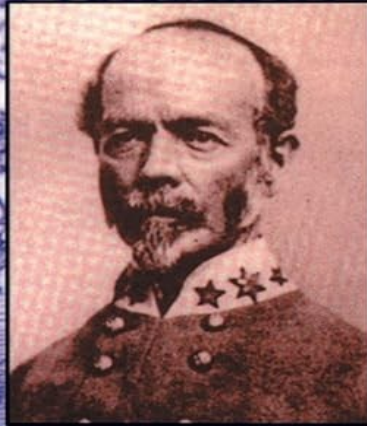
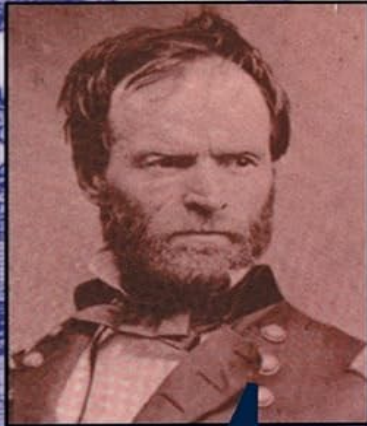


# The Delta General



# Bentonville

**The Final Battle of  
Sherman & Johnston**

Camp Website: [www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)

March 2025, Volume 28, Issue 3

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys

## Commander's Comments — Michael Anthony

Greetings men and ladies of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp and the Ella Palmer Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose and our friends and followers who read this newsletter. Even under gloomy gray skies of winter, there is a lot of good news to share about the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp and how its members are living The Charge. One of the most significant ways to Live the Charge is to conduct an annual memorial service in honor of our Confederate ancestors who fought for; and sometimes died in defense of, Constitutional liberty and freedom and to protect their homeland from invasion. The Benjamin G Humphreys Camp will conduct its annual Confederate Memorial Service on Saturday, May 3 at the Confederate Cemetery in Greenville. Our speaker will be our Camp Chaplain Mister Earl McCown; and this year, there will be the extra special honor of the dedication of the grave headstone of Confederate soldier Richard McAtee. After the Memorial Service we will have the privilege of placing Mister McAtee's headstone over his grave where he can be remembered in perpetuity. Please make plans to join us on what should be a sunny spring Saturday to remember those who came before you to fight for the freedoms and liberties you enjoy today and for which you continue to fight for.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans recently issued a charge to every State Division in the United States: erect a billboard in a public location honoring Confederate History and Heritage during April (Confederate Heritage Month). The Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is planning to erect such a billboard on Interstate 20 in Brandon. This prominent location is one of the most heavily traveled roads in the State, seeing over 150000 vehicles each week. To support the work of the Mississippi Division, the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp voted to raise five hundred dollars to help allay the three-thousand-dollar cost of this billboard. We have already raised one hundred fifty dollars toward our goal of five hundred dollars. Contributing to Heritage Defense is one way you can Live the Charge. How many times have you be-moaned an attack on your heritage? How many times have you seen a monument to a great American taken down in the name of "equity"? How many times have you felt helpless to do anything about this? Well, if you can relate to any of the [questions](#) I just asked you, then now you can do something about this. Even if you give ten dollars to support the Mississippi Division's defense and promotion of Confederate Heritage and History, you are doing something to Live the Charge.

I am so proud to announce the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp continues to grow. In March we will swear in new member Taylor DeLoach. Also, Randy Ruble, who is a former member of the Camp decided to return to the Camp and Live the Charge though his renewed membership and assistance with Camp projects. We are so grateful to both of these men for recognizing the importance of remembering and fighting to preserve their history and heritage as Sons of Confederate Veterans.

More exciting things are coming to the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp. To give Camp members and friends of the Camp more options for payment and donations, the Camp voted to add PayPal as an option to send money. Of course, if you prefer to write a check you can certainly do that. However, PayPal may be more convenient for some Camp members, so that will soon be available if you prefer to make payments online.

I speak of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp in this letter; but of course, it is the individual men of the Camp who make the Camp great. It is each one of us working together toward common goals. We are blessed by God to share something so special: the blood ancestry of a Confederate soldier. The greatest Americans are our relatives and because of our common heritage, we work together to do wonderful things to honor them. So thank you to each one of the members of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp. Together, we are preserving, protecting, and promoting Confederate History and Heritage. Deo Vindice!

**Guest Speaker for March 8, 2025**

### MS Division 2nd LT Commander Terry Author

Terry Author, MS 2nd Lt Commander, will be speaking at our Camp on March 8, 2025. Terry will be announcing his bid for the 1st Lt. Commander's position and will tell us why he is the man for the job. Terry and his Camp, the Calhoun Avengers, have been long time friends and supporters of our Camp as we have been of theirs. Lets all come out to here what he has to say about the future of the Mississippi Division.

### Adjutant's Report — February 15, 2025 Minutes — Dan McCaskill

**Call to Order:** At 6:05 PM CDT by Commander Michael Anthony

**Opening Prayer and Blessing:** Camp Chaplain Earl McCown

**Pledge and Salutes:** Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.

**Reading of The Charge:** Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.

Commander Michael Anthony welcomed everyone to our monthly Camp Meeting. There was no speaker scheduled because this was the Camp's Annual Business with several pieces of business to tend to. Checking with the ladies and learning the evening meal was ready, the meeting was recessed for the evening meal.

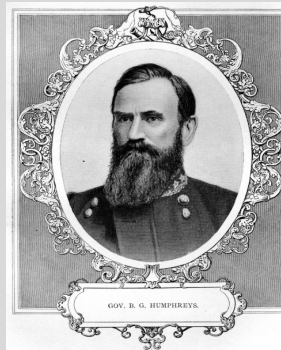
#### **Officer Reports:**

**Commander:** No report; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Larry McCluney was absent. **Adjutant Dan McCaskill** gave a short report on the Lee-Jackson Banquet. Expenses for the banquet totaled \$124 and \$205 was collected in fees and donations giving the Camp \$81 of net income. Attendance for the banquet was 35. The Camp's checking balance stood at \$2,246.09 and a complete financial report will be presented when the Camp members are presented the proposed 2025 Camp Budget.

**MOSB:** Commander Earl McCown reported he would be attending the MS Society Annual Meeting in Corinth along with Chapter Adjutant Dan McCaskill. The Chapter still has one new member pending and is trying to get past members to re-join the chapter. **OCR:** Chapter President Sandra Stillman reported the Chapter's income from the silent auction at the Lee-Jackson Banquet produced the highest income for the Chapter in many, many years.

#### **Camp Business:**

Commander Anthony asked for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the Lee-Jackson Banquet as printed in The Delta General. Earl McCown made the motion to adopt the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and the motion passed.



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Larry McCluney

Camp Commander / Editor:  
Confederate @suddenlink.net

The Delta General is published 12 times a year by the Brig/General Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp as a service to its members. The articles, photographs, and content of the Delta General may not be reproduced without permission of the Editor. The opinions expressed by the authors of signed articles reflect the personal views of the writers and not necessarily the views of Camp #1625. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject any article.

- 1) Plans were finalized for the Recruitment Table at the Greenville Gun Show. Recruitment material will be supplied by Larry McCluney and Dan McCaskill. Saturday, the table will be manned by Kenneth Ray and Tommy McCaskill and possibly Larry McCluney and Michael Anthony. Sunday: Kenneth Ray, Tommy McCaskill and Danny McCaskill and possibly Larry McCluney. Any other members were welcomed to help.
- 2) Confederate Memorial Service. After looking at the calendar, May 3<sup>rd</sup> was proposed as the date for the Service with May 10<sup>th</sup> as an alternate date. Kenneth Ray made a motion to accept the proposal and Gator Stillman seconded the motion. After further discussion, the amendment was amended to include Camp Chaplain Earl McCown as the speaker. The motion passed without objection. Also, Dan McCaskill reported the headstone for Richard McAtee has been picked up and would be dedicated at the Memorial Service.
- 3) Proposed 2025 Camp Operating Budget, Adjutant Dan McCaskill gave a detailed financial report and presented the proposed Operating budget. After a discussion and correcting a typographical error, Kenneth Ray made a motion to accept the financial report and proposed budget. Gator Stillman seconded the motion and the motion passed without objection.
- 4) Camp Website. Commander Anthony put forth a proposal suggested by Larry McCluney to place on the website a PayPal button to be used for paying dues and collecting donations. After a lengthy discussion, Gator Stillman made a motion to have the webmaster, Larry McCluney, place the PayPal button on the website. Dan McCaskill seconded the motion and it passed without objection.
- 5) Dan McCaskill made the suggestion to terminate the existing website and have Larry McCluney create a simplified site on a free server. This move would save the Camp \$181. After discussing the issue, this proposal was tabled to give Larry time to research free websites.
- 6) Mississippi Division Heritage Project. Commander Anthony presented the project which is for the Division to place a billboard promoting Confederate Heritage in a prominent site for the month of April, Confederate Heritage Month. The proposed site is along I-20 at Brandon. The cost will be \$3,000 with \$500 coming from National with some donations coming from individuals and Camps. Commander Anthony asked that the Camp pledge \$500 for this project. Adjutant McCaskill reported the Camp can use some money from the Heritage Fund. Kenneth Ray made the motion for the Camp to use \$200 from the Heritage Defense Fund for this project. Mark Hathaway seconded the motion and the motion passed without objection. Gator Stillman made a motion for the Camp to pledge \$500 for the Division Project. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and the motion passed without objection. \$150 was quickly donated by two members present.
- 7) Taylor DeLoach Application for membership. Adjutant McCaskill presented the application of Taylor Ward DeLoach for membership in the Camp and Confederation based on the membership of his father Dale DeLoach. Gator Stillman made the motion to accept Taylor DeLoach's application for membership in the Camp. The motion was seconded by Brad Hartsfield and passed without objection. This will raise Camp Membership to 46

**Program:** There was no program.

With no other business coming before the Camp, Gator Stillman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kenneth Ray and the motion passed without objection. Attendance for the meeting was 12. Next Camp Meeting will be March 8, 2025.

The Camp Meeting was closed with a word of prayer by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown and the singing of Dixie.

## The Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

Compatriots, my Chaplain's Note is somewhat different this month. I want to address the subject of "faithfulness." We are blessed to have an organization such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans available to us. We can belong to the SCV, remember, honor and respect our Confederate ancestors. For me, I find attending the monthly meeting is a very pleasant time. The members are from all walks of life, but we have a common denominator: our Confederate ancestors. Here we share stories of the experiences of these men. Our Confederate ancestors, served, fought and died for a Cause they believed in. They served with honor and devotion. Whether they were officers or common soldiers, they were all heroes. They deserve to be remembered and honored.

That brings me to my thoughts on "faithfulness." It is a rewarding experience to belong to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. However, the re-

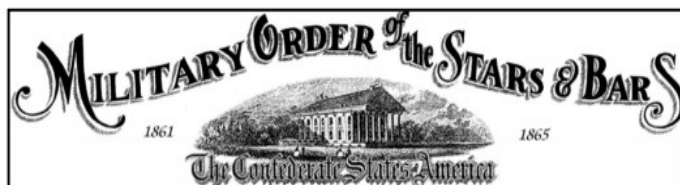


ward is even greater, when you come to the meetings and participate. I realize there are circumstances that prevent coming to the meetings. Never-the-less, we miss you when you are not there.

I have heard preachers talk about the people in their churches. They say about 10% of the congregation carry out 100% of the work needed. Does that sound familiar about our camp? I am not speaking to the 10%; but the 90%, we truly need you. I am not asking you to go out and fight a war on your own. I am inviting, and encouraging you to come to our meetings and join us in fighting this battle with the Liberal and Woke world around us.

If at all possible, I invite you to attend our next meeting. We meet the second Saturday, 6 P.M. at the Presbyterian Church, Indianola, Mississippi. Come join us, and I promise you a pleasant time, and the Ladies of the OCR will feed you.

God Bless the South, God Bless America and God Bless us all.



## Brig/Gen Charles Clark Chapter, MOS&B

Greetings from the Commander of the Brigadier General Clark, Chapter 253, Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

On Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, Adjutant Dan McCaskill and I traveled to Corinth, Mississippi. We attended the Annual MOS&B Meeting, at the American Legion Post No. 6.

The meeting was called to order by MS Society Commander Stan Howell, with the Invocation by Chaplain Jonathan Cagle. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Salute to the Flag of Mississippi, Salute to the Flag of the Confederate States of America, and the Pledge to the MOS&B.

Greetings and introduction from National, Society, and Chapter Officers was presented by AG Mike Moore. New members were then sworn in by Lt. Commander General Terry Phillips. After reading of the minutes of the last meeting and Treasury Report by AG Mike Moore; State of the Order Report was given by Executive Director Jon Trent. Following was the National Officer Forum and Q & A period. We heard from Lt. Commander General Terry Phillips; Chief of Staff Herb Turner; Adjutant General Mike Moore; AOT Commander Chris Heuer, and AOT Executive Councilor Stan Howell.

Archivist General, PCG Troy Massey, spoke about Real Grandsons and the Lee Society. Genealogist General Kevin Hawkins and Quartermaster Danny Landreth spoke briefly.

Following a short Business Meeting, MS Society Annual Report and Chapter Reports were given by AG Mike Moore. During Election for Commander, Lt. Commander, and Adjutant, a motion was made, seconded, and passed that no change be made in present officers.

After luncheon, Guest Speaker, Forrest Daws, SCV Historian-in-Chief and 1 Lt. Commander of MS Division SCV gave an excellent presentation of various Battle Flags.

Mississippi Society Awards were presented by AG Mike Moore. Brigadier General Charles Clark Chapter 253 received the following awards: PCIC Lawrence M. Oden Meritorious Chapter Award; BG Charles Clark Chapter Retention Award; National MOS&B: LG Simon Buckner Award for 100% Retention.

Individual Awards: Dan McCaskill: Governor John J. Pettus Award; Earl McCown: BG Mark Perrin Lowrey, Christian Service Award.

There are several of our SCV Members that are eligible for MOS&B. They are Frank Aderholdt; William A. Burton; Dale Deloach; Taylor Deloach; Mark King; Joe Nokes; Gabriel Nokes; Alan Palmer; Joe Pulliam; and Jack Sudduth. Compatriots, please consider joining the local MOS&B Chapter.



**Mississippi Division News**  
**2025 Mississippi Division**  
**Reunion**  
**Pickwick Landing, TN**  
**June 6-8, 2025**



Compatriots of the Mississippi Division SCV and Ladies of the Mississippi Society OCR,

We are honored to invite you to the 2025 Mississippi Division Annual Reunion, hosted by Col. William P. Rogers Camp 321. The Reunion will be held on June 6-8, 2025, at the Lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park, Pickwick Landing, TN.

Our Annual Reunion serves as a gathering of our compatriots, families, and friends. It is a time when we come together to transact the business of our organization but also as a time to celebrate our shared honorable heritage, reflect on our achievements from the past year, and envision the future of our organizations. Please make plans to join us for a memorable weekend.

Our host hotel is the Lodge at Pickwick Landing, located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Pickwick Landing, TN. The Lodge offers 119 rooms, all of which directly face the Tennessee River, as well as a great restaurant and bar. Room Rates are \$155.00 a night. Please use Group Code 8244 to receive this room rate when booking.

Pickwick is close to many sites of the War for Southern Independence: the battlefields of Shiloh, Brice's Crossroads, Corinth, and Davis Bridge. The state park also offers some amazing fishing and golfing.

Registration is now open, and we encourage you to secure your spot at the reunion at your earliest convenience. Please take advantage of our early registration rates.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Reunion Planning Committee at [msdivadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:msdivadjutant@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you next June at Pickwick!  
 In the Bonds of the Old South,

Mike Moore, Chairman  
 2025 Reunion Host Committee

**Commander Michael Anthony Declares for**  
**1st Brigade Councilman**

To the Members of the First Brigade of the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; my name is Michael Anthony and I am proud to announce my candidacy for First Division Brigade Commander for the Mississippi Division. I am a proud resident of Clarksdale and I have been a member of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp for four years, where I currently serve as Camp Commander.

I am running for Brigade Commander because as the Camp Commander, I am constantly telling my Camp members to Live the Charge; and one of my personal mottos is "Be the Change You Want to See in Others." So now is my time to step out of my Camp and step up. I sincerely believe the words of the Charge; trying to "emulate his virtues" every day. As a student of my favorite Confederate: General Robert E Lee, I model my life after his, carrying within me compassion, empathy, grace, honor, and dignity in all I do. I want the Mississippi Division to move forward and move past the personality conflicts of the past. I want our [Division](#) to be a leader among all divisions of the SCV and show the rest of the world how Sons of Confederate Veterans protect, preserve, and promote the Confederate Soldiers' good name. All of us share one of God's greatest gifts: we are sons of Confederate soldiers. Men who laid down their plows, their axes, their oars, their ledgers, their pulpits to fight for the Constitutional Liberty and Freedom given to us by our Revolutionary forefathers. Our Confederate ancestors are true American heroes. Our bond should unite us to Live the Charge every day. Whether I personally like you or not, I respect your desire to Live the Charge and promote Confederate history and heritage; and I will work with you.

Men of the First Division of the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; I appreciate your vote for Brigade Commander. Your trust and faith in me will never be forgotten or dismissed. I will work for you because we all will work together to Live the Charge. Thank you.

## BEAUVIOR

Beauvoir, the historic post-war home of President Jefferson Davis, is owned and operated by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. There are several ways that you can participate in the continued preservation of this beloved landmark located in Biloxi, Mississippi.



*Beauvoir - Post-war home of Jefferson Davis.  
 Biloxi, Mississippi*

### *Friends of Beauvoir*

For as little as \$25 annually, you can become a member of the Friends of Beauvoir. Membership includes tour admission and a 10% discount at the Beauvoir gift shop.



*The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library located on the grounds of  
 Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi.*



### 2025 SCV MS Division Reunion

#### Registration Form

129<sup>th</sup> Reunion – Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

31<sup>st</sup> Reunion – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose

Pickwick Landing, TN – June 6-8, 2025

Hosts: Col. W.P. Rogers Camp 321 SCV and Ladies of Col. W.P. Rogers Chapter 25, OCR



SCV Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

OCR Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

OCR Chapter Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

*All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies (quantities limited). Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. OCR members will receive a medal if payment is provided below.*

#### REGISTRATION AMOUNTS

SCV Member – on or before May 6, 2025, \$60.00 / After May 6, 2025, \$70.00 QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OCR Member – on or before May 6, 2025, \$30.00 / After May 6, 2025, \$35.00 QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Commander’s Reception - on or before May 6, 2025, \$25.00 per person QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Awards Banquet – on or before May 6, 2025, \$50.00 per person QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(NO RECEPTION OR BANQUET REGISTRATION AFTER MAY 6, 2025, **INCLUDING WALK-UPS**)

Individual Ancestor Memorial - \$10.00 each QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Half Page Ancestor Memorial - \$40.00 each QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full Page Ancestor Memorial - \$100.00 each QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT =====> \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Checks Payable to **Col. W.P. Rogers Camp 321** & Mail to:  
Camp 321 C/O: Dwight Johnson, 3470 CR 100, Corinth, MS 38834

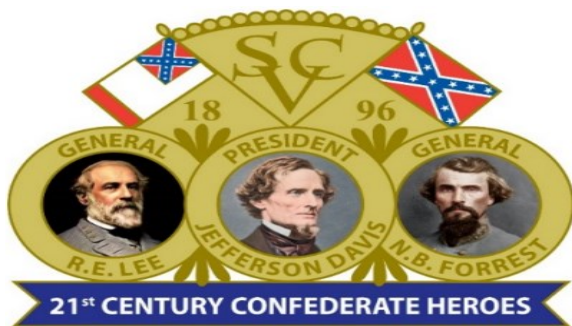
SCV Contact: Mike Moore (732) 962-5335 OCR Contact: Laura Moore (662) 416-7949

#### HOTEL INFO

The Lodge at Pickwick Landing  
120 Playground Loop, Counce, TN 38326  
(888) 867-2757  
or online at:

[www.tnstateparks.com/lodges/pickwick-landing](http://www.tnstateparks.com/lodges/pickwick-landing)

Use Group Code **8244** when booking for \$155.00 room rate.



## 21st Century Confederate Heroes

The National Sons of Confederate Veterans welcomes you to the 21st-Century Confederate Heroes. Your generous donation will serve to remember and honor our Confederate Heroes and our beloved Southland. The program comes with many perks.

- 1) Flag streamer or Neck Ribbon a. If you submit as an individual, you will receive a neck ribbon with a 21st Century Confederate Heroes medal on the ribbon. b. If you submitted as a camp, division or organization, you will receive a 21st Century Confederate Heroes streamer for your flag.
- 2) Paver – a paver placed on the Walkway of Confederate Heroes from the Museum to the Forrest Plaza
- 3) Certificate – A certificate documenting for future generations your membership as a Confederate Hero
- 4) A copy of the hardcover book 21st Century Confederate Heroes with a page dedicated to the information provided by you that details the individual or camp, etc. you wish to memorialize. Up to three photos may be included
- 5) Donor recognition in the National Confederate Museum – A Television will be placed inside the Museum's gift shop. This TV will display PowerPoint slides of the information 21st Century Confederate Heroes members provide. It can be you, your family, your ancestor, your camp, etc.
- 6) A Flag flown from the Forrest Plaza – One of the purposes of the 21st Century Confederate Heroes is to restore the Forrest Plaza. Once the plaza has been rebuilt and the flagpole is placed, every month for a year a donor will be drawn to receive the flag flown the previous month.
- 7) A QR Code on a sign will be placed near the Forrest Plaza identifying all those who donated \$1,000 or more to the restoration of the Forrest Plaza prior to the 21st Century Confederate Heroes campaign.

### Notes:

Make checks out the Sons of Confederate Veterans and note 21st CCH in the memo line of your check.

For more information contact Commander-in-Chief Walter D. Kennedy at: [CiC@scv.org](mailto:CiC@scv.org)

Or contact National HQ by mail or email:

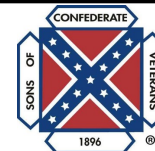
SCV, P.O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402

[exedir@scv.org](mailto:exedir@scv.org)



**SCV\_CHAT**  
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE  
ONE WEEK AT A TIME

## Message from the Commander-in-Chief



Gentlemen,

I am pleased to announce to the Sons of Confederate Veterans membership that the outstanding balance on the museum bank-note is now fully paid! As of December 27, 2024, Heritage Bank of Columbia, TN, was paid \$885,516.54 to liquidate our obligation for this loan. This payment was made possible due to the generosity of anonymous benefactors.

While we all are very impressed and thankful for the generosity of our anonymous benefactors, their donations would not have been possible if not for the hard work and sacrifice of our members and friends. You, the members, have worked hard and sacrificed much to reduce a two-and-a-half million-dollar debt to less than one million dollars. Your willingness to do so much to reduce this debt assured our benefactors that their generosity would not be a wasted effort. Our benefactors in essence matched the many donations made by our members and friends. The ongoing 21st Century Campaign is now opening the door for to the possibility for other donors to match your donations.

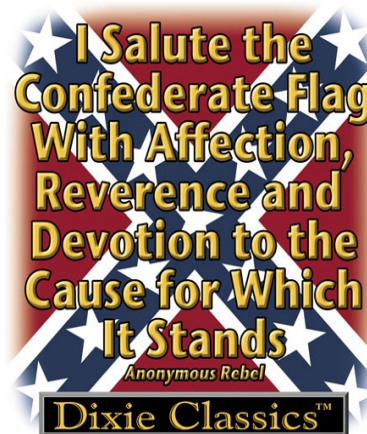
For several years, the SCV has been paying for two museum loans: a bank loan and a loan from our Brooks Medical Fund. The loan from the bank was the most troubling. The bank loan was due for renewal in July of this year. That renewal would have been at a substantially higher interest rate. This potential increase in cost would have hampered our efforts to protect our heritage and, therefore, was an issue that had to be dealt with. Paying off this loan became one of the GEC's highest priorities. The SCV can now use the ten to thirteen thousand dollars spent monthly on bank payments to initiate a robust campaign to promote the truth about the SCV and our honorable Confederate heritage. We now look forward to keeping our museum open on more weekends.

We still have a loan borrowed from "ourselves" via the Brooks Medical Fund. The payment on that loan is a fully budgeted item. The SCV will continue repaying that loan. Any increase in interest on that loan will be paid directly to the Brooks Medical Fund.

We are continuing the 21st Century Confederate Heroes Campaign and will use the additional funds to restore the Forrest Plaza, pay down the loan to the Brooks Fund, and assist in special projects to promote Southern heritage.

We are on the verge of a new and more robust defense of Southern heritage and, most importantly, VINDICATING the Cause for which our Confederate ancestors fought.

Deo Vindice,  
Walter Donald Kennedy  
Commander-in-Chief, SCV 2024-26



SCV Chat — Every Monday Night on Facebook at 7:00 PM  
Central time and on Thursday Nights at 7:00 PM for Look  
Around the Confederation



## 130th Annual National Reunion Houston, Texas

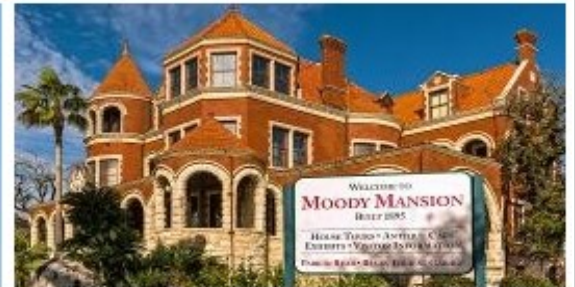
In the heart of Texas, Houston stands as a city of dualities—a place where the “Spirit of the Confederacy” monument whispers tales of valor, while rockets at the Johnson Space Center defy gravity. Here, Hermann Park cradles tranquility—a lush oasis with McGovern Lake and the bronze gaze of Sam Houston. Moody Mansion guards secrets within its red-brick walls, and Sabine Pass, where sea meets land, echoes bravery from the Civil War. But it’s San Jacinto that resonates—a battlefield where Texas won its independence, and the bay murmurs courage and sacrifice. Houston isn’t just a city; it’s a symphony of resilience, launching expectations beyond the stars.



Battle of Galveston Tour



Dick Dowling Grave / San Jacinto Tour



Moody Mansion



### Host Hotel

**Houston Marriott South Hobby Airport**

**9100 Gulf Fwy.**

**Houston, TX 77107**

**(713) 943-7979**



**Sons of Confederate Veterans**  
**130th Annual National Reunion**  
 Houston, Texas      July 17-20, 2025



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Current Rank, Title, or Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name (For Name Badge): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please only provide your spouse's name if they are attending a Reunion Meal or Tour. Spouses **DO NOT** need to pay for registration.*

Date	Time	Event	Price	Qty	Total
SCV REUNION EARLY BIRD	REGISTRATION	ALL SCV MEMBERS MUST REGISTER (through May 31, 2025) includes medal & program	\$75.00		
SCV REGULAR REUNION	REGISTRATION	ALL SCV MEMBERS MUST REGISTER (June 1, 2025 through July 7, 2025) includes medal & program	\$85.00		
Thursday, July 17, 2025	12:00 PM	Heritage Defense Luncheon	\$48.00		
Thursday, July 17, 2025	1:45 PM	Battle of Galveston Tour/Dinner/Cemetery Tour	\$100.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	7:30 AM	Chaplain's Breakfast	\$38.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	12:00 PM	SCV Awards Luncheon	\$48.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	1:45 PM	Battle of San Jacinto Tour/ Dick Dowling Grave	\$40.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	7:30 AM	Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast	\$38.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	8:30 AM	Ladies Tour to Galveston - Moody Mansion/ Lunch/ Museum	\$70.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	6:00 PM	Commander in Chief Reception	\$30.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	7:00 PM	SCV Banquet/Debutante Presentation/Grand Ball <i>Note: Dress Attire is Coat &amp; Tie or Period Uniform</i>	\$80.00		
Ancestor Memorials ~ Each		<i>You Must Submit Ancestor Info on Separate Form</i>	\$10.00		
Extra Reunion Medal		Note: 1 Medal is included with your registration, order extras here	\$25.00		
Reunion Medal		Limited Edition - Numbered 1-100. Note: This medal is NOT included with registration.	\$100		
		<b>FINAL TOTAL - Registration, Tours, Extra Medals</b>			

*Please Make Checks Payable to: "Texas Division SCV"*  
 Mail the Form & Check to **733 W 3rd Ave. Corsicana, TX 75110**



# Alabama Education Conference



The Alabama Education Conference is scheduled for March 29, 2025 in Southside, Alabama Etowah County. (outside of Gadsden). It will begin at 9:30 am and end at 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided for those that pre-register by February 28, 2025.

Last years event at Wetumpka was well attended and this year we are changing things up by moving it around the state. This gives everyone a better opportunity to attend when it is in your area. If you are interested in hosting one of the Education Conferences in the upcoming years, let your Brigade Commander know.

The speakers are: AoT Commander Carl Jones will be speaking on the “Confederate Catechism”, Historian -in-Chief Forrest Daws will be speaking on the forming of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and I have asked that he include the history of the United Confederate Veterans. Past Mississippi Division Commander Conor Bond will be speaking on “Southern Culture” and the headliner for the conference will be Dr. Brion McClanahan.



Dr. Brion McClanahan is the author or co-author of six books, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Founding Fathers*, (Regnery, 2009), *The Founding Fathers Guide to the Constitution* (Regnery History, 2012), *Forgotten Conservatives in American History* (Pelican, 2012), *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Real American Heroes*, (Regnery, 2012), *9 Presidents Who Screwed Up America and Four Who Tried to Save Her* (Regnery History, 2016), and *How Alexander Hamilton Screwed Up America* (Regnery History, 2017).

He has written for TheDailyCaller.com, LewRockwell.com, TheTenthAmendmentCenter.com, Townhall.com, HumanEvents.com, Chronicles Magazine, Townhall Magazine, and Fusion Magazine. McClanahan is a faculty member at Tom Woods’ Liberty Classroom, has appeared on dozens of radio talk shows, and has spoken across the Southeast on the Founding Fathers and the founding principles of the United States.

Brion McClanahan received a B.A. in History from Salisbury University in 1997 and an M.A. in History from the University of South Carolina in 1999. He finished his Ph.D. in History at the University of South Carolina in 2006, and had the privilege of being Clyde Wilson’s last doctoral student.

We had Brion as one of our speakers at the first two Alabama Education Conferences (2015 and 2016) and was well received and according to our participants survey was the speaker they would like to have appear again. He has taken a break for many years and we are fortunate to have him at this Education Conference.



# Alabama Education Conference



*March 29, 2025*

*Vindicating the Cause, one mind at a time*

*Southside Community Center*

*2142 Hwy 77*

*Southside, Alabama 35907*

*9:30 am to 3:30 pm*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: Home: ( ) -

Office: ( ) -

Cell: ( ) -

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre registered Alabama Division Members Seminars inc. lunch.....\$40.00**

**Registration postmarked after March 1, 2024 or at door will not include lunch..... \$40.00**

Please send this form, or a copy thereof, completed, together with a check or money order in the amount of the total shown above, made payable to **Alabama Division SCV**

**PO Box 375**

**Capshaw, Al 35742**

**Speakers are booked but are subject to cancellation and is beyond the control of the Alabama Division. There will be no refunds on this event unless the event is cancelled.**

## Civil War Secrets

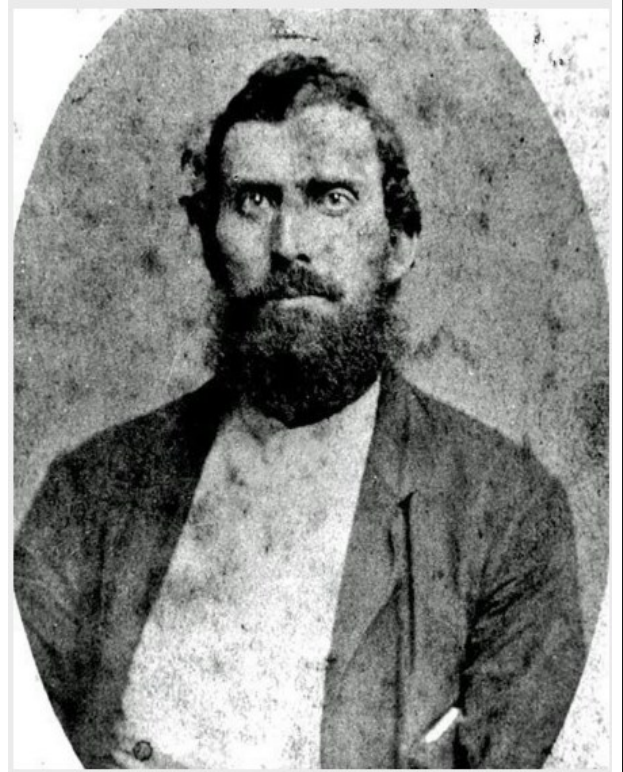
By Robert S. Davis, [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)

During the Civil War, colorful figures seemed to appear and disappear out of nowhere, often becoming the stuff of legend rather than fact. New Orleans, in particular, became notorious as a "black hole" where such personalities emerged and vanished. Meanwhile, Florida and Texas served as refuges for those seeking to escape their pasts.

Scholars take great pride—rightly so—in unraveling these mysteries, especially in the days before the Internet. The desire to uncover the true biographies of celebrated figures was often a national sensation before 1860. However, since the end of the Civil War, some researchers, eager to establish an identity, origin, or fate for these enigmatic individuals, have published assumptions that have since been wrongly accepted as facts.



Union, Pinkerton agent Hattie Lawton with fellow agent Timothy Webster, before his execution in Richmond, Virginia, by a Confederate firing squad for wartime espionage. | public domain



Newton Knight, the leader of the Knight Company, a band of Confederate Army deserters who resisted the Confederacy during the Civil War. The nature and extent of the Knight Company's opposition to the Confederate government is disputed among historians. | public domain

### Elusive Spies and Secret Agents

One such figure, the Confederate scout, spy, and actor Henry Thomas Harrison—made famous by the film *Gettysburg*—was finally identified correctly by Dr. James O. Hall in "Modern Hunt for Fabled Agent: The Spy Harrison" (*Civil War Times Illustrated*, Vol. 24, 10, 1986, pp. 18-25).

Similarly, the long-unknown fate of Hattie Lawton, a Civil War secret agent for Allen Pinkerton and one of the era's few woman detectives, was revealed in John Stewart's *Pinkerton, Prostitutes, and Spies*.

### The Ongoing Search for Truth

Many mysteries remain to be solved. Prominent historian William C. Davis cut through the fabrications surrounding the colorful Civil War figure who called herself Loreta Velásquez in *Inventing Loreta Velásquez*, yet her true identity remains unknown.

Likewise, Larry Stephens proved that the notorious pro-Confederate guerilla John Gatewood did not meet his end as legend claims (*John P. Gatewood: Confederate Bushwhacker*). What ultimately became of this dark character is still a mystery.

The truth behind Lafayette Baker's self-aggrandizing claims about his role in the national secret service, as well as the realities of federal security and espionage in the Eastern Theater, is revealed in Edwin C. Fishel's *The Secret War for the Union*.

Dr. James O. Hall likewise dismantled the cabal of theories and conspiracies surrounding the Lincoln assassination in *Come Retribution*, a work that has since inspired several other works.

And what about Newton Knight, the figure at the center of the film *Free State of Jones*? His legend remains shrouded in speculation, leaving much for future researchers to uncover.

The never-ending stories of men and women in American history—especially the Civil War—and the discovery of the truth concerning some of our most well-known personalities will only continue.

### Forgotten Figures and False Identities

Finding answers is daunting, particularly when records are sparse—often by design, as many individuals deliberately concealed their pasts. Nowhere was this truer than at the infamous Confederate prison known as Andersonville (officially Camp Sumter). The prison was home to countless figures with forgotten, misrepresented, or secret pasts—enough to fill *Ghosts and Shadows of Andersonville* and then some. Many of the prisoners buried there remain under false identities.

Researchers have long questioned the claims of Confederate spy Maria Isabella "Belle" Boyd and Union supporter Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Dr. Albert C. Castel examines the real Walker—and many provocative ideas—in his *Winning and Losing in the Civil War*.



Velásquez as herself (right) and disguised as "Lt. Harry T. Buford" (left) | public domain

## Battle of Bentonville

The **Battle of Bentonville** (March 19–21, 1865) was fought in Johnston County, North Carolina, near the village of Bentonville, as part of the Western Theater of the American Civil War. It was the last battle between the western field armies of William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston.

As the right wing of Sherman's army under command of Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard marched toward Goldsborough, the left wing under command of Maj. Gen. Henry W. Slocum encountered the entrenched men of Johnston's army. On the first day of the battle, the Confederates attacked the XIV Corps and routed two divisions, but the rest of

marched on the Goldsboro Road, one-mile (1.6 km) south of Bentonville.<sup>[13]</sup> Hoke's division under Bragg's command deployed on the Confederate left facing west, while Stewart's army deployed on the Confederate right facing south.<sup>[14]</sup> Slocum was convinced he faced only enemy cavalry and artillery, not an entire army. In addition, Sherman did not believe that Johnston would fight with the Neuse River to his rear. Therefore, Slocum initially notified Sherman that he was facing only cursory resistance near Bentonville and did not require aid.<sup>[13]</sup>

Believing he faced only cavalry, Slocum attempted to brush aside the Confederates by attacking with the 1st Division of Brig. Gen. William P. Carlin from the XIV Corps, but this attack was driven back. Slocum then deployed his divisions in a defensive line, with Carlin's division on the left,



UNION

William T. Sherman

### FORCES ENGAGED

81,000

UNION  
60,000CONFED.  
21,000

CONFEDERATE

Joseph E. Johnston

Sherman's army defended its positions successfully. The next day, as Sherman sent reinforcements to the battlefield and expected Johnston to withdraw, only minor sporadic fighting occurred. On the third day, as skirmishing continued, the division of Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Mower followed a path into the Confederate rear and attacked. The Confederates were able to repulse the attack as Sherman ordered Mower back to connect with his own corps. Johnston elected to withdraw from the battlefield that night.

As a result of the overwhelming Union strength and the heavy casualties his army suffered in the battle, Johnston surrendered to Sherman little more than a month later at Bennett Place, near Durham Station. Coupled with Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender on April 9, Johnston's surrender represented the effective end of the war.

Following his March to the Sea, Major General William T. Sherman, commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi, moved his army northward through the Carolinas. The Union general in chief, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant had ordered Sherman to bring his troops north to Virginia in order to battle the Army of Northern Virginia. However, Sherman argued that it would take too long to transport his troops there, and that his army could destroy Confederate supply lines to Petersburg and defeat Confederate forces by marching through the Carolinas. During the late winter and early spring of 1865, Sherman's army cut a swath of destruction through South Carolina.<sup>[5]</sup> On March 8, Union soldiers crossed into North Carolina as Confederate units attempted to concentrate their forces to defeat the enemy during the march. Sherman divided his command into two parts, a Left Wing (the Army of Georgia) commanded by Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum and a Right Wing (the Army of the Tennessee) commanded by Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard. The two wings marched separately toward Goldsboro beginning on March 13, with no one in the Union command expecting major resistance from Johnston.<sup>[6]</sup>

On February 23, Confederate general-in-chief Robert E. Lee ordered Johnston to take command of the Army of Tennessee and other Confederate units in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, and to "concentrate all available forces and drive back Sherman."<sup>[7]</sup> Johnston managed to concentrate in North Carolina the Army of Tennessee commanded by Lt. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart, Maj. Gen. Robert Hoke's division from the Army of Northern Virginia,<sup>[8]</sup> troops from the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida commanded by Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee, and cavalry under the command of Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton,<sup>[9]</sup> calling the united force the Army of the South.<sup>[10]</sup> Confederate maps erroneously showed that the two Union wings were twelve miles (19 km) apart, which meant each would take a day to reach the other.<sup>[11]</sup> Johnston planned to concentrate his entire army to defeat Slocum's wing and to destroy its trains before it reunited with the rest of the Union column; the attack was planned for "as soon after dawn tomorrow [March 19] as possible."<sup>[12]</sup>

The Confederate attack commenced on March 19, as Slocum's men

Brig. Gen. James D. Morgan's 2nd Division on the right and two XX Corps divisions in support, in order to delay the Confederates long enough to allow the rest of his wing to arrive.

<sup>[15]</sup> None of the divisions, except for Morgan's, constructed strong breastworks, which were further compromised by a gap in the center of the Union line.<sup>[16]</sup> Lafayette McLaws' division from Hardee's command

was approaching the Confederate positions at the time of the Union attacks. Due to Bragg's concern about a flanking attack on Hoke's left, McLaws was ordered to deploy on the Confederate left flank.<sup>[17]</sup> About noon, Hardee arrived with the division of William B. Taliaferro, which was deployed behind the Army of Tennessee. Hardee was then placed in charge of the Confederate right wing.<sup>[18]</sup>

At 3 pm, Confederate infantry from the Army of Tennessee launched an attack and drove the Union left flank back in confusion, nearly capturing Carlin in the process and overrunning the XIV Corps field hospital.

<sup>[20]</sup> Confederates under Maj. Gen. D.H. Hill filled the vacuum left by the retreating Federals and began enfilading the Union troops remaining along the front. Morgan's division was nearly surrounded and was being attacked from three sides, but the Confederate attacks were uncoordinated and therefore unsuccessful in driving them from the position.<sup>[21]</sup> Hardee, using Taliaferro's division and Bate's corps from the Army of Tennessee, attacked the Union positions near the Harper house but were repulsed after multiple assaults. McLaws arrived after Taliaferro and Bate were repulsed. He attacked, but was repulsed as well.<sup>[22]</sup> After a heated engagement, Union reinforcements arrived and checked Hill's assault.<sup>[23]</sup> Fighting continued after nightfall as the Confederates tried without success to drive back the Union line. About midnight, the Confederates withdrew to their original positions and started entrenching.<sup>[24]</sup>

Slocum had called for aid from Sherman during the afternoon attacks, and Howard's wing arrived on the field late on the afternoon of March 20, deploying on Slocum's right flank and extending the Union line towards Mill Creek. Johnston responded to Howard's arrival by pulling back Hoke's division so it ran at a right angle to Stewart's left flank, and deployed one of Hardee's divisions on Hoke's left. Confederate cavalry protected the Confederate flank to Mill Creek in a weak skirmish line.

<sup>[25]</sup> Only light skirmishing occurred on this day. Johnston remained on the field, claiming that he stayed to remove his wounded, but perhaps also in hope of enticing Sherman to attack again, as had happened at Kennesaw

It looked like a picture and at our distance was truly beautiful ... But it was a painful sight to see how close their battle flags were together, regiments being scarcely larger than companies and a division not much larger than a regiment should be.

Col. Charles W. Broadfoot, 1st North Carolina Junior Reserves, describing the attack by the Army of Tennessee<sup>[19]</sup>

Mountain.<sup>[26]</sup>

On March 21, Union Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Mower, commanding the division on the Union right flank, requested permission from his corps commander to launch a

"little reconnaissance" to his front, which was granted.<sup>[27]</sup> Mower instead launched an attack with two brigades on the Confederate left flank, which was defending Mill Creek Bridge. Mower's men managed to come within one-mile (1.6 km) of the crossing before Sherman peremptorily ordered

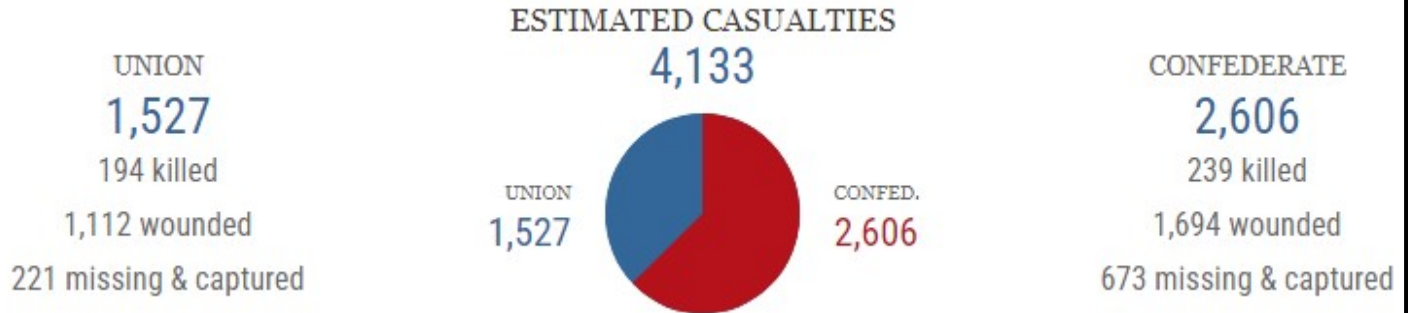
I can do no more than annoy him. I respectfully suggest that it is no longer a question whether you leave present position; you have only to decide where to meet Sherman. I will be near him.

Joseph Johnston to Robert E. Lee<sup>[30]</sup>

Union General Henry W. Slocum's wing at Bentonville. Unfortunately for Johnson, Union reinforcements arrived from Oliver O. Howard's wing after two days of fighting, causing Johnson to be significantly outnumbered.

## 2. Why did William T. Sherman not pursue Johnson's Confederate army?

After threatening Johnson's line of retreat near Mill Creek Bridge, Sherman held his men back long enough for the Confederates to slip out and retreat towards Adairsville. However, Sherman and his army were completely unaware of this move and discovered the Southern army had fled by the morning of the 22nd. As a result, Sherman decided to move on toward Goldsboro, where he linked up with Alfred Terry's and John M. Schofield's commands. From there, he marched towards Raleigh, ultimately forcing Johnson to surrender at Bennett Place.



them to pull back. In his memoirs, Sherman admitted that this was a mistake and that he missed an opportunity to end the campaign then and there, perhaps capturing Johnston's army entirely. Among the Confederate casualties was Hardee's 16-year-old son, Willie. Hardee had reluctantly allowed his son to attach himself to the 8th Texas Cavalry just hours before Mower's attack. Another notable loss was the twenty-three year old Lieutenant Colonel of the 5th Cavalry Battalion, which had been fighting dismounted since the fall of 1864. Sample was killed by an artillery fragmentation, having sustained his 9th and last wound during the war.<sup>[28]</sup>

During the battle, the Confederates suffered a total of nearly 2,600 casualties: 239 killed, 1,694 wounded and 673 missing. About half of the casualties were lost in the Army of Tennessee.<sup>[3]</sup> The Union army lost 194 killed, 1,112 wounded, and 221 missing, for a total of 1,527 casualties. The wounded were treated at the house of John Harper, with 360 unknown Confederates buried in a mass grave next to the Harper family cemetery.<sup>[29]</sup>

During the night of March 21 until the following dawn, Johnston withdrew his army across Mill Creek and burned the bridge behind him, leaving behind a cavalry detachment as a rearguard. The Union army failed to detect the Confederate retreat until it was over.<sup>[31]</sup> Sherman did not pursue the Confederates, but continued his march to Goldsboro, where he joined the Union forces under Terry and Schofield. After resting and refitting his combined forces, Sherman planned to continue onward to Petersburg, Virginia. However, following Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, Johnston surrendered to Sherman at the Bennett Place, North Carolina on April 26.<sup>[32]</sup>

After the Confederate Army defeat at the Battle of Bentonville the army re-assembled around the grounds of the Everitt P. Stevens House where the last Grand Review of the army was held on April 6, 1865. In attendance at the review were Generals William J. Hardee, Joseph E. Johnston and Governor Zebulon Baird Vance.<sup>[33]</sup>

## Questions to Consider

### 1. Why did Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston attack at Bentonville?

During William T. Sherman's march through the Carolinas, he divided his armies into two wings to cover more ground. Realizing that their forces were divided, Johnston decided to attack one of Sherman's wings, hoping to tip the scales in his favor. By mid-March, Johnston decided to attack

## Citations

1. ^ Barrett, p. 409.
2. ^ Broadwater, p. 6.
3. ^ <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Hughes, p. 219.
4. ^ Bradley, p. 404.
5. ^ Bradley, p. 2.
6. ^ Hughes, pp. 16–17.
7. ^ Hughes, pp. 21–22.
8. ^ This division had lately been operating in the [Department of North Carolina](#), and so during the battle would be under the nominal operational control of department commander General [Braxton Bragg](#). (Luvaas, p. 6.)
9. ^ Hampton's command consisted of [Matthew C. Butler's](#) division from the Army of Northern Virginia and [Joseph Wheeler's](#) corps from the Army of Tennessee.
10. ^ Bradly, p. 137.
11. ^ Luvaas, p. 3.
12. ^ Hughes, pp. 47, 49.
13. ^ <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Barrett, p. 408.
14. ^ Hughes, pp. 53–56.
15. ^ Hughes, pp. 74–76.
16. ^ Luvaas, pp. 11–12.
17. ^ Hughes, pp. 60–61.
18. ^ Hughes, p. 62.

19. ^ Luvaas, p. 13.
20. ^ Luvaas, pp. 13–14.
21. ^ Luvaas, pp. 16–17.
22. ^ Hughes, pp. 128–130.
23. ^ Hughes, pp. 135–136, 147–148.
24. ^ Hughes, p. 167.
25. ^ Hughes, p. 169.
26. ^ Hughes, p. 168.
27. ^ Hughes, p. 187.
28. ^ Hughes, pp. 188–204.
29. ^ Bradley, pp. 403–404.
30. ^ Bradley, p. 407
31. ^ Bradley, pp. 400–401.
32. ^ Bradley, pp. 407–408.
33. ^ Thomas A. Greco (August 1980). "Everitt P. Stevens House (PDF). *National Register of Historic Places – Nomination and Inventory*. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Retrieved January 1, 2015.
34. ^ Barrett, p. 411.
35. ^ "The Battle of Bentonville Summary & Facts" [↗](#). *Historical preservation*. Civil War Trust. Archived from the original [↗](#) on November 13, 2012. Retrieved August 14, 2024.
36. ^ [1] [↗](#) American Battlefield Trust "Bentonville Battlefield" webpage. Accessed May 15, 2023.



## THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT ELM SPRINGS

The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is under attack as never before. The National Battlefield Parks have been taken over by the "it's all about slavery" provocateurs. Museums have changed their collections and interpretations to present what they call the cultural history of the War for Southern Independence. In reality this new perspective is nothing more than South bashing. The forces of political correctness have gone into high gear. They attempt to ban any and all things Confederate through their ideological fascism.

There needs to be at least one place where the people of the South and others can go to learn an accurate account of why so many struggled so long in their attempt to reassert government by the consent of the governed in America!

The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building that will have two purposes. One of the uses of this new building will be to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. At the SCV Reunion in July of 2009 the GEC set up a building fund for this purpose. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and in the media.

These plans have now become a reality. The ground breaking has taken place and the museum is now open.

Take this journey with us and support the museum as a donor or join the Friends of the Museum today!

Send Donations to:  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Attn: National Confederate Museum  
P.O. Box 59  
Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card.

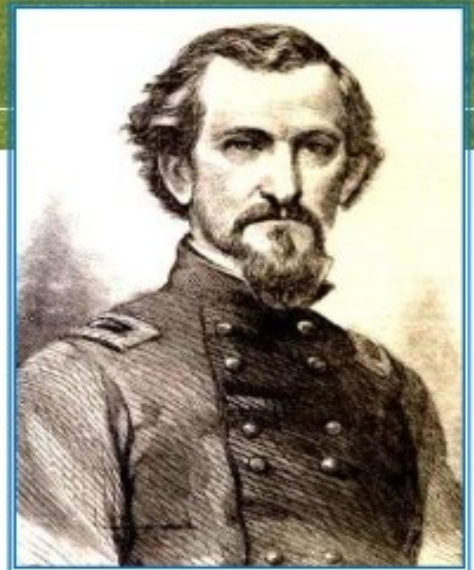
[www.theconfederatemuseum.com](http://www.theconfederatemuseum.com)

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# Brigadier General Zollicoffer

Mill Springs



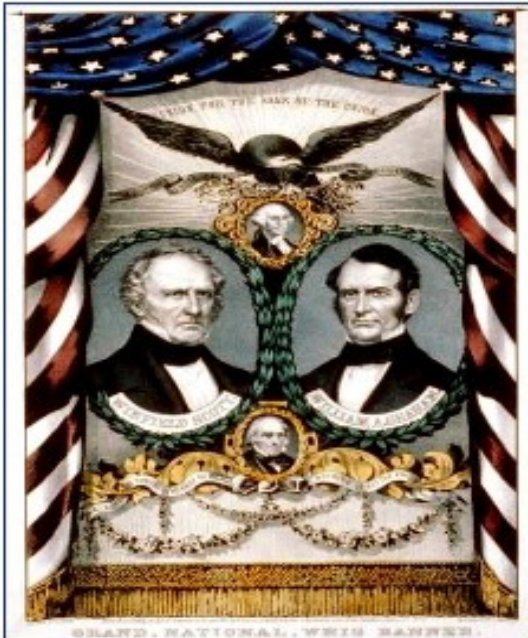
## BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS

**F**elix Kirk Zollicoffer's grandfather George, was a captain in the Revolutionary army. The family moved to America from Switzerland and an ancestor was *Rodolphus II* in 1528. As a young man, *Zollicoffer* worked on his family's plantation before attending *Jackson College* in Columbia, Tennessee. Becoming interested in the newspaper business at 16, Zollicoffer took up work with a newspaper in Paris, Tennessee and by 1835 was named "*State Printer*."

**B**orn 19 May 1812, *Felix Kirk Zollicoffer*, apart from being a talented newspaperman, was a three-term United States Congressman from Tennessee, an officer in the United States Army and a Brigadier General with Confederates during the American War Between the States. He led the first Confederate invasion of eastern Kentucky and was killed in action at the [Battle of Mill Springs](#) 150 years ago at the time of researching and writing this story.

**Z**ollicoffer, who suffered severe short sightedness, earned the dubious distinction of being the first Confederate General to give his life in the Western Theatre of war and America lost a leading writer and statesman who could have gone on to contribute much to his country.

**Z**ollicoffer edited Alabama's *Mercury* newspaper in Huntsville, while enjoying the reputation of State Printer he still gave it up to volunteer for army service in 1836 to serve as a Lieutenant in Florida's *Second Seminole War*. On his return home in 1837 *Felix Zollicoffer* became owner and editor of the *Columbia Observer* and the *Southern Agriculturist*, by 1843 he was also editing the *Republican Banner*, a state propaganda tool of the "Whig Party". This thrust *Zollicoffer* into political circles and he was soon named *Comptroller of the State Treasury* where he served from 1845 to 1849. He seemed inexhaustible and also took over the mantle of *State Adjutant General*.



**F**elix Zollicoffer involved himself more and more in politics and seemed to have a natural penchant for it when he became delegate in the *State Senate* 1849, and delegate to the *Whig National Convention* in 1852, supporting the candidacy of the aging *General Winfield Scott*. It seemed a logical course for him to be elected Whig to the 33<sup>rd</sup> United States Congress and re-elected as candidate of the *American Party* to the 34th and 35<sup>th</sup> National Congress (4<sup>th</sup> March 1853 to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1859). War drums were sounding, Zollicoffer was a man to lead and wouldn't tolerate fools lightly, he won respect in anything he undertook but during the first campaign, he fought a duel with John Marling, editor of the rival *Nashville Union* newspaper.<sup>[2]</sup> Both men were wounded in the duel and Marling went on to become U.S. Minister to Guatemala where he died. After this, *Zollicoffer* seemed to lose his drive for politics; he declined to be candidate for renomination in 1858 and retired to private life. He strongly supported fellow Tennessee moderate *John Bell* for president in the 1860 elections.

**W**ith war clouds threatening and firebrand Tennesseans pushing to secede, *Zollicoffer*, a staunch supporter of States Rights, served on a Washington D.C. peace convention in 1861, trying to find a way to prevent impending war. Personal feelings about *State's Rights* didn't influence him, he was against secession and certainly not in favour of his country going to war with itself.

**W**hen Tennessee seceded, duty called and *Zollicoffer* offered his services to the *Provisional Army of Tennessee*. Despite only having brief combat experience he was appointed Brigadier General 9 May 1861, by *Governor Isham Harris*.<sup>[3]</sup> It's not what you know but who you know.

On 9 July, Felix transferred to the Confederate States Army with the same rank and given command of a department within the *District of East Tennessee* 1 August. Towards the end of July 1861, Harris ordered *Zollicoffer* and 4,000 raw recruits to Knoxville to suppress East Tennessee resistance to secession, appointing him command of the *District of East Tennessee*.<sup>[5]</sup> On 17 September he led a force of 5,400 men from Tennessee through the *Cumberland Gap* along *Wilderness Road* attempting to seize eastern Kentucky. As we read in earlier editions of *The Bugle*, Kentucky had declared neutrality in the conflict, a neutrality violated by a rather over enthusiastic and religious zealot, *Major General Leonidas Polk*, when he invaded early in September.<sup>[6]</sup>



Union Brig Gen George H. Thomas

After winning the first Confederate victory in the commonwealth, at the relatively minor *Battle of Barboursville*, *Zollicoffer* suffered a reversal at the subsequent *Battle of Wildcat Mountain* and was forced to retreat back into rural eastern Tennessee, an area unsympathetic to the Confederate cause.

*Zollicoffer* treated peaceful Unionists fairly but imposed harsher measures after Union guerrillas burnt several railroad bridges in November. Although *Zollicoffer's* main responsibility was to guard *Cumberland Gap*, in November 1861 he advanced westward back into south eastern Kentucky to strengthen control in the area around *Somerset*. He found a strong defensive position at *Mill Springs* and decided to make it his winter quarters. After fortifying the area, especially both sides of the *Cumberland River*, On 8 December, he was superseded by the arrival of *Maj. Gen. George B. Crittenden*, who assumed command of the department but retained *Zollicoffer* as commander of the *1st Brigade*.

With orders to drive the Confederates across *Cumberland River* and break up *Crittenden's* army, Union Brigadier General *George H. Thomas* left Lebanon and slowly marched through rain-soaked country, arriving at *Logan's Crossroads* 17 January, where he waited for *Brig. Gen. Schoepf* to join him. Two days later, *Gen. Thomas* attacked *Crittenden* and *Zollicoffer* in the *Battle of Mill Springs*.

Early on a cool Kentucky morning, two similar-sized contingents of Confederate and Union soldiers (roughly 4,000 effectives each) met on the battlefield in south-central Kentucky, west of Somerset. Mill Springs enjoys several names depending what side you were on, *Fishing Creek* if Confederate and *Logan's Cross Roads* if Union. The southern bank of *Cumberland River* at *Mill Springs* was a bluff and a strong defensive position, whereas the northern bank was low and flat.



*Zollicoffer*, revealing his inexperience in tactics, chose to move most of his men to the north bank where they would be closer to nearby Union troops, incorrectly assuming that it was more defensible.

Both *Crittenden* and *Albert Sidney Johnston* were alarmed at his error and ordered *Zollicoffer* to relocate south of the river but he couldn't comply. With insufficient boats to cross the unfordable river quickly, he was afraid the brigade would be caught by the enemy strung out halfway across.

*Zollicoffer's* men were soon routed from the field. Some accounts claim that Union *Colonel S. Fry* shot *Zollicoffer* as the battle waned. *Zollicoffer* had inadvertently wandered into Union positions, thinking they were Confederate soldiers in the gathering darkness. Alarmed at what he assumed were Confederates firing on his men, he rode up and insisted they stop firing. He was struck several times by enemy bullets and died from his wounds.

*Colonel Fry* had led his regiment into action 19 January; as company battled company the line became confusing, resulting in a couple of gaps in both the Union and Confederate lines. A steady rain contributed to the confusion, as did the men's lack of experience.

*Zollicoffer*, who always suffered from acute short sightedness, tried to rally his men but accidentally rode into the gap and right up to *Fry's* regiment. Still not aware of his error he addressed *Colonel Fry*, ordering him to stop firing.



Speed S. Fry as Colonel



Zollicoffer's aid came riding from the woods attempting to warn his commander that he was in the midst of the enemy and fired a warning shot. Fry immediately raised his pistol and fired at Zollicoffer, who fell dead while his aide was wounded. A debate exists to this day over who actually fired that fatal shot.



Perhaps the most famous of the illustrations of Zollicoffer's last moments at the Battle of Mill Springs

**F**ry never actually claimed responsibility for the shooting but many reports and paintings at the time give full credit to him. However, there were members from three different Union regiments standing nearby who also fired. Whether or not Fry was the sole person to shoot General Zollicoffer, the Confederates were so outraged that they accused him of murder. Confederate units were chased, under fixed bayonets, by Thomas' men ten miles from the battlefield, all the way back to the river and forced to fight a vicious rearguard retreat across it under heavy fire. Thomas prepared to cross the river in pursuit but there was no rush, Crittenden's force had withdrawn and a significant number of his men simply left the unit and went home. With Johnston's right flank destroyed, Ulysses S. Grant could now concentrate on his centre.

**L**eft on the field, an act that is unthinkable in the army, Federals respected Zollicoffer's body; he was embalmed by a Union surgeon and eventually returned to Tennessee where he was finally interred in the *Old City Cemetery* in Nashville. The book illustrated on the right, is recommended reading on this and other battles for Kentucky.

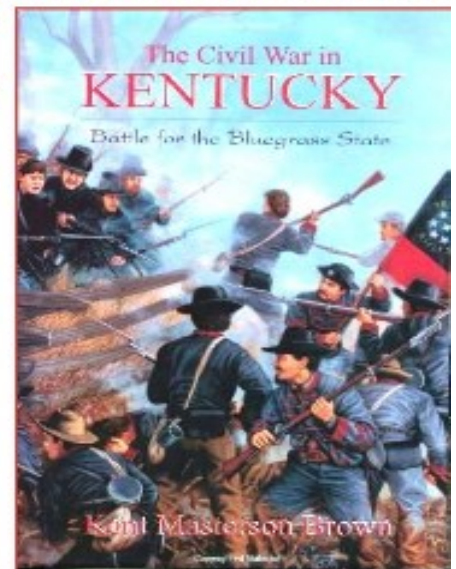
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## Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE, COMMANDER GENERAL,  
UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, APRIL 25, 1906.