

The Delta General

Editor: Larry McCluney Phone: 662-453-7212 E-mail: confederate@windjammercable.net

June – 2009

Volume: 12, Issue 6



WHAT'S INSIDE?

Commander's Note – pg. 1

Division News – pg. 2-3

National News – pg. 3

Pictures from Convention 2009 – pg. 4

Fort Pemberton Finished – pg. 5-6

COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Compatriots,

As I sit here this beautiful Sunday afternoon, the 114th Reunion of the MS Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the 15th Reunion of the MS Society, Order of Confederate Rose is now HISTORY! The proceedings went off without a hitch and the food at the Awards Banquet was superb. For those who were not able to attend the Reunion, you missed a great opportunity to see your Division in action and you missed the best venue for the Reunion, Confederate Memorial Hall in Greenwood. We started this project a year ago with two goals in mind, provide a quality Reunion site and have the best food possible. With every Reunion I have attended, the food is the one thing that sticks in your mind. Needless to say, the Greenwood Country Club provided one of the best meals I have had the pleasure to devour and no one had single complaint.

This Reunion could not have been possible without help. I would like to thank the following members of the Camp and Chapter who gave of their time, material and money: Larry & Annette McCluney; Gator & Missy Stillman; Sandra Stillman; Andrew & Miranda McCaskill; Ann McCaskill; Nathan McCaskill; Thomas & Maranda Haik; Junior Stillman; Joe & Patty Nokes; Alan Palmer; Earl McCown; Cortney McCown Carole Ray; Kenneth Ray. Without the help and determination of these few, the Reunion would not have been a reality. My heartfelt THANKS!

The highlight of the Reunion for me was the induction into the SCV of my nephew, Nathan Bedford Forrest McCaskill by our Commander-in-chief Chuck McMichael and the presentation of his MS Division Life Membership by Commander Larry McCluney. I had the pleasure of standing in place of Nathan's father who is presently serving his country at Camp Liberty, Bagdad, Iraq.

Again, job well done!
God Bless the South,
Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Commander



Newly Elected MS Division Lt. Commander Alan Palmer presents Past MS Division Commander a gift for his services as Commander for the MS Division the past two years

Upcoming Events

June 12-14, 2009: Corinth, MS.: 145th Anniversary Battles of Brice's Crossroads/ Tupelo: Fight in original Battlefield, Camp on original battlefield, Friday Tactical, Artillery limited to historical numbers, Battles Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Usual amenities provided, 35 period sutlers, Grand Ball Saturday night, Artillery Night Fire Saturday Night, 1450 acre event site. Ease of access to site (intersections of MS Highways 370 and 45) Local support from City of Baldwin, Mississippi. Civil War soldiers buried on site. The Battles of Brice's Crossroads is a mixed infantry/cavalry/artillery battle. The Battle of Tupelo will be a major infantry/cavalry/artillery engagement. All proceeds will benefit Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield. For more information and registration go to: <http://www.cleburnes-division.com>

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Nathan Bedford Forrest
McCaskill
SCV Member and
MS Division Life Member
Ancestor:
George Eaton Keith
G, G, Great Grandfather
Pvt; Co. E, 18th NC Inf.



ATTENTION: Address Changes

If anyone in our Camp has a mailing address change, e-mail address change, or has not received their Newsletter; please contact Larry McCluney at 662-453-7212 or e-mail – confederate@windjammercable.net * Newsletter Disclaimer and Copyright Notice: Editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted and all submissions to the newsletter must be in proper format (all Caps not accepted). In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, any copyrighted material published herein is distributed under fair use without profit or payment to those who are interested in receiving the provided information for non-profit research and educational purpose only. Reference: [Http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml)

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS:

MS DIVISION COMMANDER'S LETTER

Dear Compatriots:

I trust this message finds you well and that your spirits, as mine, are high as we work hard together to protect our precious Confederate Heritage. It gives me great pleasure to formally announce the establishment of a Division wide Membership Renewal System. Much serious thought and consideration has been given to this decision to advance our Division's ability to better function in a business-like manner. The "life and blood" of the SCV depends on the strength of our membership. As such, we must improve the manner by which we encourage our members to renew their SCV membership annually. Beginning with this year's renewal period your Division will issue a professionally produced Membership Renewal Statement for each member of the Division mailing it in mid to late July. This will relieve all Camps from the initial renewal solicitation regardless of how each Camp has accomplished this annual task in the past. Until now we have simply relied on Camps to handle member renewals on an individual basis. Some Camps have, in fact, done well in their efforts, while too many others do poorly in this essential function. We must establish a uniform and effective way for all Camps to initiate the renewal process.

The Division MRS will take the annual task of "invoicing" Camp members off the Camp Adjutants backs, while keeping Camp autonomy intact. Camps will still receive all remittance funds directly from their members as in the past, then forwarding the appropriate funds to Division and National as usual on a scheduled basis. The Division Adjutant will be sending further information and specific instructions on the MRS details to your Camp Adjutant. Please acquaint yourself with this exceptional new system. The MRS will be a tremendous help to all Camps insuring that every Division member receives at least one professional and business-like renewal statement. Our members deserve no less.

Your humble servant,
Bill Atkinson, Division Commander



Newly Elected Division Commander Bill Atkinson with outgoing Division Commander Larry McCluney

NEW MS DIVISION OFFICERS

The 2009 Convention elected following statewide officers:
Commander- Bill Atkinson
1st Lt. Commander - Alan Palmer
2nd Lt. Commander- Bill Hinson
Adjutant - Jim Strickland

Brigade Officers: In caucus the five Mississippi Brigades elected their officers as follows:
First Brig Comder - Donald Wright Jr
Councilman - Dan A. McCaskill

Second Brig Comder - William Ellis
Councilman - James Taylor

Third Brig Comder - Allen Terrell
Councilman - Mike Webb

Forth Brig Comder - Louis P Foley
Councilman - Knox Poole

Fifth Brig Comder - Troy Savoie
Councilman - Mike Merritt

The first of an annual series of Heritage Education Posters was approved for publication at convention. Designed to tell "real history" these posters will be distributed to all schools and public libraries throughout the state during February and March.

NEWS FROM BEAUVOIR

The Hayes Cottage is open for business! The cottage can be rented for \$80 per night. Please take advantage of this very special Offer. For further information please contact Rick Forte at 228-343-1403

SHOW YOUR PRIDE, GET A MISSISSIPPI DIVISION LAPEL PIN

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

NATIONAL NEWS:

BODIES OF SIX CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS STOLEN FROM THE CAMP CHASE CONFEDERATE POW CAMP IN CHICAGO, ILL

Bland was a Confederate soldier whose body was stolen hours after it was buried at Camp Chase Cemetery on Nov. 24, 1864, said his great-great-granddaughter, Ann Hartman of Griffin, Ga. Hartman was at the Hilltop cemetery yesterday to accept a memorial stone in Bland's honor. It was part of a Memorial Day service hosted by the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp No. 1535. They sang Dixie and sprinkled Southern soil on the cemetery ground. The bodies of more than 2,000 Confederate prisoners of war are buried in the cemetery. The stone was the idea of Dennis Ranney, a member of the Sons group and an amateur historian who has researched the grave-robbing incident for five years. Hartman said she has spent 30 years trying to piece together her family history, but Bland's story always proved perplexing. Here's what she and Ranney have figured out about what happened to him:

Bland was captured during the Battle of Atlanta in July 1864 and taken to Camp Chase, where he died Nov. 24. He would've been about 40 years old. His body was at rest for just a few hours in grave No. 513, just steps from Sullivant Avenue. A team of three grave robbers, led by Columbus Dr. Joab Flowers, stole six bodies with the intention of selling them to a Cleveland medical school for dissection and research. Flowers would have received \$20 for each body, Ranney said. The bodies were to have been transported by train, but it's unclear how far they got because the three robbers were arrested two days later. Even now, no one knows what happened to the bodies.

Jincy, Bland's wife, waited on the porch after the war ended for a homecoming that would never be, Hartman said. Hartman is grateful that she could provide that reunion, no matter how belatedly, even with the disappearance of Bland's body still unsolved. "We can't take him home, but we can honor him," she said. After all, Jincy waited a long time.

Columbus Dispatch point of contact: mheagney@dispatch.com

FROM THE GRAYLINE NEWS

Friends of the SCV (FOSCV)

The FOSCV is a terrific way to recognize persons who support the SCV, but do not meet the requirements to qualify as a member. The General Executive Council (GEC) has approved the "Friends of the SCV" concept which has now come to fruition. For a minimum initial donation of \$40, the "Friend" receives a nice certificate suitable for framing, a FOSCV lapel pin and a one-year subscription to the Confederate Veteran magazine. Subsequent donations of \$30 or more each year will maintain the CV subscription and friendship. Please note that "Friends" are not SCV members, may not exercise any rights of membership to include claiming to be members. The "Friends of the SCV" application may be accessed on the SCV website at this link: http://www.scv.org/pdf/FOSCV_MembershipApplication.pdf Camps which already have associate membership programs in place for their supporters who do not have Confederate ancestry are free to either participate in this program or continue their current system.

Important Notice

If you or any of your Compatriots would like to receive occasional notices and announcements from the official SCV news source, the Telegraph, please visit <http://www.scv.org/maillistSubscription.php>. The Gray Line is only being sent via email on the internet through the official SCV Telegraph! If any member of your camp would like to join the list to receive the SCV Telegraph please direct him to the link above where he can sign up for this service. He will need his SCV member number which can be found on the CV magazine address label. Please forward this Gray Line to all members of your camp as it contains useful information.

SCENES FROM CONVENTION 2009 IN GREENWOOD



Outgoing Division Commander Larry McCluney presents Pauline Watkins with the Ladies Appreciation Medal



Squeeky says, "Hurry Up this flag is heavy".



MS Division Commander McCluney and Annette McCluney



Earl says, "Boy can I pick em for dates."
Courtney says, "Papaw really knows how to show a girl a good time."



Larry points the gun at Alan and says, "Is it loaded? If so I will be the first man who has shot you in our group!"



Nathan Bedford Forrest McCaskill wants to know, "Why am I surrounded by these old dudes?"



Larry says thank you for the opportunity to serve as Commander the past two years and says his final farewell as Commander

FORT PEMBERTON . . . CONTINUED FROM THE MAY ISSUE

That much was gained. Sick and sore, the talk pulled this way and that, but in the end it was determined to put back. In the stillness before the dawn gunboats and rams and tinclads weighed anchor and steamed away, slowly, slowly up the difficult reaches of the Tallahatchie and Coldwater, back to Yazoo Pass and so out into the Mississippi. Behind them trailed the transports. At the mouth of Yazoo Pass they met with a scouting party and learned of a second expedition.

Porter, fertile in expedients, was conducting this in person. With five Eads gunboats he was winding southward by way of innumerable joined streams, — Steele's Bayou, Black Bayou, Deer Creek, Rolling Fork, finally the Sunflower which empties into the Yazoo, — while accompanying him on the land crept and mired from swamp to swamp troops of Sherman's. Infantry and Eads flotilla, they reached at last Rolling Fork, but here they met grey troops and a determined check. Infantry proved as helpless in the swamps of the Sunflower as infantry had proved in the swamps of the Tallahatchie. Moreover detached grey parties took to felling trees and crossing them in the stream behind the gunboats. Porter saw himself becoming the eel in the bottle, penned in grey toils. Nothing for it but to turn, figuratively to back out — the region being one of all the witches !

The Tallahatchie expedition, the Sunflower expedition, returned to the Father of Waters. Here, on the western bank, they found Grant, cigar in mouth, lines across brow, studying the map between Vicksburg and Port Hudson. Upon the grey side Loring waited at Fort Pemberton until his scouts brought news of the clearance of the Yazoo Valley, but he waited with only half his force, the other moiety being withdrawn to Vicksburg.

Edward Cary, marching with these troops, marched into Vicksburg on an April day, — Vicksburg indomitable; Vicksburg with a wretchedly inadequate number of picks and spades extending her lines of breastworks, forming salients, mounting batteries, digging trenches, incidentally excavating refuges — alias "rat-holes" — for her non-combatant citizens; Vicksburg extremely busy, with an air of gaiety not altogether forced! Life, nowadays, had always and everywhere a deep organ bass, but that was no reason the cymbals and castanets should not come in if they could.

That afternoon, in an encampment just below the town, he came into possession of an accumulation of mail, home letters, letters from comrades in various commands, other letters. It was a time of rest after arduous marching. All around him, on the warm spring earth, lay the men of his company. They, too, had letters and long-delayed newspapers. They read the letters first, mused over them a little, with faces wistful or happy or tragically anxious as the case might be, then turned with avidity to the papers, old though they were. A little man with a big, oratorical voice had got a Richmond Examiner of a none-too-recent date. Sitting cross-legged on a huge magnolia stump he read aloud to a ring of listeners, rolling out the items like a big bass drum.

"News from the Mississippi —" "That's us!"

"As we go to press it is reported that Grant has met at Fort Pemberton a worse repulse than did Sherman at Chickasaw Bayou, the gallant Loring and his devoted band inflicting upon the invaders a signal defeat. Thousands were slain —"

"Hm! Old Blizzard's gallant all right, and we're devoted all right, and they're invaders all right, and we certainly made them clear out of the Yazoo Valley, but somehow I did n't see those thou-sands slain! Newspapers always do exaggerate."

"That's true. Nature and education both. North and South — especially North. That New York paper, for instance, that we got from the picket at Chickasaw —"

"The one that said we tortured prisoners ?" "No. The one that said we mutilated the dead. They're all Ananiases. Go on, Borrow."

"Farragut has succeeded in running the batteries at Fort Hudson. The mouth of the Red River —" "We know all that. What're they doing in Virginia ?"

"Marse Robert and Stonewall seem to be holding south bank of Rappahannock. Fighting Joe Hooker on the other side's got some-thing up his sleeve. He and `the finest army on the planet' look like moving. The paper says Sedgwick 's tried a crossing below Fredericksburg, but that General Lee 's watching Ely and Germanna fords. Here's an account of Kelly's Ford and the death of Pelham —"

"Read that," said the men.

Continued on page 6 . . .

The Delta General

1412 N Park Dr
Greenwood, MS
38930

Camp Officers

Commander
(Adjutant) -
Dan McCaskill

1st Lt Cmdr- Charles
"Gator"Stillman

2nd Lt Cmdr-
Claude Stillman

Color Sgt -
Ralph Washington

Appointed Officers:

Editor/Webmaster -
Larry McCluney

Chaplain -
Earl McCown, Jr.

Sgt-at-Arms -
Thomas Haik



Fort Pemberton Continued from page 5 . . .

Edward left them reading, listening, and making murmured comment. At a little distance rose a copse overrun with yellow jessamine. Entering this, he sat down at the foot of a cedar and, laying by the home letters and the letters from comrades, opened one written on thin, greyish paper, in a hand slender yet bold: -

My Heart, —

I am glad that it was you who found him. O Louis, Louis, Louis I . . . I am not going to write about him. . . . I loved him, and he loved me. . . . Oh, we give, we give in this war!

I hear from my father, broken-hearted for his son, tender and loving as ever to his daughter. I hear, too, from your father — a letter to keep forever, praising you to me so nobly! And Judith Cary has written. I shall love her well, — oh, well!

Where are you this stormy night ? I sit before the fire, the gilt chair, and the magnolia strikes against the window pane, and I hear, far off, the thunder and shouting, and if I could I would stay the bullets with my hands.

The enemy is cutting the levees on this side, up and down the river. If they cut a certain one, it will be to our disaster at Cape Jessamine. The negroes grow frightened, and now every day they leave. I did not mean to tell you all this. It is nothing.

Where are you this night of rainy wind? I look into the fire which is low at this hour, and I see ranged cannon, and banners that rise and fall. And may the morning — and may the morning bring me a letter! Thine, all thine,

DÉSIRÉE GAILLARD.

A week later, having been granted the furlough for which he asked, he found himself below Natchez, bargaining with two black ferrymen to take him across the river.