



The Delta General

May, 2014 Volume 17, Issue 5

Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – May 1
- Living History at Fort Pemberton - May 3
- May 4 - Ole Miss Memorial; Ole Miss Campus (Behind Tad Smith Coliseum); Oxford, MS.; 2pm
- May 18 - Crossroads Cemetery Memorial; Crossroads Cemetery; Calhoun County, MS.; 10am
- 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/>

Camp News:

Commander's Message – Joe Nokes

My friends and fellow compatriots,

Just recently, in honor of Confederate Heritage Month, the camp held our Memorial Service at Greenville Cemetery. Let me be the first to say thank you to all who helped to organize and who attended the event. As always, our OCR ladies kept up fed and entertained. Our Mechanized Cavalry put in a strong showing. Also in attendance were members of the Arkansas Division SCV and OCR chapters. We even had a guest from South Texas who happened to be driving by and stopped when he saw the flags. And of course, General Beauregard led with a rousing inspirational message. Again, thank you all who attended.

I know that there are a multitude of events related to the War for Southern Independence going on. As we move into the fourth year of the Sesquicentennial, events are everywhere and anywhere. A young relative of mine asked just the other day: "Where and when do they have these types of things?" My response was "All over. Every weekend something is going on. How far or close do you want to go?"

I truly understand that times are hard and filled with many activities in our modern fast-paced world. And no, I cannot attend each and every event related to the War. None of us can. None of us can neglect life's duties and responsibilities. But I feel the need to support as much as I can, when I can, where I can.

And that is what I continue to urge each and every one of you to do. Take care of your modern life, your duties and responsibilities first and foremost. Then, take a moment to find and locate an event – SCV event, OCR event, Reenactment, Mech Cavalry ride, whatever – that you can fit into your schedule and GO TO IT! Show your support for the men who performed the duties and responsibilities of their times. Even if you do nothing more than stop by a cemetery and stick a flag on a Confederate soldier's grave, do SOMETHING to honor those men who sacrificed their time and often their very lives for the Cause in which they believed. Show your belief in that Cause, as well.

In closing, please remember that we are the guardians of our ancestors' good names and legacies. Let us not forget to honor them and their sacrifices.

Deo Vindice,
Joe Nokes, Commander

Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President

First I want to thank all the ladies that supported refreshments for the Confederate Memorial Service in Greenville on April 13. I wished we could have had more people there but it always does my heart good to see patriots come out to honor our ancestors.

Our next meeting will be on May 1. We will once again provide a meal at our meeting and 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.

Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

Our speaker for the May Camp Meeting will be none other than General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard. We heard from Grant at our Lee Jackson Banquet. I think it is only fitting that we hear from a great general from The South! Don't you agree?

At this point I have no speakers scheduled for June or July due to our June meeting being the day before our Division Reunion and our July Meeting being the day before the 4th of July. There was discussion at the April meeting about possibly changing the dates of our meetings, but nothing was decided.

August will be our annual pilgrimage to visit the grave of our camp namesake, Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys, and picnic at Grand Gulf State Park.

In September The Medicine Lady, Diane Bonert, will be our speaker.

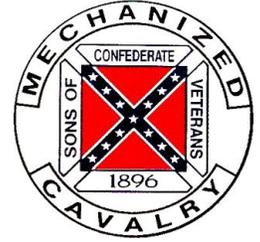
Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter, MOS&B

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)**



Mechanized Cavalry Report: Richard Dillon, Cpl

As I mentioned last month, the reenactment of the battle of Brice's Crossroads will be the 14th & 15th of June. This is the 150th anniversary of our beloved General N. B. Forrest's most noteworthy victory. The Mechanized Cavalry needs to have a good turnout. Get in touch with me via either phone (662-897-8146) or email (rld846@gmail.com) for our trip plans.



RAYWWF

Adjutant's Report for February, 2013 – Dan McCaskill

Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Compatriot Junior Stillman. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Jimmy Alford led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy and then read "The Charge" given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

Commander Nokes had the privilege of inducting our newest member, John Moss Christian, into our Camp and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. John brings our membership to 58.

Program: Our guest speaker for the evening was Brother James Taylor, Commander of the Calhoun Avengers Camp # 1969. James' programs are always interesting, inspiring and involves participation from the audience. This evening was no different. James' theme for his program was "One Man Can Make a Difference". To illustrate his point, James used several examples of Biblical characters such as Noah, Moses and Elijah plus from the Secular world with the likes of Billy Graham and two recipients of the Confederate Medal of Honor. Those men were Private Asbury W. Hancock of the 19th Mississippi Infantry for his actions at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House and Private Wilson J. Barbee of the 1st Texas Infantry for his actions on the second day at the Battle of Gettysburg. These examples show that a person's actions can make the difference in people's lives.

Announcements: The Camp's Confederate Memorial Service will be Sunday, April 13th at the Greenville Cemetery starting at 3:00 pm. The Mississippi Division Confederate Memorial Service will be held Saturday, April 26th at Beauvoir. There will be a Living History at Ft. Pemberton outside of Greenwood the weekend of May 2-3. The Division Reunion will be held in Corinth, MS June 6-8, 2014. The National Reunion will be held in North Charleston, SC July 16-21, 2014.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Richard Dillon announced that the speaker for our May Meeting will be Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard, aka Larry McCluney. 2nd Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell was absent; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that camp funds had been moved to their respective accounts as voted on by the members. Ten Division Membership Pins had been purchased to be given to new members. Also, two dozen Battle Flags had been purchased to replace tattered Flags used for the Confederate Memorial Service. As Camp Editor, Larry inquired if anyone had problems receiving the Camp Newsletter; AOT Councilman Larry McCluney announced that at present Tom Strain was unopposed for the position of Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief and he was still unopposed; MOS&B had no report; OCR would be providing refreshments at the Memorial Service. Sandra Stillman made an appeal for pictures of member's Confederate Ancestor.

Camp Business: The final touches were decided on for the upcoming Confederate Memorial Service. The question was posed to postpone both the June and July Camp Meetings. The June Meeting because of the Division Reunion that Friday and Saturday and the July Meeting because of the 4th falling on that Friday. It was decided to make the final decision at our May Meeting. With no other business coming before the Camp, Commander Nokes turned the Meeting over the ladies of the OCR to conduct their raffle and "Capture the Yankee". Three prizes were up for grabs with a prize being donated by James Taylor. Chesley Roberts won the book and CD and Missy Stillman won a framed copy of the Governor's Confederate Heritage Proclamation. Joe Nokes attempted to capture the Yankee but failed.

Compatriot Junior Stillman dismissed the Meeting with a word of prayer. Attendance for the evening was 21.

Mississippi Division News:

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

Whats Going On at Beauvoir?

BEAUVOIR CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL SERVICE, SWAMP PEOPLE STARS AT BEAUVOIR!! So much has been happening at Beauvoir. On Saturday April 26th Confederate Memorial Services were held at Beauvoir in conjunction with a visit from Swamp People Stars. Trapper Joe LaFont & Trigger Tommy Chauvin were at Beauvoir. Since Greg Stewart has taken over as interim Executive Director, so much has been happening that you need to take the time out this summer and visit our property. Please visit www.beauvoir.org to see all the lates happenings.

Confederate Impressionist Needed!!!!

CALL: 228 234-0220. if you are interested!!!!

In an effort to provide a constant authentic period experience to our visitors we NEED re-enactors to camp on the grounds or set up during the day. Any day is fine, we are open every day. The only stipulation we really have is that the re-enactor(s) be willing to engage with the visitors at least part of the time. Ideally, a campsite (whether slept in overnight or not) visible from the highway would be expected to create the draw. An actual sleeping arrangement in the usual quarters would be fine.

As we pivot away from the glamour and glitz of the past two years and back to a program focused on education and things families want to see we have to ask our friends now to consider camping with us for our common goal. I am in the office but probably the best way to reach me, besides email, is my cell 228 234-0220.

Greg Stewart, Acting Executive Director

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 <http://www.scv2014.org> 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. See page 7 for more details and registration . . .

Time to raise the white flag...

Did that get your attention? No... I'm not calling for surrender, far from it. The white flag is raised in auto racing to signal the last lap of the race. We have entered into the last year of the four-year Sesquicentennial observance of the War; now is the time to "make our move."

You've heard it said that "all politics is local"; in similar manner, "all Confederate Heritage is local." We win (or lose) our battles community-by-community, state-by-state, all across the Southland. For that reason, the relationships that our Camps develop in their communities are of great importance, among these are our relationships with local and state law enforcement.

You will recall that last year we began a program to allow local Camps to honor their sheriff and police departments and Divisions to honor their highway patrol (or whatever the statewide agency might be). Based on the reports that came back to us, there was much goodwill and positive PR for the SCV as a result. However, we need to do more this year.

Here's how it works -- the week of May 11-17 is Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week. We need all Camps to participate in this -- if you meet in a municipal setting, honor your police department; if you meet in an unincorporated area, honor your sheriffs office. You have a great deal of latitude with this; you can:

--Honor the agency in general

--Honor the Sheriff / Chief

--Ask for the name of an officer to honor

Use your own initiative and pick out an officer based on his / her performance

Similarly, the place and time can vary:

--Utilize a camp meeting and invite the honoree

--Utilize a CMD service if you're in a state that recognizes May 10

--Call and ask permission to come to their offices

--Try to hit our target week, May 11 - May 18

IMPORTANT: Please don't get sidetracked with details; as Nike says. "Just Do It." ALSO -- DIVISIONS: make sure that you participate by honoring your statewide law enforcement agencies; the above observations work for you, as well.

The certificate is available online. Here is a link -- <http://www.scv.org/pdf/lawcert.pdf>

OK, got it? We need to really hit a home run with this; let's make sure that every state, every county, every town and city across Dixie hears from us in this initiative.

Gene Hogan
Chief of Heritage Operations,
Sons of Confederate Veterans
(866) 681 - 7314



SCV Telegraph

Compatriots:

As you know, a Heritage event that has been occurring at the last several Reunions became an official part of the Reunion schedule, effective at Vicksburg in 2013.

This was an important development because it allows us to utilize the event as part of our overall Heritage program.

Furthermore, it allows us to recognize the recipients of our various Heritage awards -- these people do good work and they deserve a stand-alone event to honor them!

I am pleased to announce to you that we will be honored with a special guest to offer our keynote address at this year's event in Charleston.

Our speaker will be Ben Jones, a former two-term Congressman from Georgia's 4th District.

Mr. Jones might be even better known as "Cooter" from the Dukes of Hazzard.

Perhaps of greatest interest to us is that Mr. Jones is a Compatriot and has been an asset to the SCV by using his high profile to speak up for the worth of our History and symbols.

You will not want to miss this event!

Be sure to get registered for the Reunion and make your reservation for the Johnson Hagood Heritage Dinner --

Gene Hogan
Chief of Heritage Operations
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Ben Jones, better known as "Cooter" Davenport to Dukes of Hazzard fans, was a Congressman from Georgia from 1989-1993.



Memphis Needs Your Help!

The city of Memphis has rich and storied Confederate heritage. The city provided more soldiers to the cause than any other southern city per capita. 37 regiments formed in Memphis. The state capital moved to Memphis after the fall of Nashville. The keel of the C.S.S. Arkansas was laid in Memphis. The largest inland naval battle in history was fought below the bluffs of Memphis. The city was the sight of many Confederate Veteran reunions. The citizens of Memphis erected one of the largest bronze monuments in America, dedicated to General Nathan Bedford Forrest, in the center of Bedford Forrest Park. Confederate Park rests on the bluff overlooking the site of the Battle of Memphis, which later became the site of several Confederate Veteran reunions. Below this park is Jefferson Davis Park, the scene of one of the most benevolent acts of any occupied city. After the war the steamer Sultana exploded north of Memphis. The citizens of Memphis went down to the river and helped save hundred of injured survivors of the explosion. THE SURVIVORS ALL WERE UNION SOLIDERS! All this brings us to the pitiful irony of present day Memphis. In 2013 the city council of Memphis passed resolutions to attempt to rename all these parks. There was no public outcry, just a power play by tyrannical self-absorbed officials who are out of touch with the realities of managing a modern city. They knew, or should have known that an ordinance passed in 2000 states that the council relinquished their control over the parks to the mayor's office. But breaking the law never stopped a politician (War Between the States). This had been attempted many times before. A group known as Citizens To Save Our Parks was founded years ago when the city tried to do this in the past. In that cause we again dusted off our battle gear and once more prepared to "chase the elephant". We sued the city to force them to restore the names of the parks. This was a year ago February. We have raised over \$67,000 to pay legal fees, but the fight is far from over. We still owe \$60,000 as of today and we are still maneuvering prior to a court date, which is April 25. I write today to ask you to reach out to friends of the Confederate soldier and those students of history to help us preserve history in Memphis. Please send whatever you can to citizenstosaveourparks.org and use the paypal link. No donation is too small.

If would rather you may mail a donation to: Citizens To Save Our Parks P.O. Box 241875 Memphis, TN 38124 "Any society which suppresses the heritage of its conquered minorities, prevents their history or denies them their symbols has sown the seeds of their own destruction." Deo Vindice Mark Buchanan President-Citizens To Save Our Parks Memphis Brigade Commander, Tenn Div. SCV 2ND Lt Cmndr R.E. Lee Camp SCV Germantown, TN.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

119TH REUNION – MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
AND 20TH 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: _____

All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies. Those registering at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last.

REGISTRATION AMOUNTS:

SCV before May 23, 2014 \$30.00 AT THE REUNION \$35.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

OCR before May 23, 2014 \$10.00 AT THE REUNION \$15.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

Ancestor Memorial: EACH MEMORIAL IS \$10.00 _____ \$ _____

(Please print or type each memorial on a separate page and submit them with this form.)

Program Ads: \$100 for a full page; \$50 for half a page; \$25 for a quarter page; \$15 for a business card size ad
(Please submit ad information on a separate page before May 2.)

Banquet—\$30.00 per adult plate QTY _____ \$ _____

\$15.00 per child plate (12 and under) QTY _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Make checks Payable to the Col. William P. Rogers SCV Camp #321

MAIL TO: Larry Mangus - 56 CR 615 - Corinth, MS 38834

HISTORICAL BUS TOURS – NO COST – RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED

Please sign up for those you wish to participate in:

_____ Friday Early Bird Tour – June 6th, 1:00 p.m. – Tour of Davis Bridge battlefield

_____ Saturday Tour – June 7th, 1:30 p.m. – Tour of Corinth battlefield sites

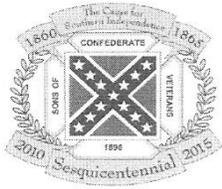
_____ Sunday on Your Own Tours – June 8th – Shiloh National and/or Brice's Crossroads National Battlefields

CONTACT INFORMATION: Larry Mangus - lmangus1941@gmail.com or (H) 662-287-0766 (C) 662-872-9180

Hotel Information: Holiday Inn Express is the headquarters hotel.

Holiday Inn Express 2106 Hwy. 72W (662-287-1407) – SCV Rate \$89 if booked before May 23

Hampton Inn: 2107 Hwy. 72W (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**



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, July 17: General Forrest Cavalry Breakfast (\$30.00 Each) | Qty. _____ x 30 = _____ |
| Thurs, July 17: C. Irvine Walker Preservation Luncheon (\$35.00 Each) | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____ |
| Thurs, July 17: General Johnson Hagood Heritage Dinner (\$35.00 Each) | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____ |
| Thurs, July 17: Ladies Tour (\$35.00 Each) | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____ |
| Thurs, July 17: Fort & Battlefield Tour (\$35.00 Each) | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____ |
| 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) | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____ |
| Fri, July 18: H.L. Hunley Tour (\$40.00 Each) | Qty. _____ x 40 = _____ |
| Sat, July 19: Mary Boykin Chesnut Debutante Luncheon (\$30.00 Each) (Debutantes Free) | Qty. _____ x 30 = _____ |
| Sat, July 19: Gen. Wade Hampton III Grand Banquet and Debutante Ball: (Single: \$70.00) (Couple: \$130.00) | Qty. _____ x 70 = _____ Qty. _____ x 130 = _____ |
| Numbered Medal (\$150.00 Each) (Limited to 150 Medals) | Qty. _____ x 150 = _____ |
| Additional Reunion Medals (Non Numbered) (\$35.00 Each) | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____ |
| Ancestor Memorials (Printed in Program) (\$10.00 Each) (Attach Ancestor Memorial Form) | Qty. _____ x 10 = _____ |

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

Grand Total _____

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: _____ 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 Brigade, 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

Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence Articles:

Grant's Overland Campaign Begins May 5, 1864 - Jun 3, 1864

Finally Lincoln had the commander he wanted. Grant's success in the West, coupled with McClellan's, Burnside's, Hooker's, and Meade's failures in the East, led the frustrated president to name Grant Lieutenant General of all Union armies in March 1864.

Grant gave Lincoln more than a record of success. He also shared the president's belief that the North must put more men and armies in the field to negate the South's home field advantage. Thus far, Lee had effectively used his interior lines to shift and concentrate his smaller forces to meet the larger Northern armies. But if the North placed three, four, or five large armies in the field all at once, Lee would not have the manpower to respond.

Therefore in the spring of 1864, Grant ordered five large armies into the field. Three of these armies would converge on Richmond, one from Fort Monroe at the mouth of the James River, one by way of the Shenandoah Valley, and one from northern Virginia led by Grant himself. The plan made great sense. But Lee jumped Grant before the Union general had a chance to get his 100,000 man army moving. The first stage of Grant's march toward Richmond carried him across the Rappahannock River and through a dense wood known as the Wilderness. There Lee and his undersized army of 60,000 met Grant on 5 May 1864.

It was another brilliant move by the Confederate general. Within the Wilderness there were no clearings large enough to deploy artillery or allow massive armies to square off. Carved into dozens of narrow ravines, the Wilderness forced hundreds of small, guerrilla encounters. At one point, gunfire set the dense underbrush on fire, limiting the visibility, increasing the terror, and negating the benefits of numbers. After two days of this chaotic, awful fighting, Grant's army was in terrible shape. Both flanks had been penetrated and the casualties (had anyone had time to count) approached 20,000. Grant decided to abandon the field—but not the campaign. He led his men through an exhausting overnight march to the east and south in an attempt to outflank the rebel army and place himself in between Lee and Richmond. Lee sniffed out the move, and drove his men just as hard in order to intercept Grant's army, which he did, at the Spotsylvania Court House on 8 May.

For the next twelve day the two armies engaged one another in vicious fighting. On the fifth day, Union forces broke through the Confederate lines at "Bloody Angle." Southern soldiers blamed the rain that had dampened their gun powder; Northerners credited the toughness of the corps led by Major General Winfield Hancock. Lee rallied his retreating troops, and attempted to personally lead them back to the front. But in an amazing display of loyalty, they refused to advance until he returned to greater safety behind the lines. Once Lee was "to the rear," the Confederates counter-attacked. Trees were cut in two by the withering gun fire between the armies. Then, as the armies grew closer, they engaged in hand-to-hand combat of medieval brutality. Eventually, the breach in the Southern lines was closed.

After twelve days of fighting, Grant again moved to the east and south in attempt to slide past Lee. The Union general had lost another 12,000 men at Spotsylvania. But as he explained to the folks at Washington, "I propose to fight it out all along this line if it takes all summer." Lee once again parried his move. And the two armies converged again, this time at Cold Harbor on 1 June.

Both army's had limped into Cold Harbor, actually a crossroads, not a harbor, about ten miles from Richmond. Over the preceding month Grant had lost more than 30,000 men, Lee about 18,000. But now both armies were re-enforced. Union General Benjamin Butler, who had been working his way up the James River, was able to send 16,000 men to Grant. Lee was re-enforced by 7000 men from General P.T.G. Beauregard's army. Now the two replenished armies dug in along a seven-mile front stretching from Bethesda Church to the Chickahominy River.

Grant ordered his first assault on the evening of 1 June—but it was turned back after suffering more than 2000 casualties in just two hours. He took a day to re-group; Lee spent the time strengthening his defenses. Trees were felled to form barricades; earthen walls were erected. Artillery was arranged so that Grant's attacking infantry would have to hazard shells flying in from several directions.

Not surprisingly, in retrospect, the Union assault the next day was a bloodbath. Almost 12,000 Northern soldiers were killed or wounded before Grant called off the attack. Even the battle-hardened general was sobered by the losses. "I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever made," he would later write.

The two armies stared at one another across a no-man's land separating well fortified trenches. Then Grant moved his army yet again, this time to the town of Petersburg.

Sherman's March to the Sea and Carolina Campaign in The Civil War May 7, 1864 - Dec 2, 1864

In the spring of 1864, while Grant relentlessly pursued Lee through Virginia, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman left Chattanooga, Tennessee with his sights set on Atlanta. His army of 100,000 was still high from its victories in southern Tennessee the previous winter. But immediately, they ran into resistance from Joseph Johnston and his smaller but expertly led forces. Knowing that he could not prevail in a head-to-head encounter, Johnston hit-and-ran, harassed and peppered Sherman's army as it plowed through Georgia.

Johnston's tactics were shaped by the military realities—but he also had a keen understanding of politics. He realized that Lincoln's re-election was doubtful, and that barring some major Northern victory, the Democratic candidate, George McClellan, who favored negotiations with the South, might win. Johnston's goal, therefore, was to avoid a disaster—stay in the field, slow Sherman's march, and prevent the Union general and the American president from gaining a large victory.

But ironically, the general understood politics better than the politician. Confederate president Jefferson Davis wanted to see more dramatic military results, and therefore he replaced the judicious Johnston with the more hot-blooded John Bell Hood on 18 July.

Hood immediately attacked Sherman's army—on 20 July at Peachtree Creek and on 22 July just outside Atlanta. The action was exactly what Davis wanted. But the cost was enormous—in these two actions alone Hood lost 13,000 men. Moreover, they barely delayed the inevitable. Sherman gained control over all of railroad lines funneling food and supplies to the beleaguered city; finally convincing even Hood that there was no hope. The Confederate general abandoned the city, boosting Northern morale and reassuring Lincoln's re-election. Sherman's work, however, was far from finished. On 16 November, he set fire to Atlanta and set off on the second leg of his destructive Georgia journey. Instructing his 60,000 men to pack light and live off the land, he cut a 60 miles groove through the rebel state destroying everything in his path. Hood offered little resistance. He had come around to Johnston's way of thinking. Instead of attacking the unstoppable Sherman, he concentrated on disrupting his communications and supplies lines back to Tennessee. It was really all that Hood could do. But it did not make much of a difference. Sherman's army took all that it needed from the farms and factories it encountered as it marched. When it reached Savannah in December, Northern ships provided all that Sherman's Georgia hosts could not.

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Sherman's March Continued from page 7 . . .

In January, Sherman hit the road yet again. This time he headed due north, taking his unique brand of total war into the seedbed of secession, South Carolina. He captured the state capital Columbia on 17 February and burned it. Then he marched into North Carolina with plans of joining Grant in Virginia. His 90,000 troops would no doubt tip the scales in the long siege of Petersburg.

Recognizing that the combined Union armies would be fatal to the Confederate cause, Lee ordered Joe Johnston to make one last ditch attempt to slow Sherman's advance. Johnston's Army of Tennessee was broken, but he managed to scrape together about 21,000 men for the effort. Yet even half Sherman's army was enough to turn back Johnston's comparatively small force. At Bentonville, on 19 March, Johnston attacked the eastern wing of Sherman's army led by Major General Henry Slocum. And for a few hours, the smaller rebel force did fairly well. Slocum, believing that he was facing only a small regiment of cavalry, did not initially call for support. But soon enough he realized his error and overpowering numbers were delivered to the field.

Johnston withdrew his forces on the battle's third day and Sherman allowed him to retreat in peace. He knew that the war was all but over. And in fact, a few hundred miles to the north, Petersburg was about to fall and with it the South's final hopes.