

The Delta General

July, 2011

Volume 14, Issue 7

The official publication of the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, MS Division, SCV

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INFORMAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON JULY 23, 2011

Gentlemen of the MS Division, I have called for an informal EC meeting to be held July 23 at 2pm in the War Memorial Building in Jackson. When I say informal what I mean is I am not asking for submissions for the agenda. If you have something pressing since our state convention that needs immediate attention by all means we will hear it and you should submit your request to the Chief of Staff, however, I would ask that you hold

normal business for the next formal EC meeting which will probably be in September. It's going to be a time for the EC to get to know each other and to set guidelines for the future and what we want to focus our attention on for the next two years. Everyone is welcome to come but this meeting is more about the EC and how we can work together as a cohesive team to achieve our goals.

It's more than just showing up casting your vote and going home, and we the Executive Council need this time to get started on the right foot without the usual formalities that can hinder real conversation. I hope you will understand this out of the ordinary meeting but I feel it is both appropriate and necessary as we move forward in our service to the Mississippi Division.

NEW MEETING DATE SET FOR THE CAMP

The past year has seen a drop in attendance to our Camp meetings because of various activities that take place on the third Thursday of each month that we have had to compete with. Thus, at our last Camp meeting, it was voted on by the membership to change our regular Camp meetings to the first Thursday of each month so we would not have to compete with Masons, Scouts, and other groups

that usually meet on that designated time. We will still meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Just changing from third Thursday to first Thursday of the month.

This December also is our election time for new officers. Anyone interested in running for any of the Camp offices should begin putting serious thought into this and announcing their candidacy.

The elected offices include: Commander, Lt. Commander, 2nd Lt. Commander, Adjutant, and Color-Sgt. Anyone interested in knowing the duties of these offices should consult the Camp By-laws online at http://www.humphreys1625.com/Benjamin_G_Humphreys_Camp_By-Laws_-_2009a.pdf

LAST MINUTE NEWS UPDATE FROM 2ND BRIGADE

Buddy Ellis, 2nd Brigade Commander contacted me about a Memorial for the last two Real Sons of Mississippi that recently passed away. At the time of their funeral the families did not request anything special to be done. Buddy and I thought we would do a Memorial for them at a later date. The prospective date will be sometime in September or October with the following dates as possibilities: September 24 or 25, October 1 or 2, 8 or 9 or 16

This is just a heads-up to let you know far enough ahead so that you can work with us to make this Memorial for these Real Sons a fitting tribute to them and their Confederate fathers. Any questions contact either Buddy Ellis or James Taylor

James Taylor

RENEWAL NOTICES WILL SOON BE COMING OUT – PLAN AHEAD TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Effective August 1, 2008 national SCV dues increased to \$30. The basic cost for new members and reinstating dues delinquent members is \$35 which is the new dues amount plus the processing fee. Renewing current members need to pay only the \$30. By reducing some costs and utilizing a new source of income, the Executive Council has been able to "hold the line" on Division Dues and presently sees no increase in the foreseeable future. Like National dues, Division dues can be prorated in the third and fourth quarters of the fiscal year. For full explanation and amounts see ByLaws Article 5 Section 5

National Life memberships which are tied to annual dues are now \$750 through age 64, \$375 for age 65 through 79, and \$187.50 for age 80 and up. In the past Mississippi Division Life Memberships were a flat fee; however, the 2008 convention approved age graduated rates tied to the annual dues (actually a decrease in most cases). The application form may be obtained on the this website: http://www.mississippiscv.org/membership.html#Life_Memberships & http://www.mississippiscv.org/ByLaws.html#ARTICLE_4 § 4 C & 4D

Renewals for the Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp, #1625 will be \$50.00. You should receive notice soon as we prepare for the new fiscal year which begins August 1, 2011. Want to pay early? Make check out to SCV and mail to:

Dan McCaskill
205 Cypress St,
Leland, MS 38756-3108



Editor's Note:

I hope you enjoy the new layout of the *Delta General*. It is my hope that in 2012 we will be able to submit the DG for a Newsletter award. In this issue I begin a series of articles that will highlight each month of the war to educate ourselves in what is taking place during the Sesquicentennial. I hope you enjoy.

EVENTS OF INTEREST:

- **7/10 – 2:00 pm General Forrest Birthday Celebration at Forrest Park in Memphis, TN**
- **7/13-16 – SCV National Reunion in Montgomery, AL**
- **8/4 – Regular Camp Meeting**
- **8/5-6 – Southern Heritage Conference in Laurel, MS**
- **9/16-18 - Battle of Farmington, MS – Federal Impression**
- **10/1-2– Living History at Fort Pemberton to Commemorate the Seige (30th MS, Co. K Impression)**
- **10/14-16 – Fall Muster, Beauvoir – CS Marine Impression**
- **11/11-13 – Wirt Adams' Raid, Natchez, MS – Federal Impression**

CAMP NEWS:**CAMP ADJUTANT'S REPORT – DAN MCCASKILL**

The Camp Meeting of June 16, 2011 was called to order by Commander Junior Stillman. The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. Color Sergeant Joe Nokes 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. A welcome was extended to all members and guest attending the Meeting.

Officer Reports: Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Camp account balance stood at \$ 1,106. The Camp received donations from Larry McCluney and Sandra & Missy Stillman to cover two months of church expenses. We still need \$ 90 cover our commitment to the Church for the year. The current fiscal year ends on July 31st and members should start receiving their renewal notices in the mail beginning by mid-July. Member's dues are due by August 31st but you have a grace period until November 1st. Any dues received after November 1st will also require a late fee of \$ 5 for National and \$ 2.50 for Division.

As Editor, Larry McCluney asked if anyone had trouble opening or receiving the Camp Newsletter. He also asked for opinions on the new layout of the newsletter. Larry also asked for suggested changes in the Camp's Website. He has plans of updating and re-designing the site over the summer.

Alan Palmer reported to the Camp as Sesquicentennial Chairman that money would be made available to reward any Camp that contributed to the Division for Sesquicentennial Events. The Camps would be reimbursed their contributions and receive a percentage of this money which will come from 15% of the profits from the 2013 National Reunion and \$ 1000 allocated by the Division.

Camp Business: Larry McCluney presented a possible event to be sponsored by Cottonlandia Museum on the "Common Soldier of the War". The event would be late summer or this fall. We could use this event as educational and recruitment opportunities. Joe Nokes made a motion for the Camp to move forward with this event and the motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray. The motion passed. Dan McCaskill presented the proposed change of the Camp Meeting night. A motion was made and seconded to move the Camp Meeting to the first Thursday of each month, same time and place. The motion passed. It was brought to the attention of the members by Larry that our next Meeting would fall during the National Reunion which would be attended by several members.

Larry suggested to the Commander that the July Meeting be cancelled and start the new nightly meeting schedule in August. This would also allow a report on the National Reunion while it was still fresh. With no objection, the Commander declared that the July Camp

Meeting is cancelled and the Camp would meet again on August 4, 2011.

With no other business or discussion, Commander Stillman turned the podium over to Dyan Bonhert for her program: "Ole Time Remedies of the Medicine Woman". It was a very entertaining and educational program. We learned that the three "miracle" drugs of the mid-nineteenth century were vinegar, charcoal and wild onions. I do remember that the seed of the wild onion was made into a paste and used as a pain killer because it contained an opiate. Dyan talked about honey and the honey bees. The bees gave Sherman's men fits when they destroyed their hives. It got so bad that the Yankees shot the hives from a distance with cannons to avoid being stung by the bees. It was to no avail because the mad bees could follow the heat signature of the round back to its source thus giving the Yankees hell for their deeds. Eventually the Yankees left the hives alone thus unknowingly providing the starving Southern people with a food supply just as they did with black-eye peas. We plan to get Dyan back to tell us the rest of the story.

Commander Stillman asked Earl to dismiss the meeting with a word of prayer. Attendance for the evening was 17, much better than last month.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

JOIN THE BRIG/GEN CHARLES CLARK CHAPTER, MOS&B

Membership in the Military Order of the Stars & Bars is limited to male descendants, either lineal or collateral, of the officers who served honorably in the Army, Navy and other commands of the Confederate States of America and male descendants of the elected and appointed civilian officials of the Confederate States; the national Confederate Government; and the Five Civilized Tribes which allied with the Confederacy. All members must be at least twelve years old. Ancestral documentation must accompany all applications for membership.

First year national dues are \$50 and must accompany your completed application. This fee covers the national dues for the current year, plus the succeeding year. Annual renewals for national membership are \$35. Your State Society and Local Chapter may

also have annual dues in addition to the national dues.

National life memberships are also available. The life membership fee is determined on an age graduation scale.

For additional information on the chapter closest to you, review the State and Local links on this site or contact our National Headquarters.

Membership includes a membership card, a lapel pin, and a large color certificate of membership suitable for framing.

Important Note: A complete set of the application and supporting documentation must be included in order for the application to be considered and processed. Some State Societies require an additional set which is kept by the State Society. It is a requirement that applicants wishing to join a specific chapter have an MOS&B Sponsor. Except for those joining the National At-

Large Chapter, the following signatures are required before the application can be processed by IHQ: Sponsor, Chapter, State Society, and State Society Genealogist. Failure to obtain all of the required documentation can cause a delay in the approval of the application.

Incomplete applications may be returned to the remitting applicant in the event these requirements are not met.

See Earl McCown for applications and more information to join the Brig. Gen. Charles Clark Chapter, MOS&B.



CAMP SCRAPBOOK FOR 2012

Attention Camp members,

Joe Nokes, Camp Color Sgt., has taken on the task to gather material for the 2011-2012 Camp Scrapbook to be submitted at the 2012 State Convention in Brandon. He requests that as the year goes by, please submit any newspaper articles, pictures, or other interesting material that you gather throughout the year to him so he can make this year's scrapbook

and award winning one.

If you have pictures or scanned material you can send it to Joe's e-mail address at joe-nokes0128@yahoo.com

One of the things he would like is for everyone who have pictures of their ancestors to make a copy and give them to him at the Camp meetings or scan them and send them to him by e-mail.

Material he is looking for in-

cludes: pictures of Camp activities, newspaper articles, reenactment photos that Camp members are in, Convention photos (state and National), programs from various Camp activities, or programs of activities from other Camps that include our Camp members. He definitely wants photos and articles of Camp activities that involve the general public.



DIVISION NEWS:

A NOTE FROM MS DIVISION COMMANDER ALAN PALMER

Gentlemen

I want to be accessible to all of the membership of the Mississippi Division so please feel free to contact me anytime seven days a week, you can write me, email me, call me, or send me a text message and I will respond as soon as possible. During working hours I cannot always answer my phone right then but I do try to return missed calls, however if I do not return your call in a reasonable amount of time please call me again. Sometimes a text message is the quickest way to get a response from me and to let me know to whom I am returning a call. I am an early riser usually being up by 5am seven days a week but I also go to bed early so if you call me at night and I do not answer I will return your call the next day. I am very encouraged by the amount of our membership who has offered their support and desire to take on a more active role within our division and my greatest wish is to see us increase our membership over the next two years. Lt. Commander Allen Terrell is going to be working hard to accomplish this goal but it is not his

responsibility alone we must do our part as well and offer Allen any assistance he may need. One of the most important ways you can assist is to be sure that your camp has a communications officer, be that your camp Adjutant, Commander, or another member who will take on that responsibility. I cannot stress enough the importance of having someone within your camp that Allen or myself can readily contact when the need arises. As Lt Commander I would receive possible new member contact information from National and at times had no idea how to get in touch with the local camp to let them know they had a possible new recruit in their area. This is very important so please designate a communications officer for your camp and get that information to Allen and myself so that we let no one fall through the cracks. Think about what we could do if we doubled our membership, a difficult task I know but not impossible. We must reverse the trend we have seen over the past few years of a decreasing membership or we face

becoming irrelevant and ineffectual.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all of you a 'Happy Fourth of July', and even though this day also brings memories of two great losses for true Sons of the South we must also remember that this day represents what those men were fighting for and sacrificed so much to preserve. May God bless us all as we carry out our sacred duties and keep us all safe this holiday weekend.

Alan Ray Palmer
Commander Ms Div SCV

58 Lombardy Road
Drew, Ms 38737
Ph: 662-719-9312
Email: cptalan61@yahoo.com
Sesqui Web Site: <http://mscivilwar150.homestead.com/Home.html>
Facebook (my music): <http://www.facebook.com/#1/pages/Alan-Palmer/138596866195533>
Facebook (regular page): <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/?id=138596866195533>
apalmer61



**MS Division
Commander
Alan Palmer**

MARYLAND COMPATRIOTS NEED OUR HELP

MS Division Compatriots,

My name is Steve Smith. I'm the 1st Lt. Commander of the Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Baltimore. For the past 8 years, our Camp has been working to complete a project that is dear to all Sons of Confederate Veterans. We set a goal to place new markers at the grave sites of every veteran interred on "Confederate Hill," Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore.

We are now just 76 adoptions away from completion! Some of us predicted that it would require two more years to complete the final adoptions. I think we can attain our goal in a single year. However, it will take a great deal of work and a great deal of generosity on the part

a many people to reach our goal this year. I know it can be done. Please visit our project web site at: <http://www.mdscv.org/1388/adopt-a-confederate/>

There you will find information on why we chose to accomplish our goal using the adoption method. You will also see how to adopt a veteran, as well as years of research on these veterans gathered together on our Archive pages. Included are photographs of the new markers installed for each adopted veteran.

If you agree that this is a worthy cause, please share this information with anyone you think might want to help. I have included a PDF document listing all the veterans currently available for adop-

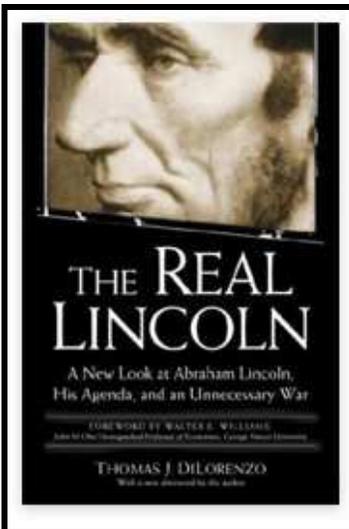
tion. This same information is reflected on the project website. Since the beginning of May, we have gained 10 more adoptions. They are going fast as people are now realizing that their last opportunity to adopt is approaching quickly.

If you have any questions after viewing the project web site, feel free to contact me or any other member of the Gilmor Camp. We will be only too happy to field your questions or comments.

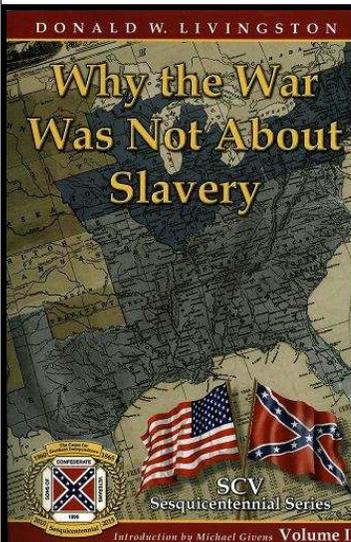
Sincerely,
Steve Smith, Lt. Commander
Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp,
#1388
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Baltimore, Maryland



**Unknown Confed-
erate Soldier**



Check this book out before you attend the Conference



SCV Education Pamphlets for recruiting



SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE UPDATE

Our Southern Heritage Conference will be in Laurel August 5-6 this year. Our speakers will be Bros. John Killian and Cecil Fayard along with Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo, author of THE REAL LINCOLN and LINCOLN UNMASKED. He is also educational director of the Stephen

Dill Institute. I have heard some say that they would like to have the Institute at Beauvoir when the Presidential Library is complete. If that is the case, it would be a good idea to have a good turnout in Laurel at which time he can be approached about having a future

Institute at Beauvoir. I don't think a poor turnout in Laurel would bode well for having the Institute at Beauvoir.

Let's spread the word and get a good turnout.

Carl Ford @ csaford@hotmail.com

NATIONAL NEWS: NEW SCV EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLETS

Compatriots,

The deadline for early registration for the Reunion in Montgomery, AL (July 13-16, 2011) is June 15, 2011. Until this date registration is 45 dollars and afterward registration is 60 dollars.

The link below will take you to the reunion registration form on scv.org. <http://www.scv.org/GHQ>

is excited to offer a new educational tool for the members and others.. In a recent issue of the Confederate Veteran there was an excellent article by the highly esteemed Dr. Donald Livingston. The focus of his essay was why the War was not about slavery. It is a must read for anyone hoping to understand the true nature of the conflict of 1860-1865. GHQ is now

selling this essay as a stand alone booklet. These are great for our member's use but also has something we can give out to the public.

These booklets are only \$2 each! Or, in multiples of 10, \$1.75! These can now be ordered through GHQ and there will be a large supply for sale at the Headquarters table at our Reunion in Montgomery next month. Plan to get some for your camp.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET IN MONTGOMERY

Compatriots,

The Budget and Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, July 14 at 2 PM to review requests for funding that have been made. All members are invited to attend but especially those who are representing or wish to speak for / answer questions about funding request from their camp, division etc...

The recommendations on each funding request made by the Budget and Finance Committee will

be presented to the GEC for action at the Saturday afternoon Post Reunion GEC meeting. Those who are knowledgeable and can wish to speak for the various funding requests are also encouraged to attend the GEC meeting as often the GEC will have additional questions.

The location of the Thursday Budget and Finance Meeting and the Saturday GEC meeting will be announced on the floor of the Reunion during a business session.

The Budget and Finance Com-

mittee, with endorsement by the GEC at the March 2011 meeting, uses the funding guidelines found at the link below as a tool in evaluating funding requests.

<http://www.scv.org/pdf/FundingProposalGuidelines.pdf>

I look forward to seeing you at the Reunion in Montgomery.

Chuck Rand
Adjutant In Chief
chuckrand3@gmail.com

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

As we approach the challenging years of the Sesquicentennial, leadership training has become even more important to the defense of our Southern heritage. In an effort to insure that our members better understand the challenges of leadership roles and to aid our leaders in acquiring the knowledge to better perform their duties, the SCV has scheduled a 2011 National Leadership Summit.

This year's event will be held October 1, 2011 at the Terrace Restaurant on the campus of the Twin Lakes Retirement Center, located at 100 Wade Coble Drive, Burlington, NC 27215. It will be hosted by the Col. Charles F. Fisher Camp #813. A tentative schedule for the day is posted below along with registration and lodging information.

Please note that this event will

include relevant presentations and individual workshops for more specialized training for Commanders and Adjutants; however, ALL members are invited to attend!

Agenda

8:00 - 8:15 Welcome & SCV Protocol Cmdr. Mitch Flinchum, Camp 813

8:15 - 8:30 Introductions & Overview Lt. CIC Charles Kelly Barrow

8:30 - 9:15 Commanders & Command, CIC R. Michael Givens

9:15 - 9:30 *BREAK*

9:30 - 10:15 Adjutants & Administration TBA

10:15 - 10:30 *BREAK*

10:30 - 11:15 Camp Programs & Projects ANV Councilman Gene Hogan

11:15 - 12:15 *DINNER*

12:15 - 1:00 Camp Operations & Success Past Ga.Div Cmdr Scott K. Gilbert, Jr

1:00 - 1:15 *BREAK*

1:15 - 2:00 Commander's & Adjutant's Workshops CIC, Lt. CIC & Past AIC

2:15 - 2:30 *BREAK*

2:30 - 3:15 Recruiting & Retention Lt. CIC Charles Kelly Barrow

3:15 - Concluding Remarks & Discussion Lt. CIC Charles Kelly Barrow

Benediction

Editor's Note:
Registration form for this conference is on page 8

FROM THE ROSIN HEELS DISPATCH (NEWSLETTER OF THE JONES COUNTY
ROSSINHEELS CAMP)

A CONFEDERATE CATECHISM

33. *What were the main features of Lincoln's "friendship" for the South ?*

A statement of the main features is as follows:

1. The sacking and burning of homes and towns, and the general destruction of fences, crops, stock, and far implements;
2. the expulsion from their homes off all persons, including women and children and noncombatants, unless an oath of allegiance was taken. This was as if the German commanders in the World War had required every Frenchman in the occupied territory to swear allegiance to the Kaiser. Sherman drove the white population from Atlanta without even allowing this alternative. Not even the British in the Revolution ever issued any order like this. They exacted paroles of the inhabitants, it is true, but this, though a violation of the international law, acknowledged the Americans as enemies, not merely Rebels.
3. The precipitation upon the South of emancipation with apparently absolute indifference whether it created massacre or not, and
4. The subordination of the lives of prisoners to military success which occasioned the deaths of thousands of poor fellows on both sides.

The volume of suffering covers the whole war, and there is not a particle of evidence of the humanitarian intervention of Lincoln with either his Cabinet officers or generals in the field. The truth is the Reconstruction era was the logical result of the Lincoln era, when the Chief Justice, in standing by the Constitution, apprehended his own arrest by the minions of the President.

34. *Explain more fully the course of Lincoln as to Exchanges.*

Lincoln's friends have tried to hold the Confederates responsible for deaths in Southern prisons. But it was clearly by the action of Lincoln that this mortality occurred. His policy was to starve the South by the blockade, a measure involving women and children; to destroy all the grain, stock, and farming utensils; to take from the people of the South and from their own prisoners all protection from disease by making medicines and medical appliances contraband of war; to force the crowding of prisoners into remote prisons by making medicines and medical appliances contraband of war; to force the crowding of his armies, before other prisons could be erected; and then, by refusing all exchanges not even taking the sick when offered free or permitting the admission of medicines for them – to hold the South responsible for the sufferings of prisoners !

Such a friend of the South was Lincoln that his government visited upon the helpless prisoners of the South in the North punishment for the result of its own policy in the South. He humiliated them by appointing Negro soldiers their guards, who reviled and insulted them. The fare of prisoners was reduced 20 per cent; all but the sick were deprived of coffee, tea, and sugar, and all supplies by gift or purchase were prohibited. To my knowledge there were no such orders issued. Rhodes, says ; "The fact stands out con that in 1864 the Confederate authorities were eager to make exchanges, their interest being on the side humanity."

35. *What were the results of Lincoln's policy as to Confederate prisoners ?*

The result was that owing to this policy of "retaliation" urged upon Lincoln by many newspapers, the sufferings of the Confederate prisoners in a land of plenty was simply incredible, and the mortality, as shown by the reports of Edwin M. Stanton,

Secretary of War, and Surgeon General Barnes, of the United States Army, was far greater than the mortality of Federal soldiers in the South. Lincoln threw every obstacle in the way of exchanges by appointing Benjamin F. Butler Commissioner of Exchanges, a man whom the Confederates had outlawed for base conduct at New Orleans, and by appointing General Grant as his successor, who was opposed to all exchanges, on the ground apparently of the superior patriotism of the Southern men, wh, he thought, if exchanged, would hasten to rejoin their regiments.

The question for history too decide is whether it was not Lincoln and Grant who should have been hanged instead of the unfortunate Major Henry Wirz, who did all he could for his prisoners. (Read "Andersonville Prison," by Page and Healey, two Federal soldiers.) In this matter, General Grant presented a marked contrast to another Northern man, Nathaniel Greene, of Rhode Island, whose name is dear to all in the South ! This noble General of the Revolution had the same problem as too exchanges presented to him as General Grant. He knew that any American freed would go home, his term having expired; but all the British prisoners would join the British army. Nevertheless he scorned to win success, as desirable as success was in his great necessity, by keeping the American prisoners in the dreadful British prison ships, and agreed to a cartel of exchange, with all the advantages against him. (Johnson, Life of Nathaniel Greene.) This was the course taken by Washington, and the Americans of 1776 are free from censure as to the treatment of prisoners, except in connection with the Saratoga prisoners

This Catechism will continue in the next issue

Sesquicentennial Series, 150 Years ago this Month:

YOU ARE ALL GREEN ALIKE – BATTLE ALONG BULL RUN CREEK

The First Battle of Bull Run, also known as the First Battle of Manassas (the name used by Confederate forces), was fought on July 21, 1861, in Prince William County, Virginia, near the City of Manassas. It was the first major land battle of the American Civil War.

Just months after the start of the war at Fort Sumter, the Northern public clamored for a march against the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, which could bring an early end to the war. Yielding to this political pressure, unseasoned Union Army troops under Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell advanced across Bull Run against the equally unseasoned Confederate Army under Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard near Manassas Junction. McDowell's ambitious plan for a surprise flank attack against the Confederate left was not well executed by his inexperienced officers and men, but the Confederates, who had been planning to attack the Union left flank, found themselves at an initial disadvantage.

Confederate reinforcements under the command of Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston arrived from the Shenandoah Valley by railroad and the course of the battle changed. A brigade of Virginians under a relatively unknown colonel from the Virginia Military Institute, Thomas J. Jackson, stood their ground and Jackson received his famous nickname, "Stonewall Jackson". The Confederates launched a strong counterattack and as the Union troops began withdrawing under pressure, many panicked and it turned into a rout as they frantically ran in the direction of nearby Washington, D.C. Both sides were sobered by the violence and casualties of the battle, and they realized that the war would potentially be much longer and bloodier than they had originally anticipated.

Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to command the Army of Northeastern Virginia. Once in this capacity, McDowell was harassed by impatient politicians and citizens in Washington, who wished to see a quick battlefield victory over the Confederate Army in northern Virginia. McDowell, however, was concerned about the untried nature of his army. He was reassured by President Lincoln, "You are green, it is true, but they are green also; you are all green alike." [3] Against his better judgment, McDowell commenced campaigning. On July 16, 1861, the general departed Washington with the largest field army yet gathered on the North American continent, about 35,000 men (28,452 effectives). [1] McDowell's plan was to move westward in three columns, make a diversionary attack on the Confederate line at Bull Run with two columns, while the third column moved around the Confederates' right flank to the south, cutting the railroad to Richmond and threatening the rear of the rebel army. He assumed that the Confederates would be forced to abandon Manassas Junction and fall back to the Rappahannock River, the next defensible line in Virginia, which would relieve some of the pressure on the U.S. capital. [4]

The Confederate Army of the Potomac (21,883 effectives) [5] under Beauregard was encamped near Manassas Junction, approximately 25 miles (40 km) from the United States capital. McDowell planned to attack this numerically inferior enemy army. Union Maj. Gen. Robert Patterson's 18,000 men engaged Johnston's force (the Army of the Shenandoah at 8,884 effectives, augmented by Maj. Gen. Theophilus H. Holmes's brigade of 1,465 [5]) in the Shenandoah Valley, preventing them from reinforcing Beauregard.

Continued on page 6 . . .

Bull Run continued . . .

After two days of marching slowly in the sweltering heat, the Union army was allowed to rest in Centreville. McDowell reduced the size of his army to approximately 30,000 by dispatching Brig. Gen. Theodore Runyon with 5,000 troops to protect the army's rear. In the meantime, McDowell searched for a way to outflank Beauregard, who had drawn up his lines along Bull Run. On July 18, the Union commander sent a division under Brig. Gen. Daniel Tyler to pass on the Confederate right (southeast) flank. Tyler was drawn into a skirmish at Blackburn's Ford over Bull Run and made no headway.

Becoming more frustrated, McDowell resolved to attack the Confederate left (northwest) flank instead. He planned to attack with Brig. Gen. Daniel Tyler's division at the Stone Bridge on the Warrenton Turnpike and send the divisions of Brig. Gens. David Hunter and Samuel P. Heintzelman over Sudley Springs Ford. From here, these divisions could march into the Confederate rear. The brigade of Col. Israel B. Richardson (Tyler's Division) would harass the enemy at Blackburn's Ford, preventing them from thwarting the main attack. Patterson would tie down Johnston in the Shenandoah Valley so that reinforcements could not reach the area. Although McDowell had arrived at a theoretically sound plan, it had a number of flaws: it was one that required synchronized execution of troop movements and attacks, skills that had not been developed in the nascent army; it relied on actions by Patterson that he had already failed to take; finally, McDowell had delayed long enough that Johnston's Valley force was able to board trains at Piedmont Station and rush to Manassas Junction to reinforce Beauregard's men.[6]

On July 19–20, significant reinforcements bolstered the Confederate lines behind Bull Run. Johnston arrived with all of his army, except for the troops of Brig. Gen. Kirby Smith, who were still in transit. Most of the new arrivals were posted in the vicinity of Blackburn's Ford and Beauregard's plan was to attack from there to the north toward Centreville. Johnston, the senior officer, approved the plan. If both of the armies had been able to execute their plans simultaneously, it would have resulted in a mutual counterclockwise movement as they attacked each other's left flank.[7]

McDowell was getting contradictory information from his intelligence agents, so he called for the balloon Enterprise, which was being demonstrated by Prof. Thaddeus S. C. Lowe in Washington, to perform aerial reconnaissance.

On the morning of July 21, McDowell sent the divisions of Hunter and Heintzelman (about 12,000 men) from Centreville at 2:30 a.m., marching southwest on the Warrenton Turnpike and then turning northwest toward Sudley Springs. Tyler's division (about 8,000) marched directly toward the Stone Bridge. The inexperienced units immediately developed logistical problems. Tyler's division blocked the advance of the main flanking column on the turnpike. The latter units found the approach roads to Sudley Springs were inadequate, little more than a cart path in some places, and did not begin fording Bull Run until 9:30 a.m. Tyler's men reached the Stone Bridge around 6 a.m.[8]

At 5:15 a.m., Richardson's brigade fired a few artillery rounds across Mitchell's Ford on the Confederate right, some of which hit Beauregard's headquarters in the Wilmer McLean house as he was eating breakfast, alerting him to the fact that his offensive battle plan had been pre-

empted. Nevertheless, he ordered demonstration attacks north toward the Union left at Centreville. Bungled orders and poor communications prevented their execution. Although he intended for Brig. Gen. Richard S. Ewell to lead the attack, Ewell, at Union Mills Ford, was simply ordered to "hold ... in readiness to advance at a moment's notice." Brig. Gen. D.R. Jones was supposed to attack in support of Ewell, but found himself moving forward alone. Holmes was also supposed to support, but received no orders at all.[9]

All that stood in the path of the 20,000 Union soldiers converging on the Confederate left flank were Col. Nathan "Shanks" Evans and his reduced brigade of 1,100 men.[10] Evans had moved some of his men to intercept the direct threat from Tyler at the bridge, but he began to suspect that the weak attacks from the Union brigade of Brig. Gen. Robert C. Schenck were merely feints. He was informed of the main Union flanking movement through Sudley Springs by Captain Edward Porter Alexander, Beauregard's signal officer, observing from 8 miles (13 km) southwest on Signal Hill. In the first use of wig-wag semaphore signaling in combat, Alexander sent the message "Look out for your left, your position is turned." [11] Shanks hastily led 900 of his men from their position fronting the Stone Bridge to a new location on the slopes of Matthews Hill, a low rise to the northwest of his previous position.[10]

Evans soon received reinforcement from two other brigades under Brig. Gen. Barnard Bee and Col. Francis S. Bartow, bringing the force on the flank to 2,800 men.[10] They successfully slowed Hunter's lead brigade (Brig. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside) in its attempts to ford Bull Run and advance across Young's Branch, at the northern end of Henry House Hill. One of Tyler's brigade commanders, Col. William T. Sherman, crossed at an unguarded ford and struck the right flank of the Confederate defenders. This surprise attack, coupled with pressure from Burnside and Maj. George Sykes, collapsed the Confederate line shortly after 11:30 a.m., sending them in a disorderly retreat to Henry House Hill.[12]

As they retreated from their Matthews Hill position, the remainder of Evans's, Bee's, and Bartow's commands received some cover from Capt. John D. Imboden and his battery of four 6-pounder guns, who held off the Union advance while the Confederates attempted to regroup on Henry House Hill. They were met by generals Johnston and Beauregard, who had just arrived from Johnston's headquarters at the M. Lewis Farm, "Portici". [13] Fortunately for the Confederates, McDowell did not press his advantage and attempt to seize the strategic ground immediately, choosing to bombard the hill with the batteries of Capts. James B. Ricketts (Battery I, 1st U.S. Artillery) and Charles Griffin (Battery D, 5th U.S.) from Dogan's Ridge.[14]

Col. Thomas J. Jackson's Virginia brigade came up in support of the disorganized Confederates around noon, accompanied by Col. Wade Hampton and his Hampton's Legion, and Col. J. E.B. Stuart's cavalry. Jackson posted his five regiments on the reverse slope of the hill, where they were shielded from direct fire, and was able to assemble 13 guns for the defensive line, which he posted on the crest of the hill; as the guns fired, their recoil moved them down the reverse slope, where they could be safely reloaded.[15] Meanwhile, McDowell ordered the batteries of Ricketts and Griffin to move from Dogan's Ridge to the hill for close infantry sup-

port. Their 11 guns engaged in a fierce artillery duel across 300 yards (270 m) against Jackson's 13. Unlike many engagements in the Civil War, here the Confederate artillery had an advantage. The Union pieces were now within range of the Confederate smoothbores and the predominantly rifled pieces on the Union side were not effective weapons at such close ranges, with many shots fired over the head of their targets.[16]

One of the casualties of the artillery fire was Judith Carter Henry, an 85-year-old widow and invalid, who was unable to leave her bedroom in the Henry House. As Ricketts began receiving rifle fire, he concluded that it was coming from the Henry House and turned his guns on the building. A shell that crashed through the bedroom wall tore off one of the widow's feet and inflicted multiple injuries, from which she died later that day.[17]

"The Enemy are driving us," Bee exclaimed to Jackson. Jackson, a former U.S. Army officer and professor at the Virginia Military Institute, is said to have replied, "Then, Sir, we will give them the bayonet." [18] Bee exhorted his own troops to re-form by shouting, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer. Rally behind the Virginians." [19] There is some controversy over Bee's statement and intent, which could not be clarified because he was mortally wounded almost immediately after speaking and none of his subordinate officers wrote reports of the battle. Major Burnett Rhett, chief of staff to General Johnston, claimed that Bee was angry at Jackson's failure to come immediately to the relief of Bee's and Bartow's brigades while they were under heavy pressure. Those who subscribe to this opinion believe that Bee's statement was meant to be pejorative: "Look at Jackson standing there like a stone wall!" [20]

Artillery commander Griffin decided to move two of his guns to the southern end of his line, hoping to provide enfilade fire against the Confederates. At approximately 3 p.m., these guns were overrun by the 33rd Virginia, whose men were outfitted in blue uniforms, causing Griffin's commander, Maj. William F. Barry, to mistake them for Union troops and to order Griffin not to fire on them. Close range volleys from the 33rd Virginia and Stuart's cavalry attack against the flank of the 11th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Ellsworth's Fire Zouaves), which was supporting the battery, killed many of the gunners and scattered the infantry. Capitalizing on this success, Jackson ordered two regiments to charge Ricketts's guns and they were captured as well. As additional Federal infantry engaged, the guns changed hands several times. [21]

The capture of the Union guns turned the tide of battle. Although McDowell had brought 15 regiments into the fight on the hill, outnumbering the Confederates two to one, no more than two were ever engaged simultaneously. Jackson continued to press his attacks, telling soldiers of the 4th Virginia Infantry, "Reserve your fire until they come within 50 yards! Then fire and give them the

Continued on page 7 . . .

Bull Run Continued . . .

bayonet! And when you charge, yell like furies!" For the first time, Union troops heard the disturbing sound of the Rebel yell. At about 4 p.m., the last Union troops were pushed off Henry House Hill by a charge of two regiments from Col. Philip St. George Cocke's brigade.[22]

To the west, Chinn Ridge had been occupied by Col. Oliver O. Howard's brigade from Heintzelman's division. Also at 4 p.m., two Confederate brigades that had just arrived from the Shenandoah Valley—Col. Jubal A. Early's and Brig. Gen. Kirby Smith's (commanded by Col. Arnold Elzey after Smith was wounded)—crushed Howard's brigade. Beauregard ordered his entire line forward. McDowell's force crumbled and began to retreat.[23]

The retreat was relatively orderly up to the Bull Run crossings, but it was poorly managed by the Union officers. A Union wagon was overturned by artillery fire on a bridge spanning Cub Run Creek and incited panic in McDowell's force. As the soldiers streamed uncontrollably toward Centreville, discarding their arms and equipment, McDowell ordered Col. Dixon S. Miles's division to act as a rear guard, but it was impossible to rally the army short of Washington. In the disorder that followed, hundreds of Union troops were taken prisoner. The wealthy elite of nearby Washington, including congressmen and their families, expecting an easy Union victory, had come to picnic and watch the battle. When the Union army was driven back in a running disorder, the roads back to Washington were blocked by panicked civilians attempting to flee in their carriages.[24]

Since their combined army had been left highly disorganized as well, Beauregard and Johnston did not fully press their advantage, despite urging from Confederate President Jefferson Davis, who had arrived on the battlefield to see the Union soldiers retreating. An attempt by Johnston to intercept the Union troops from his right flank, using the brigades of Brig. Gens. Milledge L. Bonham and James Longstreet, was a failure. The two commanders squabbled with each other and when Bonham's men received some artillery fire from the Union rear guard, and found that Richardson's brigade blocked the road to Centreville, he called off the pursuit.[25]

Bull Run was the largest and bloodiest battle in American history up to that point. Union casualties were 460 killed, 1,124 wounded, and 1,312 missing or captured; Confederate casualties were 387 killed, 1,582 wounded, and 13 missing.[29] Among the latter was Col. Francis S. Bartow, who was the first Confederate brigade commander to be killed in the Civil War. General Bee was mortally wounded and died the following day.[30]

Union forces and civilians alike feared that Confederate forces would advance on Washington, D.C., with very little standing in their way. On July 24, Prof. Thaddeus S. C. Lowe ascended in the balloon Enterprise to observe the Confederates moving in and about Manassas Junction and Fairfax. He saw no evidence of massing Rebel forces, but was forced to land in Confederate territory. It was overnight before he was rescued and could report to headquarters. He reported that his observations "restored confidence" to the Union commanders.[31]

The Northern public was shocked at the unexpected defeat of their army when an easy victory had been widely anticipated. Both sides quickly came to realize the war would be longer and more brutal than they had imagined. On July 22 President Lincoln signed a bill that provided for the enlistment of another 500,000 men for up to three years of service.[32]

The reaction in the Confederacy was more muted. There was little public celebration as the Southerners realized that despite their victory, the greater battles that would inevitably come would mean greater losses for their side as well.[33]

Beauregard was considered the hero of the battle and was promoted that day by President Davis to full general in the Confederate Army.[34] Stonewall Jackson, arguably the most important tactical contributor to the victory, received no special recognition, but would later achieve glory for his 1862 Valley Campaign. Irvin McDowell bore the brunt of the blame for the Union defeat and was soon replaced by Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, who was named general-in-chief of all the Union armies. McDowell was also present to bear significant blame for the defeat of Maj. Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia by Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia thirteen months later, at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Patterson was also removed from command.[35]

The name of the battle has caused controversy since 1861. The Union Army frequently named battles after significant rivers and creeks that played a role in the fighting; the Confederates generally used the names of nearby towns or farms. The U.S. National Park Service uses the Confederate name for its national battlefield park, but the Union name (Bull Run) also has widespread currency in popular literature.[36]

Battlefield confusion between the battle flags, especially the similarity of the Confederacy's "Stars and Bars" and the Union's "Stars and Stripes" when fluttering, led to the adoption of the Confederate Battle Flag, which eventually became the most popular symbol of the Confederacy and the South in general.[37]

Notes:

- Strength figures vary by source. Eicher, p. 87-88: 35,000 Union, 32,000 Confederate; Esposito, map 19: 35,000 Union, 29,000 Confederate; Ballard, 35,000 Union (18,000 engaged), 34,000 Confederate (18,000 engaged); Salmon, p. 20: 28,450 Union, 32,230 Confederate; Kennedy, p. 14: 35,000 Union, 33,000 Confederate; Livermore, p. 77: 28,452 Union "effectives", 32,323 Confederate engaged. Writing in The Century Magazine, adjutant general James B. Fry cites 18,572 Union men (including stragglers not on the field) and 24 guns engaged, Thomas Jordan cites 18,052 Confederate men and 37 guns engaged.
- Eicher, p.99.
- Detzer, p. 77; Williams, p. 21; McPherson, p. 336; Davis, p. 110, attributes the remark to general-in-chief Winfield Scott.
- Davis, pp. 110-11.
- Livermore, p. 77.
- Eicher, pp. 91-100.
- Eicher, p. 92.
- Beatie, pp. 285-88; Esposito, text for Map 21; Rafuse, p. 312.
- Eicher, p. 94; Esposito, Map 22.
- Rafuse, p. 312.
- Brown, pp. 43-45; Alexander, pp. 50-51. Alexander recalls that the signal was "You are flanked."
- Rafuse, pp. 312-13; Esposito, Map 22; Eicher, pp. 94-95.
- Eicher, p. 95.
- Rafuse, p. 313; Eicher, p. 96.
- Salmon, p. 19.
- Rafuse, p. 314.
- Detzer, p. 357; Davis, pp. 204-05.



- Robertson, p. 264.
- Freeman, vol. 1, p. 82; Robertson, p. 264. McPherson, p. 342, reports the quotation after "stone wall" as being "Rally around the Virginians!"
- See, for instance, McPherson, p. 342. There are additional controversies about what Bee said and whether he said anything at all. See Freeman, vol. 1, pp. 733-34.
- Eicher, pp. 96-98; Esposito, Map 23; Rafuse, pp. 314-15; McPherson, pp. 342-44.
- Rafuse, p. 315; Eicher, p. 98.
- Rafuse, pp. 315-16.
- McPherson, p. 344; Eicher, p. 98; Esposito, Map 24.
- Freeman, vol. 1, p. 76; Esposito, Map 24; Davis, p. 149.
- Eicher, p. 100.
- Detzer, p. 488.
- Rawley, pp. 56-57.
- Eicher, p. 99.
- Detzer, p. 383.
- Haydon, pp. 192-93.
- awley, p. 58.
- Detzer, pp. 492-93.
- Freeman, vol. 1, p. 79.
- Eicher, pp. 100-101.
- McPherson, p. 346, n. 7. McPherson's popular one-volume history of the war uses the two names interchangeably because he states that "neither name has any intrinsic superiority over the other."
- McPherson, p. 342.

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THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF A.L. PEEL, ADJUTANT, 19TH MS REGIMENT – JULY 1861

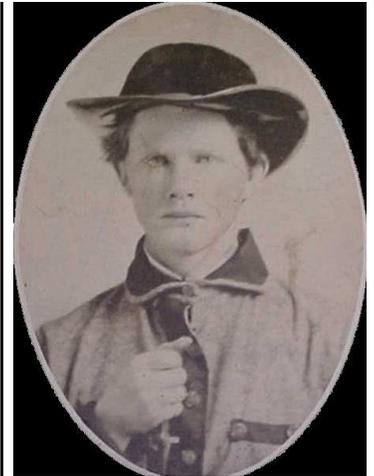
- July 1, 1861 - The Penitentiary was burned this evening. I went over to see it. one of the Prisoners tried to escape jumped the wall & got a boyonet stuck through hi
- July 2 - We received a couple of Boxes of cakes & all sorts of good things to day from home. We will live high for a while. Lu & I went down town & got some ice cream
- July 3 - We received orders to cook two days rations & be ready to march to Winchester to morrow the boys are all anxious to leave this City & move closer to the enemy. they gave several cheers when the order was read to us I am afraid that Add is to sick to go with us, the boys are all in high spirits
- July 4, 1861 - We left for Winchester this evening on the cars. I left the camp ground in the rear of the Regt with 40 guards & took about that No of straglers. We will travel all night.
- July 5 - We arrived at StrasBurge this evening. We passed through Manassas Gap today We have marched from StrasBurge to centerville this evening we are all very much fatigued & our feet are blistered, I will guard the wagons, the Blankets are all taken out & I will have to sleep on tent poles damn such accommodation.
- July 6 - We left New Town early this morning for Winchester & arrived at 10' We then heard that Johnson would attack the Federal forces at MartinsBurge that evening. So we halted 3 hours to rest & left our sick & put out. We arrived at Bunker hill tonight We will stay in an old shop it is raining very hard
- July 7, 1861 - We received orders to fall back to Winchester this morning. We didnt like it at all but had to obey. We arrived at Winchester at 11 a.m. & camped in an old field, We were drawn in a line of battle S We heard that the enemy were coming up the Rail Road, but it proved to be false. We found Elie Peel at Winchester this morning. Add stayed with him as he was sick, & couldnt march. We hae stretched our tents this evening. Bill Ellis & McKie arrived this evening with 13 recruits & some letters.
- July 8,9 - (No entries) - July 10 - We received orders to strike tents, pack up & cook two days rations after cooking & packing up, all ready. We were ordered to eat our provisions and we found it a false alarm
- July 11, 1861 - We had no drill today, the soldiers have not recovered from fatigue so we will spend the day in rest. Lu went up town & got some Molasses
- July 12 - Nothing has transpired today of importance. We had company drill this morning
- July 13 - We had skirmish drill this morning for the first time. We got six recruits from Byhalia to day. Two of them will mess with us till they get tents I am on Picket guard tonight it is raining I have come to camp to getsupper.
- July 14, 1861 - We have done nothing of importance to day I went over to the 11th Regt This is my birth day I am Twenty
- July 15 - We have orders to strike tents pack up nap sacks & cook provisions for Three days. I want to leave this place I dont like the people, I believe they are abolitionists
- July 16 - We moved over behind the Battery today. our tents are jammed as close together as we can get them We will elect a Lieutenant tomorrow, We moved behind the Battery this evening,
- July 17, 1861 - No entry – July 18 - We received marching orders & put out on a forced march this morning at 11' We waded three creeks today. A great many soldiers have given out & fallen on the roadside, their feet are blistered & bleeding, We halted at Shanendoah River tonight and will sleep on the wet ground without blankets. I feel very bad
- July 19 - We arrived near Piedmont this evening & halted untill dark. LeutDean, J. G McCoy & I went about 5 ms & got a very nice supper & got back just in time, for the Regt was forming a line to march we sleep on the ground in the rain to night
- July 20, 1861 - We are at Piedmont without a darn thing to eat. Some ofthe boys are out preping anything that looks like it is good to eat. We have blankets stretched for shelter for our tents are left behind at Winchester Ludovick & several sick boys are left there they are indispose to march
- July 21 - We are still at Piedmont We pressed Four Beeves & some meal we baked bread on rocks & broiled meat on the coles & Fox came over this evening & I went up to his Regt & he gave me a chicken leg & piece of bread they will be of in in the morning for Manassa, We are ordered to sleep with our arms tonight & have nap & haversacks on packed ready to march at a moments warning We heard that Beauregard is fighting at Manassa.
- July 22 - We left Piedmont at the 1st dawn of day in Box Cars half of the company are ontop it is raining & cool, We arrived at Manassas at 10 AM & heard that the battle

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Diary Continued . . .

was over the soldiers are busily bringing in the dead & wounded we gained the victory but dearly bought we stood in the rain two hours & then marched out to the battle field distance 8 m's through the rain mud & halted in the bushes on Broad run we have struck fires & are drying ourselves we are hungry & have nothing to eat & no prospects for anything

- July 23, 1861 - Tom came from home today & brought Alfred with him we are all glad & suprised to see him, he left his trunk at the junction containing letter & many things for us. Leut Dean & I went to the Battlefield, it is strewed with dead yankeys & some wounded ones, it is the most horrid sight that I ever witnessed, one zouave has his head shot off. Elie came over to see us. The boys are cutting bushes to make shelters we got some provisions & have had something to eat. The LinchBurge Artillery left here for senterville this morning We bought yankey blankets from them.
- July 24 - Some of the boys went to the Battle field & brought some bomshells to camp with them this evening Robert bought a minny Rifle that was taken from the yankeys. I saw two muskets with minny balls shot through their barrels Bob Bowen found a pistol on the battlefield We have not drilled today
- July 25 - Tom & Sam went to the junction today & brought us some letters & c. I went down to the creek and washed my own clothes, the water is so muddy that I couldnt get them clean. Alfred is sick.
- July 26, 1861 - Tom started home this morning & got to the junction to late for the cars, so he came back to stay with us tonight. he will leave at four in the morning,,
- July 27 - Sgt Black started to strasBurge this morning to get our Tents & Baggage We sent by him for a good many articles Mr Jno Coleman arrived here to day & brought a good many things for the boys from home, he will remain with us several days, Add & I found a cannonball in the ground
- July 28 - Nothing of importance has transpired to day - July 29, 1861 - Several of the sick boys came on from Piedmont to day. P. Jinkens & I went over & saw the 11 & 2nd Regiment to day & saw some of our old friends who were in the fight
- July 30 - Robert took our company over to the 17th Regt to day & it was quite a long walk. We saw our fellow soldiers from H. S. We laughed at them for running from the yankeys. they had no excuse & looked sheepish. George Myers came to our camp he is not well he brought some letters to the boys. say Calvin is improving rapidly Gen Beauregard came to see us today.



**A.L. Peel, Adjutant
19th MS Infantry**



Thomas J. Peel

CIVIL WAR STORIES: AT ISSUE IN EARLY JULY 1861, SHIP ISLAND

By TIM ISBELL - tisbell@sunherald.com

Sensing increased activity by the Gulf Blockading Squadron, Confederate Brig. Gen. David Twiggs sought to garrison Ship Island, giving the Confederacy a defensive position to protect not only the Mississippi Coast but also New Orleans and Mobile. In early July 1861, Confederate troops on the island clashed with the USS Massachusetts.

Since the secession of Mississippi, manning Ship Island had been an issue. Some saw the island of important strategic significance while others felt it had no military value. The unnamed fort wasn't completed and conditions on the island could be difficult at best. With little to no trees, temperatures and humidity on Ship Island could become unbearable.

What structures that were on the island had been burned in May by the command of Brig. Gen. William Hardee, Confederate commander at Mobile. Any force garrisoning Ship Island would live in tents on the sand.

Twiggs had the soldiers to garrison Ship Island but lacked the proper guns for its defense. Some heavy guns were at the Confederate Navy Yard in New Orleans. Some of these guns were ordered to be placed on Ship Island.

On July 6, 1861, Capt. Edward Higgins took command of the CSS Oregon and CSS Swain, leaving New Orleans in search of the USS Massa-

chusetts. Since joining the Gulf Blockading Squadron, the Massachusetts had been a nuisance for Confederate blockade runners. Higgins hoped to find the Massachusetts somewhere in the Mississippi Sound.

If the Massachusetts could not be found, Higgins planned to place guns and men on Ship Island, creating a small garrison force comprised of 55 Confederate marines and 30 members of the 4th Louisiana Infantry.

On July 8, 1861, pickets on Ship Island spotted the sails of a vessel anchored in the Mississippi Sound. The following day, the crew of the Massachusetts confirmed Confederate occupation of Ship Island, identifying four gun emplacements under construction and 39 tents on the island.

Melancton Smith, commanding the Massachusetts, sailed for the island but discovered his ship's guns could not reach the island.

Meanwhile, Confederate guns on Ship Island could reach the Massachusetts. Gun crews on the Massachusetts and Ship Island traded shots with neither causing damage. The Massachusetts eventually withdrew to Chandeleur Island.

On July 13, 1861, the Massachusetts returned to Ship Island exchanging shots with Confeder-

ate vessels Oregon and Arrow. The two Confederate vessels tried to lure the Massachusetts within range of the guns of Ship Island but Smith refused to take the bait.

Although Ship Island was now manned by Confederate troops, Twiggs worried that defense would not succeed unless light-draft vessels could be used in concert with the guns on Ship Island. Without this, Twiggs deemed holding Ship Island for a prolonged period difficult.



TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD With an unfinished fort, little to no trees or other structures, Ship Island was a desolate strategic location during 1861. By July, Confederates had taken control of the island in an attempt to keep the Federals away from Mississippi and New Orleans.

**The Delta General
c/o Larry McCluney**

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