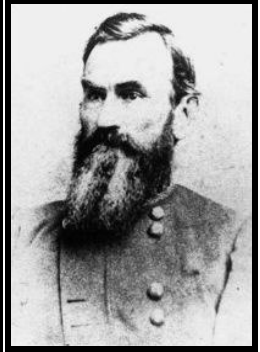


# The Delta General

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March – 2009

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## Upcoming Events

Our March meeting speaker is Jan Taylor of the Winterville Mounds park speaking on the Southern Native Indians and their contribution to the War of Northern Aggression. This will make up for her absence during the February Meeting.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Compatriots,

The days are ticking bye until before we know it, the Reunion will be here. We are putting the final touches to the Reunion preparations. In the near future, we will be compiling a list of volunteers to help with different activities of the Reunion. We also need the members to get out and sell ads to help with the expenses to putting on this event. Two hundred medals have been ordered. With registrations coming in so slow, we were nervous about ordering more. We need about 170 registrations to break even and at present, we have 18 so get your registrations in early and if you a planning to stay in Greenwood, make your reservations before all the rooms are gone.

We had a nice meeting in February. We would like to welcome new camp member, Jack Suddoth of Leland. Miranda McCaskill inducted three new members of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. The new members are Lou Stillman, Malissa Dexter and Courtney McCown. Congratulations to the OCR. It is nice to see both groups growing.

We had an unusual subject for the program, Native Americans of the Mississippi Delta which included the "Mound Builders". Josh Engle, archeologist at Winterville Mounds State Park, gave a very informative program about the history and growth of the local Native American civilizations of early Mississippi. Josh informed us that most of the mounds in the Greenville area are Native American. Sometimes, it is nice to have programs on history other than the War Between the States.

One important piece of Camp Business, was the adoption of the 2009 Camp Budget which was approved by the Camp's Executive Committee at its annual meeting. Also, an invitation will be extended to Rev. Richard Hill to be our speaker at our Confederate Memorial Service to be held Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 2:00 pm at the Greenville Cemetery. Please mark your calendars and make plans to come out and honor our Confederate Ancestors. Refreshments will be provided by the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR.

God Bless the South,

## WELCOME NEW SCV AND OCR MEMBERS

**John "Jack" Alfred  
Suddoth**

**Ancestor:**

**Francis Marion Suddoth  
Great, Great Uncle 2nd  
Lt; Co. B, 11th MS Inf  
Died in Service: Oct 29,  
1861 Richmond, VA**

**Lou Stillman, Malissa  
Dexter, Courtney  
McCown, Barbra Stewart**

## ATTENTION: Address Changes

If anyone in our Camp has a mailing address change, e-mail address change, or has not received their Newsletter; please contact Larry McCluney at 662-453-7212 or e-mail – [confederate@roadrunner.com](mailto:confederate@roadrunner.com)

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## MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS:

### FIRST-EVER MISSISSIPPI CONFEDERATE FLAG BOOK

Larry Hawkins, an SCV Compatriot from Tennessee, has just released the first edition of "Flags Used By Mississippi During the War Between the States," the first-ever book-length study of Mississippi Confederate Battleflags. The book is the product of some ten years of research by Mr. Hawkins, and is illustrated with pictures (and some drawings) of over sixty Mississippi Confederate Battleflags. Given that the book deals exclusively with Mississippi Flags, Mr. Hawkins has graciously allowed me to alert the Mississippi Division to the availability of this groundbreaking publication prior to its going on sale at other venues. Only 600 copies of this first edition have been produced, so it is important that interested Mississippi Compatriots get their orders in ASAP. Said Mr. Hawkins, "I want to emphasize that any profits will go to Beauvoir and to Mississippi Flag preservation. I also plan when finished to give all the original notes and pictures to Beauvoir." Mr. Hawkins is offering the book for \$30, plus \$3 shipping and handling. Considering the historical significance of the volume (let alone its value to Mississippians!), the book is a steal at this price. It is 130+ pages, 8.5x11" format, and is printed on glossy, thick white paper.

You may order your copy by sending \$33 (\$30 for the book, plus \$3 S&H, making a total of \$33) made payable to "Larry Hawkins" to: Mississippi Flag Book c/o Larry Hawkins

5597 Fair Cove

Memphis, Tennessee 38115

(or) email purchase request to flagsusedms@gmail.

## LAND ACQUIRED FOR BATTLE OF TUPELO SITE

2/24/2009 6:08:30 AM Daily Journal

TUPELO - Gerald Creely wanted to help preserve the land his family has owned since 1842, and thought the best was to do that was to put some of it in the hands of experts.

On Monday, Creely, along with the Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission Inc. and the Civil War Preservation Trust, closed on a core piece of property off Mount Vernon Road where the second day of the Battle of Tupelo occurred. The closing took place at the Tupelo Rotary Club's weekly meeting.

"I'm one of the few left of the Creelys, and we felt like this would help preserve the integrity of the farm," Creely said. The site - a little more than 12 acres - was sold by Creely to the two groups, which acquired another two acres.

John Haynes, a Baldwin bank executive, the executive director of the BCNBC and a Rotarian, said the deal has been in the works for about five years.

The Battle of Tupelo was fought July 14-15, 1864, involving about 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers, resulting in about 2,000 casualties. After Confederate forces won at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads, Union General William T. Sherman's march to Georgia was threatened by attacks on his supply line. Union forces met Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest and chased him off after the two-day battle. The first day of the battle was near Harrisburg, and the second day was fought near Mount Vernon Road.

Through a \$1.5 million grant, officials plan to build a pull-out area for cars and buses and have interpretive information at the site. No date for completion for the project was announced.

## LIBERTY BICENTENNIAL

The Stockdale Rangers are participating in the Liberty Bi-Centennial. We will be setting up a living history by the Little Red School House in Liberty on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Friday and Saturday). We will be firing our guns each hour on Friday. Saturday Events are:

1. 10:00AM parade through down town Liberty ( marching, horseback riding, or wagon only)
2. 1:00PM a talk on the Battle of Liberty by Professor Plater Roberson
3. 3:00PM march to the Confederate Monument for a dedication service

As you can see we have a lot to participate in and we need any and all help. Please put in the JDL and help us get the word out. The more people we can get to Liberty, especially on Saturday, the better our public relation and reception.

Also, it is my understanding that the people with the Trail of Honor will be participating on Friday and Saturday at another location. There is a re-enactment of the Battle of Liberty planned for Sunday for anyone interested.

Thanks for your assistance,

Joe Abbott, Adjutant

Stockdale Ranges SCV camp #1681

# Motel Information for the 114th Reunion MS Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans and 15th Reunion MS Society, Order of Confederate Rose

**May 29-31, 2009 . . .Greenwood, MS**

Hosted by the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp#1625 and the Ella Palmer Chapter #9, MSOCR. A block of 75 rooms are reserved at the Best Western in Greenwood. Reservations can be made by calling 662-455-5777. Ask for the Mississippi Division, SCV Convention Discount.

These rooms consist of: 33 Non-Smoking King-size beds - 4 Smoking King-size beds  
33 Non-Smoking doubles – 5 Smoking doubles Rates are \$75.00 + tax a night

Reservations **MUST BE MADE** before March 29, 2009. Reservations after this date will revert back to the regular rate. Cancellations must be made **BEFORE** May 15, 2009.

All rooms include complimentary hot breakfast every morning. Here is the web site for those who are interested in seeing the motel and directions to it online. [www.bestwesternmississippi.com/greenwood-hotels/](http://www.bestwesternmississippi.com/greenwood-hotels/)

The time is now! Sign up now and save!!! We want to encourage all to register early and save money by registering early. The Convention theme for 2009 is "Welcome to the MS Delta, the Land of Cotton". We have an exciting Convention planned out for everyone. This year the OCR will get their own Convention medal for the first time as well and of course the lots of free tours, free seminars, and a wonderful Convention center, Confederate Memorial Hall. And, it's air-conditioned! The motel is very flag friendly and they will promote our organization on the marquee'. For information and registration visit: <http://msconvention2009.homestead.com/index.html>

## NATIONAL NEWS:

### THE SCV IS BACK IN THE RACE

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will be gracing the track at the Daytona International Speedway at 4 pm EST on Saturday, February 7th, 2009. The SCV is proud to be working with veteran owner/driver James Hylton from Inman, South Carolina. The SCV car will be racing in the ARCA RE/MAX series, 46th Annual Lucas Oil Slick Mist 200 in Daytona. The race will be 200 miles (80 laps).

### MISSISSIPPI POSTAGE STAMP

In June 2009 comes the stamp that features the Mississippi state flag and several black bears. Black bears are no official symbol of the state. This Mississippi stamp is in Flags of Our Nation, a three-year series launched on Flag Day 2008.



The story of the teddy bear was born in Mississippi during the 1902 hunting trip of President Theodore Roosevelt after he refused to shoot a bear. By 1932 there were less than 12 bears in the state. Today they are listed on the endangered species list and are federally and state protected and the numbers have increased to 100-120, with 30-40 of them in the six southern-most counties. The state flag depicted on the same stamp has been Mississippi's banner since 1894. Mississippians voted in 2001 on whether to choose a new one or have it replaced. With overwhelming vote it was voted to keep it.



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## NOTE FROM HERITAGE PROMOTION CHAIRMAN

Gentlemen,

Since accepting the responsibilities of Chairman of the Heritage Promotion Committee, I have pondered ways to build an Endowment Fund to provide financial assistance for erecting new "Mega Flags" and for maintaining existing sites. While they would be extremely welcome, I do not expect many large donations. My plea from the beginning is for the small donations that many of our members can afford. What better way to bring this worthwhile endeavor to the attention of members, especially the "not-so-active-members", than to include this in the OP list on dues statements?

David Daniels is designing a brochure promoting the HPC Endowment that will be included on the Tennessee Division Dues Statement. I am confident you would find it highly acceptable to use with the Statement for your Division!

I hope each of you will promote this idea to the members of your Division EC and encourage them to include it on your Dues Statement. Is there a more noble cause?

Fly Our Sacred Banners,  
Ed Butler

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## FORT PEMBERTON Originally Published in 1900

VAN DORN's raid and the battle of Chickasaw Bayou made of naught the December '62 — January '63 push against Vicksburg. Grant fell back to Memphis. McClernand, Sherman's superior, withdrew the thirty thousand column from before the Walnut Hills, to the Yazoo and down it, into the Mississippi and up that vast and turbid stream. His forces reunited, Grant, a stubborn, good soldier, studied in his quiet fashion, a cigar between his teeth, the map of the region. His instinct was always to strike out straight before him. The river, for all its windings, was the directest road to Vicksburg. Late in January he brought a great army down the Mississippi and landed it on the Louisiana side, some miles above the town that must be taken. Here, too, above the line of danger from the grey river batteries, he anchored his ships-of-war.

During the past summer the Federal General Williams had conceived the project of canalling the tongue of land opposite Vicksburg, the almost islanded sliver of Louisiana soil. Cut through this thumblike projection, fill your great ditch from the river, let your fleet enter at Tuscumbia Bend, and hey, presto! emerge again upon the bosom of the Mississippi below Vicksburg, the grey river batteries sweetly ignored; in a word all the grey defences of the Mississippi above Grand Gulf circumvented! The canal seemed worth digging, and so, in the summer, the blue had digged. But the summer was dry and the river low; it refused to enter the prepared by-path, and after a series of disappointments the digging had been discontinued. Now the season was wet, and the river brimming. With a large force of engineers and sappers, Grant began again upon the canal. But now there was too much moisture as before there had been too little. The water was so high that it ran into a hundred paths beside the one which the blue were digging. It turned the flat Louisiana shore into lake and quagmire. Impossible to trench with the liquid stuff flowing in as fast as it was thrown out! — impossible to keep an army encamped in a morass! Again there was a withdrawal.

From higher ground and reaches of the river far above Vicksburg, Grant, the cigar between his teeth, parallel lines showing across his forehead, studied flank movements. . . . The Yazoo again! — though it seemed a stream of ill omen. Not that Grant thought of omens. He was not superstitious. A plain, straightforward, not over-imaginative, introspective, or sophisticated person, he did not so much plan great campaigns as take, unswervingly, the next common-sense step. His merit was that, in the all-pervading fog of war, it was usually upon firm ground that he set his step. Not always, but usually. The Yazoo. . . It flowed southward from the Tennessee line. There it was called the Coldwater. Farther down, in north-ern Mississippi it became the Tallahatchie, into which flowed the Yallahusha. Lower yet it was named the Yazoo, and so flowed into the Mississippi. Throughout its course it drained a vast, flat, egg-shaped lowland, overshot by innumerable lesser streams, lakes, and bayous, rising into ridge and bluff at the southern end of the egg. Named the Valley of the Yazoo, it was reported to be enormously fertile and a storehouse from which Vicksburg and all the exaggerated grey armies in Tennessee and Mississippi were fed. Moreover, at Yazoo City, where the three-named stream became finally the Yazoo, there existed, said Secret Service, a big Confederate navy yard where gunboats were rapidly hatching. To get into that valley from the northern end, come down those rivers, surprise Yazoo City and spoil the nest of gunboats, then on like a swooping hawk and take Vicksburg in the rear! . . . Grant put out his hand for another cigar. But the Valley of the Yazoo was said to be in effect roadless, and though the Yazoo from Yazoo City downwards was navigable, the Tallahatchie and the Coldwater were not. Then came in Admitai Porter with a well-considered plan, though an audacious one and ticklishly dependent upon a thousand circumstances.

Continued on page 6 . . .

## JIM LIMBER DAVIS – BLACK HISTORY MONTH'S FORGOTTEN STORY – By Calvin E. Johnson, Jr.

God's children, of African, Asian, European, Hispanic, American Indian, and Jewish ancestry, were once told stories about the men and women who helped make America great. When I was a child, the heritage of our ancestors was very important to both young and old but, today, political correct thought has taken the place of historical truth and many schools, streets and parks, named for our beloved forefathers and mothers have been changed.

I write this article as the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Virginia, a Southern fraternal-historical group--[www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org), is looking for a location to unveil a historically correct statue depicting Confederate President Jefferson Davis and two of his sons Joe and Jim Limber. Jim was a black child adopted by the Davis family and Joe was tragically killed by a fall in 1864 at the Confederate White House in Richmond, Virginia.

It is ironic that a statue of Abraham Lincoln, Union President, 1861-65, was earlier unveiled in Richmond, Virginia but plans of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to erect a statue of Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, has apparently been met with less enthusiasm...And this comes from the old Confederate Capitol and where Davis and his family are buried. It is also reported that the SCV has even received a cool reception from Jackson, Mississippi, as a possible site for the statue, the state Davis and his family called home during the last years of the president's life...But, there is good news with the following show of support recently published in Jackson Mississippi Clarion Ledger newspaper:

Quote, (The Director of Beauvoir— Davis's last home---says he'd love to have the life size bronze sculpture of the former President of the Confederacy. Richard Forte says the statue of Davis, with his hand extended, looks like it's welcoming people to Beauvoir.) Unquote [www.beauvoir.org](http://www.beauvoir.org)

Why do today's Historians praise the memory of Abraham Lincoln but ignore the many accomplishments of Jefferson Davis? Some people write that Lincoln supported the abolition of slavery but Davis was a racist. If you read Lincoln's first inaugural address from 1861, you will discover that Lincoln supported a bill that would have given the South a way to stay in the Union with slavery protected by a Constitutional amendment. If the South's only intention in seceding from the Union was to keep their slaves, wouldn't they have accepted such a deal?

In 1989, a magazine article caught my eye which I had to read from beginning to end. This was not an ordinary story but about a black child, a Confederate President's First Lady and the Southern Presidential Family. The story was written by Gulfport, Mississippi freelance writer, Mrs. Peggy Robbins and is entitled, "Jim Limber Davis." This is my summary of Mrs. Robbins' splendid story.

On the morning of February 15, 1864, Mrs. Varina Davis, wife of Southern President Jefferson Davis, had concluded her errands and was driving her carriage down the streets of Richmond, Virginia on her way home. She heard screams from a distance and quickly went to the scene to see what was happening.

Varina saw a young black child being abused by an older man. She demanded that he stop striking the child and when this failed she shocked the man by forcibly taking the child away. She took the child to her carriage and with her to the Southern White House.

Arriving home Mrs. Davis and maid 'Ellen' gave the young boy a bath, attended to his cuts and bruises and fed him. The only thing he would tell them is that his name was Jim Limber. He was happy to be rescued and was given some clothes of the Davis' son Joe who was the same size and age.

The Davis family were visited the following evening by a friend of Varina's, noted Southern Diarist-Mary Boykin Chesnut, who saw Jim Limber and wrote later that she had seen the boy and that he was eager to show me his cuts and bruises.

The Christmas of 1864, would be memorable for the Davis family and probably the best Christmas Jim Limber would ever have. A Christmas tree was set up in Saint Paul's Church, decorated and gifts placed beneath it for orphan children.

The end of the War Between the States was coming and Richmond was being evacuated. Varina and the children left ahead of Jefferson Davis. The president and his staff left just hours before the occupation of Union troops. Varina and the children were by the side of Jefferson Davis at his capture near Irwinville, Georgia and again the family was separated. Jefferson Davis was taken to Virginia to spend two years in prison.

Mrs. Davis and her children were taken to Macon, Georgia and later to Port Royal outside of Savannah. At Port Royal their Union escort, Captain Charles T. Hudson, made good at his earlier threats to take Jim Limber away.

As the Union soldiers came to forcibly take young Jim, he put up a great struggle and tried to hold onto his family as they to him. Jim and his family cried uncontrollably as the child was taken. His family would never again see him or know what happened to him.

The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia is home to a portrait of Jim Limber Davis in the Eleanor S. Brookenbrough Library. I thank Mrs. Peggy Robbins who wrote the Jim Limber Davis story in 1989 and the Southern Partisan Magazine for publishing her story in the second quarter Issue-Volume IX of 1989.





# ***The Delta General***

1412 North Park Dr

Greenwood, MS

## **Camp Officers**

Commander  
(Adjutant) -

Dan McCaskill

1st Lt Cmdr- Charles  
"Gator"Stillman

2nd Lt Cmdr- Claude  
Stillman

Color Sgt - Ralph  
Washington

## **Appointed**

### **Officers:**

Editor/Webmaster -

Larry McCluney

Chaplain - Earl  
McCown, Jr.

Sgt-at-Arms -

Thomas Haik



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Fort Pemberton Continued from page 4 . . .

Some distance below Memphis there was a point where the Mississippi and the Coldwater came within calling distance of each other. Between was only the Yazoo Pass — and Yazoo Pass was a bayou which anciently had connected the two. Anciently, not now; for years before a levee had been built, shutting off bayou from river, and preventing untoward floods in the upper Yazoo Valley. Assemble a fleet over against Yazoo Pass, cut the levee, and so lift the water in the Coldwater and the Tallahatchie, then proceed down those streams with the vessels-of-war and as many transports as needed, take Yazoo City, enter the Yazoo, and so on triumphantly! Grant chewed the end of his cigar, then nodded acquiescence.

On the third of February, after much time spent in digging, they laid and exploded a mine. The levee broke in rout and ruin. Like a tiger from the jungle out leaped the Mississippi, roaring down to the bayou. Yazoo Pass became a furious yellow torrent, here spume and eddy, here torn arms of trees, an abatis in motion. The Cold-water received the flood and bore it on to the Tallahatchie. But so angry were the churning waters by the gate in the levee that days passed before the ironclads DeKalb and Chillicothe, the rams Fulton and Lioness, the tinclads Forest Rose, Marmora, Rattler, Romeo, Petrel, and Signal, and all the transports in the rear could attempt that new-made passage. At last they did enter the Yazoo Pass and made slow way to the Coldwater, only presently to find that the grey troops had felled the tall, tall trees on either bank and thrown them into the stream. There, arms interlocked, they made for miles an effective barrier, removed only after slow days and days of effort. The stream wound like a tortured serpent. There presented them-selves strange currents, pits, and shoals. The bed was unknown, save that it possessed a huge variety of snag, bar, and obstacle. The flood was narrow, and the thick overhanging forest obscured and fretted. Every turn presented a fresh difficulty. The fleet made three miles a day. Behind it crept, crept the transports, forty-five hundred men under Generals Ross and Quinby. There was much sickness and the fret, fret of utter delay. It was late February before the expedition entered the Coldwater, early March before it approached the Tallahatchie. Here it encountered afresh felled trees like endless bundles of jackstraws, thrown vigorously, crossed under water at every imaginable angle. A little later the blue scouts brought news of Fort Pemberton.

The Southern spring was at hand, a mist of young leaf and bloom, a sound of birds, a sapphire sky, a vapour, a warmth, a rhythm. Edward Cary loved it, and said that he did so, lying after supper, on the bank of the Tallahatchie, under the cotton-bale rampart of the cotton-bale fort that was to keep the enemy out of the Yazoo. The rest of the mess agreed — lovely spring, lovely evening! They lit corn-cob pipes and clay pipes and fig-stem pipes, and stretched themselves on a meagre bit of dry earth, beside a clump of Spanish bayonet. The sun dipped behind the woods across the river, leaving air and water an exquisite coral. There were seven men — five privates, a corporal, and a sergeant-major. All were tall and all were lean and none was over thirty. One bore an old Huguenot name and the forbear of one was a Highland chief. The others were mainly of English stock, names of Devon, Surrey, and Sussex. Two were university men, sons of great planters, born into a sunny and settled world that after their majority overclouded. Three had less of that kind of fortune and had left for the war a lawyer's office, a tobacco warehouse, and an experiment in mining. The sergeant-major was of the yeoman type, a quiet man with little book learning and a name in the regiment for courage and resource. To be continued in the April issue of the Delta General . . .