



Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



The Delta General

Joe Nokes, Camp Commander

*Time to Rally Around
the Flag Once Again!*



July 2015, Volume 18, Issue 7

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

CONTENTS

- Camp & Society News**
 - Commander's Note – p. 1
 - Adjutant's Report – p. 1
 - Lt. Commander's Note – p. 1
 - OCR Report – P. 2
 - SCVMC Report - p. 3
 - MOS&B – pp. 5-6
- Division News**
 - Play at Beauvoir – p. 2
 - Shiloh Monument – p. 2
 - Cart Tag – p. 4
 - MS Flag Debate – p. 4
- National News**
 - Texas Car Tag Results – p. 6
 - Charleston Shooting – p. 7
 - National Convention – pp. 9-10
 - Forrest Statue – pp. 11-12
- Historical Articles**
 - Conspirators Hung – p. 12
 - Edmund Ruffin Dies – p. 13
 - July 4th at Vicksburg – pp. 14-15
 - Save the Flag Fund – p. 15

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Thursday, July 2, 2015 - 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, MS**
- July 15-19 – Nation SCV Reunion in Richmond, VA**
- August 8, Gen. Humphreys Birthday Picnic at Port Gibson**
- August 8 – Beauvoir Board meeting at Beauvoir**

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

Camp News:

Commander's Report – Joe Nokes

My friends,

Due to all of the issues we have been facing in recent days, and knowing that many of these issues are being covered elsewhere in this newsletter, I am going to forego my usual message for the sake of brevity.

Let me just say that we have many trials ahead and that we absolutely must stand together in the coming days.

Deo Vindice,
Joe Nokes

Camp Meeting, June 11, 2015

Adjutant's Report – Dan McCaskill

7:00 pm Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Compatriot Larry McCluney. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Jimmy Alford led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy and then read "The Charge" given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

Before the program, Richard Dillon had the pleasure of inducting Larry McCluney into the Mechanized Cavalry. Larry is the highest ranking SCV officer in the Mississippi Mechanized Cavalry.

Program: Our guest speaker was our own Nathan Bedford Forrest McCaskill who gave a report on his experiences at Boy's State held the last week of May at Mississippi State University. Nathan was sponsored by the B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625. About 400 boys from across the State attended Boy's State. The boys were divided into a "state", counties and cities. Nathan was elected to the House of Representatives where he wrote a bill. Only three bills out of 400 were considered with Nathan's bill ranked number 4. Nathan learned a lot about government and leadership which will serve him in the future. It was not all business but have some fun and games mixed in. There was a talent show and the judges were members of the on-campus sororities. Nathan said they really liked the judges. Hopefully the Camp can sponsor another young man to Boy's State in the future.

Announcements: The National Reunion will be held in July in Richmond, VA.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Richard Dillon announced that the July Meeting will be movie night on Shiloh; in August the Camp will be making its pilgrimage to Grand Gulf and Port Gibson; in September our speaker will be Brother James Taylor; in October will be Mark Thompson and November will be Alan Palmer. 2nd Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell was absent; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that camp had \$ 2,514.39 in its account due to a generous donation from Earl McCown. Dan presented to the Camp a request of transfer into the Camp by Conor Bond from the Rankin Rough and Ready's Camp in Brandon. A motion was made by Dan to accept the transfer, seconded by Nathan and passed. Conor's transfer brought the membership to 52. As Camp Editor, Larry asked if anyone was having trouble with the newsletter. This issue marked the end of the sequential. As AOT Commander, Larry reported the Heritage Rally in Shreveport, LA at the end of May was a great success with 450 – 500 compatriots in attendance. The event marked the Sequential in the West. MOS&B was absent; Sandra Stillman made a report for the Society and the Chapter on events at the MS Division Reunion. Two members from the 2nd Brigade received individual awards and the MS Society received a resolution from the MS Division for the work the Society does in support of Division activities.

Division 1st Lt. Commander Chuck Bond thanked the Camp for their support in his election as the Division 1st Lt. Commander. Richard Dillon gave a brief report of the goings on at the Reunion as interesting to say the least. One faction was upset that their agenda concerning Beauvoir was not discussed due to a technical error on their part. Much discussion was had on the finances and operation of Beauvoir with little accomplished. Finally, Division officers were elected with Dan McCaskill re-elected for a third term as Division Adjutant. Louis Foley was elected the new Division Commander. 1st Brigade Commander will be Donald Wright and 1st Brigade Councilman will be Stan Rhoda. All in all, the Division business meeting was long with some heated discussion. If anyone wants to see how the Division functions, come to the next Reunion which will be hosted by the Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp in Hattiesburg and held at Beauvoir.

Camp Business: The only Camp business was a proposal by Larry McCluney to develop a Camp shirt. Larry presented one proposal and estimated cost of \$ 18. Final approval will be made at the next Camp Meeting.

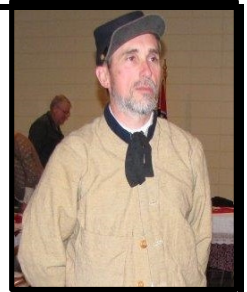
With no other business coming before the Camp, Commander Nokes turned the meeting over to the ladies of the OCR for the raffle and Capture the Yankee. Richard Dillon won the 1st issue note cards; Joe Nokes won the Shiloh 150th Re-enactment DVD and Alexandria had a chance to capture the Yankee, she failed.

The Meeting was dismissed with a word of prayer from Larry McCluney. Attendance for the evening was 22.

Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

Our July meeting will be Movie Night featuring the old and the new NPS movies of - The Battle of Shiloh. I have the following events planned for the coming months:

- August 8th Port Gibson Pilgrimage and September Brother Taylor



Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President

Dear Ladies of the OCR,

June was reunion month for the MS Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans and MS Society Order of Confederate Rose. Meeting in Columbus, we were surrounded by history, hospitality and Southern charm. Much gratitude goes to the 2nd Brigade for the special attention given to the planning and scheduling of the OCR venue. The meeting area was decorated with a floral arrangement in an antique tea pot and individual candy-filled tea cups. Refreshments of lemonade, tea and chicken salad sandwiches were served while live period music was being performed. During the awards ceremony, three ladies from Margery B. Rogers Clark Chapter OCR, Calhoun City, were recognized by the SCV. Genese Hitt received the Meritorious Award and Sandy Smith and Betty Jean Logan received Appreciation Medals with Certificates. All members of this chapter have made great contributions to the causes and work of the SCV. Their dedication is greatly appreciated! Also, for the second consecutive year, the MS Society of the Order of Confederate Rose received recognition by written Resolution from the MS SCV. This great honor was presented to Missy Stillman, as our state president. It is my hope and plan that our chapter continues in its dedication of service to the SCV. Please keep in mind up coming meetings. Our annual picnic will be in August. More information will be emailed. June, while being busy, has also been an emotional month. Evil acts of one person has created another wave of attacks against emblems of American history and Southern heritage. The OCR was established to assist and support the endeavors of the SCV to preserve history and Confederate symbols and monuments. The Ella Palmer Chapter continues to stand with the SCV, in agreement and support. On a personal basis, I challenge each of you to stand fast in the truth of Southern history and pride of our Confederate heritage.



Peace and Grace, Sandra Stillman, President

Rally Around the Boys!!

Lets keep our state flag flying. Dan McCaskill is asking all of our Camp members to donate \$20.00 to the Camp Heritage Defense Fund so we can send it to our State Fund to defend our flag. Lets do it again boys as we did in 2001 and rally around our flag. The goal is to send \$1,000 to the MS Division Heritage Defense fund. We did it 15 years ago we can do it again.



Mississippi Division News

Award Winning Play Comes to Beauvoir . . . “Number please”

The Mississippi Delta-based bittersweet comedy “NUMBER PLEASE”! is coming to Beauvoir as a dinner theater fund raising event to support the important work of Beauvoir. Playwright David Lush of Greenville has taken an event in Rosedale and crafted a two-act play that takes place in the former Rosedale Telephone Company office on the second floor of the former Rosedale City Hall during the last two days of the last group of working telephone switchboard operators in the last city in the Mississippi to get rotary phones.

Dinner and Theater Beauvoir Room

July 11, 2015 - 7pm – 10pm

Limited Seating - \$75.00 per person

Home Style Dinner

Menu:

Grilled Chicken/Meatloaf

Mac Cheese/Green Beans

Peach & Blackberry Cobbler

all tickets purchases are considered a donation to the Beauvoir Property and are non-refundable

The Shiloh Monument is Set for October 10, 2015

Please place October 10, 2015 on your calendar for dedication of the Mississippi Monument at Shiloh. The Governor is already committed to another event for the entire day on our original (target) date. I have submitted request for Governor to speak on October 10. You must understand that we won't get a firm “yes or no” until about 4-6 weeks out but it is incumbent upon us to make this effort to provide day the Governor may be able to participate.

The monument base for the new Mississippi Confederate monument at Shiloh has been installed. Dedication of the monument, which will be located near the site of the 6th Mississippi's famous assault at Shiloh, is scheduled for Saturday, October 10.

Please know we are now committed to October 10 and work toward that end. I have talked with the Superintendent at Shiloh and they are good with October 10 and working toward that with us.

Randy Reeves
Executive Director, MS Veterans Affairs Board



Southern Heritage Conference – August 7-8th – Bethlehem Baptist Church, Laurel, MS

This year will be our 21st, 22nd, or 23rd year! To be honest we have lost count. Anyway it should be another good one. Speakers are being lined up with our Saturday night entertainment and the ever entertaining and informative speaker Dr. John Lillian will be there for certain. Of course the food, as always, will be outstanding and will be served by the nicest young people you will ever meet. Remember, we are fashioning Saturday night after a Scottish Ceilidh where everyone may participate. That means member participation! You can read or tell a short story or poem that you may find amusing or just want to share with others. You can tell jokes, but keep them clean. You can play an instrument, not the radio then do that. This can be spontaneous or planned, it does not matter. Of course we will have our vendors.

Hopefully Jitters Coffee House will be there again with their pastries and jazzed up coffee. Prices for Admission and adds are the same as they have been.

Remember, Pastors, Law Enforcement Officials, Elected Officials, and Teachers do not pay. So be thinking about someone you could bring along to learn more about their Southern History. Sponsors are also needed. Friday night the doors will open at 6:00 PM and the program will begin at 7:00 PM. Saturday the doors will open at 8:00 AM and program begin at 9:00 AM.

Mechanized Cavalry Report

Men of the 1G:

June has started with a bang and still lots more events and rides coming up, so continue to be safe and forward the colors with pride.

The Division meeting.....wow is all I can say in more ways than one. We had an excellent turnout of 1G and thanks to all who were there. I will not go into all that happened there but it is over and we need to unite behind our elected leaders. If things did not go as one would think they should then you have two years to start running for the office of your choice.

Over the years our Division and other state Division's dates have been in conflict with our Mechanized Cavalry Annual. This has been brought up at the last two Officers Call including the one at Arkansas last week. The SCVMC is now working with all States that have MC Annuals scheduled so that the dates will be changed to not conflict with our Division Annuals. We have more 1G members in the Division leadership than ever and that is where we need to be as SCV members. If I am not mistaken Mississippi Division Annual is always the first weekend of June and the Mechanized Cavalry Annual for 2016 will be 15-18 June 2016 at Cedar Key Florida, so start making plans for both now. Budget your time and money for these two events next year starting today even if you have to miss other events.

The 2015 Mechanized Cavalry Annual in Arkansas was great! As far as I know everyone made it through the week without any accidents and safe at home now. There were a few breakdowns but all were taken care of. 1G was well representative with 7 members. The following are the scheduled Annuals.....

2016 Florida (15-18 Jun 2016 at Cedar Key Florida)
2017 North Carolina
2018 South Carolina
2019 Texas

A few things brought up at the Officers Call...

- 1) 1st Battalion received the Top Battalion Recruitment award and 1G did a great job in helping getting that award.
- 2) Social Media; be aware of what and how you post things on the internet ie FB. People are watching and waiting to jump on anything we do. Some members have two FB accounts, one to post just MC stuff and another to post things that might cause problems. Some even post under a different name. Lets not dishonor our ancestors as once it's out there you can't take it back.
- 3) Jake Stalcup award is in the works, we will hear more about this soon.
- 4) Hunley Award; if you know of an ROTC in your area that is not getting the Hunley Award let me know so I can get it set up so you can present this award.
- 5) Any events that we have coming up needs to be put on our HQ web site at www.csascvmc.org just email it to the web master or to me.

The Perry Thrasher fund raiser event is set for 27 June at the Mars Hill Fire Dept in Winston County. So far we have raised \$240 and thanks to all who have donated. I plan to ride to the event and present them a check for the total. If you wish to donate send your check to:

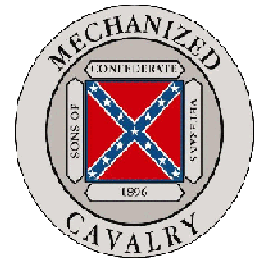
Steven Gunner Rutherford
750 County Road 417
Ripley, MS 38663

Make it out to SCVMC1G.

Don't forget the Mississippi Monument at Shiloh on 10 Oct. I have brought this up at the Officers Call and General member meeting and trying to get as much support as I can from the MC. Rumors and talk about this event aside I will be there no matter what. This is a once in a life time event for us so please make a maximum effort to be there. Bring family and friends as you don't have to be SCV to be there. Another opportunity to recruit and honor our Mississippi fathers. Bring SCV recruitment material to hand out to prospects and be ready to talk to people about the SCV.

As always Gentlemen if you need anything let me know!
Steven Gunner Rutherford, Captain SCVMC1G Mississippi

Note: Chelsey Roberts Reports local events: Aug 8th - Port Gibson Picnic & Pilgrimage; October 10th - Mississippi Monument dedication at Shiloh. Big deal -- governor will be there as well all SCV officers. Also SCVMC semi-annual meeting; October 17th - Beauvoir Fall Muster.



Buy One Now . . . Show Your Pride in Your Southern Heritage

Gentlemen,

Beginning July 1, 2015 you can now get the original issue Division License plate design for your car again. Simply take the photo attached to this email and show it to the person where you renew your vehicle license plate and request this design. You can use the initials CV along with the picture to let them know which one to get. The additional cost is still \$31 added to your tag's cost.

If you wish to keep the tag with the Beauvoir design you can. The Department of Revenue does not make you turn them in like other tags. However, none of the money from the old Beauvoir tag will go to Beauvoir. They have received permission for their own tag. You would need to contact the people at Beauvoir to find out how to get that tag if you wish to run it on your car.

As in the past money raised from the sale of the Division License plate will go to restore the battle flags in the possession of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Louis Foley, Commander
Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans



Beauvoir leader says the Confederate flag will continue to fly By Michelle Lady

It is all political and it is not coming down at Beauvoir. That's Executive Director Greg Stewart's take on the controversy over the Confederate flag. "Those people are serious about robbing us of our pride and our history," Stewart said. Stewart feels passionate about the confederate flag. "At Beauvoir, it obviously drives tourism," Stewart said. "People come here and if you have time to watch what they take pictures of, because I do. They don't take pictures of me, they don't take pictures of plants so much, they love that battle flag, and they like to pose with it. You would be surprised at some of those people who pose in the pictures."

Stewart does not believe the flag is a symbol of racism. "There are plenty of Confederate flags. That was the one misused by the Klan," Stewart said. "But the favorite flag of the Klan is the American flag, and I think it still is. So I guess the question the public should be asking is, when you are done burying this one, is your United States flag next?"

As long as Stewart is at Beauvoir, he said the flag will fly. "I'm firm on that," Stewart said. "I know what the draw is, I see what brings people in here. You could take it down and it would just be an antebellum home and it would have the same draw as Grass Lawn, which I don't see people piling up to go see."

Even those visiting the last home of the president of the Confederacy have mixed feelings about the flag. Brad DeCorte said, "As a flag itself on government property, I kind of feel like that time is over." DeCorte finds the flag offensive. "I know it has caused problems," DeCorte said. "I'm a school teacher down in Florida and it has caused problems at the school for people who wave the flag. So it is kind of divisive and has caused serious problems and fights."

Rebecca Ladnier and her son had a different take on the flag. "I don't really think about it; it doesn't offend me," Ladnier said. "I think it should be allowed to be flown in the proper context." "I don't think it's racist," Jordan Ladnier said. "It's a part of history and it should stay."

The tragedy in South Carolina sparked the latest controversy over the Confederate flag, but Stewart said it is not the first time there has been a push to remove the flag.

"It was a perfect story. They had that horrible, horrible event where those nine innocent people were slaughtered in a Christian church, and then South Carolina positioned themselves in the presidential election," Stewart said. "I don't think anyone would argue it's good public policy to make a sweeping change in a matter of a couple of weeks, but it's all been driven by a motion."

As far as changing Mississippi's flag, Stewart said that was discussed and voted on in 2001. "Speaker Gun was in law school, or just getting out of law school. He was not in the legislature and not involved at all," Stewart said. "So somebody should have told him what will happen out in the country side. And what happens with these guys in Jackson is they get up there, they attend luncheons with each other and it becomes a bubble, and they forget about the folk."

When it came to a vote, Stewart said Mississippians kept the symbol on the flag. "Black Mississippians, in particular, sent a message," Stewart said. "For one thing, they didn't show up at the polls. Not at the numbers that anyone expected. The other thing was even with the numbers they showed up with, they voted for the old flag."

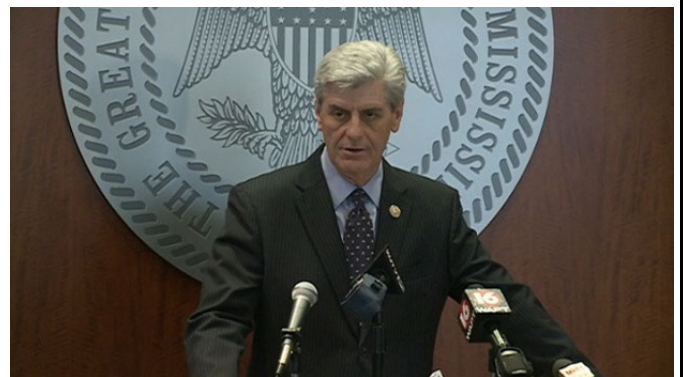
"Maybe we will get to that place that there's not that much emotion attached to it and political agendas attached to it. That's my hope," Stewart said. "I hope we can get through this with what's going on right now, without tearing things down and forgetting our history."

Governor: No special session on Mississippi flag design

JACKSON, Miss. —Republican Gov. Phil Bryant said he will not call Mississippi lawmakers back to the Capitol to consider removing a Confederate battle emblem from the state flag. Bryant said Thursday that he only calls special sessions for legislators to respond to a natural disaster or to handle a large economic development project.

The head of the Legislative Black Caucus, Democratic Sen. Kenny Wayne Jones, had called on Bryant earlier Thursday to set a special session to bring "true dialogue and full resolution" on redesigning a flag that many see as racially divisive.

Mississippi has had the Confederate symbol on its banner since 1894, and voters chose to keep it in 2001. Debate about Old South symbols revived after last week's massacre of nine worshippers at a black church in South Carolina.





**Military Order of the Stars & Bars
78th Annual General Convention
Alexandria, Virginia
July 9-11, 2015
Convention Registration Form**

Name & Title _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Guest(s) _____

Registration through May 31 _____ @ \$85.00 \$ _____

Late Registration after May 31 _____ @ \$105.00 \$ _____

Thursday, July 9 - Commander General's Reception _____ @ \$60.00 \$ _____

Friday, July 10 - Forrest Cavalry Corps Breakfast - pay at the door _____

- Luncheon with Speaker – see supplemental information page _____ @ \$50.00 \$ _____
- Arlington National Cemetery Tour – Arlington House, _____ @ \$40.00 \$ _____
- Confederate Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Changing of the Guard or Christ Church Tour – church of George Washington and Robert E. Lee _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

Saturday, July 11 - Prayer Breakfast _____ @ \$35.00 \$ _____

- Awards Luncheon _____ @ \$50.00 \$ _____
- Commander General's Banquet _____ @ \$100.00 \$ _____
- Ancestor Memorial (See Supplemental Information Sheet) _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

Total Enclosed (Check) \$ _____

Special dietary restrictions? - contact J.J. Smith 703-299-1725
Make check payable to: 2015 National Convention MOS&B

Mail to: J. J. Smith III, Adjutant, Virginia Society MOS&B, 401 Wilkes Street, Alexandria, VA 22314



Military Order of the Stars and Bars
78th National Convention - Alexandria, Virginia
July 9-11, 2015



Thursday, July 9

Hotel Monaco Alexandria

- General Executive Council meeting 1:00-3:00 pm
- Registration in the Lobby 5:00-6:00 pm
- Commander General's Reception – open bar, hors d'oeuvres 6:00-7:30 pm
- Dinner on your own - Enjoy one of Alexandria's fine restaurants

Friday, July 10

Hotel Monaco Alexandria

- Registration in the Lobby 7:30-9:00am
 - Forrest Cavalry Corps Breakfast 8:00-9:00 am
 - Convention Opening Ceremony 9:00-9:30 am
 - Business Meeting 9:30-11:30 am
 - Luncheon with speaker 12:00 noon-1:45 pm
 - Arlington National Cemetery Tour 2:15-6:00 pm
- or
- Christ Church Tour 2:15-3:30 pm
 - Dinner on your own - Enjoy one of Alexandria's fine restaurants.

Saturday, July 11

Hotel Monaco Alexandria

- MOS&B Prayer Breakfast 8:00-9:00 am
- Business Meeting 9:30-11:30 am
- Awards Luncheon 12:00-2:00 pm
- Free time in the afternoon.
- Commander General's Banquet
- Reception – open bar 6:00 pm
- Dinner 7:00-9:00 pm

Hotel Reservations:

Call 1-800-368-5047. Ask for special rate for Military Order of Stars and Bars

OR

On-line: Go to their website - <http://www.monaco-alexandria.com>

- o Click on Reservations
- o Select your dates
- o Key in 11580104146 in the Meeting/Group Code block
- o Click on Check Availability
- o You will be redirected to our exclusive reservations page with our Military Order of Stars and Bars rates

SCV National News:

Statement from Charles Kelly Barrow, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Confederate Veterans regarding the Supreme Court Ruling of Walker vs. the Texas SCV

Speaking for the 30,000 members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I must say that we are profoundly disappointed by the adverse decision of the United States Supreme Court in their ruling in favor of the State of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

The S.C.V. is an honored heritage organization, founded in 1896. We are direct descendants of those who fought for the South 150 years ago. We honor them as members of our families who did what they felt was absolutely right in their time. Only recently has it become politically popular in some quarters to demonize them and to marginalize their legacy.

It is unfortunate that the Court has not extended the same sense of inclusion, diversity and tolerance to the estimated 70 million Americans of Confederate descent that is the right of every other American. The idea of inclusion, diversity, and tolerance apparently does not apply under law to those of us whose heritage is unpopular in some quarters.

This is a sad day for the First Amendment and for mutual respect and bridge-building among Americans of different viewpoints.

The SCV will continue to fight for those true American values of free expression and against the wave of "political correctness" which has over-run those most basic First Amendment rights guaranteed by our foundational document, the Constitution of the United States.

An American Tragedy in Charleston, SC

The unspeakable tragedy at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church is being already being used by some in the "agitation/propaganda" business to further divide good hearted people of different heritages, especially in the Southern states.

We 30,000 members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans are heartbroken by this depraved and insane act of murder. Our deepest sympathies and our most heartfelt prayers are with the victims and loved ones of this heinous act of a deluded racist.

We at the S.C.V. have long detested the use of our forefather's symbols by racist groups and individuals. We consider it to be a cowardly desecration of our inheritance. Our ancestors fought for the South and of that we are not ashamed. In the 150 years since the War ended, the men and women of the South, of all colors, have contributed a higher percentage of military volunteers than any other region of our nation. This country would not exist were it not for Southerners like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. We are American patriots to the core.

The mindless murders at Emanuel AME Church were an act of purposeful evil. Those who try to make larger political hay out of this are misguided and forgetful of our common heritage. As a nation of many ethnicities we should all extend tolerance and understanding to every individual of every heritage. And that should include those of us of Confederate heritage.

We must not allow the sickness of one demented individual to become that with which the media and our opponents define us. We are the same good-hearted people that we were last week and last year.

May the Lord be with those who are suffering from the dreadful murders in Charleston. We stand with them to decry racism and to decry those who wish to divide us in the aftermath of this evil.

Ben Jones, Chief of Heritage Operations
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Exploiting the deaths of the South Carolina nine before they can be laid to rest

It's not the trumped up battle over the 150-year-old Confederate flag that's what the slaughter of nine victims at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church is really all about. It's that the flag protesters seek to make a flag flap transcend the deaths of nine people in church—bypassing those tragic deaths as though they never happened.

For shame the tragedy was made political before even Susie Jackson, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, DePayne Doctor, Ethel Lance, Daniel Simmons Sr., Clementa Pinckney, Cynthia Hurd, and Tywanza Sanders could be laid to rest.

For shame that #BlackLivesMatter trumps 'Rest in Peace' at the same moment their loved ones are prostrate in unimaginable heartbreak and grief. Blaming their deaths on the Confederate flag is a convenient political tool for all those who keep stirring the pot of racial discord in America. "On Friday, the White House joined the debate, saying that Obama believes the rebel flag belonged in a museum." (Daily Mail, June 22, 2016) If Obama sincerely wanted to mothball the Confederate flag by hiding it in the obscurity of a museum, why did he wait seven years to turn it on? Many black men sacrificed their lives fighting on both sides of the American Civil War. How many of the nine's ancestors could be counted among them?

Nor is Obama the only politician willing to politicize the tragedy that took place Wednesday at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Jumping with big feet into the Confederate flag fray from the permanent sidelines where he's been ever since presidential election defeat is Mitt Romney. Romney, who branded the historic Confederate flag a "symbol of racial hatred", could only join growing calls for South Carolina's Capitol to take it down in the wake of the mass shooting, primarily because he's got nothing to lose.

Romney already lost everything he had to lose courtesy of his ineffectual 'nice guy' presidential campaign against Barack Obama.

A stark contrast to the politician-led Confederate flag mob were the thousands who gathered on Saturday at the Arthur Ravenel Bridge. "Thousands of people marched across Charleston's main bridge in a show of unity after nine black church parishioners were gunned down during a Bible study. (Daily Mail, June 22, 2015)

Crowds gathered on either side of Arthur Ravenel Bridge at around dusk and then met toward the middle of the span. Part of the bridge was closed as people were walking, taking pictures and chatting. When the marchers from the Mount Pleasant side and the Charleston side met on the bridge, there was clapping and singing of This Little Light of Mine. "It feels great. There's so much love out here," said Juliett Marsh of Summerville, who was toward the front of the marchers who walked from the Mount Pleasant side. The 'little light' of the bridge marchers shone brighter than the one the politicians are trying so hard to shine.

The congregation of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church has done more than any other group to douse the flames of deliberately set racial fires. They are a lesson to Christians everywhere by showing all that it's easy to pray when all is going well, but soul-searing when loved ones have been lost to a massacre of those who went to church to pray.

The loved ones of the slain hold their heads high in the most trying of circumstances and leave their Christian hearts open for the only thing that will bring healing back to their noble Church, powerful prayer to the Almighty—even when outsiders are trying to use their personal sorrow to advance a political cause. Politicians and activists who would rewrite the history of the Civil War will never heal grief-stricken hearts:

- Suspected killer Dylann Roof proudly displayed Confederate plates on his car before ambushing a bible study class at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and opening fire on the African American congregants. (Daily Mail)
- Protesters in South Carolina have defaced a war monument as the Confederate flag continues to fly over the state's capitol.
- Images have since surfaced on social media of a monument in Charleston's White Point Gardens, which was discovered with graffiti on Sunday morning.
- The monument, To the Confederate Defenders of Charleston - Fort Sumter, was erected in 1932 as a gift from The United Daughters of the Confederacy.
- It is an allegorical depiction of the Confederate army in the city holding off Union forces during the civil war.
- The vandal or vandals spray painted the base, writing 'Black Lives Matter' and 'This is the problem #racist.'
- A petition on MoveOn.org has garnered more than 320,000 signatures."

In a massacre that seemed almost scripted, any symbol Roof chose to crown his evil should be suspect. In a world where truth still matters, history should never be thrown on the trash heap. "At a vigil for the victims on Friday night, attended by thousands, Charleston mayor Joe Riley refreshed his pleas for the state government to remove the flag. "We do not want to live in a country where we need a security guard in a bible center," Riley said. The tragic truth is that Americans do live in a country where a security guard is needed in a bible center. And it's the politicians of the day who uphold the politics of racial divide who made it that way.

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SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

**120th National Reunion
July 15-19, 2015
Richmond, Virginia**

Hosted by the Major General J.E.B. Stuart Camp #1343

Name _____ Title/Position _____

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Personal Address _____ City & State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____

Email _____ Spouse's Name _____

Guest Name _____ Guest Name _____

Registration is required of all members attending Reunion. Guests do not pay registration but must pay for meals and events.

Registration and Meals

Early Registration (Before April 1, 2015).....Qty _____ x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____

Late Registration (After March 31, 2015).....Qty _____ x \$ 60.00 = \$ _____

Extra Reunion Medal.....Qty _____ x \$ 35.00 = \$ _____

Numbered Special Edition Reunion Medal..(Limited to 150 Medals)..... Qty _____ x \$150.00 = \$ _____

Reception at Museum of the Confederacy (Wednesday).....Qty.....x \$ 25.00 = \$ _____

Chaplain's Breakfast (Thursday).....Qty _____ x \$ 25.00 = \$ _____ **

Heritage Luncheon (Thursday).....Qty _____ x \$ 30.00 = \$ _____ **

Forrest Cavalry Breakfast (Friday).....Qty _____ x \$ 30.00 = \$ _____ **

Awards Luncheon (Friday).....Qty _____ x \$ 35.00 = \$ _____ **

J. E. B. Stuart Breakfast (Saturday).....Qty _____ x \$ 25.00 = \$ _____ **

Debutante Luncheon (Saturday - free for Debutante, female-only guests \$28.00).....Qty _____ x \$ 28.00 = \$ _____ **

Grand Ball and Banquet (Saturday).....(\$65.00 Single / \$120.00 Couple) = \$ _____ **

Tours and Performances

Appomattox Tour (Tuesday, includes box lunch - 4 hr. round trip)Qty _____ x \$ 90.00 = \$ _____

Cemetery Tour Part 1 (Thursday - Hollywood, Huguenot Springs).....Qty _____ x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____

Battlefield Tour 1 Led by Robert E. L. Krick (Thursday - Gaines' Mill).....Qty _____ x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____

Ladies Tour Part 1 (Thursday - Richmond as Confederate Capital)Qty _____ x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____

Theatrical Production – “Reflected Glory: Letters to Anna” (Thurs.).....	Qty _____	x \$ 10.00 = \$ _____
Cemetery Tour Part 2 (Friday - Shockoe, Jewish Confederate, Oakwood).....	Qty _____	x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____
Battlefield Tour 2 Led by Robert E. L. Krick (Fri. - Frayser’s Farm / Malvern Hill).....	Qty _____	x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____
Ladies Tour Part 2 (Friday - Richmond as Confederate Capital)	Qty _____	x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____
Theatrical Production – “Reflected Glory: Letters to Anna” (Fri.).....	Qty _____	x \$ 10.00 = \$ _____
Ride Around McClellan Tour (Saturday).....	Qty.....	x \$ 55.00 = \$ _____
North Anna Battlefield Tour (Sunday).....	Qty _____	x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____
Appomattox Tour (Sunday, includes box lunch - 4 hr. round trip)	Qty _____	x \$ 90.00 = \$ _____
Ancestor Memorial.....	Qty _____	x \$ 10.00 = \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed.....		\$ _____

Medals are available while supplies last. Each registrant receives one Reunion Medal. The purchase cost of extra Reunion Medals will be refunded if supplies run out. Special Edition Medals are numbered 1-150 and numbers will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like a specific number(s), please make a note on your registration form. Meals and tours may not be available for at the door registrations.

****Note:** To guarantee meal tickets, registration must be received by July 1, 2015.

Make Checks Payable to: SCV Reunion 2015

Mail Registration To: SCV Reunion 2015...PO Box 29814...Henrico, VA 23242-0814

Contact the Double Tree by Hilton Richmond-Midlothian at 804-379-3800 (rates are \$109.00 per night)

Ask for the "SCV Reunion Special Rate". All prices are subject to state and local taxes.

For more information contact Edwin Ray, Committee Chairman - 804-517-6587 or jray250443@aol.com or JEBStuartCamp@Gmail.com.

Reunion Website: <http://www.jebstuartcamp.org/2015reunion> Camp Website: <http://www.jebstuartcamp.org/>



The Major General J.E.B. Stuart Camp #1343 is honored to host the 120th National Reunion in 2015 in Richmond, Virginia. We encourage you to sign up for a tour of the Old Dominion State while you are visiting with us. If we can do anything to make your trip more memorable, please contact us at JEBStuartCamp@Gmail.com and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Confederate flag protests rise in the South

The Stars and Bars and other symbols of the Confederacy took a beating — verbally and physically — on Wednesday, as Alabama's governor removed the controversial flag from the state Capitol grounds.

Republican Robert Bentley became the first Southern governor to use his executive power to take down the Confederate banner, and four flags were pulled from a monument in Montgomery.

"It has become a distraction all over the country right now [that] is offensive to some people because, unfortunately, it's like the swastika; some people have adopted that as part of their hate-filled groups," he said.

At the University of Texas and elsewhere, vandals defaced statues and tore down flags in the wake of last week's church massacre in Charleston, South Carolina, of nine black people by a deranged white supremacist.

On the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis at the university, the graffiti included the message: "Bump All The Chumps."

And while the flag was still flying outside the South Carolina Statehouse, a large drape hid the banner from mourners as they passed the open casket of a black lawmaker and pastor killed in the Charleston bloodbath.

The drape revealed how quickly the symbol — of Southern pride to some, of violent white supremacy to others — had fallen from grace among politicians and retailers.

Many said change was crucial after photos emerged of confessed killer Dylann Roof, 21, posing with the Confederate flag and burning the US flag. But not all were on board.

Ben Jones, who played Cooter on TV's "Dukes of Hazzard," said the flag was threatened by a "wave of political correctness" vilifying Southern culture.



State workers take down a Confederate flag on the grounds of the state Capitol in Alabama.

Blockage sought of I-65 Nathan Bedford Forrest statue

Tennessee Democrats have already called on the removal of a Nathan Bedford Forrest bust from the Tennessee state Capitol building. Now, a Nashville Democrat — one who is running for mayor of Nashville — says she is seeking to block a long-criticized privately owned Nathan Bedford Forrest statue on land near Interstate 65 so that it can no longer be seen from the highway.

Metro At-large Councilwoman and mayoral candidate Megan Barry said in a media release Monday that she has spoken to Republican Gov. Bill Haslam about restoring trees and brush along Interstate 65 via private funds to block views of the statue from the interstate. Meanwhile, Metro Councilman Jerry Maynard, who is a paid adviser of mayoral candidate Bill Freeman, told The Tennessean he is drafting a council resolution that would request the state to block visibility of the statue.

Their separate pushes follow a recent mass shooting in a black church in Charleston, S.C., that has led to calls for that state to remove a Confederate battle flag from outside its state Capitol building. Forrest, born in Middle Tennessee, was a lieutenant general for the Confederate Army during the Civil War and first grand of the Ku Klux Klan.

A 25-foot fiberglass Forrest statue, designed by the late sculptor and attorney Jack Kershaw, was erected on private land in 1998 near Crieve Hall. Kershaw was among a series of attorneys hired by James Earl Ray after being convicted of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

The statue has been a source of controversy in Nashville and occasional vandalism ever since it was built. The statue, surrounded by Confederate state battle flags, sits on a 3.5-acre property owned by Bill Dorris, a Nashville businessman. "We have witnessed the deadly effects of racism in Charleston and throughout our history," Barry said in a prepared statement.

"In Nashville along I-65, there is a large monument of Nathan Bedford Forrest on private land, which serves as nothing more than a symbol of division. It was created by notorious racist Jack Kershaw, who at the time was reported to have said, 'Somebody needs to say a good word for slavery.' This is an offensive display of hatred that should not be a symbol for a progressive and welcoming city such as Nashville.

"While we cannot remove this monument from private land, I had a good conversation with Gov. Haslam and I look forward to working with him and with TDOT to restore the trees and brush along the stretch of I-65," Barry said Monday. "I am optimistic that we may be able to see action taken on this issue. I will happily work with the governor to raise the private funds necessary to make this happen in a way that does not detract from other road projects."

The Joseph E. Johnston Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans organized the kickoff event that dedicated the Forrest statue in 1998. Also participating were 40 other SCV camps, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and 10 re-enactment groups in period dress

According to a Tennessean story published in 1998, former state Sen. Douglas Henry, D-Nashville, had led the effort to get the state to clear trees from the interstate view of the statue.

Reach Joey Garrison at 615-259-8236 and on Twitter [@joeygarrison](https://twitter.com/joeygarrison).



Memphis Mayor Wants to Dig Up Dead Confederate War General

Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton wants to dig up the bodies of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife and remove them from a city park in the latest and perhaps most despicable example of the anti-Southern cleansing spreading across the nation.

"Which African-American wants to have a picnic in the shadow of **Nathan Bedford Forrest**?" Wharton said in a Thursday press briefing. In addition to desecrating the graves, Wharton wants to tear down a massive statue honoring the Confederate general who was involved in organizing the Ku Klux Klan. The bodies of Forrest and his wife would be relocated to a cemetery.

"These relics, these messages of this despicable period of this great nation, it's time for those to be moved," **the mayor said.**

Memphis city officials have been waging a fierce and unrelenting war on southern heritage. In 2013, the city council changed the name of Forrest Park to Health Sciences Park. They also changed the names of Jefferson Davis Park and Confederate Park.

So now they want to disinter the dead? What in God's name is wrong with the mayor? What kind of sick, twisted person wants to dig up dead people?

"I despise what the Confederacy stood for," Wharton said. "This is not just an ordinary monument. This is a monument to a man who was the avowed founder of the organization that has as its purpose the intimidation, the oppression of black folks."

The local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans staunchly opposes the attempted grave desecration.

Lee Millar pointed out that Forrest and his wife have been buried there for more than 100 years. "Aren't these guys over it yet?" he told **The Commercial Appeal.** "Let's worry about today's problems, high crime, high taxes, low education. It just seems to me misguided priorities."

Myron Lowery, the black city council chairman, said the statue is a "symbol of bigotry, a symbol of hate."

"I'm not trying to change history, history is what it is, but in 2015, this day and age is much different that it was 100 years ago," **he said.** Could you

imagine if a white mayor had announced his intention to dig up...well – you get the point. I warned you this would happen, folks. I told you the Confederate flag ban would lead to an all-out assault on Southern heritage. And now – there are literally hundreds of efforts underway to change the names of schools, parks, streets and buildings named after Confederate generals. Stores are banning the sale of Confederate merchandise. Movies like "Gone With the Wind" and "Forrest Gump" and television shows like "The Dukes of Hazzard" are under attack. Most recently, there have been calls to banish grocery store items like Aunt Jemima Syrup and Uncle Ben's Rice. And now they want to start digging up dead bodies? I shudder to imagine what's next in this Stalinist-style cultural purging of the Southern states. President Obama suggested that racism was in our DNA. If that's the case, it may not be that much of a stretch to imagine a day when activists demand that the descendants of Confederate soldiers be deported.

A bit of hyperbole, I confess. But it might be a good idea to keep your passport handy.



July 7, 1865: Lincoln assassination co-conspirators hanged

In the early morning hours of April 15, even as President Abraham Lincoln lay dying from a gunshot wound to the head, local police in Washington, D.C., arrived at a boardinghouse in the city's Northwest quadrant in search of John Wilkes Booth. Booth and other Confederate sympathizers had been known to frequent the white painted-brick house, as well as a tavern just outside the city, both owned by widow Mary Surratt.

While the attack on Lincoln was being carried out at Ford's Theatre, a simultaneous attack on Secretary of State William Seward in his home left the government in a frenzy over the potential extent of the conspiracy. Teams of law enforcement officers—first local, then federal—focused on the comings and goings at the Surratt house. At first, they found nothing. But two days later, federal officers returned with orders to search the premises and arrest everyone staying there. An abundance of circumstantial evidence was found, but a chance meeting helped seal the suspicion that Surratt was part of the plot. As she was being led away, a man showed up seeking refuge, clearly in disguise. Surratt said she didn't know him, but it turned out to be Lewis Powell—identified as the man who'd stabbed Seward. By the time the roundup was done, nine co-conspirators were arrested, all of whom had some connection to Surratt.



Continued on page 13 . . .

By order of President Andrew Johnson (another target of the conspiracy), the nine, though civilians, were tried by a military commission. Their trial was held at the Washington Arsenal, a military outpost on the Potomac River. The proceedings began May 9 and ended June 28. When the sentences were handed down on June 30, four were sentenced to death: Surratt; Powell; Powell's accomplice, David Herold; and Johnson's would-be assassin, George Atzerodt.

Pleas for Surratt's life, including one by five of the sentencing judges, went unheeded by President Johnson. On the morning of the execution, marshals attempting to serve a writ of habeas corpus were turned away at the gates of the arsenal. Johnson canceled the writ under the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act of 1863.

Though Surratt (sitting under the umbrella at far left) continued to profess her innocence, she and the three others were led to a hastily constructed gallows on the grounds of the arsenal. After a process that took barely 20 minutes, Surratt and her former boarders were dead.

Edmund Ruffin Fires His Final Shot of the War

The renowned Southern nationalist, Edmund Ruffin, was 67-years-old when he travelled to South Carolina and fired a cannon during the opening attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861. He was also present at the battles of First Manassas and Seven Pines before poor health confined him to home for the remainder of the Civil War. Unrepentant to the end, Ruffin had such "unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule" that he committed suicide at the war's end to keep from living in the "now ruined, subjugated, & enslaved Southern States!"

Born on January 5, 1794 in Prince George County, Virginia, Edmund Ruffin attended the College of William and Mary and served as a private in the Virginia militia during the War of 1812. After inheriting his family's plantation after the death of his father in 1810, Ruffin became a self-taught agriculturist who developed successful methods to correct soil depletion from tobacco farming. He published his techniques in an 1832 book titled *An Essay on Calcareous Manures* and launched his own agricultural journal, *The Farmer's Register*, in 1833.

Becoming immersed in the political events of the antebellum South, Ruffin was elected to one term in the Senate of Virginia in 1823 and became a radical supporter of slavery, states' rights, and secession. He expressed his views in the 1850s through several published essays: *The Influence of Slavery; or, Its Absence, on Manners, Morals, and Intellect*; *The Political Economy of Slavery*; and *Slavery and Free Labor Described and Compared*. In 1856, Ruffin also began keeping a personal journal.

Incensed by John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859, Ruffin travelled to Charles Town, (West Virginia, to witness the hanging of the "atrocious criminal." Disappointed to find that viewing of the event was limited to the military guard, Ruffin asked – and was granted – permission to become a recruit in the group of Virginia Military Institute cadets who were present. After the hanging, he obtained fifteen of the long metal pikes Brown had procured to arm slaves in his uprising. Ruffin sent a pike to each governor of a Southern state with a note describing it as designed "to be imbrued in the blood of the whites of the South."

Traveling to South Carolina in 1860 to help stir the fires of secession, Ruffin eventually made his way to Charleston in the spring of 1861. There he joined Captain George B. Cuthbert's unit of Palmetto Guards as they occupied Cummings Point on Morris Island prior to the attack on Fort Sumter. Shortly after a signal shot exploded over the fort early in the morning of April 12, 1861, Ruffin pulled the lanyard of a 64-pound Columbiad cannon, sending a shot that plunged into Sumter's northeast parapet.

The renowned Southern nationalist, Edmund Ruffin, was 67-years-old when he travelled to South Carolina and fired a cannon during the opening attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861. He was also present at the battles of First Manassas and Seven Pines before poor health confined him to home for the remainder of the Civil War. Unrepentant to the end, Ruffin had such "unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule" that he committed suicide at the war's end to keep from living in the "now ruined, subjugated, & enslaved Southern States!"

Although often accredited with having fired the first shot on Fort Sumter, Ruffin fired only after the initial signal shot, writing in his journal: "At 4:30, a signal shell was thrown from a mortar battery on Fort Johnson, which had been before ordered to be taken as the command for immediate attack – & the firing from all batteries bearing on Fort Sumter next began in the order arranged..."

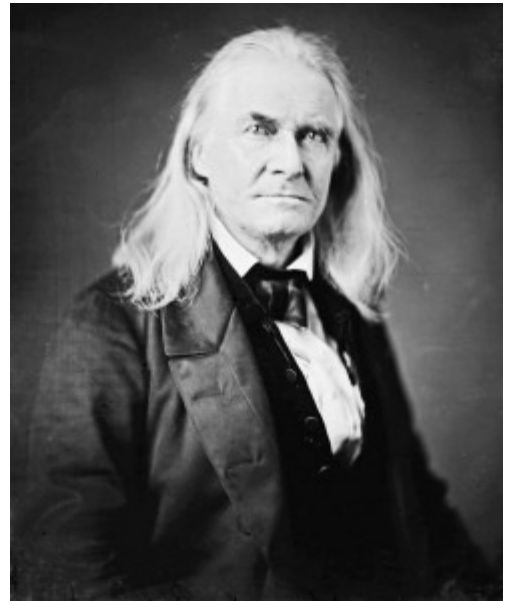
Ruffin's shot apparently hit its mark, with Abner Doubleday writing in his 1876 book *Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie in 1860-'61* that "almost immediately" after the signal shot "a ball from Cummings Point lodged in the magazine wall, and by the sound seemed to bury itself in the masonry about a foot from my head, in very unpleasant proximity to my right ear. This is the one that probably came with Mr. Ruffin's compliments."

Following Sumter, Ruffin accompanied the Palmetto Guards to Manassas and the Peninsula early in the war, but declining health compelled him to stay in the Richmond area for the remainder of the conflict. His hatred of the North and desires for vengeance, however, only intensified after Union soldiers destroyed his homes in the Tidewater area along with his treasured library and prized collection of fossil shells.

Becoming despondent after the fall of Richmond in April 1865 and praying each night "that I may not live another day," Ruffin decided that suicide was his only recourse. On the morning of June 17, 1865, after having breakfast with his family, he returned to his upstairs room to make his last journal entry.

Finishing his writing at 10:00 a.m., Ruffin signed and dated his diary, completing it with the notation: "The End." But before he could carry out his final plans, he was interrupted by neighbors paying an unexpected visit. After they left at 12:15 p.m., Ruffin returned to his room, made a postscript entry to his diary, sat in a chair, and placed the barrel of a loaded rifle in his mouth. Then, with the aid of a forked stick, he pulled the trigger. The percussion cap exploded but failed to fire the rifle. After calmly replacing the cap, he pulled the trigger again, this time ending his life. Rushing upstairs upon hearing the noise, his son found Ruffin's lifeless body still sitting in the chair with his journal on the desk open to its final entry:

And now, with my latest writing & utterance, & with what will (be) near to my latest breath, I hereby repeat & would willingly proclaim my unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule – to all political, social, & business connection with Yankees, & to the perfidious, malignant, & vile Yankee race.



Andersonville Prison

Andersonville, or Camp Sumter as it was known officially, held more prisoners at any given time than any of the other Confederate military prisons. It was built in early 1864 after Confederate officials decided to move the large number of Federal prisoners in and around Richmond to a place of greater security and more abundant food. During the 14 months it existed, more than 45,000 Union soldiers were confined here. Of these, almost 13,000 died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding, or exposure to the elements.

The prison pen was surrounded by a stockade of hewed pine logs that varied in height from 15 to 17 feet. The pen was enlarged in late June 1864 to enclose 261/2 acres. Sentry boxes—called “pigeon roosts” by the prisoners—stood at 90-foot intervals along the top of the stockade and there were two entrances on the west side. Inside, about 19 feet from the wall, was the “deadline,” which prisoners were forbidden to cross. The “deadline” was intended to prevent prisoners from climbing over the stockade or from tunneling under it. It was marked by a simple post and rail fence and guards had orders to shoot any prisoner who crossed the fence, or even reached over it. A branch of Sweetwater Creek, called Stockade Branch, flowed through the prison yard and was the only source of water for most of the prison.

In an emergency, eight small earthen forts around the outside of the prison could hold artillery to put down disturbances within the compound and to defend against Union cavalry attacks.

The first prisoners were brought to Andersonville in late February 1864. During the next few months, approximately 400 more arrived each day. By the end of June, 26,000 men were penned in an area originally meant for only 10,000 prisoners. The largest number held at any one time was more than 33,000 in August 1864. The Confederate government could not provide adequate housing, food, clothing or medical care to their Federal captives because of deteriorating economic conditions in the South, a poor transportation system, and the desperate need of the Confederate army for food and supplies.

These conditions, along with a breakdown of the prisoner exchange system between the North and the South, created much suffering and a high mortality rate. “There is so much filth about the camp that it is terrible trying to live here,” one prisoner, Michigan cavalryman John Ransom, confided to his diary. “With sunken eyes, blackened countenances from pitch pine smoke, rags, and disease, the men look sickening. The air reeks with nastiness.” Still another recalled, “Since the day I was born, I never saw such misery.”

When General William T. Sherman’s Union forces occupied Atlanta, Georgia on September 2, 1864, bringing Federal cavalry columns within easy striking distance of Andersonville, Confederate authorities moved most of the prisoners to other camps in South Carolina and coastal Georgia. From then until April 1865, Andersonville was operated in a smaller capacity. When the War ended, Captain Henry Wirz, the prison’s commandant, was arrested and charged with conspiring with high Confederate officials to “impair and injure the health and destroy the lives...of Federal prisoners” and “murder in violation of the laws of war.” Such a conspiracy never existed, but public anger and indignation throughout the North over the conditions at Andersonville demanded appeasement. Tried and found guilty by a military tribunal, Wirz was hanged in Washington, D.C., on November 10, 1865. Wirz was the only person executed for war crimes during the Civil War.

Andersonville prison ceased to exist when the War ended in April 1865. Some former prisoners remained in Federal service, but most returned to the civilian occupations they had before the War. During July and August 1865, Clara Barton, along with a detachment of laborers and soldiers, and former prisoner Dorence Atwater, came to Andersonville cemetery to identify and mark the graves of the Union dead. As a prisoner at Andersonville, Atwater had been assigned to record the names of deceased Union soldiers for Confederate prison officials. Fearing loss of the death records at war’s end, Atwater made his own copy of the register in hopes of notifying the relatives of the more than 12,000 dead interred at Andersonville. Thanks to Atwater’s list and the Confederate death records captured at the end of the War, only 460 of the Andersonville graves had to be marked “Unknown U.S. soldier.”

Where the Fourth means little Vicksburg: The Confederate stronghold that surrendered to Union troops on July 4, 1863, still can't find reasons to celebrate the national holiday.

VICKSBURG, Miss. -- Elease Doyle thumbs a sheaf of pages tacked to the wall beside her cash register at Burger Village, where she rules as chief cook and cashier. “They put out this calendar of events to tell the people of Vicksburg what we’re going to be doing,” she says. “Let’s see what we’re going to be doing on the Fourth of July.”

She flips through the pages twice. She adjusts her glasses on her nose and checks again. “Nothing,” she says. “Not anything special. Nothing special going on in Vicksburg.”

Doyle knew the answer before she looked, for she’s a native of this town. She knows that on most of the Independence Days in its history, nothing special has been going on in Vicksburg. The most painful event in Vicksburg’s long history occurred 134 years ago on the Fourth of July. For many years afterward, the humiliation of that event made it impossible for many of its citizens to rejoice on the nation’s birthday.

“There was nothing for us to celebrate for a long, long time,” says Gordon Cotton, local historian and director of the Old Courthouse Museum, where the community’s relics are on display. “Even the post office stayed open for a number of years on the Fourth of July.” By the time the wound had scabbed over, Vicksburg was used to not observing the Fourth. Even today it seems unable to get the hang of it.

Vicksburg sits on a high bluff on the eastern bank of the Mississippi. During the first two years of the Civil War, the town had about 5,000 residents. It was called “the Gibraltar of the West,” because Confederate cannons arranged along its bluff controlled the broad, muddy river below, holding off Union gunboats and protecting the flow of men and supplies to the Southern armies in the East.

In May 1863, after Union naval bombardments and a series of infantry assaults failed to conquer the seemingly impregnable town, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant decided to starve it into submission. He placed Vicksburg under siege.

Cut off from supplies and reinforcements and under constant artillery fire, many of its citizens moved into caves they burrowed into hillsides. As the siege wore on and the food supply dwindled, both the citizenry and the Southern army subsisted on the meat of mules, dogs and, some said, rats. More than 100,000 Union and Confederate soldiers fought there. The Union lost more than 10,000 killed, wounded and missing, the Confederacy more than 9,000. Eighteen civilians died by cannon fire. Vicksburg endured for 47 days. Then, on July 4, Gen. John Pemberton marched his army of starving wraiths out of their forts and earthworks and surrendered Vicksburg to Grant. The loss of the town and control of the river was a disaster for the South. It severed the trans-Mississippi states of Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas from the rest of the Confederacy, depriving its army of most of the food, supplies and thousands of men that those states had provided.

Continued on page 15 . . .

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Continued from page 14 . . . Vicksburg

Although the war would drag on for almost two more years, Grant's victory -- coupled with the defeat of Gen. Robert E. Lee's army in Gettysburg, Pa., on the same day -- broke the back of the Confederacy and assured an eventual Union victory. "It was no accident that the Confederates surrendered on the Fourth of July," says Cotton. "General Pemberton said he could have lasted another week, but what was the point? Because they surrendered on Independence Day, it wasn't an unconditional surrender, as Grant had been used to getting. Pemberton was pretty demanding, and Grant was pretty generous, because he wanted the surrender to be on the Fourth. wanted to present that prize to President Lincoln on that day." "No," says Mayor Joe Loviza, "there was nothing for the South to celebrate on that Fourth of July." So, in Vicksburg, they didn't. Not in 1863. Not for a long time.

In 1945, when the Allies had conquered Nazi Germany and were about to defeat Japan, Vicksburg, like the rest of the country, had an attack of patriotic fever. "They started celebrating again," Cotton says. "But they didn't call it the Fourth of July or Independence Day. They called it the Carnival of the Confederacy. They had parades and floats and all that, and they had a pretty girl to represent each Southern state." The town did the same thing the next year. But then the practice died away.

About 25,000 people live in Vicksburg now. Much of its livelihood still depends on the Mississippi. The Army Corps of Engineers operates three major installations there. Eighteen barge lines work out of its port, the largest river port in the state. Since 1993, four gambling casinos have opened along its river front.

Barbara McCleese is a licensed guide at Vicksburg National Military Park. She explains the battlefield's grass-covered earthworks and trenches, and its scores of statues of gallant and suffering soldiers. And the thousands of graves.

"But the Fourth of July is still not a big thing," McCleese says. "We have a Memorial Day parade and other patriotic things. Not much on the Fourth, though."