suddenlink.net

The Delta General is published 12 times a year by the Brig/Gen. Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, SCV, as a service to its members. The articles, photographs, or content of The Delta General may not be reproduced without the consent of the editor. The opinions expressed by the authors of signed articles reflect the personal views of the writers and are not necessarily the views of the Brig/Gen. Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, SCV. The Delta General reserves the right to accept or reject content.

Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, SCV
website:
www.humphreys1625.com

Cover:

Federal Gunboats on the Yazoo Pass Expedition

PETITION GUIDE

[Initiative 62](#) - Should the current State Flag be adopted by Constitutional Amendment?

[Initiative Handbook by Mississippi Division SCV Heritage Defense Committee](#)

THE PETITION Initiative Measure No. 62 proposes to amend the Mississippi Constitution to establish the 1894 flag as the ONE Official State Flag for the State of Mississippi, and require that the flag be flown at the principal installations of all State supported institutions, State agencies and political subdivisions.

This is an official form please keep clean of debris and liquids

PHOTO COPIES You can make copies of the petition form; HOWEVER, it must be copied in 8.5 X 14 size, front and back. If you copy it to 8.5 X 11, the entire form will be rejected.

Signatures cannot be submitted as a photo copy, must be original

CIRCULATION OF PETITIONS Anyone can collect signatures for this petition, please properly train them on all details of this handbook or give a copy of handbook and ask them to review it.

Ask persons collecting signatures for you to return completed forms to you (or County Captain if that is someone other than yourself) so they can be submitted for certification.

MUST BE CERTIFIED before submitting to the address on the back of the petition.

COLLECTION OF PETITIONS Designate a drop off location for petitions or ask those helping you to call when ready for pick up.

Be sure to inform anyone you give a form to that they return it to you for certification, DO NOT send to address on back of petition until it has been certified with local Circuit Clerk.

FILLING OUT PETITION Always use BLUE INK

PRINT LEGIBLE, this is VERY important in obtaining certification

ONE COUNTY PER SHEET - If signed wrong county, ask to resign correct county sheet PRINT all information except Signature – Legibility is very important for certification.

You can fill out all information except Signature, the VOTER is required to SIGN

Only 1 signature per voter is valid and MUST match what is on voter rolls.

Use NAME and ADDRESS exactly as voter registered, even if recently moved

Address MUST include CITY / TOWN NAME

Voter have a VoterID card? If YES, use it to fill out petition with accurate info

Registered to vote? If NO, see Voter Registration section

Voted recently? If NO, see Voter Registration section

PRECINCT & CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: In most cases this is never needed, ask your Circuit Clerk when submitting your first copy just in case they want it on there. If they do then you can ask for their help to obtain the information for each entry. DO NOT DATE bottom of form until you turn in for Certification. This date cannot be before any other date on the form or that signature will be invalid.

"CERTIFICATE OF PETITION CIRCULATOR": The person that signs the petition as the circulator MUST be a registered voter of Mississippi. Does not have to be voter of county petition is submitted to.

VOTER REGISTRATION Anyone signing petition must be registered to vote, please do not date signature as the date must come after the person is registered to vote.

Voter Registration forms can be obtained from Circuit Clerks office.

Have person fill out a voter registration for their current address and give the registration back to you so you can turn submit it to the circuit clerk if in your county, otherwise ask the person to turn it in to the circuit clerk of their county as soon as possible.

Hold the petition with this signature for at least 2 weeks before submitting for certification. This will allow the voter registration to be entered by the clerk.

CERTIFICATION It is preferred that a County Captain handle certification, unless there is no CC for your County. If you wish to serve as CC where one is not already listed, please contact us.

Review each form before submitting to Circuit Clerk, ensure the following o Every entry is dated. Circulator information at bottom is completely filled out.

Submit petitions with a cover sheet that indicates the following (can be hand written) Your name, phone number and address o Total number of sheets submitted for certification o Total number of signatures submitted for certification o Your signature and date o Signature and date from person receiving

Take a photo of cover sheet then give it to circuit clerk representative.

Ask to be called when completed or return in 1 week to check on status.

When picking up certified petitions you should also get an official Certification letter for those petitions. Keep this certification with those petitions.

Mail petitions with certification to the clearing house

(address on the back of the petition).

UPDATING STATE SUMMARY For the purpose of tracking the state-wide progress, send weekly updates of your progress to SaveTheFlagMS@gmail.com A state summary based on these numbers from all County Captains will be presented to the HDC on a weekly basis and used to help determine progress and needs throughout the campaign.

Submit the following per county you have o Signatures on hand (not certified) o Signatures on hand (certified) o Signatures at Clerk's office o Note number of certified signatures you have mailed within past 5 days

QUESTIONS? Send any questions or suggestions for this handbook to SaveTheFlagMS@gmail.com

Upcoming Mississippi Division Reunion Locations

2018 Private Samuel A. Hughey camp 1452 Southaven, Ms

2019 The Rankin Rough and Ready's camp Brandon, Ms

2020 John C Pemberton 1354 Vicksburg Ms

Upcoming National Conventions

2018 Franklin Tennessee

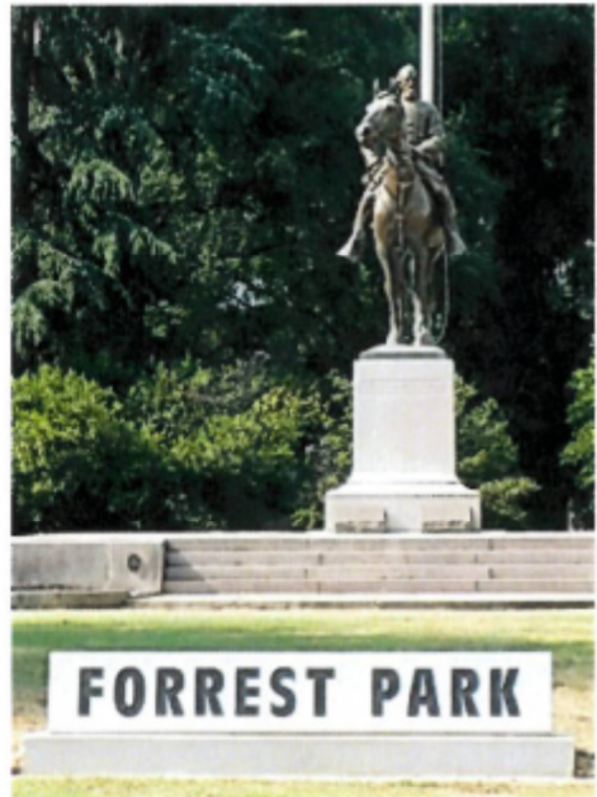
2019 Mobile Alabama

2020 Jacksonville, Florida.



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Help Save General Forrest



The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to remove the Forrest Equestrian Statue from Forrest Park and to dig up the graves of General Forrest and his wife MaryAnn from beneath the statue.

The SCV and the Forrest family descendants must raise money to fight the city in this second attack on General Forrest. We need your help.

Help us to save the graves and monument of General Forrest

Can you, or your camp or Division donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

Please sign me up as a supporter. No membership fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contribute through PayPal at our ally at : www.citizenstosaveourparks.org

Please donate to our cause: Amount \$ _____ check number _____

Forrest Park Defense Fund

PO Box 241875. Memphis, TN 38124



**123rd Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
and the
24th Mississippi Society,
Order of the Confederate Rose Reunions**



June 8, 9, and 10, 2018 at Beauvoir - The Jefferson Davis Home and

Presidential Library Biloxi, MS

2018 Reunion Registration Form

SCV MEMBER NAME: _____ CAMP: _____

OCR

MEMBER NAME: _____ CHAPTER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ EMAIL: _____ TITLE: _____

SCV EARLY REGISTRATION (Before January 31, 2018) \$30.00 _____

SCV REGULAR REGISTRATION (Between 2/1/18 & 5/15/18..... \$35.00 _____

SCV LATE REGISTRATION (Post-marked after 5/15/18)..... \$45.00 _____

OCR REGISTRATION \$15.00 _____

SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET..... \$15.00 PER PERSON _____

ANCESTOR MEMORIAL (Complete Attached Form).....QTY _____ (X'S) \$10.00 EACH ANCESTOR _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Samuel A. Hughey Camp 1452.

Mail registration to: Chris Heuer 8884 West Commerce Hernando, MS 38632

For more information, contact: Randy Hailey thatsoutherntouch@comcast.net 662-349-2749 or 901-488-2749

Registration packet pickup on Friday, June 8th between 4 and 8 pm in the library at Beauvoir. The Saturday night banquet will start at 5:30 pm. The Sunday closing will be held at the Confederate Cemetery on the grounds of Beauvoir at 8:30 am. Vendor tables are available: Please complete separate registration form. Reunion Program advertisement available: Please complete separate form. All attendees are responsible for securing their own lodging if necessary. The following hotels may offer discounts to you and are recommended by this year's Reunion Committee.

All Registered SCV members will receive a name Badge, Reunion medal, Reunion Program, and a "Reunion goodie bag."

Late Door Registration will receive the same as long as supplies hold out. OCR Registrants will have a Ladies tea in lieu of a Reunion medal. All registrations submitted must be post-marked appropriately within specified date ranges. no refunds or cancellations on or after May 25, 2018

Hotels in the area. Be sure to mention Beauvoir for discounts!

Quality Inn 2414 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, MS 39531 228-388-1000	South Beach Biloxi 1735 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, MS 39531 228-388-2627
Motel 6 2476 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, MS 39531 228-388-2601	Regency Inn & Suites 11969 Bobby Eleuterius Blvd. D'Iberville, MS 39540 228-396-0100

The Rational Confederate in an Irrational World

Defending Southern heritage in an age devoid of logic and reason

The attacks on our Southern heritage are beyond all reason: emotion and insanity rage while facts, rationality, and logic are being driven from public discourse. It is the purpose of the Stephen D. Lee Institute to provide the antidote to these toxins by bringing together some of the best minds in the South to make the case for Dixie. We are pleased to announce the 2018 Stephen D. Lee Institute will be held February 17, 2018 in Shreveport, Louisiana. Our host hotel for the event is the Hilton Hotel Shreveport; the symposium will take place at the Shreveport Convention center, which is connected to the Hilton.

We are once again putting together a very distinguished line-up of speakers, including...

- Marshall DeRosa - professor of American Constitutional Law and author of numerous books including *The Confederate Constitution of 1861: An Inquiry into American Constitutionalism*
- Ron Kennedy - noted trouble-maker and, along with his brother Don Kennedy, perhaps the most prolific author in the modern Southern movement. Among his many books are *The South was Right* and *Dixie Rising: Rules for Rebels* and many others
- Paul C. Graham - editor of Shotwell Publishing and author of *Confederaphobia!*
- Lee Bright - Two-term S.C. State Senator and renowned defender of Southern heritage
- Jeffery Addicott -- law professor and expert on terrorist tactics; author of *Radical Islam Why?: Confronting Jihad at Home & Abroad* among others
- Charles E. McMichael - Educator, Past SCV Commander-in-Chief and relentless defender of Southern heritage

Special Offer for Current SCV Members

Thanks to the support of the SCV General Executive Council, this year, in an effort to make the SDLI as accessible as possible, we are able to offer a special early registration discount for SCV members of just \$95. That's a \$30 savings off our regular registration fee of \$125. This special \$95 registration fee is only available to current SCV members, and to take advantage of it you must register before January 17.

Registration Package

Admission to all symposium programs including a special panel discussion with all of our distinguished speakers Saturday afternoon. Desert Reception Friday night at the hotel. Lunch Saturday

Registration Cost

\$95 for SCV members who register before January 17.

\$125 for SCV members after January 17

\$150 for non-members (the public is invited)

A limited number of scholarships are available for high-school seniors, college students, and high-school teachers. To register for the event click here: <http://www.stephendleeinstitute.com/events.html> Our host hotel is the Hilton Shreveport, 104 Market St, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 698-0900. The Hilton is extending a special SDLI rate of \$107 (\$119 double-occupancy, plus applicable taxes). The SDLI rate includes free Wi-Fi and complimentary breakfast. You can make a reservation online at the special SDLI rate by clicking here: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/StephenDLeelnst>

Please note: to receive the special SDLI room rate, reservations must be made by January 26, 2018. Questions may be directed to Chris Sullivan at SDLeelInfo@gmail.com or (864)660-9188

Removal of Forrest statue was massive art heist

by Ed Hooper is a documentary producer and writer based in Knoxville.

The Tennessee Legislature convened Tuesday, and a hot ticket will be the debate over Memphis' obvious defiance of the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act and status of the Nathan B. Forrest statue.

Mayor Jim Strickland and the city council snubbed the 2013 law, which makes it illegal to remove historical monuments or rename public parks without majority approval of the Tennessee Historical Commission. The Memphis City Council passed a law this past September that lets them sell city parks for less than market value to nonprofit organizations.

A month later Shelby County Commissioner Van D. Turner, Jr. created the private nonprofit Memphis Greenspace, Inc. to whom the city council voted to sell the Health Sciences and Fourth Bluff parks to on December 20. The properties, which are valued at more than \$2 million each, were purchased by Turner for the total sum of \$2,000.

At 9:01 that night – giving a nod to activists or area code, police officers were summoned and cranes removed the monuments of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Nathan B. Forrest amid news crews and fanfare. Commissioner Turner has said they are working with the descendants of Forrest in regards to Nathan B. Forrest and his wife's remains, which are also buried at the park where his statue stood.

The most troubling matter in the wake of the removal was the lack of comment or outrage from Tennessee public historians setting the dangerous precedent of throwing all public monuments to the fate of current political whims. Some even praised the actions for reasons as maudlin as the activists on both sides of the issue – showing little or no professional objectivity for what appears to be a surreptitious end run around a state law they're charged to uphold.

Since time immemorial, a region, state, or nation's sophistication is judged by the preservation and protection of monuments and structures of its past. Every great land has them. They're preserved for artistic reasons, cultural ones, or even in spite, as a reminder of a time that was.

Memphis' N.B. Forrest monument is no different. It was created by Charles Niehaus – one of the most preeminent sculptors in U.S. history. It's marble base quarried from the Ross Marble Company of Knoxville – also a recognized national historic site in the city's Ijams Nature Center. The likeness is a certified work of fine art regarded as one of the three best equestrian statues in the United States.

Niehaus was paid \$25,000 in 1901 to create it – the equivalent of \$676,000 in today's money and all of it raised from private donations. He set up camp in Memphis and poured over illustrations, paintings, and photographs of Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Charles Niehaus delivered an original topshelf sculpture to the City of Memphis. 30,000 people turned out for its unveiling and millions have seen it since. Niehaus, who died in 1935, went on to create other famous works. He has more sculptures in National Statuary Hall than any other artist and his work adorns monuments across the nation.

Regardless of someone's stance on the contributions of the man the statue represents, it's a genuine state treasure that belongs to the people of Tennessee. Its care entrusted to Memphis, who sold it to a County Commissioner for \$1,000 – seemingly pulling off the biggest art theft in U.S. political history.

National News:

SCV GOES ON THE OFFENSIVE IN MEMPHIS

Files TRO and Injunction

SCV National and the Forrest Camp 215 yesterday filed several court actions against the City of Memphis to combat and rectify the despicable crimes against and theft of Confederate statues on the night of December 20, 2017. On that night, the City ordered police and cranes into Forrest Park and Confederate Park and forcibly removed the Forrest Memorial Equestrian Statue, the Jefferson Davis Statue, and the bronze bust of Capt. Harvey Mathes, 37th Tenn. Infantry. The Forrest gravesite was also damaged. The statues were taken to an undisclosed location.

The SCV Court filings against the City and "any and all co-conspirators" include requests for a Temporary Restraining Order and a Preliminary Injunction. These actions, filed in (Nashville) Chancery Court, call for the defendants to exercise all duty and care for the 3 statues and prohibit the defendants from further damaging, moving, selling, or in any way harming or otherwise disturbing the statues and the Forrest gravesite pending further legal action. It is likely that additional lawsuits will be filed, to combat violations of the Tennessee Heritage Act and to pursue damages incurred under the laws.

Our legal team and the Forrest Camp members have been working tirelessly since the infamous theft to gather evidence, conduct interviews, and collect incriminating documents. Very simply, the filing of a TRO is not an easy matter; briefly, an 'injury' must be shown, court cases have to be cited, evidence submitted, and an indication of future court success must be shown in requesting a TRO. We have been extremely busy these past few weeks building our case and we continue to pursue legal

action on multiple fronts.

It is our opinion that the City and its cohorts committed numerous violations of state law, civil law, cemetery law, and a host of other illegal acts in what appears to be a sham scheme to remove the Confederate monuments and to circumvent Tennessee law. Though the state attorney general has offered no help in prosecuting these crimes, the SCV has called on the Tennessee Legislature to appoint a special prosecutor to pursue charges against the Memphis mayor, city council, and all those involved in the thefts and/or damage to the Parks and monuments.

Special thanks go to our legal team headed by Mr. Doug Jones, and co-counsel David Livingston, and SCV JAG Scott Hall, and especially to the men on the front lines who have done yeoman's work to face the City in this fight: Lee Millar, Camp Commander Alan Doyle, and Tennessee Division Commander James Patterson and the Commander-in-Chief. Continuous consultation has been provided by the SCV GEC and the Division Officers. All of us have been involved, as have many of you.

But the fight has just begun. There is much more to do and more legal action to follow. We will not rest until our statues are returned to their rightful place and these scalawag or carpetbagger politicians in Memphis are punished. And we need you to help. Please donate to the Heritage Defense Fund to carry this fight to the enemy. Legal action results in legal bills. We need your donations to assist in the fight.

As famous author William Faulkner said on viewing the Statue of Forrest 75 years after the General's death: "Still powerful, still dangerous, still coming".

And so we likewise say to the City of Memphis: General Forrest and the SCV are still coming.

We will continue this journey, with your and God's help.

Tom Strain,
Commander-in-Chief



Army of Tennessee

Workshop



Revival Building
9 AM to 3:30 PM
February 24, 2018
303 Washington St.
Athens, Alabama 35611

Hosted by the Alabama Division and the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768 Athens, AL.

During the Army meeting at the Memphis Reunion, Commander McCluney announced that an AoT workshop would be held in Athens, Alabama in the upcoming months. I am pleased to announce that the meeting will be held on February 24th, 2018 at the Revival Building in downtown Athens. Varied topics will be discussed including, SalesForce, how to cope with Confederate negativity, Community involvement and others. The cost of the event is \$20 and this includes lunch. Due to caterer constraints, lunch reservations will be cut off on January 24th. After January 24th, the registration fee will be \$5, which does not include lunch. Food sites are nearby in walking or driving distance.

On Friday, the 23rd we will have a Jambalaya Supper, prepared by our Commander in Chief Tom Strain. This will be held at the Trinity – Fort Henderson site. Donations will be accepted in lieu of a ticket price. The profits from this event will go to the restoration effort of Fort Henderson and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs. See below for information about Fort Henderson.

A registration form is attached. Directions to both sites will be posted on the Alabama Division website, alscv.org as well as the AoT Facebook page. Updates on the meeting and topics will be added to the sites.

We look forward to seeing you in Athens!

Jimmy Hill

Commander
Alabama Division

(256) 614-3613
aldivcommander@aol.com



Army of Tennessee



Workshop

Revival Building
9 AM to 3:30 PM
February 24, 2018
303 Washington St.
Athens, Alabama 35611

Hosted by the Alabama Division and the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768 Athens, AL.

Registration is \$20 which includes lunch (Ribeye Steak Sandwich, Baked Beans, Chips, Dessert and choice of drink). Pre registration by February 1st for lunch (Caterer) After Feb. 1st, \$5 (no lunch included) Lunch sites are close by (short drive or walk)

Hotel rooms are available with room rates posted on the Alabama Division website, alscv.org

There will be a Meet and Greet hosted by CiC Tom Strain on Friday night, February 23rd at the Trinity School—Fort Henderson center, on Browns Ferry St. Athens, AL. 35611. Jambalaya and the fixins' will be provided for a donation. Proceeds go to the restoration of Fort Henderson and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs.

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers: Home: (____) ____-____

Cell: (____) ____-____

E-mail Address: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____ Division: _____

Check here if you plan to attend the Friday night supper

Please send this completed form, together with a check or money order in the amount of \$20 (by Jan. 24th for lunch) made payable to Alabama Division, SCV After Feb. 1st, send this form and \$5 (No lunch) and mail it to:

AoT Workshop
PO Box 375
Capshaw, Alabama 35742

Contact Workshop Coordinator Jimmy Hill at 256-614-3613 if you have questions.

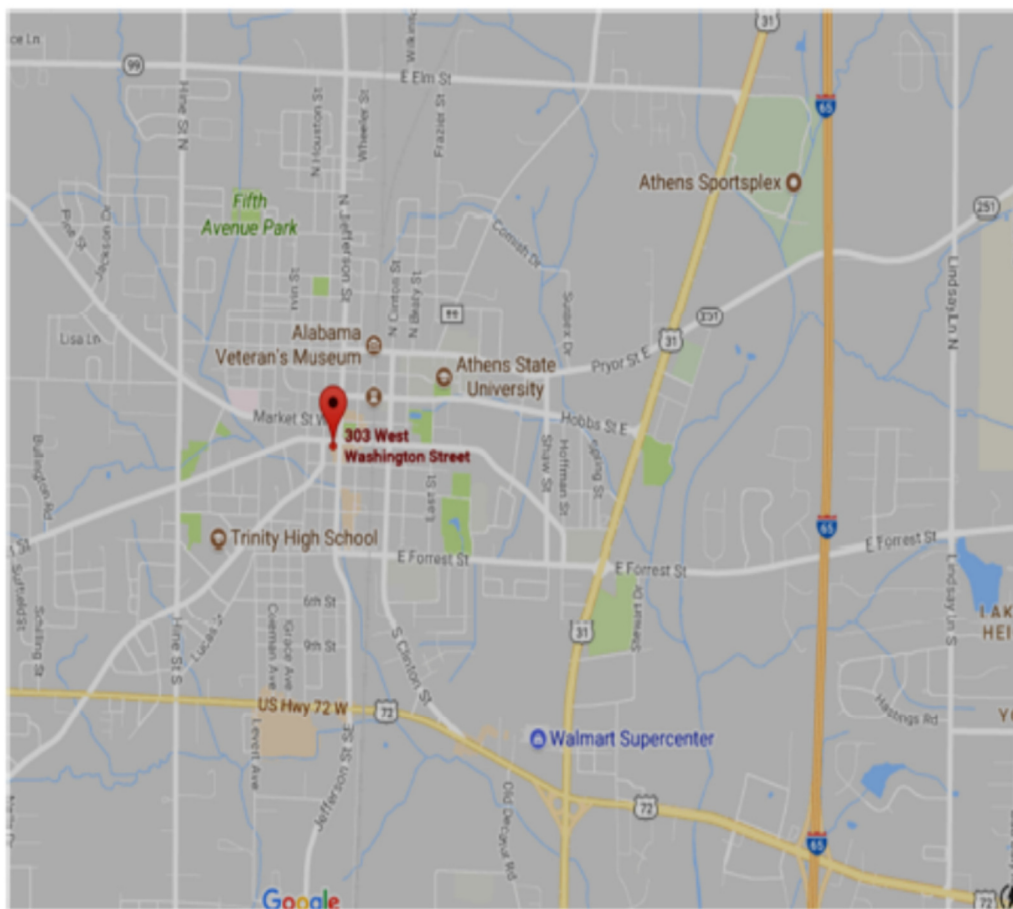
Hotels

The Host Hotel will be the Hampton Inn. It is located at 1222 Kelli Drive, Athens, AL. 35613 Just off I-65 behind the Cracker Barrel. Phone (256) 232-2377. There is a special room rate of \$109 for Friday night 2/23.

Other hotels at the exit are: Quality Inn, Travel Inn, Sleep Inn, Best Western and Days Inn. Rates run from \$60 to \$80.

We have been notified that TVA will have a work outage at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant outside of Athens during this date. Rooms (especially the low to mid price) will book quickly.

Saturday, February 24th the workshop will be held at the Revival Building in downtown Athens. The address is 303 Washington Street. From I-65 (Exit 351) Take U.S. Hwy 72 west to Jefferson Street (you will go under a railroad bridge just before Jefferson St.) Turn right onto Jefferson St. Follow Jefferson St. to Washington St. (Courthouse square) Turn left onto Washington St. The Revival building will be on your left, directly across from the First Presbyterian Church.



Forrest kin sues Memphis over statues removal

Ryan Poe Memphis Commercial Appeal USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

The family of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Sons of Confederate Veterans filed a petition Wednesday seeking legal action against the city of Memphis for its role in taking down three Confederate statues last month.

The petition, filed with the Tennessee Historical Commission, accuses the city and nonprofit Memphis Greenspace Inc. of violating “numerous” state laws on Dec. 20, when Greenspace removed the Forrest statue from its pedestal atop his and his wife’s graves in Health Sciences Park, and statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and war correspondent and Capt. J. Harvey Mathes from Fourth Bluff Park.

The petition asks the commission to rule that the city and Greenspace violated the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act, which requires commission approval prior to removal of monuments from public property; laws against misconduct by elected officials; and laws prohibiting the desecration of gravesites.

“You can’t disturb graves,” said Sons’ attorney Doug Jones. “They knew that but conspired to rip it apart despite knowing state law. They ripped the top off the grave. They damaged that, and they can’t deny that.”

The city has maintained that the grave markers inscribed with the names of the Forrests remain at the base of the pedestal and that the statue wasn’t the headstone.

“The city has not been served with the lawsuit but I have reviewed it and remain confident all of our actions with regard to the sale of the parks and statues are legal,” said City Attorney Bruce McMullen.

City attorney Allan Wade didn’t immediately return a call seeking comment, and Mayor Jim Strickland’s communications team said he wasn’t available for an interview.

Separately, the Sons’ Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp 215 filed a lawsuit Thursday in Chancery Court in Davidson County seeking a temporary restraining order and an injunction to prevent the city or the nonprofit from selling or harming the stowed statues.

If granted, the restraining order and injunction would require court approval for any further actions related to the statues; their former homes, Health Sciences and Fourth Bluff parks; or the graves of the Forrests.

The petition claims city officials “devised a scheme” to create Greenspace, a “sham nonprofit,” to get around or violate the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act, which requires the commission to approve changes to historical monuments on public property.

After the commission rejected the city’s application for a waiver to remove the Forrest statue in October, the city sold the parks to Greenspace for \$1,000 each without prior public notice of the sale, making the parks private property. Anticipating the ploy, the Memphis City Council relaxed requirements on the sale of public property to nonprofits.

Almost immediately after the unexpected sale on Dec. 20, Greenspace took down the statues, which were temporarily stored in police facilities for protection. The petition also says the statues suffered “substantial damage” during their transfer.

“The transfers alluding to hereinabove are a sham and were solely for the purposes of evading the limitations of the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act of 2016, and are a fraud upon the citizens of Memphis and your petitioners,” the petition reads.

The petitioners also accused city officials, Greenspace officers and “unnamed officials with the state” of criminal conspiracy for “concerted actions, agreements and communications” about how to violate state laws.

The petitioners included Forrest descendants listed in the petition were Walter Law Jr., Sidney Law, Brooks Bradley, Thoms Jesse Bradley III and Kevin Bradly, the “closest living relatives” of Forrest and his wife, Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest.

The Sons also asked that the commission consider bringing official misconduct charges against city officials, who advised and assisted Shelby County Commissioner Van Turner as he created Greenspace and raised funds to buy and maintain the parks.

“They would like for this to be over,” Jones said. “But it’s not close to being over.”

Reach Ryan Poe at poe@commercialappeal.com or on Twitter at [@ryanpoe](https://twitter.com/ryanpoe)



Police at Fourth Bluff Park in Memphis prepare for protesters to possibly parade through the city in 18-wheelers, cars and motorcycles Jan. 6 to demonstrate against the recent removal of Confederate monuments.

MARK WEBER/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL



The Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest Statue on the Forrest Tomb before its removal.

Judge dismisses one of Memphis' Confederate statues lawsuits

An administrative judge on Monday dismissed one of two lawsuits filed by the city of Memphis seeking permission to take down an already removed Confederate monument.

Even though the city already removed the statue of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and two other monuments from public parks on Dec. 20, the dismissal was a minor defeat for the city, which opposed the dismissal. City attorneys had instead hoped for a declaratory order that the city didn't need the permission of the Tennessee Historical Commission to remove the statue from Health Sciences Park in Downtown.

"In Tennessee, it is a well-recognized principle of law that actions for a declaratory relief must involve an actual controversy, which controversy 'must remain alive throughout the course of the litigation, including the appeal process,'" Administrative Judge Phillip Hilliard said in his order.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans was one of the respondent-intervenors in the administrative law case, in opposition to the city.

The city filed lawsuits in the Administrative Procedures Division and in Davidson County Chancery Court after the Historical Commission's Oct. 13 rejection of the city's application to remove the Forrest statue from its place atop his and his wife's graves.

The Chancery Court judge was also expected to hand down a decision this week on whether to dismiss the city's lawsuit, but the ruling was delayed until next week, city attorney Allan Wade said Thursday.

Reach Ryan Poe at poe@commercialappeal.com or on Twitter at [@ryanpoe](https://twitter.com/@ryanpoe).

THE YAZOO PASS EXPEDITION

BY LARRY MCCLUNEY

Editor's Note:

This Month marks the 155th anniversary of the Yazoo Pass Expedition, or sometimes called the Battle of Fort Pemberton. Please take time out to read more about the largest Campaign on the Mississippi Delta. If you want to read more about this expedition, order [The Yazoo Pass Expedition: A Union Thrust into the Delta](#) by Larry McCluney.

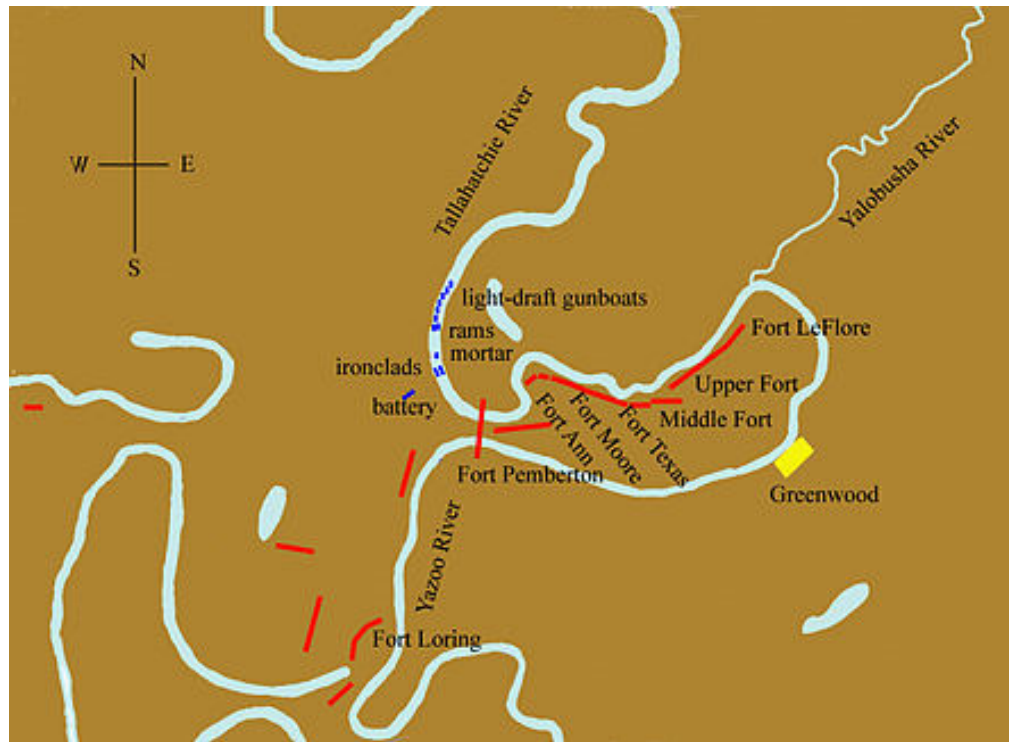
The Yazoo Pass Expedition was a joint operation of Major General Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee and Rear Admiral David D. Porter's Mississippi River Squadron in the Vicksburg Campaign of the American Civil War. Grant's objective was to get his troops into a flanking position against the Rebel defenders. The expedition was an effort to bypass the Confederate defenses on the bluffs near the city by using the backwaters of the Mississippi Delta as a route from the Mississippi River to the Yazoo River. Once on the Yazoo, the Army would be able to cross the river unopposed and thus achieve their goal. The operation would require a deep penetration into enemy territory that was dominated by water, so cooperation between the two services was necessary. The Army was led by Brigadier General Leonard F. Ross. Naval commander was Lieutenant Commander Watson Smith, who was in extremely poor health; his health was an important factor in the ultimate failure of the expedition.

The expedition began on February 3, 1863 with the breaching of a levee on the Mississippi River, allowing water to flow from the river into a former channel that connected with the Yazoo River through a series of other waterways. The attacking fleet passed through the cut into Moon Lake, through the Yazoo Pass to the Coldwater River, and then into the Tallahatchie, which combines with the Yalobusha to form the Yazoo River, which met the Mississippi a short distance above Vicksburg. From the start, the expedition was delayed by natural obstacles that were more serious than the perfunctory Confederate resistance, so forward motion was as little as ten miles (16 km) a day. Because progress was so slow, the Confederate Army under Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton was able to set up a fort and block passage of the Federal fleet near the town of Greenwood, Mississippi. The Federal fleet did not approach the fort until March 11; then, the ironclad gunboats of the fleet were repulsed in a series of gunfire exchanges on three separate days. The Army troops present could not contribute significantly to the battle because of the nature of the ground, much of which was under water.

Yazoo Pass continued

Following the third repulse on March 16, Lieutenant Commander Smith's health failed him completely, and he turned command over to Lieutenant Commander James P. Foster. Foster and Ross decided to withdraw to the Mississippi. They were temporarily persuaded to try again when they met reinforcements for the Army, but they resumed their retreat when the new army commander, Brigadier General Isaac F. Quinby, saw the futility of further attacks. The entire force had returned by April 12, and the expedition was over.

Right: Fort Pemberton and its surrounding defenses in Greenwood, MS



B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys # 1625 Honors Two Men

The Camp held its 22nd Lee – Jackson Banquet on January 13, 2018. Attendance was affected by the inclement weather but we still had a good crowd but more importantly, everyone had an enjoyable evening of good food and comradery. We had an outstanding speaker in the person of Brother James Taylor who captivated the audience with his presentation on "The Faith of Lee and Jackson".

There were a couple of special awards presented by Commander Richard Dillon with help from AOT Commander Larry McCluney. The first presentation was the H. L. Hunley JROTC Medal to Navy Cadet Brian Bell who was pinned by Chief Walter Herring, USN (Ret). The second award was the 25-year SCV Service Medal to Tommy McCaskill who a Co-founder of the Camp.

The festivities were closed with a raffle conducted by the Ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, Order of the Confederate Rose. During the raffle, Brian Bell won a portrait of Nathan Bedford Forrest and was proud to have won the portrait.



Chief Walter Herring and Cadet Brian Bell

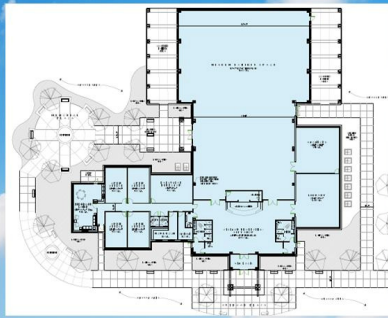


Commander Richard Dillon and Tommy McCaskill (Rt). One Green Beret to another.

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This is a rendering and the floorplan for The National Confederate Museum to be built at the our Headquarters in Columbia, TN. Groundbreaking will commence soon, but we have only a small portion of the funds required to build our museum. We need your help! Education is the long term solution to upholding Stephen D. Lee's Charge and our museum will be the penultimate museum dedicated to the Confederate Veteran! Who else will tell the truth about our ancestors? The media? Academia? Schools? No one!

We need you to donate now!



The National Confederate Museum at Elm Springs
Please donate today - our ancestors need their story told truthfully!
Museum Fund, Sons of Confederate Veterans, PO Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402