

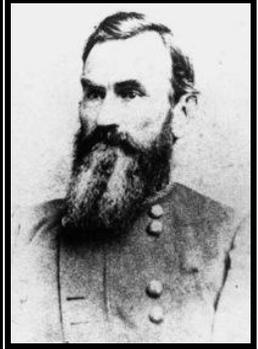
The Delta General

November – 2008

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November

Meeting

Division Chaplin James Taylor will be our Speaker on November 20

COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Compatriots,

As I sit here writing this Commander's Note, the deadline to renew your SCV Membership is only two days away, October 31st. As of this writing, there are eleven members who have not renewed their membership. I am hoping by the time you are reading this, some will have renewed their membership. If not, this will be the biggest one year drop in membership in the Camp's history and our membership will fall to 51. I am at a loss to explain why we cannot retain members but here are some potential reasons, people are losing interest in preserving our Confederate Heritage or just do not care or that the Camp is not active enough. Activity of the Camp is in direct proportion to the participation of its members. We have the same 10 – 12 members who have come to the Meetings each month

over the past two years. Last month, there were only five members at the meeting. Because of this prolonged decline in interest, we will not have a Lee-Jackson Banquet in January. Instead, we will revert back to a pot luck supper at the 1st Presbyterian Church.

When you pay your annual dues, you are not only supporting your Camp, Division and National Organization but an Ideal. That Ideal is that your Confederate Ancestor was **Right!** He had the right to through off an oppressive government, to fight for a free and independent country and to fight to defend his home from invading armies from the north. There are many across this country who says Southerners were traitors and were fighting just to preserve slavery. Your membership and dues in the SCV helps just one of a very few organizations who fight to tell the truth about our Confederate's gal-

lant struggle for independence. If we keep leaving the SCV, it will die a slow death like the United Confederate Veterans. Without the SCV and UDC, there will be no one to tell the Veterans true story and the other side will have won. Our Confederate symbols and history will be wiped away from public and private view and the north's Reconstruction of the South will finally be complete. Do not let this happen. Remember, the Veterans charged the Sons to vindicate and remember the Cause for which they fought and died to preserve. Help your Camp to grow and become more active by recruiting new members and bringing a friend to the Meetings and other activities.

God Bless the South,
Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Commander

EDITOR'S NOTE:

LAST ISSUE OF THE DELTA GENERAL FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PAID DUES

Just a friendly reminder, if you have not paid your dues by now, you could be reading your last issue of the Delta General. If you would like to continue getting your subscription please remit your renewal of dues of \$55.00. Dues are \$50.00 but by now you will have to pay a \$5.00 late fee. Not only will you lose your subscription of the Delta General, but your SCV Magazine and the State newsletter of the Jeff Davis Legion. Please renew your membership today. The new year has a lot of exciting events for our Camp as we prepare to be the host for our State Convention in May, 2009. Make sure you make out your checks of \$55.00 to SCV and mail to:

Dan McCaskill . . . 205 Cypress Street . . .
Leland, MS 38756

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

* **Newsletter Disclaimer:** Editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted and all submissions to the newsletter must be in proper format (all Caps not accepted).

THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN, TN: THE LAST CAMPAIGN

Franklin followed the Battle of Spring Hill of the previous day. Hood's Army of Tennessee had failed to destroy part of the Union force in Tennessee, allowing Schofield's Army of the Ohio to escape. Hood had hoped to destroy Schofield before he could link up with the Army of the Cumberland, commanded by Maj. Gen. George Henry Thomas, farther north in Nashville, Tennessee. That combined Union force would be over 60,000 men. When the armies met at Franklin, however, Hood had approximately 38,000 men to Schofield's 30,000.

Schofield's advance guard arrived in Franklin at about 6:00 a.m., after a forced march north from Spring Hill. Brig. Gen. Jacob Dolson Cox, a division commander temporarily commanding the Union XXIII Corps (and later governor of Ohio), immediately began preparing strong defensive positions around breastworks originally constructed for the First Battle of Franklin in 1863. The defensive line formed approximately a semicircle around the city, from northwest to southeast; the other half of the semicircle was the Harpeth River.

Schofield's decided to defend at Franklin with his back to the river because he had no pontoon bridges then available to cross; the bridges had been left behind in his retreat from Columbia because they lacked wagons to transport them. He needed time to repair one of the two permanent bridges spanning the river (both of which had been burned) and to lay planking over the undamaged railroad bridge to enable it to carry wagons and troops. His supply train parked in the side streets to keep the main pike open but continued to cross, first via a ford next to the burned out pike bridge, and later in the afternoon by the two makeshift bridges. By the beginning of the assault, nearly all the supply wagons were across the Harpeth and on the road to Nashville.

By noon the Union works, a strong exterior line fronted by a ditch and a secondary support line some 65 to 40 yards behind the center, were ready. Counter-clockwise from the northwest were the divisions of Maj. Gens. Nathan Kimball (IV Corps), Thomas H. Ruger (XXIII Corps), and Cox (XXIII Corps). Two brigades of Brig. Gen. George D. Wagner's division of IV Corps were a half mile forward, screening the Confederate approach, with orders to fall back if pressed. Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood's division of IV Corps was posted north of the Harpeth to watch for any flanking attempt. Schofield planned to withdraw his infantry across the river by 6:00 p.m. if Hood had not arrived by then.

Hood's army began to arrive on Winstead Hill, two miles south of Franklin, around 1 p.m. Hood was noted for his aggressive, sometimes reckless battlefield leadership, and had since his assumption of command of the Army of Tennessee stung it with criticisms that it was reluctant to fight except behind breastworks. Over the objections of his top generals, he ordered a frontal assault in the dwindling afternoon light against the Union forces, now strongly entrenched behind two lines of breastworks and with Wagner a half mile in front. Many believe that Hood was still angry that the Federal army had slipped past his troops the night before at Spring Hill, but angry or not, Hood's objective was to try to crush Schofield before he and his troops could escape to Nashville. The Confederates began moving forward at 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., with Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham's corps on the left of the assault and Lt. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart's on the right.

Hood's attack initially enveloped Wagner's forward brigades under Lane and Conrad, which despite orders not to engage in front of the works, stood their ground. Whether or not Wagner ordered the change in orders from those issued by XXIII Corps commander Gen. Cox remains a matter of controversy (Wagner claimed he did not; one brigade commander contradicted him in official reports and Wagner was relieved of command in December.) The veteran soldiers of these brigades fled back to the main breastworks while untried replacements were reluctant to move under fire and were captured.

Officers in Strickland's brigade (Ruger's division, west of the turnpike) failed to prepare for passage of the lines by the retreating troops with Confederates in close pursuit, which made the Union soldiers defending the line reluctant to fire on the approaching masses. This, combined with the opening in the works through which the Columbia Pike passed, caused a weak spot in the Union line at the Carter House. The Confederate divisions of Maj. Gens. Patrick Cleburne, John C. Brown, and Samuel G. French converged on this spot and a number of their troops broke through the solid Federal defenses. Strickland's regiments fell back to avoid capture. A spontaneous counterattack, led by the brigade of Col. Emerson Opdycke and fortified by rallied elements of Wagner's men, newly mustered regiments such as the 44th Missouri, 175th and 183rd Ohio, and two veteran Kentucky regiments, managed to retake the lost works and seal the gap after brief but vicious hand-to-hand combat. By 5 p.m., when the sun set, the Union line was again firmly entrenched. On the east side of the battlefield Maj. Gens. William W. Loring and Edward C. Walthall saw their troops torn apart. Maj. Gen. William B. Bate on the west side of the field fared no better, and no further assaults were attempted on the flanks.

In the center, however, the Confederates, believing that an irreparable breach had been made and seeking to exploit it, made repeated but uncoordinated assaults on the Union second line. After dark, around 7 p.m., the division of Maj. Gen. Edward "Allegheny" Johnson attacked and had no more luck than its predecessors, but was the only division of Lee's intact corps to be ordered to attack. Large numbers of Confederate troops became pinned down in the ditch fronting the main line, and an intense firefight transpired for hours, each side firing through embrasures or over the top of the parapets at close range in an attempt to dislodge the other.

By 9:00 p.m. the fighting had mostly subsided. The overall attack had been awesome, described by some as a tidal wave, and known as the "Pickett's Charge of the West." But it was actually much larger than the famous charge at Gettysburg. In the East, 12,500 Confederates had crossed a mile (1.6 km) of open ground in a single assault lasting about 50 minutes. In Franklin, some 19,000 marched into the guns a distance of nearly two miles (3.2 km) and conducted assaults in multiple waves that lasted over five hours.

Across the river to the east, Confederate cavalry commander Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest attempted to turn the Union left flank, but the Union cavalry under Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson repulsed his advance.

Schofield, who spent the battle in Fort Granger (just across the Harpeth River, northeast of Franklin), ordered his infantry to cross the river, starting at 11:00 p.m., despite objections from Cox that withdrawal was no longer necessary. (Union reinforcements under Maj. Gen. A.J. Smith were already in Nashville.) Although there was a period in which the Union army was vulnerable, straddling the river, Hood was too stunned to take advantage of it. The Union army began entering the breastworks at Nashville at noon on December 1.

The devastated Confederate force was left in control of Franklin, but its enemy had escaped again. Typically, a Civil War battle is deemed a victory for the army that forces its opponent to withdraw, but here, Hood's "victory" came at a frightful cost. More men of the Confederate Army of Tennessee were killed in five hours at Franklin than in two days at the Battle of Shiloh. The Confederates suffered 6,252 casualties, including 1,750 killed and 3,800 wounded. An estimated 2000 others suffered less serious wounds and returned to duty before the Battle of Nashville. Their military leadership in the West was decimated, including the loss of skilled general Patrick Cleburne. Fifteen Confederate generals (6 killed or mortally wounded, 8 wounded, and 1 captured) and 53 regimental commanders were casualties. The six generals killed or mortally wounded were Cleburne, John Adams, Hiram B. Granbury, States Rights Gist, and Otho F. Strahl.

Union losses were 189 killed, 1,033 wounded, 1,104 missing, most of whom were prisoners both wounded and unwounded. Many of the prisoners, including all captured wounded and medical personnel, were recovered on December 18 when Union forces re-entered Franklin in pursuit of Hood. The Army of Tennessee was all but destroyed at Franklin. Nevertheless, Hood immediately advanced against the entire Union Army of the Cumberland, firmly entrenched at Nashville with the Army of the Ohio, leading his battered forces to further, and final, disaster in the Battle of Nashville.

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS:**REBS WIN THE DAY AT BEAUVOIR; FALL MUSTER REENACTS FAMOUS BATTLE**

By MICHAEL NEWSOM - mmnewsom@sunherald.com

BILOXI -- Cannon and rifles fired loudly Saturday along U.S. 90, as Fall Muster was held at Beauvoir for the first time since Hurricane Katrina.

Reenactors portrayed the Confederate victory at the battle of New Hope Church, which happened in Paulding County, Ga., May 25-26, 1864. It pitted Union troops led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, against Confederates commanded by Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. About 1,600 Union soldiers died, but the Confederate casualties were unknown, according to the National Park Service.

Johnston had retreated to nearby

Allatoona Pass a few days before, but Sherman believed he would suffer heavy casualties if he attacked Sherman there so he decided to go around Johnston's left flank, to march toward Dallas, but Johnston had guessed his move, the Park Service's Web site said. Johnston's men met the Union at New Hope Church. Sherman believed Johnston had a token force, and ordered Hooker's troop to attack, according to NPS. But they were hit severely. Both sides dug in and the fighting continued over the next day.

Dressed as a Confederate, Christopher Findlay of Long Beach had bullets

graze his head; he was fatally shot in the abdomen and he had to die Saturday, but didn't seem too upset about it afterward. He said he feeds off the enthusiasm of the kids who come out to watch. When it's his turn to get his eternal reward, he usually gives a good show.

"I love hamming it up," Findlay said.

Kirk and Melissa Ladner, from Stone County, brought their sons and a friend. Kirk Ladner, who teaches freshman Mississippi history and also coaches in George County, said he had plenty of material to take back to the classroom. He'd offered extra credit to his students who attended.

"These guys (the reenactors) are all very authentic," Ladner said. "They'll take the time to share stories with you."

MISSISSIPPI FLAG FORUM REPORT

Pearl, Mississippi at Pearl Library Oct. 28, 2008 - 6pm-7pm

On October 28, The Mississippi Flag Forum went pretty well. There were five panelist and a moderator. The moderator asked key question of the panel on how they felt about the flag. The panel existed of 4 blacks 2 black males and 2 black females and 1 white male, with the white male being a liberal and a far lefty. He was a friend on William Winter if that tells you anything. Two of the blacks 1 male and 1 female seemed to be sort of in the middle on the flag and 2 of the blacks 1 male and 1 female seemed to be more to the left and against the flag. After the questions were answered the moderator turned to the spectators and let them talk about the flag. The spectators existed of about 25 people with 11 of them being SCV members and friends. The spectators were about 50-50 on the flag. Most of the ones against the flag used their emotions to make their decisions. The ones in the middle seemed to be open for learning

more history on the flag. Ross Aldridge of the Lowry Rifles spoke to the spectators and panel about the history of the flag and gave some great points. He was even taken in by one of the black male panelist that seemed to be interested in to learning more from Ross. A black Union reenactor spoke harshly against the flag and said he believes the flag is racist. He did not fair well with the spectators. All in all the Mississippi Flag Forum went well as expected. I believe everyone left with a better eye for the flag at least the majority. Only time will tell and more discussion. The biggest disappointment was turn out from the SCV. We could have taken the show and took up most of the space in the room. Maybe next time. Those from the Lowry Rifles Camp of Rankin County that attended were: John Robinson, Craig Haden, Ross Aldridge, Albert & Joan Allen, Glenn, Glenda, Bill & Lisa Hinson, Clyde Magee from the Jones County Rosin Heels Camp of Laurel and Al Roland from the Rankin Rough & Readies Camp of Brandon

SCV NATIONAL NEWS:**MESSAGE FROM THE SCV COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Compatriots,

Good news from Concord NC. The case against Compatriot Childress for displaying our Flag was dismissed today by the Judge during the court session. I first got notice from Chief of Heritage Defense Earnest around noon who was present for the trial. I then had a chance to talk to Compatriot Childress for a few minutes.

He related to me that the owner of the hotel, nor a representative made an appearance in court. The DA moved for the judge to grant a continuance. Bazz's Attorney pointed out that this was the second time the were a no show and that the *accused* had to travel from Kentucky. The judge ruled against a continuance, at that point the DA petitioned the judge to dismiss which he did.

Bazz told me that is was the conjecture of the lawyers that the owner was a no show by advice of their lawyer so that the case would die. More when available.

DV

Chuck McMichael, CiC

NATIONAL SCV NEWS: COUNTY BODY TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS ALLOWING MONUMENTS, BILLBOARDS, WATER TANKS

Three amendments to the county's zoning regulations - including one that would permit historic monuments - will be considered Monday night.

The Dyer County Commission plans to hold a public hearing on the amendments at 6:30 p.m. in the Dyer County Courthouse's second-floor courtroom. The commission's regular monthly meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

The zoning amendments address three issues in forestry-agricultural-residential (FAR) districts. Under the proposed amendments, anyone who wants to erect a historic monument, a billboard or a water tank in an FAR zone must seek permits from the county's Zoning and Appeals Board.

The amendment allowing historical monuments has the potential to legitimize an 80-foot-tall flagpole that has become a lightning rod for controversy. A 20-by-30-foot Confederate flag tops the flagpole near Pierce Cemetery at Trimble. The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) said the flag is one of several mega-flags being erected throughout the South "for history, heritage and honor."

Others have described the display as a "political agenda" and a warning to motorists on Interstate 155 that they have entered the South - a country within a country.

Historical monuments, such as the flagpole, are not currently permitted in FAR zones. After receiving a complaint about the flagpole, the Dyer County Zoning and Appeals Board declined Aug. 12 to approve a variance for the flagpole, but board members said the SCV could ask the county to amend its zoning regulations.

On Sept. 11, the Dyer County Regional

Planning Commission endorsed the zoning amendment on a 5-2 vote. Planning Commission member Barbara Johnson made the motion to approve the amendment because she believes this is a decision the county commission should make.

Because the zoning amendment affects Newbern, the Newbern Planning Commission also was asked to consider it. The group rejected the amendment on Sept. 11. Newbern's decision raises the number of votes needed for passage in the County Commission. Instead of a simple majority of those present, the amendment must garner at least 11 votes - a majority of the entire commission - to be approved.

The resolution requires that historic and monument sites be:

- √ At least 500 feet away from existing residential uses.
- √ Have adequate access to a public road with adequate parking.
- √ Reasonably open to the general public.
- √ Compliant with height, lot coverage and yard requirements for the district.

The other zoning amendments cover roadside signs, billboard and advertisements in FAR zones and water tanks in FAR zones. In each of the two proposals, persons must seek permits from the Zoning and Appeals Board before erecting signs or water tanks.

The resolution governing advertising requires that signs, billboards and other advertising structures be:

- * Forbidden on road rights-of-way.
- * No larger than 382 square feet in size.
- * At least 1,000 feet apart on the same side of the street or 500 feet from another sign on the opposite side of the street.
- * At least 1,000 feet from existing residential uses.
- * In compliance with height restrictions for

the zoning district.

* Restricted to arterial roads, a designation for some of the county's most heavily trafficked roads.

The water tank resolution establishes minimum distances between water tanks and property lines, utilities and residences.

Other items on Monday's agenda include:

- * Reappointing Bogota Drainage Committee members Don Childress, Daniel Lay, Roger Long and Paul Nale to two-year terms.
- * Reappointing Industrial Board members Ralph Holland, Katie Winchester, Ralph Henson and Richard Hill to six-year terms.
- * Reappointing Tom Reasons and David Norsworthy to the Regional Solid Waste Board for Crockett, Dyer and Gibson counties for six-year terms.
- * Reappointing Terry Parker to the Zoning and Appeals Board for a three-year term.
- * Considering three budget resolutions.

One appropriates \$80,933.58 for the Dyer County Board of Education and accommodates incoming funds. Another transfers \$2,677.94 from undesignated funds to county buildings-office supplies to handle incoming grant funds. The transfer is being made for archive purposes. The third resolution concerns the highway department. The budget committee is scheduled to meet at 6:15 p.m. Monday to consider the resolutions.

* Hearing reports from Bob Kirk and Dr. Karen Bowyer about the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce's government and education activities.

UPDATE ON NATIONAL CONVENTION 2009

Compatriots,

In 2009 the SCV will hold its annual Reunion Hot Springs, Arkansas. The host committee there is working to make this an enjoyable reunion and has a website giving the details of the Reunion. The address of the website is www.scv2009reunion.com. An item to note is that the deadline for early registration is fast approaching - it is **November 1, 2008**. If you are planning to attend the reunion you can take advantage of the early registration if you act soon.

Chuck Rand
Chief of Staff
chuckrand3@gmail.com

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS REUNION, 2009

The 114th SCV annual general reunion/convention will be held from July 23 through 26, 2009 at the Arlington Hotel, 239 Central Ave, Hot Springs AR 71901, (800) 643-1502. The registration fee is only \$60 to November 1, 2008 which includes a name badge, a reunion medal, program and discount tickets to rides and attractions in Hot Springs. The registration fee will increase to \$70 on November 1, 2008 and remain at that level until May 1, 2009. However, after May 1, 2009 you will be a late registration, which along with walk ins, are not guaranteed to receive any item other than a name badge as there may not be sufficient programs and reunion medals remaining. Please go to the convention site, <http://scv2009reunion.com/> for more details on the many wonderful opportunities that will be available for your entertainment in this historic resort city. Don't delay your registration.

COURT DISMISSES CHARGES AGAINST GUEST WHO PUT CONFEDERATE FLAG IN HOTEL WINDOW ACQUITTED SCV MEMBER PREPARES TO SUE

Concord, NC – A local court judge today dismissed charges of criminal trespass against Basil D. (Bazz) Childress, a Sons of Confederate Veterans member who allegedly refused to remove a Confederate flag from his hotel room window when the management demanded that he do so.

The incident occurred at the Wingate Hotel in Concord during the SCV's 2008 annual National Reunion (Convention). Childress, a bank officer from Lexington, KY, said he had placed the flag in his window to identify his room as the site of an annual social gathering. A desk clerk telephoned the room and asked Childress to remove the flag. Childress said that when he asked the hotel's manager to explain how having the flag in his window violated his room rental contract, the manager became angry, called police and made the criminal trespass charge. Childress was released on his own recognizance and checked into another hotel.

Prosecution witnesses from the hotel were a no-show at today's hearing, so the court dismissed the case. Childress was represented by Charlotte attorney Christopher McCartan, with Kirk D. Lyons of Black Mountain as co-counsel. Lyons, who is Chief Trial Counsel for the Southern Legal Resource Center, said Childress is now preparing to sue Wyndham Hotels, Inc., which owns the Wingate unit.

Army of Tennessee News

Preparing for the Sesquicentennial

Compatriots,

After much consideration, I felt the AOT should have a person who assisted each Division with the Sesquicentennial planning process. I am aware that National has a committee designed to help Divisions, but to also plan National events. In my thought process, I felt we needed more one on one attention to the Divisions in the AOT. So I created the AOT Sesquicentennial Chairman position. His duties are listed later in the body of this email.

Of course with creating this position, I needed to find the right man for the job. That man is AOT COuncilman Tom Strain. He has the experience and the tenacity to do an excellent job. I encourage each Division to support him in the endeavor in any way possible. As promised, below is the job description of the Chairman and Tom's contact information.

AOT Sesquicentennial Chairman Duties:

- 1) Does not replace National, but intercedes, more one on one relationship since AOT has only 10 divisions
- 2) Responsible for contacting Division Commanders to find out who is the Sesquicentennial ,Chair for that Division
- 3) Responsible for being in continuous contact with the Division Chair, reviewing and discussing ideas, making sure Division has proper support needed for events, etc.
- 4) Creates calendar of all events in AOT, which will be uploaded to the AOT website
- 5) Plans meeting for all Division Chairs to attend so ideas can be shared and advice given
- 6) Considers having affordable workshops for members to educate them on that particular year of the WBTS (better prepares members for media and public)
- 7) Plans AOT event(s)
- 8) Answers and relates info to AOT Commander

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Please feel free to contact me about this or any other issue or concern. Remember, I am here to serve you.

Deo Vindice!
Charles Kelly Barrow
Cmdr, Army of Tennessee
"Focus on the Future Through Honoring the Past"

FORREST HIGH WILL KEEP IT'S NAME

Nathan Bedford Forrest High School's name will remain unchanged. The Duval County School Board voted 5-2 Monday to leave the name of Forrest High School, which honors the Confederate general, slave trader and early leader of the Ku Klux Klan. The decision ends two years of controversy over a possible name change.

The vote to change the name of the majority black school split down racial lines, with board members Betty Burney and Brenda Priestly Jackson, the board's only black members, casting the two votes to change the name.

Priestly Jackson and Burney said the school was named after Forrest in 1958 as a slap in the face to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Brown vs. Board of Education to integrate schools. "It was done to slap in the face integration and now the school itself is almost all African-American," Burney said.

Board members voting to keep the name said energy surrounding the issue and the resources it would take the change the name are better suited to helping the school improve its academics. Forrest received an F on the most recent Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

Board member Kris Barnes, who wrote the agenda item recommending the rejection of the name change, said she had a problem that the issue was raised by the community instead of the students going to the school. Barnes said she wouldn't be able to understand the pain the name may cause blacks, but said she was frustrated so much time was being spent on a name of a school.

"I would like the see it go through a process started by the student body," Barnes said. Board member Vicki Drake said she was displeased by the number of people who showed up at Forrest's School Advisory Council meetings to voice their concerns about the name change, but wouldn't come to the meetings to help the children at the school succeed.

"The children didn't ask anybody to change the name of their school, the children asked for help to read and write," Drake said. Board member Tommy Hazouri agreed with Drake and Barnes. "For me in my heart, I think the great concern today is moving that school off the F chart," he said. "I believe that we should leave the name where it is."

The board voted after listening to more than two hours of public comment. About 100 people concerned about the name change attending the board meeting. The public's statements featured dueling histories and opinions of Forrest and his life. Opponents said removing Forrest's name was a step toward erasing Southern heritage and called Forrest a civil rights advocate and a good man

The Delta General

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Appointed Officers:

Editor/Webmaster -
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Chaplain -
Earl McCown, Jr.

Sergeant-at-Arms -
Thomas Haik



NEW CLUES ABOUT A LOST CONFEDERATE SUBMARINE By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists working to preserve the historic Hunley submarine may soon discover what the crew was doing during the final moments before they died in 1864. Were they frantically attempting to pump water out of a damaged vessel? Or were they trapped underwater, unable to breathe? We may soon know the answer.

Today, conservators will remove the aft (back) pump to prepare the submarine for its preservation treatment. Until now, surface concretion and the tight confines of the crew compartment prevented any detailed analysis of the pump.

Knowing whether the valves were open or closed could help answer key questions about the fate of the submarine and her crew. "Understanding what steps, if any, the crew was taking to save their lives is critical to our investigation into the Hunley's disappearance," said Hunley Archaeologist James Hunter with Clemson University Restoration Institute.

"Once we know the pumps setting, it will help us eliminate some of the existing possibilities," said Senator Glenn McConnell, Chairman of the Hunley Commission.

There are dozens of theories surrounding this century old mystery. Perhaps the best-known theory is the Hunley suffered damage during her attack on the Housatonic and began rapidly to take on water, causing the vessel to sink.

Since the forward hatch was found ajar, some speculate Hunley Commander George Dixon may have opened it to gain his bearings or to replenish air in the crew compartment. While it was open, a wave may have swamped and sank the vessel. However, both of these "drowning scenarios" will prove less likely if the crew was not trying to pump water out of the submarine. If the valves are found closed, it could support speculation the crew simply ran out of breathable air – while perhaps unaware their life was in immediate danger.

Another popular theory is the crew calmly waited for the tides to shift so they could ride with the current for the journey back to land. Instead, the oxygen slowly ran out, causing the crew to perish. This could remain a viable possibility if the valves are found closed.

Only more research will answer these questions. Scientists won't be able to determine the valve settings until both pumps are removed from the submarine and can be studied in the lab.

Conservators have been at work for weeks to de-concrete the area and develop a plan to safely take out the aft pump. In the next few months, the forward pump will also be removed. When this work is completed, scientists will be a step closer to solving one of the most intriguing mysteries in maritime history.