

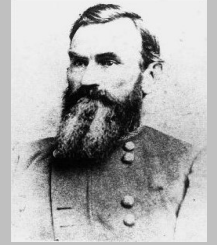


The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

July, Volume 24, Issue 6

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys



In this Issue:

- **National SCV Reunion, July 21-24, 2021 in Kenner/ Metairie, Louisiana**
- **Views and Opinions about Gettysburg**

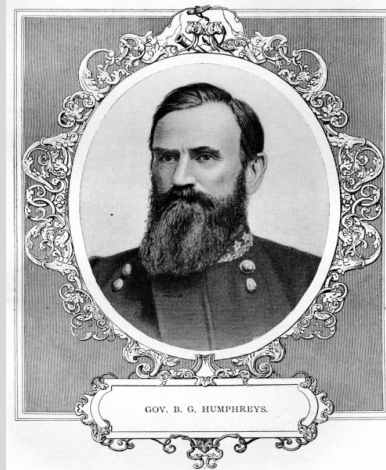
Commander's Comments—Larry McCluney

Compatriots,

By the time you read this a lot will have transpired. The excavation of the Forrest Gravesite in Memphis. Is now complete and the remains are in our hands. The reinterment date has been set for September 18. Make your plans to attend the funeral at Elm Springs. Until then, please refrain from any discussions on the this because the press is looking for anything to publicize.

Now that Covid is on the downswing, many people are getting shots more than ever, and the mask mandate is no longer in Mississippi except in some hold out towns. Summer is here and time to come to the meetings and let us renew our Campaign against the enemy and learn more about our ancestors. Soon people will be vacationing and dues renewals will be starting so get that money ready for our organization needs it more than ever as we march forward.

I hope you will join us in August since we will not have a July meeting because of the holiday and National Reunion for our Camp meeting, WE NEED YOU and MISS YOU! Bring a friend, bring a new recruit, bring yourself and enjoy the comradery as we take this time out to Remember, Respect, and Revere our Ancestors on this special occasion.



Adjutant's Report—Dan McAskill — June 5, 2021

6:00 pm: The Meeting was called to order by Commander Larry McCluney. Upon request by Commander McCluney, Adjutant Dan McAskill delivered the opening prayer and blessing for the evening meal. The meeting was then recessed for the members to enjoy the meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter #9, Order of Confederate Rose.

6:35 pm: Commander McCluney reconvened the meeting and called on Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr. for the Pledge and Salutes to the Flags followed by the reading of "The Charge."

Officer Reports: Adjutant Dan McAskill reported that \$412.80 of Camp Funds has been spent. Only \$100 was non-budget expenditures for a wreath for the National Memorial Service at Elm Springs. The Ella Palmer OCR Chapter donated \$50 for the wreath. The account balance stands at \$1,292.89 of which \$404 is Heritage Defense, \$100 for Forrest re-burial and \$45 in 2021 dues. No other Officer Reports were given.

Camp Business: Proposed Amendments: Commander McCluney presented the three proposed amendments for discussion. After discussing the amendments, Charles "Gator" Stillman made a motion that the Camp Delegation be given the authority to vote in the best interest of the Camp. The motion was seconded by Earl Allen, Jr. and the motion passed without objection.

Proposed Amendments, National Reunion: Commander presented three amendments for the National Reunion. First, an amendment to the Standing Orders addressing the dress code at Reunions; Second, an amendment proposing that the Finance Committee have the final say on how money will be spent General Executive Council; Third, an amendment giving the Commander-in-Chief the authority to temporarily suspend a member once charges had been proffered against said member. After further discussion, Dan McAskill made a motion directing the Camp Delegation to support amendments 1 and 3 but not 2. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed without objection.

With the July Camp Meeting falling on the 4th of July Weekend and with the National Reunion coming a week later, a motion was made by Kenneth Ray to not have a July Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan McAskill, and passed without objection.

Our next meeting will be August 7th and will be a special meeting. We will celebrate the birth of B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Ella Palmer Chapter #9, OCR.

Commander McCluney gave an update on the removal of the Forrest Monument and Remains. The pedestal has been removed on June 2nd and transported to Elm Springs. Removal of the remains of Gen. Forrest and his wife will start the next week. It was suggested by Adjutant Dan McAskill that dates for our Lee-Jackson Banquet and Confederate Memorial Service should be set. After some discussion, Dan McAskill made a motion to set the date for the Lee-Jackson Banquet on January 22, 2022. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed without objection. A motion was made by Gator Stillman to hold the Confederate Memorial Service on April 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed without objection.

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Camp Commander / Editor:
Larry McCluney
Confederate @suddenlink.net

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Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

I am taking up where I left off last month: "Prayers in Wartime." The prayer practices of the generals were in keeping with civilian practice during that time period, however the effect of the generals' prayer life potentially differed from civilians because their piety and hopefulness often inspired their fellow officers and soldiers. Although some generals, like Stonewall Jackson, did not pray for the purpose of stimulating morale, their petitions nonetheless had that effect on their companions and the soldiers in the ranks who heard their prayers. By examining the recorded instances in which Confederate generals prayed, their estimate of the worthiness of their petitions, the prayers they offered for themselves and others, the prayers offered on their behalf, and their reckoning of the sufficiency and effectiveness of their prayers, it is possible to recognize the value many Confederate generals assigned to prayer and its perceived role in furthering the independence of their country.

For many years Albert Sidney Johnston offered prayers to God every night before he went to sleep. These prayers conveyed thanksgiving to his Creator, since Johnston was thoroughly convinced that the blessings he received were such that he could never give enough thanks to God. Johnston did not petition God for specific needs or intentions, because he was aware of his own ignorance and the limited scope of his awareness of the world, and so he thought it best to leave everything in God's hands, asking only that "...His will be done.



Mississippi Division Updates

INITIATIVE 74

Initiative 74, what is it? For those who do not know, it is an initiative to reclaim the people's right to vote on the State Flag issue. Last Summer and Fall we had the "perfect storm" that accelerated attacks on all things Confederate.

Our Legislative leaders saw their opportunity to rid the State of that "awful" State Flag. The leadership used Covi-19 Stimulus money to "buy" votes in the House and Senate. The results, the Legislature voted to remove the 1894 State Flag that had flown for 126 years and set up a commission to propose a replacement flag that did not have the Confederate Flag as part of that flag. Our current Flag was designed by a person born in Mississippi but lives in California. The selling point of the flag was the phrase "In God We Trust" and was promoted as the IGWT flag not the Mississippi flag. Everyone knows what happened.

This brings me to my point. Initiative 74 is an initiative to give the people a right to vote on a variety of four flags (1894 Flag, Bicentennial banner, Stennis banner, current Flag) to arrive at a true choice for a new flag. The flag that gets the most votes will be the new State Flag and this is a Constitutional Amendment which will make the winner the official State Flag and will take changing the flag out of the hands of the Legislature and putting it back in the hands of the people.

The kicker. To get this on the ballot, we need to collect 21,600 certified signatures from each Congressional District before October 1, 2021 to get the initiative on the 2022 ballot. If we do not meet this goal, the second goal is to get the

required signatures on or before December 1, 2021 to get the initiative on the 2024 ballot. If we do not reach either goal, the 1894 Flag will be lost to history.

We need help to attain these goals. Our Camp has 43 members that live within Mississippi. Of those, there are only six trying to collect signatures along with six non-SCV members I have recruited to collect signatures. Out of the 43 Camp Members, 13 signed plus six wives with two signatures that were disqualified. So far 30% of the membership has signed and 14% are working to collect signatures. It would be nice to bring both of those percentages up to 100%. If anyone wants to help or just sign the petition please contact me by phone: 662-822-1096 or email: danmccas@tecinfo.net and I will send you a petition form. Everyone has friends and most of us get out. Warmer weather and more people getting vaccinated will help.

Sincerely,
Dan A. McCaskill

National SCV News:

Join the Confederate Legion

Membership fees & donations support the Southern Victory Campaign

- Individuals and organizations can join. Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is not required.
- Businesses, associations and S.C.V. camps can join.
- An individual member can organize an independent Confederate Legion group and name it whatever he/she likes.
- Members are expected to follow moral standards, obey the law, and participate in the Southern Victory Campaign.
- Credit cards and checks are accepted. Credit card payments can be recurring.
- Payments are tax deductible because the S.C.V. is a 501 (c) (3) entity.
- Members receive an ID card, certificate, access to support and communications. Most of all, you get the satisfaction of knowing you're part of the offensive!

Dues and donations are used to mount a two-prong offensive that we call the Southern Victory Campaign. It's led by the Heritage operations Committee of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Phase One of the campaign offensive involves direct action by the Heritage Operations Committee of the S.C.V. Prong Two involves direct action by individual and group members of the Confederate Legion.

Objectives include:

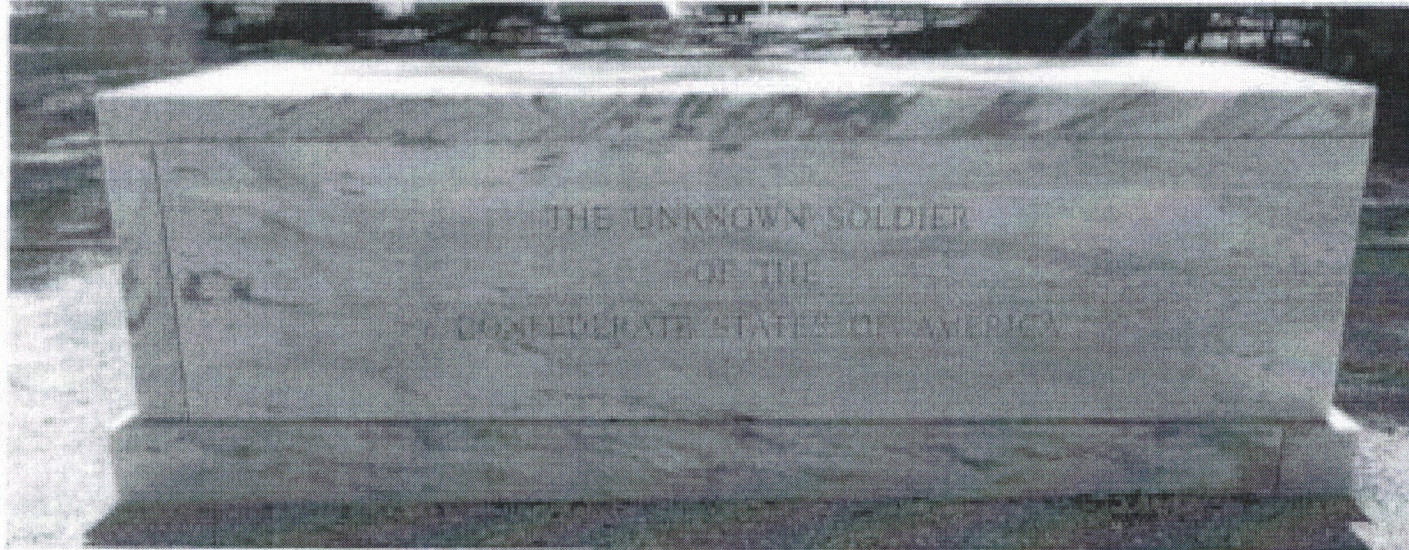
- Reestablishing public support for the principles of liberty held by the founders of the United States and the Confederate States of America.
- Rebuilding respect for the Confederate States of America that preferred to leave the Union rather than abandon the principles of liberty like the Northern states were doing under Leftist influences of that day and age.

For those interested in more information on how you can help "Make Dixie Great Again" go to <https://www.makedixiegreatagain.com/>



Bricks for Beauvoir and the Tomb of the Unknown Solider

Honor your confederate Ancestors by purchasing an Ancestral Memorial Brick for \$50.00 each in the Memorial sidewalk of the Confederate Cemetery at Beauvoir. The plans for the sidewalk are nearing completion, so if you want a brick put down for your ancestor you need to get your order in soon, so as not to miss out.



Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit and company. Memorial bricks will be laid, memorializing your ancestor, in a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Solider at Beauvoir.

Detach and send in the form below to the address listed to order your bricks.

Ancestral Brick Order Form

Instructions: Use the lines as laid out no more than 15 spaces per line. You may use abbreviations when necessary. Please include your name and address, for confirmation letter. (See Sample Below)

Line 1: _____
(First and Last Name)

Line 2: _____
(Rank)

Line 3: _____
(Unit)

ORDER YOUR ANCESTOR'S BRICK TODAY!

Make Checks out for \$50.00 per brick for:

Bricks for Beauvoir
Mail to: Bricks for Beauvoir
2344 Beach Blvd
Biloxi, MS. 39531

OR Visit our gift shop where you can pay by cash or credit!

Example:

Pvt. JAMES W.
McCluney
6th MS CAV. CO. F

Bring Forrest Home T-Shirts—\$30.00

Help support SCV Chat and bring General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Marry Anne home to Elm Springs in Columbia, TN. Profits from this shirt will be donated to the Forrest reinternment fund.



Online Training for Camp Adjutants and Commanders

Compatriots:

I'm excited to tell you about online training opportunities for ALL Commanders and Adjutants (Camp, Brigade, and Division levels).

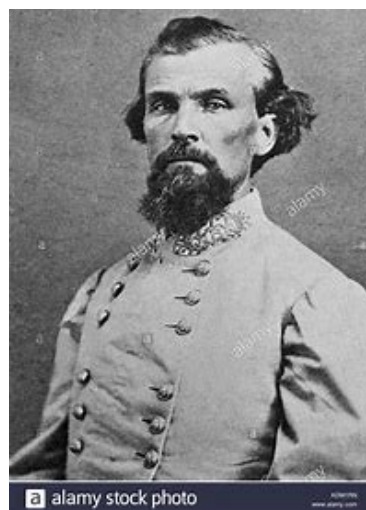
National Membership Coordinator Eric Previti is now offering online training via Zoom. The training will be extremely helpful for officers (especially Adjutants) and will cover how to use the SalesForce Community Login to download camp rosters and change member's information (addresses and emails). The training also covers how to pay National dues online and how to efficiently use the online discussion forum.

To attend one of the classes, send an email to Eric Previti at membership@scv.org. Include your name, Membership ID, Camp, and current office held. Classes will be held on Wednesday afternoons/evenings. Links to join the class via Zoom will be emailed the day before the class.

I encourage all of you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

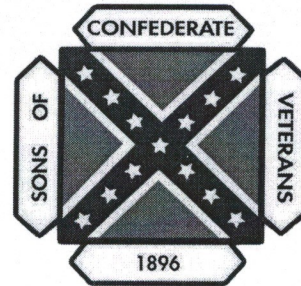
Deo Vindice!

Adam Southern, Executive Director

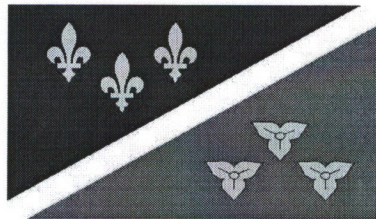


Lets Bring the General and His Wife Home!

Sons of Confederate Veterans



126th Annual Reunion JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA



JULY 21 - 24, 2021
DOUBLETREE HOTEL BY HILTON
NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT

REGISTER AND MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW
RESERVATION CODE: SCV2021

HOSTED BY BEAUREGARD CAMP No. 130

FULL REUNION DETAILS AND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SCV-BCAMP130.ORG/](https://www.scv-bcamp130.org/)



Walkways of Remembrance
Bricks and Pavers For the Walkways for the
General Headquarters for the Sons of Confederate Veterans at Elm Springs
and the
Confederate Museum at Elm Springs

Remember and honor your Confederate Ancestor, a family member or any cherished memory with the purchase of a Memorial Brick to be laid for a walkways at the General Headquarters for the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs.

Brick sizes:

The 4" x 8" brick will allow 3 lines with 21 characters (including spaces) per line and will cost \$50.

The 8" by 8" brick will allow 6 lines with 21 characters (including spaces) per line and will cost \$100.

Layout for 4" x 8" brick with 3 lines max and 21 characters per line max (including spaces) \$50

Layout for 8" x 8" brick with 6 lines max and 21 characters per line max (including spaces) \$100

Make checks payable to SCV and write "Bricks" in the memo line. Please fill out this form and mail to:
SCV, P.O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402
Credit card payments are available by calling 1-800-MYSOUTH and contacting Merchandising.

Please include all your contact information so we can contact you.

Name: _____
Address/City/State/Zip: _____
Phone number: _____
Email address: _____



Friends of The Confederate Museum at Elm Springs Annual Membership Application

All memberships are tax-deductible and include the E-Newsletter.

_____ Yes, I want to join the Friends of The Confederate Museum at Elm Springs

_____ Is this a Corporate Membership?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Membership Levels & Benefits

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Longstreet Level: \$25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership for one • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs | <p>Judah P. Benjamin Level: \$50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs | <p>Patrick Cleburne Level: \$100</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs • 10% Gift Shop Discount |
| <p>N. B. Forrest Level: \$250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs • Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum • 10% Gift Shop Discount • Free Elm Springs Hat or T-Shirt | <p>Robert E. Lee Level: \$500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs • Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum • 15% Gift Shop Discount • Free Elm Springs Hat and T-Shirt | <p>Jefferson Davis Level: \$1000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs • Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum • 20% Gift Shop Discount • Free Elm Springs Hat, T-Shirt and Polo |

Please check the following membership level:

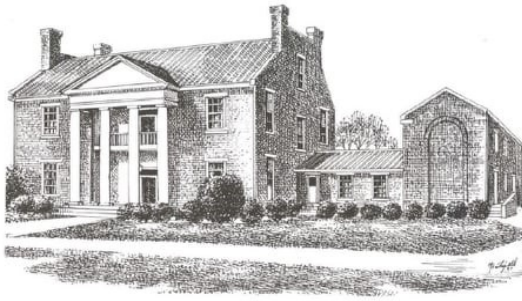
_____ Longstreet Level _____ Judah P. Benjamin Level _____ Patrick Cleburne Level

_____ N. B. Forrest Level _____ Robert E. Lee Level _____ Jefferson Davis Level

Please make checks payable to Sons of Confederate Veterans and mail to:

Sons of Confederate Veterans, P. O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402

If paying by credit card, please call (931) 380-1844 or email at exedir@scv.org



Friends of Elm Springs

Annual Membership Application

All Proceeds go to the restoration and maintenance of the Home
Elm Springs built in 1837

All Memberships are tax-deductible and include the E-Newsletter

_____ Yes, I want to join the Friends of Elm Springs

_____ Is this a Corporate Membership?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Membership Levels & Benefits

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Elm Tree Level: \$25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership for one • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs | <p>Cool Spring Level: \$50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs | <p>Todd Family Level: \$100</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs • 10% Gift Shop Discount |
| <p>Susan Looney Level: \$250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs • Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum • 10% Gift Shop Discount • Free Elm Springs Hat or T-Shirt | <p>Abram Looney Level: \$500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs • Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum • 15% Gift Shop Discount • Free Elm Springs Hat and T-Shirt | <p>Frank Armstrong Level: \$1000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Membership • Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs • Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum • 20% Gift Shop Discount • Free Elm Springs Hat, T-Shirt and Polo |

Please check the following membership level:

_____ Elm Tree Level _____ Cool Spring Level _____ Todd Family Level
 _____ Susan Looney Level _____ Abram Looney Level _____ Frank Armstrong Level

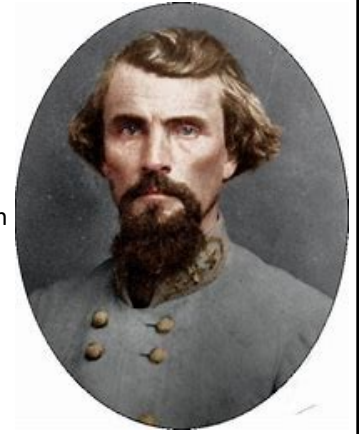
Please make checks payable to Sons of Confederate Veterans and mail to:
 Sons of Confederate Veterans, P. O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402

If paying by credit card, please call (931) 380-1844 or email at exedir@scv.org

General Nathan Bedford Forrest Reinterment

Compatriots,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that recovery of General Nathan Bedford Forrest and Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest's remains have been recovered from their former gravesite in Memphis. I want to congratulate Lee Miller, the men on the Recovery Crew, and the members of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp #215 in Memphis, TN and the legal team of H. Edward Phillips III, Chuck Blackard, III, W. J. "Bo" Ladner, III, and Jonathan J. Pledger, on a job well done. We also thank the Forrest Family for allowing us to take part in this momentous occasion. The remains are held in an undisclosed location and later will be transported to an undisclosed location in Middle Tennessee. These sites will be kept in secrecy for security reasons.



Now we enter the next phase, the planning for the funeral. Fundraising still continues as we raise money for the reinterment of General Forrest and his beloved wife. Please give to make this event happen as we bring one of our heroes home to be buried on land less than 30 minutes from where he was born. Let us always keep in mind that we are honored by the Forrest Family to participate in this solemn occasion. NO we do not have a date set yet, once the committee has finish all the details, then we will be making an announcement so you can make plans to attend.

Once the funeral is complete, then phase three; restoring the plaza and remounting the equestrian statue on the grave will occur. This will not be easy nor quick. Once complete we will rededicate this plaza to honor the General.

Please be patient with us as you and the entire membership will be informed once the date is secured. For now, let us "walk a little prouder and hold our heads higher" in this great victory! God has truly vindicated us in this effort. Let us remember the charge given to us by General Stephen Dill Lee as we continue to press forward.

Deo Vindicie,
Larry McCluney, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Please make a donation and make your check out to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and in the for line put "Forrest Interment", or call SCV headquarters and make a donation by credit card or debit. Call 1-800-mysouth and ask for Executive Director Adam Southern. Lets bring the general and his wife back home and lay them in a final resting place provided by those who love him most.

Mail checks to
Forrest Reinterment Fund
P.O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402



Interesting views and opinions written by
John Cate, Freelance Public Relations
Specialist, Bethel, NC



1. Was the loss of Gettysburg the fault of
General James Longstreet?

Absolutely not, no more than I think it was Jeb Stuart's fault, either.

There has been an ongoing effort by 150 years of Southern apologists to cover up any and every mistake or questionable judgment that Robert E. Lee ever made, and to pin the blame for any of his failures on someone else. This is ridiculous. Lee was an outstanding general, but he was not infallible, and he royally buggered up the Gettysburg campaign. What's more, even HE knew he had. Not long after he'd gotten the Army of Northern Virginia back to safety, he offered his resignation to Jefferson Davis (which was declined if that's not obvious). He also told Longstreet to shut his trap when he kept trying to blame Stuart.

Lee took full responsibility for his defeat. There is no reason for anyone to try to absolve him. He apologized on the spot to the brave men who were repulsed in Pickett's Charge. In his own report, he said the army had done all it could and that he'd asked it to do the impossible.

Lee...screwed...up. It's as simple as that.

Where Longstreet is concerned, he was the most trusted of Lee's lieutenants, and that may have even been true even when Stonewall Jackson was alive. When Longstreet wanted to wait to attack Pope at Second Bull Run until Pope had completely hung himself out to dry, Lee deferred to him. Longstreet thought that the attacks Lee asked him to carry out at Gettysburg on 2 and 3 July were unsound, and he had damn good reasons for counseling against them.

On 2 July, Lee asked him to assault the Union left, and Longstreet was willing to do it, even though he disagreed with the strategy, but wanted to wait until he had his entire corps available. George Pickett's division was not present at Gettysburg, so the First Corps was 7,000 men short when Hood and McLaws assaulted the Peach

Orchard and the Round Tops that day. Considering just how narrowly the Army of the Potomac survived the attack, what might have happened if Longstreet had Pickett, too? You think the 20th Maine could have beaten off a whole extra division of crack Rebel veterans?

I don't know if waiting until 3 July to attack was the best move, since Meade might have also sent additional men to his left if Longstreet had been allowed to wait a day for Pickett to come up; after all, Warren did it during the battle and saved the AotP with his initiative. What we do know is that Longstreet deduced that his available force on the afternoon of 2 July 1863 was not adequate to carry the positions that Lee was asking him to carry, and that he was correct.

The same is true on the next day, when Pickett came up and Lee gave him two of A.P. Hill's divisions (which had already been fought to a frazzle on the first day) and told him to charge the Union center. Longstreet told Lee that no 15,000 men in the world could do it (and he actually only had about 13,000). It's very possible that Lee knew this and was counting on Stuart attacking the Union rear at the same time, which would have transformed the situation. This is one of the great unanswered questions of the battle and something I've written about before: John Cate's answer to Did Gen. Custer battle with Gen. Jeb Stuart thereby causing Stuart to miss his assignment at Gettysburg to carry out a cavalry charge crucial to Gen. Lee's Plans for victory? But even if that is true, it was still Lee's failed plan and therefore Lee was responsible for the defeat. By the summer of 1863, the Confederates couldn't count on making the Union cavalry look like Keystone Kops at every turn. Brandy Station and Grierson's Raid had already demonstrated this.

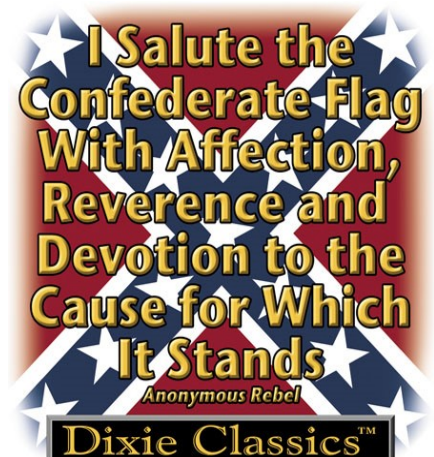
Longstreet thought both of these attacks were unsound and counseled Lee against making them, but when Lee insisted, Longstreet carried out his orders to the best of his ability. Could another general have done it better? Probably. Longstreet's strength as a commander was in defense and counterstroke. Lee wanted him to play Stonewall Jackson at Gettysburg, and Longstreet wasn't Jackson. The only other guys like that that the South had were Cleburne and Forrest, and they were in the West. Hood was close to that, but too reckless, and even he questioned Lee's orders on 2 July.

If Lee wanted Longstreet to be his right-hand man on this campaign, he'd have done better to plan a campaign that fit the strengths of the man who would have to do the fighting. And he screwed up so many ways in this regard. He gave Stuart discretionary orders that permitted him too much latitude. He failed to use the cavalry Stuart left him and therefore made himself blind. At the end of the first day, he gave Ewell the same kind of order he'd been used to giving Jackson—and Ewell, a neophyte corps commander, didn't understand what he was expected to do. And then on the next two days, he ordered Longstreet, a guy who wasn't known for bold, aggressive attacks, to make assaults that only a firebrand would have had any chance to pull off.

The only man to blame for the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Gettysburg was its commanding officer. If you don't believe me, believe him.

In the afternoon, while the storm raged, Lee, without a tremor visible to any one, surveyed from one of the ridges the tragic scene of the defeat; and when, in the evening, he stopped at Longstreet's bivouac on the roadside, his remark was the same as that with which he had met Pickett on the field after the fatal charge: "It's all my fault," he said, "I thought my men were invincible."

~From *R.E. Lee—A Biography*,
by Douglas Southall Freeman,
1935



2. What battles did Robert E. Lee lose?



There are a few battles he led troops in where the “winner” and “loser” is problematic, due to the fact that one army won the battle *tactically*, but the other side won a *strategic* victory, like at Antietam. But there were a number of battles that Lee came out on the adverse end of in some way:

- **Battle of Cheat Mountain, 12–15 September 1861.** This was when Lee was in charge of Confederate troops trying to hold on to pro-Union West Virginia. There were less than 100 casualties on each side, but the Union forces held their position. Lee was unable to hold West Virginia against Union forces under the overall command of Union General George McClellan, whose stock with his superiors rose as a result of this success...
- **Battle of Malvern Hill, 1 July 1862.** This was the final battle of the Seven Days' Campaign, which was an overall victory for Lee, but the final day of the campaign saw this battle, which was a bloody repulse for the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee had gotten the timid McClellan to retreat from the vicinity of Richmond by launching a series of aggressive attacks, even though the Army of the Potomac had parried every assault. But at Malvern Hill, Lee tried one more time to destroy the Union army before it reached the safety of the gunboats at Harrison's Landing on the James. The result was a bloody repulse that cost him almost 6,000 men, and nearly twice those of the Union forces. Despite the victory, McClellan kept retreating. So Lee held the field, but no one would call this a win.
- **Battle of South Mountain, 14 September 1862.** This is the battle that took place after McClellan finally got moving after getting a copy of Lee's orders showing that he had divided his army in the Maryland Campaign. Lee had his men fight a delaying action at the passes through the South Mountain ridge. The Army of the Potomac forced all of the passes, so it won the battle tactically. However, Lee bought enough time to finish the capture of Harpers Ferry and reunite his army at Sharpsburg, so he won the battle strategically.
- **Battle of Antietam, 17 September 1862.** After Lee got his army re-concentrated in the aftermath of South Mountain, the armies fought this disjointed battle with Lee's back to the Potomac River. Lee held off several attacks by the Union forces, and on 18 September dared McClellan to attack him again even though he probably only had about 30,000 un wounded troops. When McClellan declined the dare (and Lee was likely fortunate he did), he retreated. Tactically, Lee won, but this was a serious strategic defeat that not only foiled his first attempt to conquer victory, but also led to the Emancipation Proclamation—something Lincoln could only issue after winning a battle.
- **Battle of Gettysburg, 1–3 July 1863.** I don't think this requires any explanation. If you don't know the hows or whys of Gettysburg, Google is your friend. In addition, I have written many answers on the subject of Gettysburg on Quora.

After Gettysburg, it becomes even more problematic, because there were several Confederate victories and defeats that were not general engagements between the armies, but involved detachments of each army where the overall command-

ers may not have been present. The first three engagements of the Overland Campaign (Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and North Anna) saw Lee repulse repeated attacks by Grant but not hold his position due to Grant outflanking his smaller army. At Cold Harbor, Lee clearly won, but again was unable to keep Grant from simply crossing the James River and besieging Petersburg. Beauregard saved it for him (15–18 June 1864) and a siege of more than nine months ensued. In the final days of the siege, Lee tried to punch a hole in Grant's lines in the **Battle of Fort Stedman** (25 March 1865); it wasn't a general engagement, but it was a major defeat for Lee. After Pickett failed at Five Forks (1 April 1865), the **Third Battle of Petersburg** (2 April 1865) forced Lee to pull out his trenches and retreat to the west. That set the stage for Lee's last defeat in a major battle, the **Battle of Sailor's Creek** (6 April 1865), where the Union forces caught Lee on the march and cut his army in half, taking thousands of prisoners. Lee got away, but three days later, they caught him again at Appomattox and he surrendered.

3. How did the Battle of Gettysburg influenced the outcome of the Civil War?

I am going to say something quite controversial. I have studied the Civil War. Walked the Gettysburg battlefield and read every book I could get my hands on. It was a great battle, but if the question is about how it influenced the outcome, I say very little.

Let's look at it in comparison to the true game changer: Vicksburg. Gettysburg was a Union tactical victory, but a strategic draw. Lee was able to withdraw from the field of battle unmolested. He had two objectives

1 Virginia was exhausted after two years of hard fighting. He could no longer sustain such a large army. He had no choice but to invade. He could replenish his Army which he did thanks to the bounty of Maryland and Virginia

2 Beat the Army of the Potomac. Which in his mind was just another battle.

Vicksburg. Total surrender of a Confederate Army. The complete control of the Mississippi River. The severance of Texas away from the south. The entire backdoor to Confederacy was open. There was no Lee to stop the Federal forces. The British who briefly considered some form of intervention no doubt looked at Vicksburg as the nail in that coffin

To put it in perspective. It would not be Meade (tactical victor of Gettysburg) that would confront Lee. It would be Grant, victor of Vicksburg

4. Why did Gen. Robert E. Lee order Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863?

The Battle of Gettysburg was the culmination of Lee's invasion of Union territory. He needed to press what advantages he could, and he'd intended to march on Washington. Thus he was under some strategic pressure - as was the Confederacy. **The invasion was meant to put an end to the war.**

By the third day of the battle, Lee's troops had already tried to turn both of the Union's flanks, and been repulsed. Without many other options, Lee ordered the charge on the Union center - with disastrous results.

I can't speak to why he didn't await Union assaults, except that the Union armies had secured numerous important positions around the town, including Little Round Top and Big Round Top, and Cemetery Ridge. The Confederate position on Seminary Ridge wasn't as secure - or so is my understanding.

It's been a while since I read up on Pickett's Charge in detail, but my understanding is that Confederate troops actually made it all the way to the Union lines and engaged in melee combat, but were so badly cut up by artillery and rifle barrages that they could not exploit the gaps that appeared in the Union lines, and were wiped out by Union reinforcements.

5. Would Gettysburg have turned out much differently had Robert E. Lee had Stonewall Jackson and Nathan Bedford Forrest at his disposal?



Not a very nice man...but as a general he had few peers.

Probably, but as I said in another answer recently, the entire campaign would have played out differently if you change such major variables as who the members of Lee's high command were. If Stonewall Jackson had survived Chancellorsville and was in command of the II Corps during the campaign, or if Nathan Bedford Forrest had been one of the division commanders of the Cavalry Corps, or both, then the entire campaign changes. There may not have been a Battle of Gettysburg at all.

Speculating about Jackson has been done to death, but throwing Forrest into the mix is very interesting. The "Wizard of the Saddle" was something of a military genius, a man ahead of his time when it came to wartime tactics. He had to learn on his own, because he never had any military training, and so he learned very quickly that the Napoleonic-era tactics that the trained generals were using no longer worked in an era where every man had a rifle and artillery was much more accurate and effective. Men like Rommel, Guderian and Patton would have welcomed Forrest to their company.

So let's say that Forrest ran afoul of Braxton Bragg several months sooner than he actually did, and instead of giving him an independent command, Jefferson Davis sends him to the Army of Northern Virginia, whose commander, Robert E. Lee, is badgering him for reinforcements so he can strike north. Forrest arrives on the scene in early June of 1863 with his brigade and joins the Cavalry Corps.

In our timeline, Jeb Stuart received his orders just as the campaign was commencing, saw they gave him a great deal of latitude, and decided he would use that latitude to do what he wanted to do—avenge being surprised at Brandy Station by embarrassing the Union by riding around them again. It's a false narrative pushed by a lot of people that what he did was not authorized—it was—and that Stuart caused Lee to be blind as he moved northward. In fact, Stuart left half the cavalry with the main army. Lee just didn't trust the commanders of the brigades Stuart left behind. Jeb not only took himself out of the main advance, he took the two best division commanders, Fitz Lee and his own successor a year later, Wade Hampton.

So let's say that Stuart does exactly the same thing...but that one of the brigades he leaves behind are the newcomers to the Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by the intrepid Nathan Bedford Forrest. It makes sense that he'd have done so; Stuart would have just been getting used to Forrest, while he already knew exactly what he had in Hampton and Fitz Lee.

6. If General Lee had won a resounding victory at Gettysburg, what would have been his next move and how would it have affected the outcome of the war?

Are you referring to what Lee would have done in the days just after Gettysburg? If that is the case, then I think he would have had two options.

Option 1) Continue with his campaign objectives. That would be to capture Harrisburg and destroy the Pennsylvania Rail Road bridges over the Susquehanna River. Militarily speaking, this option is more dangerous depending on where Meade retreats to but offers the best hope for the relief of Vicksburg, which Lee did not know was about to surrender. If Meade retreated to Harrisburg or East toward York, I think Lee might have chosen this option. However, if Meade retreated South I think Lee would have chosen option 2.

Option 2) In all likelihood however, Lee's aggressiveness would have led him to pursue the Army of the Potomac to destroy it. In my opinion, Meade would have retreated to Maryland and the Pipe Creek Line that he had originally envisioned and fortified. Taking a second defensive position that Lee would have had to attack head on would have resulted in a defeat for the ANV. Please remember, that the Pipe Creek Line was a very strong defensive position, and in this scenario, Lee would have been severely weakened even in victory. Likewise, the Army of the Potomac was still very strong even in defeat. The entire 6th Corps was un-engaged at Gettysburg.

It seems, particularly from what we know of Lee's attitude on the third day of the battle, that he was intent on destroying the Army of the Potomac, and would have continued to pursue Meade where ever he went. Therefore, I think General Meade would have retreated to the defensive position he'd already set up. If Lee aggressively pursued him, he would have fallen into a trap. Because of this, I do not think that an alternative outcome to the Battle of Gettysburg would have affected the outcome of the war the way many fiction writers seem to think.

7. Did George Pickett's bitterness towards Robert E. Lee after the Battle of Gettysburg affect Pickett's demeanor and personality for the rest of the Civil War?

George Pickett was a very happy go lucky guy. He was popular among the officer's corps even during his days at West Point where he graduated last in his class after a whole series of pranks, practical jokes and demerits. His self deprecation and willingness to laugh at himself endeared him to everyone around him. He was always dramatically dressed with curled and perfumed hair.

Though he was born into a prominent Virginia family in 1825 as a young man he moved to Illinois to study law with his uncle in Quincy. Ironically he got his appointment to West Point not from a Virginia politician but from Abraham Lincoln's law partner in Springfield, Illinois Congressman John Stuart. After his death in 1875 his widow claimed that Lincoln himself had gotten Pickett into the military academy but that does not appear to be true though Lincoln befriended him and may have influenced Stuart's decision.

He graduated in the class of 1846 just in time for the Mexican war where he distinguished himself in the storming of Chapultepec in 1847. His good friend from the Academy, James Longstreet was the color bearer of his regiment and was wounded at the base of the wall. He gave the colors to Pickett who carried them into the fortress and finally gaining the roof, unfurled the flag signaling an end to both the battle and the war. He served in Texas and the Northwest, attaining the rank of Captain. Already a widower, Pickett married a Native American woman of the Haida tribe and fathered a son, James. Unfortunately she died shortly thereafter.

Pickett joined the Confederate army following a difficult trip from the Northwest. He distinguished himself early, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. He commanded troops in the Seven Days and was wounded at Gaines Mill. He could not return to active service until after Antietam. Then he was given a division and promoted to Major General under Longstreet's command. He saw little action until Gettysburg.

The story of Gettysburg is so well known that it does not bear retelling except for his bitter answer to Lee. Unhorsed and walking from the field he is stopped by Lee. "General, you must look to your division," said the commander. "General Lee, I have no division." was his immortal reply. The two men spoke little in the years ahead.

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