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

# The Delta General

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## Commander's Corner: Dan McCaskill, Camp Commander

My Fellow Compatriots,

As you read this edition of "The Delta General", we will have all celebrated the independence of our country. Most of us celebrate with a cookout with family and friends topped off with some fireworks. I hope all of you had a save and joyous 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

While contemplating what our Founding Fathers did back on July 4, 1776, I could not help but think of what compelled our Confederate Fathers to take the same course of action as their fathers and grandfathers. I then read the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,— That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." This is why our Confederate Fathers fought the Second American Revolution and it is our right and duty to remember and honor these men and women who fought for a Free Southland. As members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Order of Confederate Rose, we are keeping the memory of their great struggle alive!

Come be with us next month as we remember a great Southern Commander, Nathan Bedford Forrest, with an in-door picnic. Please bring a friend and your favorite picnic treat.

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

## Camp Picnic to Celebrate Ole' Bedford's Birthday

Bring your favorite covered dish as we get together in fellowship to celebrate one of our hero's birthdays, Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest. This is a time to meet, great, and eat as the summer comes to a close for some of us since school starts back on August 1 for many of us. Of course the meeting will be Thursday, July 17, at 7:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall where we have our meetings. Bring the whole family as we take this time out to enjoy ourselves.



## Editor's Note: DUES INCREASE

Just a reminder that at last year's national reunion in Mobile that a vote was passed to increase the national dues by \$10.00 per person each year. That will make in camp our re-up dues go to \$50.00 a year. We are not increasing our camp dues and the division has not increased their portion. So if someone asks you how much it is a year to join us it is now fifty five to join and fifty to re-up and if you are late with your dues it will be fifty five. The old year ends July 31 and the new year begins August 1. So do not drag this out paying your dues, and get them in ASAP!! This new year looks full to be full of promise as we have several new members waiting to join in August. The new year will also feature our camp preparing for the 2009 State Convention. Make your \$50.00 check out to SCV and forward it to:

Dan McCaskill  
205 Cypress Street  
Leland, Ms 38756

## 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)

## Local News

Sunday, July 13, 2008 2:00p

### FORREST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Forrest Park Midtown Memphis Guest Speaker: Rev. Cecil Fayard Chaplain-in-Chief Sons of Confederate Veterans Bring your own lawn chair The program will include: Music Confederate Flags galore Re-enactors Musket Salute Wreath Laying Hosted by: N.B. Forrest Camp 215, SCV Memphis, Tenn. Mark this event on the Calendar. Our Colorguard unit has a personal invitation to be there.



## A Mississippi UDC Project That Was Asked to be Shared With Everyone

Dear Daughters,

You are receiving this email because Soldier's Angels has heard from many of our deployed troops this week. Every single one of them has the same thing to say "IT IS HOT HERE! It is hard to think!". I would like to send a cool scarf to every hero on our list. Can you help?

So what is a cool scarf? Here is a description from the manufacturer:

The cooling scarf is a great way to beat the heat. The "magic" in these cooling scarves comes from hundreds of tiny hidden non-toxic polymer crystals that hold many times their weight in water. By soaking your cooling scarf in cool water for 15 minutes, these crystals become "energized" and become a comfortable, portable evaporative cooler that can lower body temperature by several degrees! So, not only will you FEEL cooler, you will actually BE cooler! The Cooling scarf is great for any activity that raises body temperature to an uncomfortable level. Golf, Tennis, Hiking, Biking... anything! Stay cool and comfortable during these activities. The cooling scarf will continue to keep you cool for up to 15 hours.

We have over 12,000 heroes on this fourth deployment. Now these items are an outstanding and affordable way for us to help our heroes try and stay cool. Keep in mind that it is already breaking the 100 degree mark and in the middle of the summer it can reach in the 120's and 130's. I would also like to point out something the soldiers have said "It is hard to think." We have all felt heat that has caused us to feel lazy, tired, unmotivated. They are in a highly dangerous area and must remain on the top of their game at all times. Quite simply, this simple piece of material could be the difference between our soldiers coming home safe, or not. We have made arrangements with our supplier to get these scarves at a huge discount, but there are A LOT of heroes that we need to get these to. So we need your help. We need the help of your friends. We need the help of anyone who cares about the brave men and women who are risking their all for you and me.

Can you help? Your donation of \$5.00 will help 2-3 soldiers; \$10.00 will help 5-6 soldiers; \$20.00 will help 13-16 soldiers.

CAN YOU HELP? This is Voluntary. Not mandatory. UDC Chapters and Divisions add contributions to your Patriotic Activities Report. If you would like to help by sending these cool scarves to our brave heroes to help them feel a little more comfortable and let them know that WE CARE about them, please do so in one of the following ways:

1. PAY-PAL: Send your donation via PayPal at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) to [donations@soldiersangels.org](mailto:donations@soldiersangels.org) and make sure that you put in the comments section "OPERATION COOL HERO".
2. Credit Card: You can use your credit card through PayPal (above) even if you do not have an account. If you would rather send your credit card information directly to Soldier's Angels, email them at [dmackay@soldiersangels.org](mailto:dmackay@soldiersangels.org) and they will send you a credit card authorization form that you can complete and fax to them.
3. Check or Money Order: Send your check or money order made payable to "Soldiers' Angels" with Operation Cool Hero in the memo section to:

Soldiers' Angels  
1792 E. Washington Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91104

Please also let your friends and anyone you think would be supportive of our brave soldiers know about this need and see if they would be willing to help. If you have any questions, please email Soldier's Angels directly at [dmackay@soldiersangels.org](mailto:dmackay@soldiersangels.org) or at [mackay.donaldw@gmail.com](mailto:mackay.donaldw@gmail.com). Thank you all for your assistance and continued support of our brave heroes! God bless.

Love,  
Sherry Davis, Chairman  
Patriotic Activities Gen'l UDC



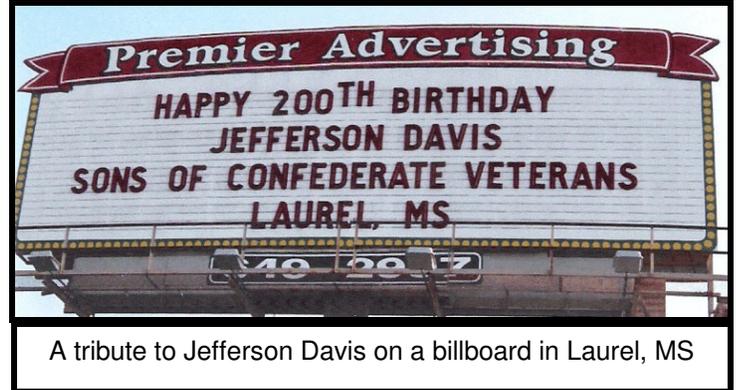
# Mississippi Division News

## SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE

It's just about that time of year again that our conference will be here. This year it will be held on August 15th & 16th. There will be some new speakers on the scene. One of them will be Rev. Cecil Fayard from upper MS. by way of Cajun land. That's right a coonie. He is the national Chaplain for the SCV. One of the other speakers is our Division Commander Mr. Larry McCluney from Greenwood where he teaches history, the right way!! We have some more speakers that just have not been confirmed yet. As always we will have Miss Connie Mori of the Confederate Shoppe from Birmingham, AL. and Mr. and Mrs. Al Benson from Sterlington, LA. to bring all their goodies to sell.

It will be held back at Bethlehem Baptist Church on Hwy. 184 in east Jones County. The church youth group will once again be in charge of the meals and service. They have done a tremendous job for us and we appreciate their superior work in this endeavor. The same agenda will be followed as usual with the Friday night meeting beginning at 7:00 PM and ending around 9:00 PM or so. Saturday the doors open at 8:30 AM with the program beginning at 9:00 AM.

There will be plenty of coffee on hand for those difficult to wake up types. The subject matter of the speakers will be as varied as the speakers themselves. Of course on Saturday night after supper there will be music and singing for all to enjoy, so come expecting to stay a little while and relax. We should be through around 8:00 PM that evening so everyone can get home and be ready for church the next day. In the mean time, to you the members of our camp, there is a matter of getting some ads moved in advance of this event. The ads are what make it possible for your conference to exist. Yes your conference. It is a time when people of like mindedness can come together and not only listen to inspirational speakers but, fellowship with one another and probably do a little venting. It is a great atmosphere for the weekend in which you can share ideas and learn some new things all at the same time. This is something you a member of camp 227 can be grateful you are a part of. There are many people that come and actually have a good time and learn. They travel from AL., LA. and all over MS. just to be with each other and share in a great time. We do this at a minimum cost to the individual because of the ads. Don't expect someone else to do it. Jump in somewhere and sell an ad or two, it all helps. Speaking of ads, you cannot be made to do this but, the least you can do is take out a \$10.00 ancestor ad to have in our program. Please consider these things that have been said and participate. The ads will be \$15.00 for a business card size, \$25.00 for a quarter of a page, \$50.00 for a half page, and \$100.00 for a full page. Copies from last year's program will be available to show to prospective ad buyers.



A tribute to Jefferson Davis on a billboard in Laurel, MS

## Get You' re MS Division SCV Lapel Pin!!

The Mississippi Division SCV lapel pins have arrived. The cost of a pin is \$5.00. Plus \$1.50 shipping & handling. You can get yours from Dan McCaskill or Larry McCluney at the camp meetings. Please get them while they are here. They are going fast. Each pin is white and shaped like the state of Mississippi with the SCV logo in the middle and Mississippi Division written in gold. What a deal on such a beautiful pin. So bring your money and get your pin. Purchase a few extra to give to your friends and family for gifts.

## Renewed Interest in MS Division Life Membership

With the rising cost of absolutely everything in general, everyone is always looking for a bargain. Thus, to help curb the cost of dues, the MS Division has reactivated its life membership drive. As a result of this renewed vigor and interest in life membership, the number of participants has quadrupled since the original 8 life members before the 2008 Convention.

Life memberships in both the International Confederation and the Mississippi Division are available for Members who make a qualifying contribution to the respective Life Membership Endowment Fund. The amount of the qualifying contribution shall be twenty-five (25) times the amount of annual dues for applicants up to 65 years of age, and half that amount for applicants 65 years of age or older with applicable rules and forms to be determined by the respective Executive Council.

International Life Members shall be exempt from the payment of per capita dues to General Headquarters. Mississippi Division Life Members shall be exempt from the payment of per capita dues to the Division.

Life Members may receive such special recognition, certificates and badges as the respective Executive Council shall deem proper. Interested in becoming a life member? See Larry McCluney or Dan McCaskill for more information. Or go to [http://www.mississippiascv.org/membership.html#Life\\_Memberships](http://www.mississippiascv.org/membership.html#Life_Memberships) and download an application yourself.

# The Jeff Davis Legion

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DIVISION SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email simply send an email to: [electronicjdl@cableone.net](mailto:electronicjdl@cableone.net) with JDL in the subject line and your camp number, your SCVID number and your name in the body. You will receive your email notification as soon as a new issue is placed online, probably about ten days to two weeks prior to when you would receive by US mail. The Fall 2007 and Winter 2008 editions of the Jeff Davis Legion are now on line and the Summer issue was just recently posted.

## Bylaw Revisions introduced and approved at 2008 Convention

Motions to revise certain portions of our Mississippi Division Bylaws were introduced and approved by the membership at the annual Reunion At Beauvoir on May 31.

These revisions basically:

- Conform MS Div bylaws with SCV national constitution.
- Incorporate IRS language necessary to retain our 501(c)3 designation.
- Clarify Mississippi Life Membership provisions.
- Provide a Mississippi Conditional Life Membership.
- Protect Life Membership Endowment funds.
- Provide for prororation of Division Annual Dues for new or reinstating members.
- Require that any dormant funds be placed in an insured income producing investment.
- Incorporate our Battleflag preservation project.
- Create a Heritage Fund for the promotion and defense of our Southern Heritage.
- Clarify and conform method and timing of notices to Officers and Camps.
- Change the name of the Nominating Committee and more clearly define its duties.
- Add three standing committees.
- Add Chairman of the Joint Boards of Beauvoir to the Executive Council.
- Revise composition of the Beauvoir Boards.
- Other revisions to effect cost savings.

To review the revised bylaws go to <http://www.mississippiiscv.org/ByLaws.html>



## Descendent of Gen. John Bell Hood to Speak at Special

Stephen (Sam) Hood, a descendent of Confederate general **John Bell Hood**, will be the guest speaker at a special meeting held by the camp at 6 PM on 31 July, 2008, at Frisby's Restaurant in Caledonia, MS.

Hood, a resident of Huntington, WV, is an accomplished speaker and historian. He currently sits on the board of directors for Memorial Hall Confederate Museum in New Orleans and the John Bell Hood Historical Society ([www.ibhhs.org](http://www.ibhhs.org)), based in Kentucky, which also runs a website, [www.johnbellhood.org](http://www.johnbellhood.org), which is dedicated to informing the public of General Hood's accomplishments and restoring his reputation, which has been tarnished by many writers and historians over the years.

**If you are interested in eating some good food and hearing Sam Hood (we need a head count for the restaurant), please contact the following camp officers:**

Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Beck - [bbeck1@cableone.net](mailto:bbeck1@cableone.net)  
Cmdr. Darryl Hartness - [mississippian@cableone.net](mailto:mississippian@cableone.net)  
Adjutant Jessie Riggs - [jriggs@bellsouth.net](mailto:jriggs@bellsouth.net)  
Spread the word and hope to see you there!

# National SCV News

## News from the Gray Line

SCV Membership is currently 29,801 including 3,268 Life Members and 52 Real Sons, and an additional 259 cadet members. The SCV also has well over 50,000 dues delinquent former members who may want to rejoin your camp. If you would like a mailing list of your camp's delinquent members, please contact the GHQ staff. Every SCV member needs to continue to recruit new members while encouraging current members to make the commitment to be long term members which is the best way to grow the SCV. Life member-ships are a great value at only \$500 up through age 64, \$250 for age 65 to 79, and \$125 for age 80 and up. These rates will increase on August 1, 2008 as the rates are tied to a multiple of annual dues.

Please take advantage of prorated dues for new members and reinstating former members during the last six months of the fiscal year. During June and July 2008 the prorated dues amount is only \$32.50 which will pay the member through July 31, 2009. Please take advantage of this fine opportunity to keep members in another year and so the camp will not have to go back to the members in a few months asking for dues a second time.

### 2008 IRS Annual Electronic Notice Filing Requirement

SCV camps with gross receipts less than \$25,000 a year are **not** required to file an IRS Form 990 tax return; however, beginning in 2008 at the end of the current fiscal year, all camps will be required to submit an annual electronic notice. This will be a simple task, providing camp officer contact information that must be accomplished online between August 1<sup>st</sup> and December 15, 2008. You may not make this report before August 1, 2008. The SCV will provide further guidance and assistance on completing this task as we near the end of the current fiscal year.

### Amending history

## Confederate soldier's grave finally gets proper marker

LONG CREEK , NC — As far as Doug Blackwell is concerned, 99 years was long enough for his great-grandfather's grave to lie, marked only by a rock, in the cemetery at Holly Springs Baptist Church. Blackwell knew that his great-grandfather was a brave soldier of the Confederacy and a prisoner of war. It just didn't seem right that there was no marker.

Recently, that all changed, but it wasn't easy. Little did Blackwell know, however, that when he set about to get a marker from the Sons of the Confederacy he would have to set a few records straight along the way.

Born in 1843, Benjamin F. Blackwell enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of 18, being assigned from the Walhalla-Pickens District to the 12th South Carolina Infantry. His regiment saw action on the coast and went on to participate in some of the biggest battles of the war in northern Virginia.

On July 14, 1863, members of the 6th Michigan Mounted Cavalry at Falling Waters, Md, took Blackwell prisoner. Two days later he arrived at Maryland's Point Lookout prison. Whether he escaped or was released from the prison at the end of the war is unclear. But, what Doug Blackwell does know is on Dec. 20, 1865, his great-grandfather arrived back in the Upstate, having walked the entire distance home, nearly starving to death in the process. He went on to raise a family, died in 1909 and was buried at Holly Springs.

Blackwell was sure of all this, but when he obtained an abstract from archives in Columbia, it indicated that his grandfather had died "of a disease while in the hands of the enemy" at Point Lookout prison. "I knew that wasn't true," Blackwell said. "If he had died in prison, there wouldn't have been my grandfather, or my father or me. Proving what he knew was true, however, was another matter. First, he showed representatives of the Sons of the Confederacy a family Bible that contained all the genealogical information. That wasn't good enough.

Through an acquaintance he learned that a monument at Point Lookout contains the names of nearly 4,000 soldiers who died in the prison. Knowing the proof he needed was carved in granite somewhere, he set about finding a record. Through the Oconee County Library he located a book in a Charleston library that had a 52-page listing of those names. His great-grandfather was not on the list.

The Sons of the Confederacy accepted the book as proof and ordered the monument for Benjamin Blackwell. It arrived from Tennessee at Blackwell's home and was dedicated during a recent ceremony attended by representatives of Sons of the Confederacy, family members and friends and Oconee County Veterans' Director Jerry Dyar. Among those present were the three remaining grandchildren of Benjamin Blackwell — Arthur Blackwell, Sally Burton and Luther Blackwell, Doug Blackwell's 88-year-old father.

"You could say a book from the library saved the day," Blackwell said. "His grave just needed to be properly marked."



**A member of the Sons of the Confederacy places a black powder bag atop the marker of Confederate soldier Benjamin F. Blackwell. A dozen representatives of the organization participated in the marker dedication.**

## Forrest : Memphis' first White Civil Rights Advocate

Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821-1877) was a renowned Southern military leader and strategist during the War Between the States. During the Civil War, Forrest's Confederate cavalry wrecked havoc among Union forces throughout the mid-South. He gained worldwide fame from his many battlefield successes, but the war-time heroics have overshadowed his post-war work as a community leader and civil rights advocate. He fought fiercely on the battlefield, yet was a compassionate man off the field. After the war, Forrest worked tirelessly to build the New South and to promote employment for black Southerners. Forrest was known near and far as a great general, and was a well-respected citizen by both blacks and whites alike.

The Independent Order of Pole-Bearers Association (predecessor to the NAACP) was organized by Southern blacks after the war to promote black voting rights, etc. One of their early conventions was held in Memphis and Mr. Forrest was invited to be the guest speaker, the first white man ever to be invited to speak to the Association.

After the Civil War, General Forrest made a speech to the Memphis City Council (then called the Board of Aldermen). In this speech he said that there was no reason that the black man could not be doctors, store clerks, bankers, or any other job equal to whites. They were part of our community and should be involved and employed as such just like anyone else. In another speech to Federal authorities, Forrest said that many of the ex-slaves were skilled artisans and needed to be employed and that those skills needed to be taught to the younger workers. If not, then the next generation of blacks would have no skills and could not succeed and would become dependent on the welfare of society.

Forrest's words went unheeded. The Memphis & Selma Railroad was organized by Forrest after the war to help rebuild the South's transportation and to build the 'new South'. Forrest took it upon himself to hire blacks as architects, construction engineers and foremen, train engineers and conductors, and other high level jobs. In the North, blacks were prohibited from holding such jobs. When the Civil War began, Forrest offered freedom to 44 of his slaves if they would serve with him in the Confederate army. All 44 agreed. One later deserted; the other 43 served faithfully until the end of the war. Though they had many chances to leave, they chose to remain loyal to the South and to Forrest. Part of General Forrest's command included his own Escort Company, his Green Berets, made up of the very best soldiers available. This unit, which varied in size from 40-90 men, was the elite of the cavalry. Eight of these picked men were black soldiers and all served gallantly and bravely throughout the war. All were armed with at least 2 pistols and a rifle. Most also carried two additional pistols in saddle holsters. At war's end, when Forrest's cavalry surrendered in May 1865, there were 65 black troopers on the muster roll. Of the soldiers who served under him, Forrest said of the black troops: Finer Confederates never fought. Forrest was a brilliant cavalryman and courageous soldier. As author Jack Hurst writes: a man possessed of physical valor perhaps unprecedented among his countrymen, as well as, ironically, a man whose social attitudes may well have changed farther in the direction of racial enlightenment over the span of his lifetime than those of most American historical figures.

When Forrest died in 1877 it is noteworthy that his funeral in Memphis was attended not only by a throng of thousands of whites but by hundreds of blacks as well. The funeral procession was over two miles long and was attended by over 10,000 area residents, including 3000 black citizens paying their respects.

## Forrest and the Slave Trade

From his beginnings as a young farmer at the age of 13, Bedford Forrest continued to clear land around his widowed mother's farm. It was "a life of poverty, toil and responsibility," but with the help of his siblings, the farm grew and returned increased profits, permitting Bedford to purchase additional land for more crops. As Forrest matured into his early 20's, he was tutored in the business world by an uncle and other relatives and sharpened his business acumen on his crop and land deals.

North Mississippi was still the frontier in the 1840's but its proximity to the growing city of Memphis provided a ready market for Forrest's produce and increased his land business. Forrest soon expanded his vocation by joining in his uncle Jonathan's livery stable and horse-trading business, and he and his brothers became accomplished horsemen as well. In 1845, at the age of 24, Bedford married Mary Ann Montgomery and settled in Hernando, MS, a mere 20 miles south of Memphis.

In 1851, as the Forrest farm holdings increased, as did his income, Bedford could afford to employ slave labor to work the expanding farmland. The scope of his business, too, now having outgrown Hernando, Forrest moved to the bustling, booming river port of Memphis. There he dealt in cotton, in plantations, in livestock and, as an offshoot to his other business, he now found it economically expedient to get into another accepted commerce: the slave-trade business.

"It is said Forrest was kind to his negroes; that he never separated members of a family, and that he always told his slaves to go out in the city and choose their own masters. There is no instance of any slave taking advantage of the permission to run away. Forrest taught them that it was to their own interest not to abuse the privilege; and, as he also taught them to fear him exceedingly, I can believe the story. There were some men in the town to whom he would never sell a slave, because they had the reputation of being cruel masters."

One of his regular customers was a Negro slave-trader from Kentucky, who routinely bought and sold over 1200 slaves in a year. Testimony is unanimous that besides the ordinary good business practice of looking after the physical well-being of the slaves he bought and sold, he went to lengths to keep families together, and even to reunite them, so as to avoid the painful separations that were too common in the days of the rapid expansion of cotton planting in the lower Mississippi River region; and that frequently he was besought by slaves to purchase them, because of his reputation for kindness and fair treatment.

In 1858, Bedford Forrest was elected an alderman (city councilman) for the city of Memphis and re-elected in 1859. Early in 1859, Forrest had had enough of the demands of his business trades and thus the real-estate, livestock, and slave business was closed out in Memphis, and Alderman Forrest resigned to settle on his plantation in Mississippi. Before the end of the year, however, he returned to make his residence in Memphis, where he was promptly re-elected as Alderman, to serve his unexpired term until 1860. He never reentered the slave-trade business.

Facts & quotes taken from "First With the Most", Robert Henry, pg. 23-27.



## *The Military Career of Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest*

*Lieutenant-General Nathan Bedford Forrest* in 1865, private of Cavalry in 1861. As Senator Daniel has said, "what genius was in that wonderful man ! He felt the field as Blind Tom touches the keys of the piano. 'War means killing,' he said, 'and the way to kill is to get there first with the most men.' He was not taught at West Point, but he gave lessons to West Point." His career was quite as brilliant and devoted in its allegiance to duty in peace as it was in the conflict of arms.

His father's family had moved from Virginia, before the Revolution, to North Carolina, where every member able to bear arms at that time fought in the cause of independence. His parents moved thence to Bedford county, Tennessee, where he was born July 13, 1821. In 1834 he moved with his father to Marshall county, Mississippi, where the latter soon died,

leaving young Forrest to support the widow and family with no resources other than a small hill farm. He undertook this work with such devotion and energy, that while neglecting his own education he provided liberally for that of his brothers and sisters, and going into business at Memphis became able to purchase a large plantation, and at the outbreak of the war was one of the wealthiest planters in Tennessee.

Soon after entering the Confederate service June 14, 1861, as a private in White's mounted rifles, he obtained authority to raise a regiment of cavalry, the equipment of which he purchased at his private expense at Louisville. With great ingenuity and daring he brought these supplies to Memphis after eluding the Federal authorities and defeating a body of troops with a force of seventy five Kentucky Confederates he had called to his aid. With his regiment he joined the forces at Fort Donelson, and after distinguishing himself in the conflict with the Federals, led his men through the enemy's lines when surrender was determined upon.

Joining Albert Sidney Johnston, he was in the heat of the fight at Shiloh, and though wounded refused to leave the field until the safety of the army was assured. Subsequently, the Federals having occupied middle Tennessee, Colonel Forrest made a series of brilliant cavalry movements into that territory that made his name famous throughout America. Promoted brigadier-general July 21, 1862, he hung upon Buell's flank during the movement into Kentucky, protected Bragg's retreat, and while the army was in winter quarters actively covered the Federal front at Nashville, continually doing damage to the enemy. In 1863, in an effort to break Rosecrans' communications, he entered Tennessee with less than one thousand men, captured McMinnville, and surprised the garrison of 2,000 at Murfreesboro, capturing all the survivors of the fight, including General Crittenden.

General Streight, having started on a cavalry raid to Rome, Ga., was pursued and caught up with, and so impressed by Forrest's demand for surrender, that he turned over his entire command, which was in such disproportion to their captors that Forrest had to press into service all the citizens in reach to assist in forming an adequate guard.

In the great battle of Chickamauga he commanded the cavalry of the right wing, and was distinguished in the fight, but he was so dissatisfied with the incompleteness of this Confederate victory that he tendered his resignation. Instead of its acceptance he was promoted major-general and assigned to the command of all cavalry in north Mississippi and west Tennessee, and the guardianship of the granary of the Confederacy. With a small force he entered west Tennessee and recruited several thousand hardy volunteers, which, with some veteran troops, he welded into the invincible body known as "Forrest's Cavalry."

In February, 1864, General Smith with seven thousand mounted men was sent against him in co-operation with Sherman, but was utterly routed at Okolona and Prairie Mound. In return Forrest rode through Tennessee to the Ohio river, and captured Fort Pillow, Union City and other posts with their garrisons. In June 8,300 Federals under General Sturgis entered Mississippi. Forrest had only 3,200 men, but at Brice's Cross Roads he struck the straggling Federal column at its head, crushed that, and then in detail routed successive brigades until Sturgis had suffered one of the most humiliating defeats of the war, losing all his trains and a third of his men.

Gen. A. J. Smith renewed the invasion with 14,000 men, but retreated after a desperate battle at Harrisburg, near Tupelo. Reorganizing his beaten forces Smith again advanced with reinforcements from Memphis, and Forrest was compelled to foil the enemy by taking half his force and making a sixty-hour ride to Memphis, the daring entry of which compelled Smith's rapid retreat. Then for a time General Forrest made havoc with the Federal transportation, garrisons and depots in Tennessee, exploits crowned by the capture and destruction of six million dollars' worth of the enemy's supplies and a gunboat fleet, at Johnsonville, "a feat of arms," wrote Sherman, "which I must confess excited my admiration."

After the fall of Atlanta he joined Hood at Florence, and fought at Franklin and Nashville. As commander of the rear guard of the retreating Confederate army, Forrest displayed his most heroic qualities, with hardly a parallel but the famous deeds of Marshal Ney while covering Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

In February, 1865, he was promoted lieutenant-general, and given the duty of guarding the frontier from Decatur, Ala., to the Mississippi. With a few hundred hastily gathered men he made his last fight at Selma, and on May 9 he laid down his arms. It is stated that he was 179 times under fire in the four years, and he said, "My provost marshal's books will show that I have taken 31,000 prisoners."

After the war he was president of the Selma, Marion and Memphis railroad until 1874. He died at Memphis, October 29, 1877. By European authority he is pronounced the most magnificent cavalry officer that America has produced.



**The Delta General  
1412 North Park Drive  
Greenwood, MS 38930**



**We're on the Web!  
[www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)**

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## History of the Forrest Equestrian Monument

In 1887, ten years after the death of one of the South's greatest heroes Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, efforts were begun to raise money for a statue to be erected in his memory. Three gentlemen of Memphis, James E. Beasley, Col. W.F. Taylor and W. W. Schoolfield began canvassing for donations toward this monument fund. During the early years of their work, small contributions were received, but in November 1891 the Forrest Monument Association was incorporated.

The following officers were elected to lead the Association. Gen. S.T. Carnes, President, Gen. George W. Gordon, Vice-President, James E. Beasley, Treasurer, and Judge J.P. Young, Secretary. Also named were thirteen Directors who represented the who's who of Memphis at that time.

Immediately following this organization, a fundraising benefit was given by the Old Lyceum Theater Company. Various donations followed during the years of 1892 and 1893. During 1894, a number of Confederate Veterans organized a drill team designated as Company A, UCV. Their first order of business was to challenge the "Chickasaw Guards" of Memphis to a competitive drill. The cash prize of \$1,927.45 was won by Company A and received as the largest donation to the Forrest Monument fund to date.

By January 1900, the cash and signed pledges to the Association amounted to \$14,000. In June 1900, interested Ladies of Memphis formed an auxiliary and deserve special mention for their work. For in October 1904, they turned over to the Association treasury \$2,955.51 of solicited donations.

The cornerstone for the monument was laid during the May 1901 UCV Reunion in Memphis. In August 1901, sculptor Charles H. Niehaus was contracted to produce the bronze statue of General Forrest astride his favorite horse "King Phillip." It took three years for the modeling of the statue and nearly nine months for the casting. The marble work was done by the Ross Marble Co. of Knoxville and is of Tennessee marble. The bronze casting of more than heroic size, being one and one-half life size, weighs 9,500 pounds. Height of the monument is 21 feet 6 inches, including the equestrian of 12 feet. Height of the pedestal is 7 feet, and the terrace 2 feet 6 inches. The total cost of this magnificent tribute to the "Wizard Of The Saddle" was \$32,359.53. Casting was done in Paris France at the well known foundry of E. Guret June. The statue was shipped by steamer to New York, and then to Savannah, and from there by rail to Memphis, arriving here on April 8, 1904. The Forrest Monument Association, believing that the most appropriate place for the remains of Gen. Forrest would be beneath the foundation of this splendid statue, obtained the consent of his son, Capt. William Montgomery Forrest. The bodies of Gen. Forrest and his wife were re-interred from the Forrest family plot at Elmwood Cemetery to Forrest Park on November 11, 1904.

The dedication ceremony took place on May 16, 1905 beginning at 2:30 p.m., with 30,000 Southerners from seven States attending. Following the various speeches, the little eight year old great granddaughter Kathleen Forrest Bradley, finally pulled the cord that unveiled the magnificent memorial and Professor Arnold's band cranked up "Dixie."