



The Delta General

November, 2012 Volume 15, Issue 10

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



Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes

Compatriots,

I hope this finds you all doing well. Our camp is moving forward and looking good on many fronts. Our October meeting was a great success. Alan Doyle gave a very good presentation on the death and funeral of Nathan Bedford Forrest. Many, many thanks to Annette McCluney for her hard work that evening.

Our November meeting will feature Cheryl Taylor, Director of the Museum of the Mississippi Delta (formerly Cottonlandia). Cheryl will inform the camp what the museum is doing in preparation for the exhibit entitled "War Comes to the Mississippi Delta". We really need to come out both to receive the information and to help us prepare for this one-in-a-lifetime Sesquicentennial event.

This is just a reminder that we need as many of you as possible at the November meeting to help begin the planning for our Lee-Jackson Banquet in January. We need as much input as possible from you the camp members.

I want to commend each and every one of you who attended Fall Muster at Beauvoir. From what I have heard, there was a good time had by all. For those of you at the Champion Hill reenactment, I was glad to see you there.

Adjutant Dan McCaskill has notified me of the handful of members who have not yet renewed dues. I humbly ask that you continue your support of our fine organization. We are a one-of-a-kind group with a one-of-a-kind membership.

In closing, let me urge you to be as active and as pro-active as possible in the coming months. We have many events on the horizon that we need to support as fully as possible. I know that you all will continue to be the leaders of the charge that you have always been.

My humblest thanks to you all,
Joe Nokes

Camp News: Door Prizes, Capture the Yankee, Show and Tell, and October Meeting

To revitalize interest in camp meetings, Lt. Commander Larry McCluney has encouraged a door prize raffle that is conducted and carried out by the OCR. The OCR has also revived the Capture the Yankee as a fund raiser. There is a red chip for every member in the Camp in the pot and a white chip for every OCR member. One blue chip symbolizing the Yankee. Chances are \$.25 cents each and whomever captures the yankee gets half the pot. That yankee has yet to be captured. The pot is now up to \$38.00 and growing. Come to the meetings and lets see if you can capture that elusive Yankee.

Our November meeting will feature Cheryl Taylor who will come and give a report on happenings at the Museum of the Mississippi Delta in preparations for their new exhibit, "War Comes to the Mississippi Delta."

Adjutant's Report: Dan McCaskill

7:00 pm The Camp Meeting of October 4, 2012 was called to order by Commander Joe Nokes at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. Commander Nokes welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting. The Commander then invited all to partake in the evening which consisted of pizza and fried chicken. After the meal, Commander Nokes reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Chris Lewis was absent so 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman led 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. After the salutes, Joe read "The Charge" to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

given to us by General Stephen D. Lee to remind everyone why we do what we do.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wirt Adams Raid, Jefferson
College in Natchez, MS –
November 9-11

January 25 – War Comes to the
MS Delta – Museum of the
Delta Exhibits open

Adjutant's Report continued . . .

Program: Commander Nokes turned the podium over to 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney. Larry introduced our speaker, Melvin McClure from the Forrest Camp in Memphis who took the place of Allen Doyle who had a business obligation that prevented him from attending the Meeting. The program for the evening was the post-war years and death of Nathan Bedford Forrest. Nathan was involved in many business adventures after the War. Some were successful and others were not. During these late years, Nathan came to Christ and became a very active Christian. He also was a defender of the rights of all citizens, black and white. The last years of his life, he became very ill with dysentery, shrinking from a War weight of over 200 pounds to just over 100 at the time of his death on October 29, 1877. It was estimated that 50,000 people viewed his funeral and burial which is the largest attended funeral in Memphis history.

Announcements: The third weekend of October there will be two big events in Mississippi. There is the annual Fall Muster at Beauvoir and a National Re-enactment at Raymond. The second weekend of November will be the re-enactment at Jefferson College north of Natchez. In December, the Old Courthouse Museum will host the annual Christmas Ball.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney reported he was still working on a program for November. 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman did not have a report. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Camp had 35 paid members and 21 who had four weeks remaining to renew their membership. (At the time of this writing, 12 members have not renewed their membership). Camp funds stood at \$ 1,731.54 in the checking account and enough funds had been donated to meet donations to the church through the end of October. \$ 60 is still needed to reach our Church Fund goal. Earl McCown reported that the Gen. Charles Clark Chapter of the MOS & B needed a few good men. As Editor, Larry inquired if anyone had problems with receiving The Delta General.

Camp Business: Camp Adjutant Dan McCaskill presented the applicant, James Robert Strawbridge and his application for membership in the SCV for consideration by the Camp members. Earl moved that the Camp accept Robert's application and was seconded by Junior Stillman and was accepted unanimously by the Camp. Larry brought up the subject of this year's Lee-Jackson Banquet in January, 2013 and proposed approaching Past CIC Chuck McMichael as our guest speaker. Earl McCown so moved and seconded by Junior and passed unanimously. With no other business coming before the Camp, Commander Nokes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited everyone back next month and asked Chaplain McCown to dismiss the Meeting with a word of prayer.

Attendance for the evening was 19.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Adj.



Order of Confederate Rose News

Ladies,

The dog days of summer are now over and we move into cooler periods finally. Our October meeting looks to be special with Alan Doyle coming. I would ask that all ladies bring a finger food dish to continue our fellowship phase of our meetings.

As a reminder to the members of the Ella Palmer Chapter, our annual membership dues are now due.. We have a grace period till January 1. Renewals are \$20.00 and can be paid to Annette McCluney at the meetings or by mail:

Annette McCluney
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS 38930

Make Checks out to: Ella Palmer Chapter #9, OCR

Unpaid Dues Members

As of this writing, there are 11 Camp members who have not yet paid their annual dues. They are listed below with contact information. To date, all but one have been sent three notices for dues payment.

Sid Aust sid_aust@msn.com 662-392-0922
Brent Hiter I never could get anyone to provide me with Brent's contact information
Wade Johnson jwiturkeycaller@yahoo.com 662-299-4468
Chris Lewis ChrisLewisghs@gmail.com 662-271-4397
Robert C. Morrow no email 662-375-9975
Philip Neal pneal225@yahoo.com 714-757-4047
Alan Palmer cptalan61@yahoo.com 662-719-9312
John Read, Jr. jread38756@yahoo.com 662-686-9803
Ronnie Stewart ronbarstewart@yahoo.com 662-332-6165
Gator Stillman msy.g8r@gmail.com 662-931-2089
Pierre Westbrook pierre_westbrook@hotmail.com 262-501-7573

Dan McCaskill
Camp Adjutant

OFFICAL REGISTRATION FORM
118th Reunion – Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
and 19th Reunion – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose
Rankin County – June 21-23, 2013
Hosted by: The Lowry Rifles Camp #1740 Rankin County

SCV MEMBERS NAME(S): _____

TITLE: _____ SCV CAMP & NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # (H) _____ (C) _____ EMAIL _____

SPOUSE NAME (for badge): _____

OCR MEMBERS NAME(S): _____

OCR CHAPTER NAME AND NUMBER: _____

GUEST NAME: _____

GUEST NAME: _____

All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies. Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. (OCR registrants will have a Tea in lieu of a medal.) **Please register for your respective organization below.**

REGISTRATION AMOUNTS

SCV on or before June 07, 2013.....**\$30.00 each for registration**QTY _____ \$ _____

SCV after June 07, 2013.....**\$35.00 each for registration**QTY _____ \$ _____

OCR on or before June 7, 2013 \$10.00 each after June 07, 2013 \$15.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

Ancestor Memorial: Each memorial is \$10.00..... QTY _____ \$ _____

(Please Print or type each memorial on separate page, Thanks!)

Program Ads: \$100.00 for full page; \$50.00 for half a page; \$25.00 for quarter page; \$15.00 for business card size advertising **(Please submit ad information on a separate page before May 15, Thanks!)** \$ _____

Banquet Registration (per plate) \$30.00Qty _____ \$ _____

(No Meal Registration after June 7, 2013) Dinner (TBD)**Total Amount \$** _____

Make Checks Payable to: Lowry Rifles Camp #1740

Mail to: Bill Hinson
238 South Fox Hall Road
Pearl, Ms. 39208

CONTACT INFORMATION: Bill Hinson: (H) 601-936-9048; or email: BHLH87@aol.com
Convention Hotel: Cabot Lodge-Millsaps, Jackson, Ms. Reservations can be made by calling:
601-948-8650, ask for the Mississippi Division, SCV Convention Rates. Rates are \$109.00 + tax
per night and plus happy hour from 5:30pm-7:30pm for hotel guest only. Reservations **MUST BE MADE** before June 07, 2013.

Division News:

National Convention at Vicksburg 2013

Commander Palmer reports that the website to get all registration forms for Vicksburg in 2013 is up and running. Also, the motels are taking reservations at the Quality Inn Suites NOW, and starting August 1 at the Host Hotel, the Hampton Inn and Suites. For more information go to <http://2013scvreunion.homestead.com/Index.html>

MS Division Executive Council Meeting

Gentlemen,

Our next EC meeting will be held on December 8 in the War Memorial Building in Jackson at 10am. Anyone wishing to be placed on the agenda needs to send their request to Division Chief of Staff Andrew McCaskill at andrewomccaskill@yahoo.com and myself at cpatalan61@yahoo.com. Make plans now to attend.

Sincerely

Alan Palmer
Cmdr Ms Div SCV

First Annual Christmas at Beauvoir

November 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. the Festival of Trees will kick off at Beauvoir.

This event will take place at the new Presidential Library and our guests will be the first to enter this amazing and awe inspiring building. One hundred three foot artificial trees that have been decorated by local businesses, decorators, garden clubs and artists will be available in a silent auction.

At 7:00 p.m. that evening, with the flick of a switch, our guests will marvel at the lighting of 100 live oak trees on the front of the property. Every evening until the Twelfth Night, January 6, 2013, the oaks will light at dusk and go off at dawn.

Imagine strolling through one hundred your old oak trees, alive with warm white lights, during the holiday season and children riding a magical train through the historic grounds of Jefferson Davis' last home. Gingerbread cookies, hot chocolate, live reindeer, whimsical elves and an authentic Santa Claus dressed as he was in the 1800's in a long, beautiful Father Christmas robe.

During this first year of Christmas at Beauvoir, we will have:

Carolers

Crafts

Father Claus

Lighted Paths

Tours of the Period Decorated Beauvoir House

Train Rides for the Kids

Next year, we hope to see an increase in our lighted areas and more events on the weekends at the property. By the third year, we are hoping for a full scale Christmas event to rival those in surrounding states, including those at Bellingrath Gardens. We are also hoping that this event will inspire coastal cities and beach-front properties to light up and join us in the holiday spirit.

Our goal is to make USA Today's Top Ten Places to See Christmas Lights in the Country. The purpose for this event is to fund yearly operations costs for Beauvoir. We feel this event alone, once established, will ensure that this Mississippi Historical Landmark and National Historic Landmark will be sustained for generations to enjoy and be educated on our unique Southern History.

Come on down and enjoy the festivities, history and Southern Hospitality at Beauvoir! For more information on sponsorship opportunities please contact Andi Oustalet at 228-234-4950 or andioustalet@gmail.com

National SCV News:

Report of the Chief of Heritage Defense (CHD)

In an effort to be more efficient and more aggressive in our approach to Heritage, steps were taken to streamline and unify operations. This includes small Heritage Defense and Promotion Committees, with members having clearly defined tasks. Efforts are also being made to incorporate Division Heritage officers into the overall plan.

This will be evident in the adoption of new technology. There is now, prominently posted on the SCV website, a real-time opportunity to register a claim of a Heritage Violation (HV). This will allow Army coordinators on the Heritage Defense Committee (HDC) to have the relevant information and work with the affected Division. Then, a recommendation can be made as to whether the resolution can remain a local (Division or Camp) issue or should be taken on by the General Organization.

Also in the overall plan is greater utilization of the Heritage Promotion Committee (HPC). Chairman Scott Gilbert is currently working on a pilot program in Georgia to get responsible SCV spokesmen in front of Rotary Clubs to "tell our story." Once successful there, it will be expanded to Confederation-wide. Another initiative of this committee is targeting church cemeteries for placement of Crosses of Honor on Confederate graves. Robert Edwards, Graves and Monuments Chairman, has been approached and is very supportive of this effort.

Sesquicentennial Another goal of this administration is Heritage fundraising. Two initiatives will be presented – the Heritage Support Team, a "booster club" annual approach which will offer levels of \$60, \$120 and \$300; also, the Patrick Cleburne Fellow will allow an exemplary member

to be recognized upon a \$1000 contribution by his Compatriots. We hope to promote this through the efforts of our Army coordinators and our Division officers, as well. Furthermore, a proposed formal establishment of a Reunion Heritage event (and its inclusion under the purview of the CHD) can further highlight these opportunities.

Soon after this administration began, there was a rather high-profile disturbance from national talk-radio personality Glenn Beck. It concerned his claim regarding Ft. Pillow, that Gen. N. B. Forrest "skinned" Federal soldiers with a cavalry sword. He was answered and the contents of that communication were fully reported to the membership by the Telegraph.

Forrest will continue to be a "lightning rod" issue due to the cumulative effect of misrepresenting his actions, as well as the attitudes of often well-meaning, but nonetheless, poorly informed Southerners. For this reason, there should be established a "Forrest Truth Commission," a body composed of informed, responsible spokesmen (certainly to include academicians) that can effectively research and articulate events related to Ft. Pillow, postwar years, etc. The work of this body should include video, print and electronic media leading up to the Sesquicentennial of Ft. Pillow (April 12, 2014). This would also serve as a "last lap" marker as we look to maximize the benefit of the Sesquicentennial as a whole.

We continue to monitor certain high-profile matters such as the Reidsville (NC) monument, Oakwood Cemetery, Museum of the Confederacy (MOC) and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA). In the case of the latter, VA Division advises that, as of now, there should be no hindrance to raising the colors at Pelham Chapel for the annual service.

Concerning the repair of the Forrest monument in Selma (AL), local Heritage operatives are awaiting this fall's elections which will have an impact on the makeup of City Council. This, needless to say, will influence how the city proceeds subsequent to the work stoppage ordered on September 25. Another wrinkle in this issue is the recent filing of a lawsuit against the city by the contractor hired to do the work.

There have also been various localized incidents – t-shirts, bumper stickers, etc. with Camps and Divisions engaged in due diligence on these items. Also, "scares" with Dukes of Hazzard merchandising and Lynyrd Skynyrd turned out to be of no consequence.

The HV button on the website, the unified operation and a toll-free number that reaches the CHD 24 hours a day are done with the intent of creating an unparalleled accessibility. This is the Vision of the CHD and it is shared by the entire Heritage team –

☒ Scott Gilbert, Chairman, HPC

☒ Ed Butler, Deputy CHD

☒ Army Coordinators (serving on both HDC and HPC):

o Ronnie Roach (ANV)

o Alan Losure (AOT)

o Michael Hurley (ATM)

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Hogan, CHD

(866) 681 – 7314 or chief.heritage@gmail.com



The Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) of the Cause for Southern Independence is upon us! The Sons of Confederate Veterans has established a unique way you can show support for our efforts and build a legacy for the future. It is the SCV Sesquicentennial Society! By joining this prestigious group you will help in supporting two projects very important to the future.

First- the General Executive Council made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building on our property at

Historic Elm Springs. One

of the uses of this new building is 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. It will give an accurate portrayal of the Confederate soldier, something that is lacking in most museum and in the media. 75 % of the money received through this effort goes to that building fund.

Second-we need to leave a legacy for our Compatriots who will be the members and leaders of the SCV when the Bicentennial of the Cause for Southern Independence arrives 50 years from now. One can only guess at the obstacles they will have to face in putting forth an accurate commemoration. 25% of the money will go into a fund to be used by the SCV at that point in time.

Here is how you can take part. To join it is a minimum payment of \$200. (You can give more if you wish!) You will receive a handsome SCV Sesquicentennial Society Medal and Certificate. This program will end at the close of the Sesquicentennial. You may pay all at once or you can make non-refundable installments of \$50 (you will receive the medal and certificate when paid in full).

Send a check to:

Sons of Confederate Veterans

c/o Sesquicentennial Society

P.O. Box 59

Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card. You may also use the on-line donation page at <https://scv.secure-sites.us/donation.php> At this time the on-line page does not have a \$200 option. You can select \$250 (donating an extra \$50) or you can donate \$100 twice. If you choose to pay by installment there is \$50 option. Be sure to put Sesquicentennial Society in the box marked purpose of payment.

Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence: Grant's First Vicksburg Campaign

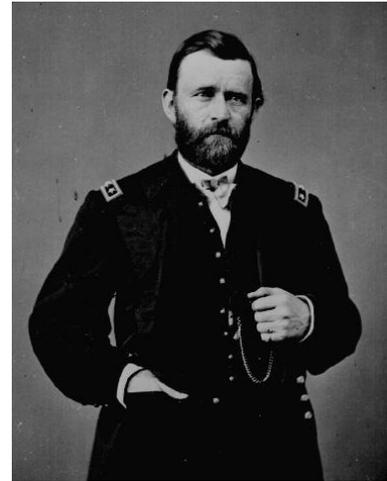
With his October 16, 1862 appointment as commander of the Department of the Tennessee, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant laid immediate plans for a campaign south against Vicksburg, Mississippi.

On October 20, Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand secured command of the short-lived Army of the Mississippi, with the express mission of seizing Vicksburg. A dubious political appointment made by President Lincoln, its effects were soon nullified by political pressure within the Regular Army. Grant proceeded with his campaign plans, never overtly acknowledging McClernand's. Assuming departmental command on October 25, by November 8, Grant had his troops gathered around La Grange, Tennessee, north of the Mississippi state line, just a few miles west of Grand Junction, Tennessee. His plan was to follow the line of the Mississippi Central Railroad south toward Vicksburg. Supplies were to come south from Columbus, Kentucky, by way of the Tennessee & Ohio Railroad and at Grand Junction switch onto the Mississippi Central track for the journey south. Maintaining lines of communications and supply along the railroads would prove to be the failure of this campaign.

With little force to oppose Grant, the Confederate commander at Vicksburg, Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton, had to rely on Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn's troops, recently defeated at Corinth, and on action against the Union rear supplied by Brig. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest. By December 1, Grant's troops were facing Confederates, in shallow trenches, along the Tallahatchie River, north of Oxford, Mississippi, 35 miles south of Grand Junction. A large Union supply depot had been established at Holly Springs, Mississippi, a little over 15 miles north along the Mississippi Central. By December 2, the Union troops had occupied Oxford and dispatched cavalry in pursuit. Van Dorn's cavalry, serving as rear guard, stopped these Union cavalry at the engagement at Coffeeville, Mississippi on December 5, and forced their return to Oxford. Union troops continued probing southward during the next 2 weeks.

Pemberton was to rely on Gen. Joseph E. Johnston for supervision in the defense of Vicksburg. Johnston had been given this task on November 24, but little advice had been forthcoming. When Pemberton requested aid from Gen. Braxton Bragg in Tennessee, Bragg told Pemberton that he was preparing for his Murfreesboro campaigning (which would end in the Battle of Stones River) and could offer no material assistance; but he could order Forrest's cavalry to hit Grant's supply lines. This was Forrest's Second Raid. Begun on December 11, it destroyed great portions of Tennessee rail line and threatened Grant's Columbus, Kentucky, railhead. Grant responded by switching his base of supply to Memphis, Tennessee. He then sent his materials east on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad to Grand Junction. However, on December 20, Van Dorn led 3,500 cavalry from Grenada, south of Grant's lines, and attacked the Union general's Holly Springs supply base. The Holly Springs Raid resulted in the loss of more than \$ 1.5 million in Union supplies. Col. Benjamin H. Grierson pursued Van Dorn in vain for days before the Confederates easily reentered Southern lines at Grenada.

Grant realized the error of trying to maintain his supply and communication along rail lines, and within a week of the Holly Springs raid, withdrew most of his forces to La Grange. This ended his 1st Vicksburg Campaign. Determined to keep up relentless pressure on Vicksburg, he initiated the first of many waterborne invasion plans, which brought on the battle at Chickasaw Bluffs.



November 28, 1862 - The Battle of Cane Hill, Arkansas

The Battle of Cane Hill was a significant preliminary event to the Battle of Prairie Grove. Fought on November 28, 1862, the engagement lasted nine hours and extended through villages and farms and across mountainsides and valleys. Casualties were light considering the intensity of the fight, but both sides agreed the battle was hard-fought and that both Federals and Confederates exhibited remarkable courage and determination.

Today's Canehill community is the surviving remnant of an extensive antebellum settlement. According to Confederate Major General Thomas C. Hindman, the area in 1862 was one of the more prosperous points in Northwest Arkansas: Cane Hill is a ridge of perhaps 8 miles length and 5 miles width, in the southwest part of Washington County, Arkansas, just beyond the north base of the Boston Mountains. Three villages are built upon it (Russellville, Boonsborough, and Newburg), which almost blend with each other, covering a distance, as the road to Fayetteville runs, of 3 or 5 miles....

In addition to its agricultural and commercial interests, Cane Hill was noteworthy as the site of Cane Hill College. The first institution of higher learning in Arkansas, the college had been in operation for thirty years by the time of the Civil War.

The strategic location of the community, where several roads united after crossing over the Boston Mountains, gave it significant military importance early in the war. This was evidenced in late November of 1862, when General Hindman sent a large cavalry force under Brigadier General John S. Marmaduke to occupy Cane Hill. Following on the heels of a Union scouting party that had penetrated south of the mountains, Marmaduke positioned his brigades at successive points along Cane Hill ridge. Among the men attached to his command, interestingly, were William Clark Quantrill's notorious guerillas, who are believed at this time to have included future outlaws Frank James and Cole Younger. Quantrill himself was not present and his company was headed by a lieutenant. Jesse James, then 14 years old, was not at Cane Hill. Marmaduke's occupation of Cane Hill was in anticipation of a planned movement by Hindman to bring his entire army over the mountains in hopes of destroying Union forces in the region in detail.

The Federals were quickly alerted to this movement and Marmaduke's pickets skirmished with Union scouts near Cane Hill on November 25, 1862, while calls for reinforcements were rushed up to Union commanders in Missouri. Deciding that the "best defense is a good offense," Union Brigadier General James G. Blunt organized his men and moved to attack Marmaduke before Hindman's main army could come across

Continued on page 7 . . .

Battle of Cane Hill continued . . .

the mountains. Leaving his camps on November 27, 1862, Blunt marched south. The rough country across which he marched caused his 5,000 men to become strung out, and most of his infantry was still miles to the rear when his cavalry reached Cane Hill at between 9 and 10 o'clock on the morning of November 28th:

In passing down a gorge between two abrupt hills, their grand guard was encountered in considerable force. Dashing on, and driving them before us, a few hundred yards brought us to where the bluff on the right terminated, and in full view of the enemy, who were posted on the right of the road, on elevated ground, with timber in their rear, their guns in battery, bearing upon the road on which I was approaching, and from which they immediately opened a brisk fire. I at once ordered Rabb's battery into position, and also the two howitzers under Lieutenant [E.S.] Stover, when a fierce cannonading ensued, which lasted for the space of nearly an hour.

Although forewarned that the Federals were coming, Confederate Colonel "Fighting" Jo Shelby still allowed himself to be taken by surprise. Blunt achieved this by advancing via an unexpected road and the battle was opened before Shelby had much of a chance to respond:

Having had due notice (eighteen hours previous) by the general commanding that the enemy were advancing, we endeavored to be on the alert, but I must confess (thought it may reflect somewhat upon myself) that the enemy, by his skillful management, fell upon me sooner than I would have desired, considering that a portion of our division was encamped some distance in my rear and I had but little time to give them the notice required; yet I had sufficient time to place my men in their proper positions and await the coming of the hated foe.

The fighting at the northern end of Cane Hill quickly developed into an intense artillery exchange. The Confederates held their position for as long as they could in the face of the developing Union line, then fell back through the village to a ridge about three-fourths of a mile south of their original position. This withdrawal, which both sides recorded was handled efficiently, took both the retreating Confederates and the pursuing Federals past the grounds of the Cane Hill College.

The rest of Marmaduke's division was already in place at the new position and the Confederates watched with interest as the Federals deployed ahead of them:

Here the naked eye could see General Blunt's columns of cavalry and infantry pouring over the hills in our front, and advancing slowly and cautiously to the attack. It was a splendid sight – flaunting banners, serried ranks, as the long lines came gleaming on....

The sight was more than "splendid" to the Confederates, for it convinced them they could not hope to hold their new position against the oncoming Northern army. Despite Federal reports claiming 8,000 or more Confederates were on the field at Cane Hill, the actual number was less than half that. In short, the Union army had more men (even without the delayed infantry), more artillery and the element of surprise.

Deciding to withdraw to the Boston Mountains, the Confederates again left their position and retreated, fighting as they went. Along the way, they stopped and formed in a few positions long enough to force the Federals to deploy and move up their artillery, but generally continued to fall back until they reached the first significant ridge of the mountains.

This ridge, which separates Cane Hill from the Cove Creek valley, offered a commanding view of the surrounding country and had the Confederates not run out of ammunition for their cannon they likely would have inflicted much heavier damage on the approaching Federal column. The fighting once again grew intense:

Immediately on top of the mountain I had a part of Colonel Thompson's command, under Major [M.W.] Smith, formed to receive the enemy, and a little to the rear of Smith, on the right, I had one company of Elliott's scouts, commanded by Captain Martin. Smith and Martin calmly awaited the coming of the enemy, and as they came charging up the hill in solid columns, they poured a deadly fire on them, which sent them staggering down the mountain. By this time I had other detachments formed but a short distance in the rear (Smith and Martin falling back and loading), who fired on them with much effect, being in easy gun-shot. Martin, having his men ready and formed, delivered once more a terrible fire, but in doing so this brigade suffered a terrible loss in the death of the gallant and heroic Martin. He fell, as he lived, fighting for his home and fireside, "with his back to the field and his feet to the foe."

General Blunt also reported that the fight on the mountainside was determined and severe:

The resistance of the rebels was stubborn and determined. The storm of lead and iron hail that came down the side of the mountain, both from their small-arms and artillery, was terrific; yet most of it went over our heads without doing us much damage. The regiments just named, with a wild shout rushed up the steep acclivity, contesting every inch of ground, and steadily pushed the enemy before them, until the crest was reached when the rebels again fled in disorder.

From the mountaintop, the Confederates withdrew down into the Cove Creek valley. This valley, created by the tumbling course of Cove Creek as it flows south through the Boston Mountains, was a narrow but natural gateway connecting Washington County with the Arkansas River Valley below. Cove Creek Road, accordingly, was used repeatedly by both armies throughout the war.

Finding the ground in the valley more suitable for the use of cavalry, the Federals launched a saber attack against their Confederate opponents. The movement almost induced panic in the Southern ranks, as many of the men became convinced their comrades were being hacked to death by Union soldiers, but Marmaduke had a final bit of strategy up his sleeve:

The charge continued for about half a mile down the valley, to a point where it converged in a funnel shape, terminating in a narrow defile. At this point a large body of the enemy were in ambush in front and upon the flanks, where cavalry could not approach, with their battery also masked in front. As soon as the party we were pursuing had passed through the defile, they opened upon us a most destructive fire, which, for the moment, caused my men to recoil and give back, in spite of my own efforts and those of other officers to rally them; whereas, if they had, after receiving the enemy's fire, passed on 200 or 300 yards, we would have secured, in a moment more, what we so much coveted – the enemy's artillery. Emboldened by their success in defending the defile and checking our advance, they raised a wild yell and advanced toward us.

Thrown back for the first time of the day, the Federals now were forced to rally behind three companies of the Sixth Kansas Cavalry and beat back the Confederate counterattack. According to Blunt, he was preparing for another assault when a Confederate officer approached his lines under a flag of truce and asked permission to remove the Southern dead and wounded from the battlefield. Because darkness was falling and expressing concern that the Confederates might "murder" Lieutenant Colonel L.R. Jewell who had fallen during the ambush, the Union general agreed to the request and the Battle of Cane Hill came to an end. Marmaduke withdrew during the night into the mountains and Blunt and his men returned to Cane Hill. The two forces would fight again just 9 days later at the Battle of Prairie Grove.

THE DELTA GENERAL

**1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS 38930**

**We are on the Web!
www.humphreys1625.com**



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