



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

The Delta General

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Commander's Corner:

Dan McCasill, Camp Commander

My fellow Compatriots,

Our February Camp meeting had the lowest attendance in many years, eleven. The flu bug took a heavy toll along with a few accidents and other incidents. We did accomplish one important piece of Camp business with the adoption of the 2008 Budget. We also had the opportunity to welcome a new member to the Camp, Norman Eldridge, who lives in Cleveland and is a Postmaster at Pace, Mississippi, was recruited by Earl McCown. This brings our membership up to 56. We are still short by seven from this time last year, so everyone needs to get out and recruit members for the Camp.

New 1st Lt. Commander Gator Stillman has continued in the footsteps of Larry by lining up an outstanding speaker for the evening, Brother Dick Hill, pastor of the Glendale Baptist Church, gave an inspirational program on his ancestor's service in the Georgia Militia and expertly tied everything together in a mini-sermon. He grabbed our attention and never let it go until the end. For those who missed hearing this Southern, Christian Gentleman, you will get the chance to hear him at our Confederate Memorial Service on Sunday, April 20th at 2:00 pm at the Greenville Cemetery.

Speaking of events, our CS Marine Artillery crew will be going to Tennessee to defend our 1st place position in the Army of Tennessee "Live Cannon Shoot" on Saturday March 15th with competition starting at 10:30 am. If anyone has not seen a "Live Shoot" it's a real treat. For those interested in attending, please contact me for directions to the range.

One last thing, I am planning a work day at the Old Greenwood Cemetery to place an additional 15 headstones in the Confederate Memorial plot we have established. Anyone wishing to help place the headstones be at the Cemetery around 2:00 pm Saturday, March 29th with gloves, shovel, and water to help.

God Bless the South,
Dan McCasill, Camp Commander

Time to march on over to the Camp Meeting on Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, MS. Our speaker will be one of our own Earl McCown. His Topic will be on Civil War Field Hospitals. Hope to see you all there.



Welcome to our newest member Norman Lee Eldridge whose ancestor was George Levan Eldridge. His Great, Great Grandfather a Private in Company G, 1st MS Lt. Artillery



Editor's Comments

Please continue keeping the Palmer family in your prayers. It seems his dad, by the miracle of God, woke up and is expected to do long term care and recovery. This will be a huge change in lifestyle for Alan and his family as they make adjustments to help his dad recover.

Upcoming Events

- Live Cannon Shoot in Camden, TN - March 15
- Confederate Memeorial Service in Greenville Cemetery on April 20th
- Division Confederate Memorial Day at Beauvoir on April 26th
- May 31 - June 01, 2008 - Mississippi Division Convention at Beauvoir
- June 03, 2008 - Reopening of Beauvoir - Jefferson Davis's 200th birthday

Look > Address Changes:

If anyone in our camp has a snail mail or e-mail address change or has not been receiving their Camp Newsletter, please let Larry McCluney know calling him at 662-453-7212 or e-mail to confederate@roadrunner.com

***Disclaimer:** Editor reserves the rights to edit all material submitted and all submissions to the newsletter must be in proper format (all caps not excepted)



71st MOS&B General Convention

May 15-17 2008

Holiday Inn - Springdale, Arkansas

Order of Confederate Rose Concord, 2008 – July 16 - July 20



Registration Form

Member: _____ Lifetime Member: _____ Guest: _____

Name: _____
(Please Print your name - the way you want your nametag)

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Home: _____ Ofc: _____ Cell: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Position Held Chapter: President: _____ VP: _____ Sgct: _____ Treasurer: _____ Other: _____

Position Held State: President: _____ VP: _____ Sgct: _____ Treasurer: _____ Other: _____

Description Qty Cost Total
OCR Registration * \$25.00
Black Rose Seminar N/C N/C
Total Amount of Check \$
Please make your check payable to: NC OCR
Mail check and registration to: Suzy Hager
1033 Ashford Drive
Charlotte, NC 28214
(704) 393-2132
sz@carolina.rr.com

*Registration includes:
OCR ID Badge
Ditty Bag (first 100 to register)
OCR Welcome Reception
Thurs., July 17, 2008 from 5:00-10:00
Black Rose Mourning Seminar at n/c
Friday, July 18, 2008 @ 2:00 pm
(we need a head count)
General OCR Business Meeting/Social including
a Continental Breakfast and Guest Speaker Mrs.
Mary Anna Jackson (by Nora Brooks)

General Information for our OCR Family:

The OCR will be headquartered at the Comfort Suites Exit #49 Concord, North Carolina, (704) 979-3800 when making your reservations. The Comfort Suites have an indoor pool and fitness center and provide a full breakfast. The rooms are \$79.99 per night (be sure to tell them you are with the SCV/OCR). Restaurants in walking distance of the hotels are the Texas Roadhouse, Bob Evans, Cook-Out, Sonic Drive In and KFC/Taco Bell. There are plenty of other restaurants if you wish to drive. There is a shuttle bus to the Concord Mills Outlet all that will pick and return you to the hotel complex for \$1.00 each way and the shuttle runs hourly.

OCR Registration will be at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center and OCR registration hours will be posted. If an individual member or state society wishes to donate to the ditty bags, we are asking for your 100 items to be sent to Suzy Hager, 1033 Ashford Drive, Charlotte, NC 28214 by May 1, 2008. We want to have all "Ditty Bags" stuffed and ready for our guests at the time you register and pick up your name badges. You may either send your "Ditties" by US mail or UPS.

Tours: Will be handled by the SCV, you will need to register on the SCV Registration form.

Locations of Activities:

SCV Registration : Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

OCR Registration: Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

(Registration hours will be posted and we will be set up next to SCV Registration)

Vendors: Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

OCR Welcome Reception: Comfort Suites (Thursday, July 17, 2008 from 5:00-10:00)

Black Rose Seminar: Comfort Suites (Friday 2:00 PM)

General Business Meeting & Social Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

Our Saturday General Business Meeting & Social will be on Saturday July 19, 2008 from 8:30 -12:20 (tentatively). This will include a continental breakfast starting at 8:30 AM, with our very special guest Mrs. Mary Anna Jackson (Nora Brooks). Our time together will be fun filled, sisterly camaraderie, entertainment, and reports from the states, door prizes and maybe even a few good surprises. We are asking each state society to donate a door prize(s). If an individual member wishes to donate a door prize (s) we will welcome your thoughtfulness.

The North Carolina Society, Order of Confederate Rose, wishes to welcome all members and guests to the Order of Confederate Rose Confederation of States Societies Re-union for 2009. If you have any questions or if we may be of further assistance please email Laura Stallard, NC State President at laura21net@earthlink.net or you may telephone at (3360 993-8330).

Mississippi Division News

Katrina-hit Davis home to reopen

By Martha M. Boltz – February 16, 2008

The bicentennial observance of the birth of Confederate President Jefferson F. Davis will take place throughout this year, with the highlight being the reopening of Beauvoir, his final home, in Gulfport, Miss., on June 3.

The magnificent Southern shrine, which survived a pre-emptive strike by Hurricane Camille in 1969, was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The cost of the restoration is expected to exceed \$4.1 million for the house alone; the total restoration will run about \$20 million, and donations are still being accepted.

The reopening ceremonies will feature a keynote address by Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour.

Yesterday, Alabama was scheduled to hold one of the first celebrations of the year, on the west portico of the Alabama Capitol, where Davis was inaugurated. Bertram Hayes-Davis, great-great-grandson of the Confederate president and chairman of the bicentennial commit-

tee, was to place his hand on a Bible held by a descendant of Howell Cobb, president of the Confederate Congress under Davis.

Another event will take place on April 27 in Ridgefield, Clark County, Washington, with the dedication of Jefferson Davis Park, which will be home to the Vancouver Jefferson Davis highway marker. It was the final commemorative highway marker presented to the citizens of Washington state on June 18, 1939, marking the end point of the Jefferson Davis Highway. It originally sat near the Vancouver, Canada, line and was moved several times.

On the weekend of May 31 through June 1, the Davis Family Reunion will be held at Rosemont Plantation in Woodville, Miss., along with a re-enactment of Davis' inauguration as president of the Confederacy.

Events will be held throughout the Southern states to mark the bicentennial

of Davis' birth on June 3, 1808, in Fairview, Ky. He lived there the first few years of his life before his family moved to Wilkinson County in Mississippi. He returned to the Bluegrass State to attend Transylvania College in Lexington before receiving an appointment to West Point, graduating in 1828 at age 20. Kentucky's celebration will take place June 6 through 8 at the Davis Obelisk in Fairview. The reopening of Beauvoir will be the obvious highlight of the year's festivities. After the devastation of the hurricane, the exterior of the mansion has been rebuilt to 1852 standards, according to Mr. Hayes-Davis. It has "all of the external framing done — the windows, doors, all done to the way it was. It's a brand-new 1852 house," Mr. Hayes-Davis said recently.

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Architects and conservators came into the demolished structure and scraped down walls and frames to be able to replicate the exact colors in which it had been painted.

Amazingly, most of the original shutters were intact and could be reused with some minor repairs. The interior still will have to be redone, according to Mr. Hayes-Davis, and that is anticipated to take another two to three years. However, the restored Beauvoir is "a stronger entire house, with steel cables running from the floor and foundation up to the roof," he said. The rehabilitators used the basic floor plans of original owner James Brown to assure authenticity in the rebuilding process, and it will remain the oldest house on the Gulf Coast.

Several other buildings on the premises were destroyed and are not scheduled to be rebuilt. The presidential library, for instance, is in what is now considered the high water/flood area. An entirely new structure will be built 150 feet farther west, with 8-foot concrete piers supporting it above the ground.

Mr. Hayes-Davis said many of the furnishings and artifacts were lost in the storm's surge and winds and have yet to be replaced. Some of the furnishings were spared; with water a foot deep, they floated within the destroyed walls, and some could be salvaged.

Negotiations are under way for production of a 4½-hour documentary on Davis' life, to be released in the fall.

The nationwide events are being led by members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans along with local heritage organizations, which also have offered their support to the bicentennial effort.

Vicksburg group wants to improve military park

By LAUCLIN FIELDS – THE VICKSBURG POST

VICKSBURG -- After more than 100 years, the Vicksburg National Military Park is undoubtedly still the largest tourist attraction in the River City. But its 1,800 acres and 16-mile tour road sporting 1,300 monuments and markers are often taken for granted, said retired Air Force colonel and volunteer park guide Harry McMillin. "Where we are - this is hallowed ground," he said. McMillin is heading the Friends of the Vicksburg National Military Park and Vicksburg Campaign, a new non-profit group to raise awareness and funds to improve the park, ordained by Congress in 1899 as the fifth Civil War battlefield to be preserved.

The war had ended about 35 years earlier, but there were enough veterans and others still around to push for federal purchase of the land and creation of a sanctuary to tell the story of fighting here that ended with the city's surrender on July 4, 1863.

Since last summer, the new group has received tax-exempt status, formed a seven-member board, named McMillin executive director and developed a Web site. "We've done quite a bit to get a foundation for what our plans are," said board chairman Kim Tullos, also executive vice president and general manager of DiamondJacks Casino. "We will work with the military park and support their goals."

By becoming a friend of the park, members may adopt a monument, providing funds sufficient to maintain a particular sculpture, monument, marker or tablet. Friends may also provide different levels of giving through annual memberships, which would entitle them to receive the group's newsletter, invitations to special events and passes to the park. Those funds would go toward various park projects.

The VNMP has the largest number of monuments, tablets, statues and markers of any other Civil War battlefield. Ongoing maintenance of every monument is part of the new group's plan. "The park service does a wonderful job of maintaining what they have, but it doesn't go far enough. There enter the friends," McMillin said. "We hope to be a conduit to raise continued funds for the park to augment resources to maintain these reminders of bravery. That's what it's all about."

The goal is to collect at least \$60,000 for the park to use in the first year. Already, through corporate donations and one patron membership, the group has collected \$11,000, a portion of which has gone to start-up costs, including Web site development, brochures and filing fees to become a 501©(3) entity. Funds will help with long-term projects, such as restoration of Pemberton Headquarters on Crawford Street, now a park asset; replacing 144 metal tablets taken during World War II for the war effort and never replaced; and continued maintenance of the USS Cairo, a Union ironclad gunboat sunk by Confederate troops during the war and raised in the 1960s.

Looking for a bargain?

Life Membership in the Confederation is a bargain, especially between now and August 1. The contribution to the Confederation Life Endowment Fund is based on 25 times the annual dues. Because the annual dues are being increased effective August 1, 2008 Life Membership Contributions will increase from \$500.00 to \$750.00. Or from \$250.00 to \$375.00 if you happen be of the golden age of 65.

So if you've considered Life Membership now is the time. In addition to exempting you from paying Confederation dues you will have the pleasure of knowing you are leaving a legacy for our cause.

Want an even bigger bargain? For a \$125.00 contribution you can become a conditional life member and lock in the lower contribution of \$500.00 (or \$250.00). You will have three years to complete your life membership contribution.

Please note that Life Membership in the National Organization does not exempt a member from paying Division and Camp dues; however Life Memberships are available in the Mississippi Division.

For details and application forms for both National and Division Life Memberships click http://www.mississippiscv.org/membership.html#Life_Memberships

Announcing the Mississippi Division Memorial Service

Compatriots,

The Division Memorial Service will be at 2 PM, Saturday, April 26, in the cemetery at Beauvoir. There will be a picnic on the grounds of the cemetery.

The Memorial Committee would welcome hearing from cannoneers, riflemen, a bugler or two, someone willing to perform appropriate music, and someone who has a good sound system. (Wouldn't it be great to have

two buglers performing "echoing Taps" at the ceremony?!?)

Camps and other Heritage organizations should begin making plans now to bring down their floral tributes for placement at the soon to be renovated Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier. Of course, each Camp/organization should have someone on hand to take their tribute from the staging area to the Tomb

during the actual procession of floral tributes.

Please contact Wallace Mason at MasonSPC@aol.com if you are interested in participating. Let's make this Confederate Memorial Day at Beauvoir (just prior to the Grand Re-Opening of that wonderful house) the best ever!

-- Jim Huffman,
Division Memorial Committee

Does Thomas Hinds Rest Here? by Princella Wilkerson Nowell – March 2, 2008

While working on a project I came across the name Thomas and Augusta Hinds in the index of deeds for Township 18 Range 6. At first I wasn't sure it would be the same Thomas Hinds who lost the famous Plum Ridge Plantation the on the southeast edge of today's Greenville. After investigation I am sure they are the same.

Thomas Hinds was the grandson of General Thomas Hinds for whom Hinds County is named. His father was Cameron Howell Hinds who owned land in Jefferson and Washington Counties. Cameron sent his son Thomas to open up his Yazoo Delta holdings at an early date. Along with him were several slaves among them the young Holt Collier. The parallel story of Holt Collier, famous bear hunter in later life, and the Hinds family is well documented in Minor Buchanan Book *Holt Collier: His life, His Roosevelt Hunts and the Origins of the Teddy Bear*.

Through his biography of Holt Collier, Buchanan spans the history of Washington County, Mississippi, from early plantation times, through the War Between the States, Reconstruction, and on through the turn of the twentieth century. The well-researched book preserves local history and transports its readers to a real time and place in a land whose history has dimmed.

National SCV News

Beauvoir to Reopen on Jefferson Davis' 200th Birthday

It hasn't been easy getting people excited about celebrating the 200th birthday of that tall, gaunt, bearded, Kentucky-bred president who was born in a log cabin and went on to lead his people through a bloody civil war. No, not Abraham Lincoln. Last week, President Bush himself helped kick off a two-year celebration of the Great Emancipator's Feb. 12, 2009, bicentennial that will include dozens of events in Kentucky, Illinois, Washington and beyond. It's that other tall, log cabin-born Kentuckian, Jefferson Davis, whose 200th has turned out to be something of a lost cause. "The response to date has been timid," acknowledges Bertram Hayes-Davis, head of the Davis Family Association and great-great grandson of the only president of the short-lived Confederate States of America. "Nobody has said no. Many haven't said yes." Because Davis was a former secretary of war, Hayes-Davis wrote to the Department of Defense to see if it was interested in participating in some activity "to educate the public about the real Jefferson Davis." The agency didn't even reply.

Even Mississippi, the state where Davis made his plantation fortune and to which he retired after the war, gave the idea of commemorating Davis a lukewarm reception. A bill to establish a commission "for the purpose of organizing and planning a celebration in recognition of Jefferson Davis' 200th birthday" easily passed the House, only to die in the Senate appropriations committee.

Oh, there will be a "Miss Confederacy" crowned during the June 7-8 festival at the Jefferson Davis State Historic Site in Fairview, Ky., where a 351-foot concrete obelisk stands near the site of Davis' cabin birthplace. But that's an annual event.

The Davis Family Association is holding its reunion May 31 through June 1 at the Rosemont Plantation, Davis' childhood home in Woodville, Miss. And on June 3, Davis' actual birthdate, the family will gather in Biloxi for the rededication of Beauvoir House, the hip-roofed, Gulf-front mansion where Davis spent the last 12 years of his life and which was nearly swept away by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Last week, Hayes-Davis stood on the Corinthian-columned portico of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery to re-enact the inaugural ceremony with which his ancestor formally severed the Southern states from the federal government he felt had been "perverted from the purposes for which it was ordained." Taking his place on a six-pointed brass star marker alongside the great-great grandson of Howell Cobb, president of the Provisional Confederate Congress, Hayes-Davis placed his right hand on the Alabama State Bible used in the original swearing-in 147 years earlier. Hayes-Davis did not recite the oath, but simply kissed the Bible as his ancestor did, turned to the crowd and said: "So help me God."

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But the calendar of events on <http://jeffersondavisbicentennial.org> is, well, a bit anemic - especially compared to the hoopla surrounding the 16th president. That's to be expected, says William J. Cooper, a professor of history at Louisiana State University and author of "Jefferson Davis, American." Lincoln "saved the Union. He emancipated the slaves. I mean, he won the war," Cooper says. "Fighting against Lincoln is, you know, fighting against motherhood."

For the most part, if Davis is mentioned at all this year outside the classroom or a Southern museum exhibit, it will be in the context of symposia like "The Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis," a scholarly discussion being hosted this June by the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, at which Cooper is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

The Davis family thinks it's a shame that all most people know about him was that he fought to preserve slavery.

"It's as if he created the entire institution and was solely responsible for it," says Hayes-Davis, a 59-year-old banker from Colorado Springs, Colo. "And we struggle with that." Most people don't know that Davis was a West Point graduate who fought in the Mexican War under Zachary Taylor and married the future president's daughter, Hayes-Davis says. As a U.S. senator from Mississippi, he had a hand in building the Smithsonian Institution. He bolstered the nation's defenses as secretary of war under President Franklin Pierce. "The history books, which are basically written in New York and Boston and whatever, have one sentence: 'Jefferson Davis elected president of the Confederacy,'" his descendant complains.

Historian James M. McPherson concedes that Davis' antebellum career was "very illustrious." But he says his achievements as a soldier, senator and secretary of war were "largely eclipsed" by his role in setting the stage for and then waging the bloodiest war in this nation's history. Davis, who disparagingly referred to his fellow Kentuckian as "His Majesty Abraham the First," was what McPherson calls a "bitter-ender." When Lincoln allowed a journalist and a minister through Union lines in July 1864 under a flag of truce to offer peace and amnesty to Davis, the Confederate president was outraged. "Amnesty, Sir, applies to criminals," he told the envoys. "We have committed no crime. At your door lies all the misery and crime of this war ... We are fighting for Independence - and that, or extermination, we will have ... You may emancipate every Negro in the Confederacy, but we will be free. We will govern ourselves ... if we have to see every Southern plantation sacked, and every Southern city in flames."

McPherson, a Lincoln biographer who won the Pulitzer Prize for his Civil War epic, "Battle Cry of Freedom," says some former Confederates, like Gen. Robert E. Lee, are palatable to modern Americans. "Because Lee not only emerged as the foremost icon and hero of the Civil War in the South, I think he also emerged in the postwar North and is seen even today as somebody with more admirable qualities than Jefferson Davis," he says. Davis comes across, McPherson says, as an "unreconstructed rebel who never really accepted with anything like good grace the defeat of the Confederacy and continued for the rest of his life to write and speak in a way that basically said, 'We were right. We lost this war, not because we were wrong, but because the enemy was more powerful and more ruthless.'"

Indeed, the last paragraph of Davis's two-volume "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government" - penned at Beauvoir and often called "the Bible of the Lost Cause" - can hardly be seen as an apology. "In asserting the right of secession," Davis wrote, "it has not been my wish to incite to its exercise: I recognize the fact that the war showed it to be impracticable, but this did not prove it to be wrong; and, now that it may not be again attempted, and that the Union may promote the general welfare, it is needful that the truth, the whole truth, should be known, so that crimination and recrimination may for ever cease, and then, on the basis of fraternity and faithful regard for the rights of the States, there may be written on the arch of the Union, *Esto perpetua*." Translation: "May it persevere."

Hayes-Davis says his ancestor is a victim of political correctness and of people's insistence on looking at historical events from today's perspective. He believes, as Davis did, that the Southern states had a constitutional right to secede. When asked if he thinks secession is viable or legal today, he is noncommittal. "I think the issue is not so much the country splitting. I think the issue is federal control over the states. And I think that you see that even today, when federal mandates come from Washington that, 'You will do this, whether you want to or not...,'" says Hayes-Davis, who has represented Davis' family at more than 100 functions over the years.

As for events this year in connection with the bicentennial, biographer Cooper says he has no problem with descendants re-enacting Davis' inauguration and the like. "The Civil War is the central event in our nation's history, and Davis had a critical part to play in that," Cooper says. "And not to study it makes no sense to me." Just as long, he adds, as commemoration does not become celebration.

***SCV in the Know* – News from the GEC Meeting**

The General Executive Council met today at Elm Springs, the SCV's beautiful antebellum headquarters. A few items from that meeting:

- Deadline set for printing constitutional amendments in Confederate Veteran: April 1st is the latest that headquarters can receive proposed amendments to the constitution in order to have them printed in the Confederate Veteran.
- Our Affinity card program (SCV Visa Card) is ending, and the issuing

bank is refusing to continue with the agreement as it has been. A search for a new card issuer was authorized.

- The Friends of the SCV program certificate design was presented, and the minimum initial contribution requirement set at \$40 (and \$30 annual for ongoing). This is a program to recognize non-member supporters (they receive the Confederate Veteran and a nice certificate).
- A sesquicentennial SCV logo was adopted that will be used on decals

and pins.

- \$6,000 was authorized to pursue a Foundation Search Database Program. This will allow the SCV to pursue foundation grants for the many projects that are proposed each year. The SCV spends tens of thousands and more each year supporting historical and memorial projects, but there are always more. It is hoped this program will allow us to tap into much larger financial resources.

- A total of \$49,000 was voted from designated funds to support four projects: Confederate Memorial Park in Maryland, Trail Markers in Missouri, CSS Neuse II in North Carolina, and the Confederate Museum in Greenville, South Carolina.
- Concepts for the future development of the Elm Springs property were presented by the Elm Springs Task Force.
- The Public Relations/Media committee presented a number of areas of outreach, including www.confederateheritagemonth.com, which shows anyone how to get government proclamations for Confederate Heritage Month, and multimedia projects that will shortly be released on the internet on an SCV Video site (think Confederate YouTube).
- The GEC recommended the report of the Time & Place committee that the 2011 reunion be held in Montgomery, Alabama. \$3,000 was voted from Heritage Defense funds to erect a large battle flag near a busy U.S. highway (that it slated to become an interstate), near Uniontown, Tennessee.

These are just a few highlights; for more details, contact your department commander or councilman.

A Failed Attack on Fort Pemberton – 24 February - 5 April 1863

The Yazoo Pass Expedition occurred in Mississippi during February and March 1863, as part of an effort by General Grant to capture Vicksburg. The plan was for a joint Army-Navy force to go through the Yazoo Pass, about 300 miles north of Vicksburg, and proceed via the Coldwater, Tallahatchie, and Yazoo Rivers to reach high ground east of Vicksburg. The Navy provided two iron-clads, six tin-clads, and two rams, which were joined by a division of 4,000 men under the command of General L.F. Ross.

The expedition cleared the Coldwater River on 6 March, and reached the junction of the Tallahatchie and Yazoo Rivers on the 10th. Here the Confederates had constructed Fort Pemberton, and sunk the *Star of the West* in the river channel as an obstruction. The fortifications were composed of seven tiers of cotton bales and eight feet of earth outside, with several heavy guns. *Chillicothe* and *Baron DeKalb*, with the other ships of the Yazoo Pass Expedition behind, engaged Fort Pemberton. However, the river was so narrow that only two gunboats could attack at any one time and the area around the fort was so waterlogged that troops could not be landed. The expedition ultimately had to retire without achieving its purpose.

With the fleet tied up at the nearby Curtis Plantation, the 46th Indiana was sent out on reconnaissance. They soon encountered Rebel pickets, and skirmished in the woods briefly before the Confederates began retreating to the safety of their fort. The 28th Wisconsin was ordered down the right bank of the river in support of the 46th Indiana. The iron-clad *Chillicothe* steamed down into view of the fort and began lobbing 11-inch shells.

Ultimately, the Federal Naval guns were unable to inflict much damage on the fort, and the infantry found little firm ground on which to mount an attack. The expedition withdrew on 5 April, leaving its mission incomplete. This was one of the 28th Regiment's first combat situations during the Civil War. The story is told by members of the 28th Regiment, as recorded in their diaries and letters.

The following soldiers have been quoted for this story: Capt. Thomas N. Stevens, Co. C; Capt. Elihu Enos, Co. G; Sergt. Lauren Barker, Co. A; Sergt. George Sawyer Co. A; Cpl. Charles H. Wildish, Co. A

Capt. Enos: (*aboard steamer St. Louis*) During the day we passed many splendid plantations, most of them deserted by the white people, and left in the sole possession of the 'colored' population, who greeted us with every demonstration they could think of--waving of hats and handkerchiefs, jumping up and down, clapping of hands, shouting, &c.-- In some instances there were the whole black populations of a plantation standing upon the bank, with their bundles, a mule or two, a bale of cotton which they had succeeded in saving from the rebels ...

Capt. Stevens: We landed yesterday two miles above here, and marched down here about 3 P.M. The gunboats were one or two of them in advance. While we were marching down, one of the gunboats opened on the Rebel battery, which almost immediately replied, and here we had our first sight & heard the first sounds of real war.... The first shot fell just at my left and opposite the head of my company, as we were marching down the river bank, striking the water about 4 rods from me. The next passed just over our heads. The third struck a tree in front, bringing down some dead limbs about Col. Lewis' horse's heels.

Sgt. Barker: ...we marched into the woods toward the fort with our drum corps playing a lively tune and the Rebel shell screaming over our heads. We had not gone far into the woods when the enemy got range on us by the sound of the music and sent a sixty-four pound shot that lodged in a large oak tree just in front of the regiment, and I often think how many lives that tree saved for us.

Sgt. Sawyer: Shortly, the second gun was fired, and again another and another, until someone suggested to the Colonel that it would be proper for our regiment to file right into line of battle and thus relieve ourselves from the dangerous exposure of marching into the face of the enemy by columns of fours. At the same time a request was made that the band cease playing. That scene was quite novel, that a regiment should march up before the enemy in columns of fours, as much to say, we desire to give you all notice possible that we are coming. We soon learned by experience that this was not considered good military tactics.

Capt. Stevens: One of our gunboats met with quite an accident, & hauled off. They were loading, when a shell struck the shell they were putting in when they both exploded, killing one man and wounding 18. Three have since died. This was all there was of the engagement. Our regiment was out on picket all night, and are yet. We are to be relieved at 11 o'clock today.

Capt. Enos: This morning, while standing at this battery, (which is within 500 yards of the rebel fort) in company with Gen. Rose, Salomon and Fisk, the enemy fired two guns at us. The balls made merry music among the limbs of the trees over our heads, and sent us all back to the rear in 'double quick time', I assure you.

Sgt. Barker: Several days were spent skirmishing and getting ready to take the fort. A council of officers was held and it was decided that the two gunboats, *Chillicothe* and *Baron De Kalb*, with the land battery we had made, could silence the guns in Fort Pemberton, and then a good storming party could capture the fort. Five companies of the 28th were chosen for this duty, and they

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The Delta General
1412 North Park Drive
Greenwood, MS 38930



We're on the Web!
www.humphreys1625.com

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went on board the gunboat *Signal* while the other boats opened fire on the fort, but two guns of the *Chillicothe* were soon disabled, so that they all withdrew, and the 28th was saved from slaughter.

Sgt. Sawyer: After several days skirmishing as well as firing on the part of our line of batteries and gunboats we deemed it impossible for us to capture Fort Pemberton in our front. Orders were issued for the return of the entire command to Helena (Arkansas).

Cpl. Wildish: We start early this morning and run pretty fast all day. About noon come to a halt, turn around, and go back again down the river. This goes rather against the grain with most of us.

Sgt. Sawyer: On going back up the Tallahatchie we met Gen. Quinby coming down with re-enforcements, also with orders for us to return and make a second attack on the enemy.... all of which we did, going through the same maneuvers that we did before.

Cpl. Wildish: Quinby's brigade has joined us. We arrived at our old camping ground at about 2 o'clock today. Our regiment is gone out on picket. Cos. A and B are left behind. It begins to rain. Our cavalry boys brought in fourteen rebel prisoners. Went to see them. These are the first secesh I have seen.

Capt. Stevens: Still we are here in our old position, getting ready for the siege of the fort...our forces are getting siege guns mounted, making reconnoissances &c. We are kept pretty busy with picket and other duties. The Rebels continue to fire at us as we are at work on the fortifications. Shot & shell reach us there quite profusely at times, though they usually fire only once in every half hour or so, except they discover some party of men moving in that vicinity, when they fire oftener.

Cpl. Wildish: Bake some cakes today. Wonder what mother would think to see me mixing up dough. The boys are all busy cooking up their flour this forenoon. We don't make very much progress in the way of taking the fort. We read in the papers today that we are clear down to Yazoo City. So much for the papers.

Cpl. Wildish: Today we make a raid out into the country. We go onto the boat, went up the river ten miles, then marched ten more out to McNutt, the county seat of some county. We took twelve prisoners and as many horses.

Sgt. Sawyer: A small portion of our regiment went out on a scout one afternoon to a little town called McNutt and captured some Confederate mail.

Capt. Stevens: As I had anticipated we were ordered on board the boats Saturday evening, and at daylight... our pickets were called in, and we left for Helena - or somewhere else. I think the Rebels could have been captured if a persistent effort had been made to do it, but it may be as well as it is. We have left something like a dozen dead upon the banks of the Tallahatchie... other regiments have probably lost as many in proportion.