

der Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

The Delta General

March, 2014 Volume 17, Issue 3 Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Camp Meeting – March 6

April 1-30 Confederate History Month. Visit MississippiSCV.org for events throughout the state.

June 6-8, 2014 2014 Division Reunion,hosted by Col. W.P. Rogers #321; Corinth, Miss.

July 10-13, MOS&B National convention in Charleston, SC

July 16-19 2014 National Reunion, hosted by the 10th Brigade, South Carolina Division; North Charleston, S.C. http://www.scv2014.org/



<u>Commander's Message – Joe Nokes</u> Friends and Compatriots, Our March camp meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 6. I began with this announcement for two reasons: to remind everyone of

on Thursday, March 6. I began with this announcement for two reasons: to remind everyone of meeting time and to urge you all to attend the meeting. The Executive Council met since the Lee Jackson Banquet. At the upcoming March meeting, the camp's budget and some other items will be submitted for camp approval (your approval). It is time for your voice to be heard, if you choose. Also, we will be making some other announcements and also some appointments. I do not want to disclose them all, so in order to find out firsthand, you need to attend.

With the "business" part of this out of the way, I would like to turn my attention to other matters. Just the other day, I was reading about soldiers in the Army of the Tennessee and the wide variety contained therein. There were soldiers from all of the Deep South states, as well as the Trans-Mississippi, and even some troops from the Carolinas. These men included in their ranks wealthy planters and businessmen from New Orleans and Mobile, boatmen from the banks of the Mississippi and Tennessee rivers, and poor farmers from the backwoods of every state mentioned. Some were well-educated; some had little or no education. They suffered through endless toils and did all they humanly could in the name of the Cause.

That variety made me think about the members of the SCV and our Camp in particular. The Humphreys camp has a variety of members. Our camp members hail from all over Mississippi, and from as far away as Wisconsin and Virginia. We have doctors, medical personnel, firemen, educators, businessmen, farmers, and all types among our membership. We all have unique backgrounds, bases of knowledge, and skills. Yet we too have a common bond with one another: the desire to honor our ancestors in the best way possible. And yes, we often suffer through seemingly endless toils in the name of the Cause.

But my friends, together, we do make a difference. And we will continue to make a difference. With every event that we sponsor, attend, or support in any way, we keep the names of those brave men alive; we honor their struggles and hardships.

Keep up the good work. Deo Vindice!!! Joe Nokes

Camp News:

Ella Palmer, OCR Report

Welcome Ryan Payne Mitchell as our newest OCR member and congratulations to her on wedding this month. Ladies we need to start planning for our Confederate Memorial Service in Greenville, this coming April.

We will have Roast Beef Sandwiches at our March meeting you are encouraged to bring side items (Chips, drinks, snacks) the OCR will provide the rest.

Just a reminder, anyone who has not renewed their dues, should do so at this meeting.

Sandra Stillman, President Ella Palmer Chapter, OCR

Lt. Commander's Report - Richard Dillon

Speaker for March will be Bert King. Bert is the Hattiesburg Camp Commander and is the leader of the Mechanized Cavalry in our state. His presentation will be on Photography During the War of Northern Aggression. He will have just returned from the Annual Mech Cav Officers Call and, of course he will update us with all of the news from that meeting.

Our April speaker will Brother James Taylor. We never know what to expect from Brother Taylor, but I'm certain his presentation will be entertaining, motivational, and inspirational. I always leave his program feeling better about myself.

Adjutant's Report for February, 2013 – Dan McCaskill

There is fno Adjutant's Report for the month of February since there was no meeting held that month. Instead of a February meeting we had our Lee/Jackson Banquet at the end of January.



The Delta General – March 2014 Page1

Mechanized Cavalry Report

I wish to welcome Dan McCaskill to the Mississippi NW Squad, Mech Cav as our newest member and first dismounted member. I encourage all camp members to consider becoming a part of the Mechanized Cavalry. Wearing our vests makes us the most visible and recognizable representatives of the SCV.

Captain Bert would like to meet with all Mech Cav members at the Indianola McDonalds, 5:45 pm just prior to our meeting. Please make every effort to attend bot the camp meeting and the Mech Cav meeting to show our appreciation for Captain Bert's efforts and support.

Richard Dillon

Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter, MOS&B

News From the Military Order of the Stars and Bars



IMPORTANT: Don't forget the annual convention in Charleston, South Carolina, Thursday, July 10th to Saturday, July 12th. Headquarters will be Doubletree Hilton at 181 Church Street in the heart of the Historic District. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Suites Charleston - Historic District

181 Church Street, Charleston, South Carolina, 29401, USATEL: 1-843-577-2644 (Give code of "MOSB" when making your reservation to receive the special rate of \$159/night)

Mississippi Division News: Mississippi state flag again making headlines

Residents voted in 2001 to keep flag as-is

JACKSON, Miss. - It's been 10 years since the Mississippi state flag made headlines, but it's at the forefront of the news again. In April 2001, Mississippi voters flooded polling booths to decide if the flag with the Confederate emblem needed a new look. In August 2012, the Southeastern Conference said Mississippi's flag could be a problem for bringing baseball tournaments to the state.

Craig Mattox, the SEC's assistant commissioner of championships, said then that the emblem "would not be a 100 percent deal breaker" but it would be one of several factors considered.

Now, in 2014, a California Bar association sent a letter urging an Orange County city

to remove the flag from its civic center, where flags from every other state fly. The letter claimed the Confederate symbol is linked to a legacy or racism, oppression and violence. "I know what the flag means and it doesn't mean what they say it means," said Chuck Bond, the chief of staff for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "They can say

that. There are people that think that. But that's not what the flag was put there for, or in my opinion, what it should represent. Gov. Phil Bryant responded to the contro-versy in an interview with 16 WAPT News. "The people of this state spoke to that. I was surprised by a group of people from California that have such huge debt and real problems within their state, and they're worried about the Mississippi state flag," Bryant said.

In 2001, 65 percent of voters said they wanted to keep the state flag the way it is. "The Confederate symbol, it may be the history of (the state), but you have people riding around with Confederate flags and using it in a hateful way, and that's the image that they've given the flag," said Jackson resident Greg Anderson.

State Rep. Kenny Wayne Jones, D-Canton, said it's not just an image issue, it's an economic one. "It has such an ugly history behind it," Jones said. He said he believes the state is losing jobs and business because of the flag. "We're not competitive. It's not selling itself," Jones said. "This gives the wrong impression. Big business, they wouldn't want to come."

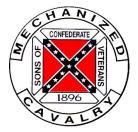
"There's a lot of other things that need to be changed in Mississippi before the flag -- just to help us economically," Bond said. Bond said the current flag is a piece of Mississippi history, but in Jackson, Convention Complex leaders admit they've had some people shy away from the state flag. "In advance of the event, they've asked that we only set the American flag, or if they get here and see both flags on the stage, they would ask that we take the state flag off and only set the American flag prominently," said Kelvin Moore, of the Jackson Convention Complex.

On the Internet, one is likely to find images of revamped state flags. One Pinterest account claims "Mississippi will probably have to revise the flag soon." So, the creator says he's putting his design in the public eye now. "I think in the process of Mississippi trying to heal and sell itself to become the state that we can, this needs to go," Jones said. "I don't make any beefs about it -- this needs to go."

Bryant calls the flag flap ancient history. He said the state is doing just fine without changing its long held traditions. "If you look at it again, where this state is moving forward, and how fast we're growing in our economy, it doesn't seem to have been slowing us down. I don't think it will. I think other states need to worry about their problems and let us grow," Bryant said.

Mississippi National Guard Zabul, Afghanistan





2014 MS Division, SCV Reunion in Corinth, MS June 6-8 2014 - Information

Compatriots!

The Colonel William P. Rogers Camp is honored to host the 2014 State Convention. The following is some additional information that may be helpful to you. The registration forms are available at this site - battleofcorinth.com.

• Motels - Headquarters Motel – Holiday Inn Express is located at the junction of Routes 45 & 72, the Hampton Inn is across the street. The SCV rate of \$89 a night is good if rooms are booked before May 23, 2014. The price is the same at both motels.

Historical Tours:

1. We are offering an early bird tour of the Davis Bridge Battlefield on Friday June 6, at 1:00 pm. The tour will be led by NPS Ranger Tom Parson the leading expert on the battle. This is a pristine site that is seldom seen by visitors. A real treat!

2. On Saturday afternoon we will offer a bus tour of the many battlefield sites in Corinth- (Limited to 55 persons). A driving/walking tour will also be available for those who want to do it on their own.

We do need to know the number of persons wanting to go on these tours so we can provide guides and buses so please indicate your interest on the Registration Form.

- 3. On Sunday we recommend a tour of nearby Shiloh and the Brice's Crossroads Battlefields.
- For the Ladies: Corinth has a number of very interesting shops with many different choices. On Saturday morning from 8:00 am to approximately 3:00 pm there will be Corinth's monthly "Green Market" where local persons sell their Arts and Crafts and homemade items like jellies, pickles, baked goods, clothes, and jewelry. No trip to Corinth would be complete without a trip to Borroum's Drugstore (opened in 1865) for an old fashion ice cream treat and a "Slugburger." Directions will be provided.
- Friday Evening Reception: Our Friday night opening reception will be held at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center. It is a wonderful building on the Corinth Battlefield with great exhibits on the Battle of Shiloh and the Battle of Corinth. We look forward to having you in Corinth where history comes alive!

Registration on page 5

10th Annual White-Johnston (4th Brigade) Picnic

The Jefferson Davis Camp 1862 and The Lowry Rifles 1740 will Co-Host the 10th Annual White - Johnston 4th Brigade Picnic. They are inviting all friends and members to attend. It will be held at the Historic American Legion Post 89. Date 03-22-2014 at Decatur, Mississippi 39327, start time 10.30 am. gps. 14051 hwy 15 south. Our Key Note speaker will Bert King Captain of Mechanize Calvary, Mississippi and Commander of the Hattiesburg Camp -1353. The 4th Brigade meeting will begin at 1.30pm. Any Questions feel free to contact 4th Brigade Commander Marc Allen <u>4thbdgeccmsdiv@gmail.com</u> or Louis P. Foley msltscvcommander @gmail.com or communications specialist, Bill Hinson -<u>bhlh872aol.com</u>. Pot luck will the order of the day. Eating utensils will be furnished. If you are Southern be there.

National SCV News:

National Reunion in Charleston, SC

Editor's Note: If you plan to attend the Reunion in Charleston, SC in 2014, then you need to at least reserve a room at the Embassy Suites as soon as

you can. I reserved my room on July 24 and the impression they gave me was they were going quick. But never fear, if you cannot get a room there, or if you want something within your budget, go to <u>http://www.scv2014.org</u> and see what they offer. Early registration form for the Reuion is offered on the next page. As of the October GEC meeting, the Reunion Committee reported that all rooms at the Embassy Suite in North Charleston are sold out. If you plan to attend the reunion, you must use alternative motels that are provided for reservations.

Registration on page 6



Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence Articles: Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid

During the first half of March the regiment took part in Kilpatrick's famous raid against Richmond. The objects of this were the liberation of the Union prisoners in that city; the destruction of mills and army stores in Richmond; the capture of the reserve artillery at Frederick's Hall Station, on the Virginia Central railroad, and the distribution of President Lincoln's amnesty proclamation. Kilpatrick started with 4,000 mounted men, February 28th, at sundown, after a demonstration on Lee's left had been made by Custer to distract the enemy's attention. The First Vermont mounted that evening with three days' rations and one day's corn for the horses. The young and daring Colonel Dahlgren, who was Kilpatrick's second in this enterprise, started on in advance with a body of 500 men, comprising detachments from the First Vermont, Second and Fifth New York, First Maine and Fifth Michigan cavalry. The Vermont detachment consisted of a hundred men under Lieutenants Hall and Williamson. Dahlgren crossed the river at Ely's Ford, capturing a lieutenant and 14 men on picket at that point, and thus securing a safe passage for the main body. He proceeded thence rapidly in a southeasterly direction around the right of the Confederate army, and hurried on without halting until ten A. M., when the men stopped near Spottsylvania Court House to feed the horses. Then diverging from the route to be followed by the main body, he pushed on to the southwest by way of Fredericks Hall to the James river. The main column, going almost due south, marched steadily until five P. M., when it arrived at Beaver Dam Station. Here Kilpatrick remained until dark, destroying the railroad property and tearing up the tracks in both directions. Then starting again, in a heavy rain, he crossed the South Anna in the morning of March 1st, and shortly after noon crossed the south branch of the Chickahominy and halted before the fortifications of Richmond on the Brook turnpike, three and a half miles north of the city. A detachment had been sent to de

Raid continued from page 3 . . .

with artillery, and after a slight skirmish the detachment withdrew. That evening Kilpatrick proposed to Preston to take his regiment, with a few other picked men, and to make a dash into Richmond in the early twilight of the next morning and break open the doors of Libby Prison. Preston accepted the desperate undertaking, and spent most of the night in arranging for it; but before he started, such information in regard to the strength of the enemy's infantry in the works was received by Kilpatrick, that he abandoned the enterprise. .If any man in the command could have accomplished the task it was Preston.

Hearing nothing from Dahlgren, and judging the capture of Richmond to be impossible, Kilpatrick decided to move around the city and join General Butler at Yorktown. At four A. M., the column started, and after destroying two miles of the Fredericksburg railroad, moved on to Mechanicsville, six miles from Richmond. Here, after destroying the depot building and cutting the track, the men got an hour's rest. At 10:30 P. M., the enemy began to shell the camp, and soon after the pickets were driven in and an attack was made on the part of the line held by the Seventh Michigan. This was easily repulsed, the Vermonters taking a part which entitled them to place this skirmish on the list of their engagements. The division then moved off to the east, and at three A. M. the men went into bivouac, and slept until nine. At that hour the Vermont cavalry was sent back to the relief of the rear guard, which had been attacked by a mounted force at Piping Tree. Here the regiment, under Preston, had a skirmish which constituted almost its only serious fighting during the raid. In this two men were wounded and three or four horses were killed. The enemy was soon dispersed, and after waiting half an hour for a renewal of the attack, the rear guard followed the column, which had moved in the direction of White House. Leaving White House on his left Kilpatrick proceeded to Tunstall's Station. Near here what was left of Dahlgren's' command overtook and joined the main body. Dahlgren had arrived at Fredericks Hall Station, where Lee's reserve artillery was parked at three P. M. on the 29th. Had he been there a little sooner he might have captured Lee, who had just passed over the road on his way back to his army, after a short visit to Richmond. Dahlgren found the artillery strongly guarded by an infantry brigade and did not dare to attempt its capture. Withdrawing from that dangerous locality after tearing up the railroad for a mile from Fredericks Hall, he resumed his march. The rain fell in torrents, rendering the roads almost impassable. Men and horses were suffering for food and rest. Moreover, Dahlgren was led astray by a guide, who through treachery or stupidity, guided him to Goochland, representing that the river was fordable at Dover Mills. No ford was found, and the false guide was hanged. An attack upon Richmond from the south side of the river being thus impossible, Dahlgren determined to try to enter the city from the north side. On his way thither he burned the flour-mills and saw-mills, the boats and locks of the canal and the iron works at Mannakin, with the barns of Confederate Secretary of State Seddon, on whose farm the command encamped. Hearing that General Wise was on his farm near by, a detachment was sent to capture hi, but he had fled. Dahlgren then proceeded down the Westham road, and about four miles from the city had a skirmish with the enemy's pickets and pursued them inside the outer lines of their fortifications. At the second line the enemy rallied in considerable force under cover of a wood. Skirmishers were deployed, who flanked the enemy and by successive charges, led by Colonel Dahlgren and Major Cook, the hostile infantry, comprising the Richmond City battalion, were driven across the fields nearly to the city. It was now dark and the city gas lights cold plainly be seen. But here a large force was encountered whose longer line it was impossible for Dahlgren's small force to turn. He accordingly decided to withdraw and seek the main column. On this march, the main body of Dahlgren's men, in which was the Vermont detachment, became separated from colonel Dahlgren, who fell into an ambush and met his death soon after. The larger body pushed on to the east and joined Kilpatrick at Tunstall's Station.

"No one," says Major Merritt of the Fifth New York, "engaged in that night's march, will ever forget its difficulties. The storm had set in with renewed fury. The fierce wind drove the rain, snow and sleet. The darkness was rendered more intense by the thick pines that overgrew the road and dashed into our faces almost an avalanche of water at every step. Being on unfrequented wood roads, we were halted frequently to remove trees fallen across the path, and to trace the course with our hands, for even the sagacity of the horses was often at fault. Tired and exhausted, the men fell asleep on their horses. It became necessary to march by file, and at every turn of the path to pass the word to turn to the right or keep to the left of the tree. It was utterly impossible to see a yard in advance. Slowly and laboriously we thus toiled through to Hungary Station."

At eight A. M. of the 3d, the entire command resumed the march, the First Vermont acting as rear guard. That night it bivouacked within twelve miles of Williamsburg, and reached Yorktown March 4th. Here the entire force remained a week resting. On the 11th the First Vermont embarked for Alexandria; arrived there on the 13th; moving thence marched by way of Fairfax Court House on the 16th to Warrenton Junction; and arrived in camp at Stevensburg on the 18th. The loss of the regiment in this expedition was 12 wounded, seven of whom were captured, and 59 missing, most of whom were lost in the night marches.

For the next two weeks the regiment remained at Stevensburg, picketing the line of the Rapidan, and in camp near Grove Church. On the return from Richmond, the Seventh Michigan being without field officers, its lieutenant colonel having been captured, Major Wells was detached from the regiment, and commanded the Seventh Michigan for the month following.

The month of April brought great changes in the organization of the Cavalry Corps. One of General Grant's first measures as Commander in Chief was to relieve General Pleasonton and give the command of the corps to Brigadier General Philip Henry Sheridan. Aware that he had been an infantry division commander, the cavalry looked hard at him at first; but it was not long before they all owned that Grant knew his man, and that the man was equal to the place. Of the three division commanders of the corps but one now remained. The gallant Buford was dead and was replaced by Brigadier General Torbert, who had previously commanded a New Jersey infantry brigade. General Gregg retained the Second division. Kilpatrick was sent to join Sherman in the west, and the command of the Third division, to which the Vermont cavalry belonged was given to Brigadier General James H. Wilson, who had been recently taken from staff duty. The brigades were re-arranged. Custer's brigade was transferred to the First division, and the First Vermont with it. This arrangement , however, only last for eight days, and as finally arranged the Vermont cavalry became the first regiment of the Second brigade of the Third division, the other regiments brigaded with it being the Eighth New York,, Third Indiana and Eighth Illinois. The brigade commander was Colonel George H. Chapman of the Third Indiana. April 28th, Colonel Sawyer resigned, and the command of the regiment devolved on Lieut. colonel Preston, to whom this was no new responsibility. He was at once promoted to the colonelcy; but he did not live to see his commission.

At this time the regiment lost Assistant Surgeon Edson, whose professional skill, high spirit, and fidelity had been of the greatest service, by his promotion to the surgeoncy of the Seventeenth Vermont. He was succeeded by Dr. Edward B. Nims of Burlington.

The period of arduous service now about to open with the opening of Grant's overland campaign, was preceded by a review of the division, on the 3d of May, by General Wilson. That night at midnight the men were aroused by marching orders, and two hours later they were on their way to Germanna Ford, where they crossed with the division without much opposition. It was Wilson's duty to lead the way for the Fifth Corps, and when that corps arrived at the ford, he moved on nearly to the Old Wilderness Tavern and thence across the fields to the Orange Plank Road, and along this to Parker's store, where the division bivouacked. The regiment reached Parker's store at three P. M. A battalion was sent out on the road under Major Bennett, went several miles and had a slight skirmish with a party of the enemy, and returned at dark.

Source: George G. Benedict, "Vermont in the Civil War, 1861-5," (Free Press Association, Burlington, 1888), pp. 627-33.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM 119 TH REUNION – MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS AND 20 TH REUNION – MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY, ORDER OF CONFEDERATE ROSE Corinth, Mississippi – June 6-8, 2014 Hosted by the Colonel William P. Rogers Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #321				
SCV MEMBER'S NAME:				
TITLE:	SCV CAMP & NUMBER			
ADDRESS:				
PHONE #: (H)(C)	EMAIL			
SPOUSE'S NAME (for badge):				
OCR MEMBER'S NAME:				
OCR CHAPTER NAME AND NUMBER				
GUEST NAME:				
door will reco	r, a convention medal, a program,and a bag of goodies. Those registering a reive the same as long as supplies last.			
REGISTRATION AMOUNTS: SCV before May 23, 2014 \$30.00 AT THE REUNION \$35	5.00 QTY\$			
OCR before May 23, 2014 \$10.00 AT THE REUNION \$15	5.00 QTY\$			
Ancestor Memorial: EACH MEMORIAL IS \$10.00 (Please print or type each memorial on a separate page	e and submit them with this form.)			
Program Ads: \$100 for a full page; \$50 for half a page; \$ (Please submit ad information on a separate page before)				
Banquet—\$30.00 per adult plate	QTY\$			
\$15.00 per child plate (12 and under)	QTY\$			
	TOTAL AMOUNT \$			
	e to the Col. William P. Rogers SCV Camp #321 v Mangus - 56 CR 615 - Corinth, MS 38834			
	JRS – NO COST – RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED n up for those you wish to participate in:			
Friday Early Bird Tour – June 6 th , 1:00 p.m. – Tou Saturday Tour – June 7 th , 1:30 p.m. – Tour of Cor Sunday on Your Own Tours – June 8 th	ur of Davis Bridge battlefield rinth battlefield sites — Shiloh National and/or Brice's Crossroads National Battlefields			
CONTACT INFORMATION: Larry Mangus	s - <u>Imangus1941@gmail.com</u> or (H) 662-287-0766 (C) 662-872-9180			
Holiday Inn Express 2106 Hwy. 72	Holiday Inn Express is the headquarters hotel . 2W (662-287-1407) – SCV Rate \$89 if booked before May 23 / (662-286-5949) – SCV Rate \$89 if booked before May 23			



Sons of Confederate Veterans 119th National Reunion North Charleston, SC July 16-19. 2014 1864 – H. L. Hunley - 2014



Grand Total

Individual Member Registration (Basic Registration is required for ALL members attending the reunion)

Early Registration (Thru March 31, 2014) (\$55.00 Each)	Qty	x 55 =
Late Registration (After March 31, 2014) (\$65.00 Each)	Qty	x 65 =
Wed, July 16: Harbor Meet & Greet Tour (\$65.00 Each)	Qty	x 65=
Thurs, July17: General Forrest Cavalry Breakfast (\$30.00 Each)	Qty	x 30=
Thurs, July17: C. Irvine Walker Preservation Luncheon (\$35.00 Each)	Qty	x 35=
Thurs, July17: General Johnson Hagood Heritage Dinner (\$35.00 Each)	Qty	x 35=
Thurs, July17: Ladies Tour (\$35.00 Each) .	Qty	x35=
Thurs, July 17: Fort & Battlefield Tour (\$35.00 Each)	Qty	x35=
Fri, July 18: Gen. Ellison Capers Chaplains Breakfast (\$30.00 Each)	Qty	x 30=
Fri, July 18: Lt. Richard Kirkland Awards Luncheon (\$35.00 Each)		x 35=
Fri, July 18: H.L. Hunley Tour (\$40.00 Each)		x 40=
Sat, July 19: Mary Boykin Chesnut Debutante Luncheon (\$30.00 Each) (Debutantes Free)		x 30=
Sat, July 19: Gen. Wade Hampton III Grand Banquet and Debutante Ball: (Single: \$70.00)		x 70=
(Couple: \$130.00)	Qty.	x 130=
Numbered Medal (\$150.00 Each) (Limited to 150 Medals)	Qty	x 150 =
Additional Reunion Medals (Non Numbered) (\$35.00 Each)		x 35=
Ancestor Memorials (Printed in Program) (\$10.00 Each) (Attach Ancestor Memorial Form)		x 10 =

Make Check payable to Low Country SCV and mail to address below

Due to the nature of tour booking and catering demands, all tour and meal purchases are considered to be final. No refunds will be issued. The 2014 National SCV Reunion Committee does reserve the right to limit or cancel any tour prior to the reunion due to limited booking of reservations. In the event there is a cancellation of any tour, the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part

Name:			SCV Member #		
Address:					
City:		State:	Zip:		
Phone:	E-Mail:				
SCV Division:		۲		Real Son:	
Camp Name:			Camp #:		
Guest(s)					

Contact the Embassy Suites, North Charleston, SC at 1-843-747-1882 for room rates, availability and reservations. Ask for the 2014 SCV Reunion Rate.

Tenth Brigad	e, South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans			
	David Rentz, 2014 SCV Reunion Chairman,			
www.scv2014.org				
Mail Checks To:	Low Country SCV, P. O. Box 1170, Ladson, SC 29456-1170			

The Red River Campaign

The Red River campaign of March to May 1864 occurred during the <u>Civil War</u> after the fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson. At that time President Abraham Lincoln authorized a campaign against Shreveport, Louisiana, then the temporary capital of Confederate Louisiana. It was a major supply depot and a gateway to Texas. Though the operation was opposed by generals Ulysses S. Grant, <u>William T. Sherman</u>, and <u>Nathaniel P. Banks</u>, it was favored by General in Chief Henry W. Halleck. Banks was commander of the Department of the Gulf and was engaged in operations against the Confederacy along the Texas Gulf Coast. Under some pressure from Halleck, Banks concentrated his forces on a campaign to secure the area along the Red River to Shreveport. Objectives for this campaign included preventing a Confederate alliance with the French in Mexico; denying southern supplies to Confederate forces; and securing vast quantities of Louisiana and Texas cotton for northern mills. By 1863 Confederate general <u>Richard</u> <u>Taylor</u>, with his headquarters in Alexandria, was aware that Union operations up the Red River were under consideration as a means to penetrate the Department of Texas. The Red River was navigable by steamship for as many as six months of the year and could provide for cooperative army and naval operations. It could support shifting bases as an invading force pressed into the interior. He made his concerns known to Gen. <u>Edmund Kirby Smith</u>, commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department, and through him, to President <u>Jefferson Davis</u>. Taylor began to establish supply bases up the Red River; this included the rehabilitation by <u>Walker's Texas Division</u> of Fort DeRussy near Simmesport, Louisiana. He began to warn citizens of the impending operations, and to limit the sale of cotton to speculators who were selling to northern buyers. After failing to stem significantly the sale of cotton, Taylor by early 1864 had ordered that all bailed and seeded cotton be burned.

In the spring of 1864 General Banks began to gather his forces-an army of about 17,000-for a march to Alexandria, Louisiana. In Alexandria, Banks was to join a 10,000-member troop detachment from General Sherman's Mississippi command and a 15,000-member troop detachment under Gen. Frederick Steele. The detachment from Sherman's Army of the Tennessee was under the command of Gen. Andrew J. Smith. Smith's forces, escorted up the Red River by a fleet of ironclads and gunboats under Adm. David D. Porter, disembarked at Simmesport and captured the partially completed Fort DeRussy on March 14. Smith and Porter occupied Alexandria on March 19. Banks arrived on March 25, a week late. Steele was delayed and was too late to take part in the campaign. The movement of the Union forces up the Red River was slowed by unseasonably low water levels, which hampered Porter in getting his ships over the rapids. Gen. Richard Taylor, in command of the Confederate forces opposing Banks, was retreating upriver as he awaited Confederate troops that were on the way to assist him. Taylor's forces consisted of Maj. Gen. John George Walker's Texas Division, Col. William Vincent's Second Louisiana Cavalry, and William Mouton's Louisianans, with a small brigade of Texans under the command of Brig. Gen. <u>Camille A. J. M. Prince de Polignac</u>; reinforcements of cavalry and infantry were coming from Texas. On March 21 the Federals captured 250 of Vincent's men near Henderson Hill after a small skirmish. Brig. Gen. <u>Thomas Green</u>'s Texas cavalry joined Taylor at Pleasant Hill. Green was placed in command of Taylor's rear guard and Taylor fell back to Mansfield.

The Union forces had reached the Natchitoches area by April 2, 1864, and remained there until April 6, when they took a road to Mansfield toward Shreveport. Banks was unaware that another road followed the river and would have allowed support from the Union gunboats. The column was led by the cavalry, under Brig. Gen. Albert L. Lee; following were a large supply train of some 350 wagons, the Thirteenth Corps, the Nineteenth Corps, and a force under Gen. A. J. Smith. On April 7, three miles north of Pleasant Hill, Lee's cavalry skirmished with Green's rear guard. On April 8 the Union column was strung out single file along some twenty miles of road when it encountered the Confederate force about three miles south of Mansfield, Upon contact with the Confederate forces, General Banks came up the column and assumed command. He ordered reinforcements under Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin from the rear, but they were delayed by road congestion. Before the reinforcements could reach the front, General Taylor, with a total force of 8,800, attacked. The Federals, even with Franklin's arrival, were routed. The battle of Mansfield may have been the most humiliating defeat of the entire war. The Union forces of 12,000 had 700 men killed or wounded and 1,500 taken prisoner; 20 Union artillery pieces and 200 wagons were captured, and almost 1,000 horses and mules were lost. The Confederate army of 8,800 had 1,000 killed or wounded. Banks fell back to Pleasant Hill. William H. Emoryand the Nineteenth Corps moved up and met with Taylor's pursuing forces at Pleasant Grove. On the late afternoon of April 9, the Confederate forces attacked. They were repulsed and retired from the battlefield. During the night of the 9th General Banks gave the order to retire to Grand Ecore, Louisiana. The expedition seems to have been abandoned at this point, as the retreat continued down the Red River. The Union forces, especially those under the command of Gen. A. J. Smith, looted, burned, and destroyed everything in their path as they moved south. Admiral Porter, under harassment, also retreated down the river, and on reaching Alexandria he was once more slowed by low water over the rapids. Army Engineer lieutenant colonel Joseph Bailey constructed a series of wing dams that permitted Porter and his boats to pass on May 13. That same day A. J. Smith's troops burned the city of Alexandria to the ground. Taylor continued to harass the retreating Union army, with the final skirmishes of the Red River campaign occurring at Mansura, Louisiana, on May 16 and at Yellow Bayou on May 18.

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Division Newsletter

In the event you have not noticed, there has been a change in editors for the Mississippi Division newsletter. Division Commander Allen Terrell has served as editor and has done an outstanding job. Now he has passed the hat on to Compatriot Jon Rawls. Jon is very qualified to take on the job of keeping members notified of activities. We wish him the best in this job. He deserves congratulations for the first issue he sent out. It was outstanding. If you are not getting your Division Newsletter, please check out <u>www.mississippiscv.org</u> for the latest issue. Also please update the Camp adjutant, Dan Mccaskill, of any changes of your mailing or e-mail address.

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