



# The Delta General

October, 2012      Volume 15, Issue 9

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



## Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes

Compatriots,

I would like to start by talking briefly about our September camp meeting. We were entertained by Ms. Dian Bohnert "The Arkansas Medicine Woman". I started to type "educated by", but Ms. Bohnert is so "entertaining" that I thought that choice of diction was more apt. We had a good crowd again. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Ms. Dian, and we plan to have her return in the future. (If you have not been to one of her presentations, keep on the lookout for her next one; you will not be disappointed, I assure you.)

For our October meeting, Alan Doyle is on the schedule to speak on Nathan Bedford Forrest. As always, any talk on Forrest is of interest. Bring a guest and enjoy the evening of fun.

We are continuing to have door prizes (with a raffle) run by the ladies of the Ella Palmer OCR chapter. Each month there have been two prizes, one with a feminine theme, one with a masculine. In our "Capture the Yankee" drawing, the "Yankee" is still up for grabs. Remember, you must be present to win either contest. I would like to report that, at our September meeting, we inducted two new members to the camp, Richard Miller and Chesley Roberts. We are continuing to grow, which is a good thing. If we can grow a little quicker, that would be a great thing. So, let's all do a little something extra to find those prospective members who are out there.

As for upcoming events, Fall Muster at Beauvoir is right around the corner. I know that many of you are planning to attend this special event. I would like to encourage everyone to go, as this is an SCV event. (And we are the owners of Beauvoir, so we do have a strong stake in this event.)

For those of you interested, the Vicksburg 150<sup>th</sup> Sesquicentennial Reenactment is also coming up. And the Wirt Adams Raid at Jefferson College is fast approaching in November. Even if you are not a re-enactor, reenactments are fun and educational events.

Our Lee-Jackson Banquet is still a while away, but we need to start making plans now. This is a big event for us and takes a good amount of time in both the planning and execution. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to present them. (I have asked Lt. Commander McCluney to line up a special guest speaker, and I know he is going to deliver, as always.)

In closing, let me again urge you to keep up the good work (as you all always do) and maybe we can strive to do a little more and make it great work. Be on the lookout for prospective members, bring a friend to an event, or even take a moment to educate someone on our heritage. Remember, we are the voice of our ancestors.

Deo Vindice,  
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 October meeting will feature Alan Doyle (pictured above) of the Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp of Memphis, TN. Alan is also a reenactor, Captain of the famed Morton's Battery. He will be speaking to us on his favorite subject, General Forrest.

## Adjutant's Report: Dan McCaskill

The Camp Meeting of September 6, 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. After the meal, Commander Nokes reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Chris Lewis was absent so Commander Nokes asked Junior Stillman to lead 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. 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. Commander Nokes had the privilege to induct two new members into the Camp. Inducted were Chesley Roberts and Richard Miller. We welcome these two men into the Camp.

**Announcements:** Several members of the Camp went to Burton Sugar Farm for a Battalion Meeting. While there, Alfred Burton, a member of our Camp, was presented with the MS Division Graves Award and the National Graves Award for his efforts to mark the graves of Confederate Soldiers who died at Davis' Mill. Brandon Beck had a book signing at Cottonlandia on August 7th which was attended by a small but enthusiastic group. For our Camp Meeting on October 4th, we will have Allen Doyle as our guest speaker. Allen will give a program on Nathan Bedford Forrest. The third weekend of October will be two big events in Mississippi. There is the annual Fall Muster at Beauvoir and a National Re-enactment at Raymond.

**Officer Reports:** 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney was absent. 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman did not have a report. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Camp had lost another member. James "Choctaw" Morrow crossed over the River on August 30, 2012. We lost Ralph Washington back in July. Dan asked all to remember Choctaw's family in their prayers. Dan reported that 19 members have renewed their memberships. Memberships must be renewed on or before October 31st. Camp funds stood at \$ 1,789.54 in the checking account and enough funds had been donated to donate to the church through the end of October. Earl McCown reported that the Gen. Charles Clark Chapter of the MOS & B needed a few good men. Division Commander Alan Palmer announced that the National Heritage Rally would be held at Beauvoir on March 16, 2013. In April, 2013, the Division would hold a 150th event with the re-dedication of Soldier's Rest at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Vicksburg. Missy Stillman announced that OCR dues were now due and payable.

**Camp Business:** There was no Camp business brought before the Camp.

**Program:** The program for the evening was presented by Dyan Bonher, the Arkansas Medicine Women. She gave an excellent presentation on natural medicines and foods of the 1860s. Back then, the nut on nut grass was eaten like a potato. Pine needles were used to make a tea that was high in vitamin C which helped to cure scurvy. The three "miracle drugs of the War were Charcoal, Vinegar, and onion. She had other stories and antidotes about the War.

Commander Nokes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited everyone back next month.

The Meeting was dismissed with a word of prayer by Chaplain Earl McCown.

Attendance for the evening was 21.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

## Notice to Camp Reenactors

Ok guys I need to know who is going to the Vicksburg Campaign, October 19-21 is \$20.00 per person they are allowing walk-ons for this event. Because of three National events within a month's time, the event is asking everyone to bring both uniforms incase there is a need to galvanize.

The following people have been registered under Co. K, 30th MS – Jeff Davis Battalion- Larry McCluney, Mike Goss – paid, Wade Johnson, Scott Garrett – Paid, Joe Nokes, Thomas Haik, Maranda Haik, Patrick Sample, Susie Brown, Gator Stillman, Missy Stillman

Unless paid is indicated by your name, you owe the company \$20.00. Also, all riflemen will need a minimum of 200 cartridges for this event and food for three days. Most of us will be Campaigning so plan your knapsacks accordingly.

Confederately,  
Larry McCluney



## 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

## Message from the Commanding General; MOS&B

The Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam) was fought on September 17, 1862. Less than a week later, on September 22nd Abraham Lincoln announced that he would emancipate all slaves in states that did not return to the Union. States then in the Union were not affected. Therein lays a story.

The first Blacks brought to the American colonies, whether in the North or in the South, were dealt with as indentured servants with the same status as White indentured servants; however, within a generation, the status of Blacks devolved into slavery. The decision for slavery was a flawed economic decision. As the Northern colonies moved towards industrialization, slavery became less profitable there. As Northern slave holders analyzed their bot-tom line, the vast majority elected the option of selling their slaves to Southern slaveholders rather than taking the moral alternative of manumission. As a consequence some of the busiest slave ports were located in the North.

Eventually, as soils depleted in the old South, a similar discovery of the economic liability of slavery was faced in that region. To the extent possible, slaves were relocated to new lands farther west. By the time of the WBTS slavery in general was a quandary for slave holders. Generations of economic investment with diminishing economic benefit was their reality. Coincidental to this plight was the private venture of repatriation of ex-slaves to Liberia beginning in 1820, a solution later much favored by Lincoln. The British Empire abolished slavery in 1834 – with compensation. Then in 1835 the British and French entered a pact to abolish the slave trade.

Had American statesmen in the generation prior to the WBTS been able to advance a compensated emancipation plan, it would likely have received a warm embrace from Southern slaveholders as a way to recover their economic investment in a failed system – just as their Northern counterparts had done several generations earlier. The failure of compensated emancipation to gain traction rested in part on the resistance of Northern taxpayers to fund it.

Slavery was a Southern moral albatross. Lincoln strategized a way to hang it around their neck. Realizing that for emancipation to be viewed as a moral act rather than a desperate one, Lincoln needed a contest of arms that could not be viewed as a Southern victory. Sharpsburg was that engagement. Strictly speaking it was not a clear tactical victory for the North, but it proved to be an immensely strategic one. Lincoln's balancing act was not to offend slave holding states not in secession, while making it complicated for the British and French to continue support for a system that they had renounced.

Slavery is a guilt shared by both North and South. Ironically, the treasure expended in waging the WBTS exceeded that which would have been required to compensate emancipation. Even left alone, slavery was an economically doomed system that would have inevitably crumbled. The blood and treasure expended from 1861 to 1865, and the subsequent ravages of Reconstruction and Jim Crow could all have been avoided. Emancipated compensation would have improved conditions for both Whites and Blacks much earlier than the hundred years' hiatus that occurred.

Just as Lincoln hung the albatross of slavery around the necks of Southerners, modern anti-Confederate forces unjustifiably seek to taint Confederate heritage groups with this same burden. Let it be clear that the *Military Order of the Stars and Bars* in no way condones the historical institution of slavery. The mission of the Order is to honor those men who gave their blood and treasure in defense of their homeland. We also honor those who have served in the armed forces of the United States since that epic struggle of 150 years ago.

Gentlemen, every day matters! *YOU* are the Order and our future is in *YOUR* hands!

Respectfully,  
Toni Turk  
Commander General

### **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>

## Shiloh Monument Fundraiser

Ms. Stahl has given permission to the Pvt. Samuel A. Hughey Camp #1452 to reprint and offer for sale this painting. The Camp would appreciate the efforts of all the camps throughout The Mississippi Division to help in this great cause. Would you please pass this request to all your members? Price for each print is \$ 25.00 All money will go the monument (Mississippi confederate) at Shiloh.

Thanks,  
Randy Hailey  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Hughey camp 1452  
For info contact: [thatsouthernntouch@comcast.net](mailto:thatsouthernntouch@comcast.net)



## 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](mailto:andrewomccaskill@yahoo.com) and myself at [cptalan61@yahoo.com](mailto:cptalan61@yahoo.com). Make plans now to attend.

Sincerely

Alan Palmer  
Cmdr Ms Div SCV

## Beauvoir Update

Acting Director Rick Forte sent the following message on August 29 as a report on damage at Beauvoir: "So far so good! Security Chief Jay Peterson stated a few limbs and three med. size trees down. Water has not crossed hwy 90 in front of Beauvoir. Winds are 25 to 30 mph, with gust to 45 to 50 mph. Your prayers are working."

This report was received from Rick on August 30: Aug 30, 2012 - 9:15 am: "No new damage reports. Beauvoir will remain closed until Highway 90 is cleared of storm debris. Beauvoir clean-up will start today. I will keep everyone informed as new information develops. Thanks for your prayers, they do work." Rick Forte Sr.

### **Clean up at Beauvoir:**

Beauvoir needs help in clean up do to limbs and some fallen trees on property. Anyone who can help please contact Quitin at 228-343-1402. Will need chainsaws.

Wallace Mason [harrywirmason@bellsouth.net](mailto:harrywirmason@bellsouth.net)

Here is the latest damage assessment on Beauvoir. As you will see, most is water/rain related.

-Rick Forte Jr.

Please see the details the current status of the grounds buildings and library below. The major issues with the Library are currently being addressed. Service Pro has been called to clean up the water. We are using trash barrels and containers to collect the water. I will update you further when they have completed the clean up.

I called Socia Brothers roofing and they did not answer. I will continue to call them to get them here to repair the roof. Please call if you need additional information.

### **Beauvoir Grounds and Library Update - August 30 2:00 PM**

I have toured the grounds, checked all the houses and the Library. Here's the current status:

- **Grounds:** Currently we have 6-8 large tree limbs down and trees uprooted. The closest tree was next to the Hayes Cottage. No damage to any buildings due to trees or limbs. Sinkhole has developed on road to barn 4 feet x 6 feet due to storm runoff from the Biloxi water mains.
- **Trailers:** No damage or leaking.
- **Hayes Cottage:** Minor leakage through doorway.
- **Library:** Major leaks throughout the Library.

#### 1ST FLOOR:

- **Beauvoir Room:** Large ceiling leak, water in power room from ceiling leak,
- **Reception Area Outside Beauvoir Room:** Major ceiling leak
- **Entry Area:** Water coming from upper gallery and through doors
- **Administration Area:** 3 offices leaking through walls and windows, employee door leaking
- **Base of Stairway:** Water at base of stairs, leaks in windows and ceiling

#### 2ND FLOOR

- **Entry Way:** Leaks in windows and ceiling
- **Board Room:** Doors have no latches were open, floor covered with water
- **Travelling Gallery:** Water coming through walls, water coming in through double doors
- **Concourse:** Water through the base of one column
- **Large Gallery:** Water leak in ceiling dripping on ventilation system spattering along floor
- **Small Gallery:** Water leak in ceiling dripping on ventilation system spattering along floor
- **Library Room:** Leaks from ceiling and floor and windows, water in elevator lobby and an exit door to the gallery
- **Vault:** Access hatch to the roof open, water throughout curator's office, collection area and vault

Bertram Hayes Davis

**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) \$30.00** .....Qty \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(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](mailto: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.

## National SCV News:



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.

## The Death of General Nathan Bedford Forrest

by the NY Times, October 30, 1877

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Oct. 29.--Gen. Bedford Forrest, the great Confederate cavalry officer, died at 7:30 o'clock this evening at the residence of his brother, Col. Jesse Forrest.

### **Forrest's Career**

In an article published in The New-York Times immediately before the close of the war, the characteristic types of the soldiers of the South were sketched. It was pointed out that while Virginia, and what might be called the "old South," produced gallant soldiers and dignified gentlemen, the South-west, the rude border country, gave birth to men of reckless ruffianism and cut-throat daring. The type of the first was Gen. Robert E. Lee; that of the latter, Gen. Bedford Forrest. At the date this article was written, (March, 1865,) Forrest seems to have been considered by many as the most formidable cavalry commander then in the Armies of the South; but he was so essentially guerrilla-like in his methods of warfare, and withal was so notoriously bloodthirsty and revengeful, that it was thought he would, when the other Southern commanders surrendered, an event then seen to be inevitable, collect around him all the desperate and discontented elements of the Southern Armies and maintain a guerrilla warfare on the South-western borders. This expectation was not realized, for when the crash came, everything went down in the grand ruin, and Forrest had had more than enough fighting to satisfy him. He was not a trained soldier, and he made his way up to the rank he held by sheer force of energy and fight from the rank of a private. For some years before the rebellion, (to quote from the article referred to,) Forrest was well known as a Memphis speculator and Mississippi gambler. He was for some time Captain of a boat which ran between Memphis and Vicksburg. As his fortune increased he engaged in plantation speculation, and became the nominal owner of two plantations not far from Goodrich's Landing, above Vicksburg, where he worked some hundred or more slaves. This was his status when the war broke out. He was known to his acquaintances as a man of obscure origin and low associations, a shrewd speculator, negro trader, and duelist, but a man of great energy and brute courage.

To the first call to arms in the South Forrest promptly responded, enlisting as a private in the first infantry regiment recruited at Memphis; but his qualities as horseman and fighter soon attracted the notice of his superior officers, and he was made Captain of a cavalry company. He took his first lesson in cavalry skirmishing on the line of Green River, when Buel advanced on Bowling Green in the Winter of 1862. From a Captaincy he rose to a Lieutenant-Colonelcy, and when Fort Donelson fell before Grant, Forrest was a senior Colonel commanding a brigade. On this occasion he performed his first notable exploit, for, refusing to surrender with the other forces in the fort, he headed his brigade in a charge through the Union lines, cut his way out, and safely withdrew his command to the mountains of East Tennessee. Soon after he made a

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Death of Forrest Continued. . .

swift and stealthy march on Murfreesboro, and took the place by surprise. From that time until the close of the war he was essentially a ranger, and covered in his raids the whole territory from the Ohio River on the north to the Tombigbee on the south; from the mountains of North Carolina to the Valley of the Mississippi. He proved himself the most regularly successful of all the Southern cavalry leaders. This was due as much to good fortune as his own talents. He never had a good officer sent against him, and he seldom attacked except where he greatly outnumbered his enemy. As a scientific commander, he was much the inferior of Wheeler or Stuart; but he had all the qualities of a guerrilla chieftain, and the history of his exploits abundantly proves that he displayed them. He was swift and daring in his advance, stubborn and defiant in retreat, cool and ready in face of temporary disaster, and skillful in wielding the large force he commanded. When in the height of his celebrity as a commander he was thus described: "In person, Forrest is a little over six feet in height, and strongly built; apparently about 38 years of age, in the perfection of vigorous manhood, insensible to fatigue, incapable alike of sympathy or fear. The outlines of his face are handsome, and the expression is generally pleasant; but now and then, when roused a little, his eye lights with a gleam and his brow darkens with a frown which stamp him with the brand of Cain. He is a consummate horseman and a dead shot with the pistol; a spare eater and abstemious in his habits. His control over his men is absolute. He mingles familiarly with them, and is ready to talk with any of them on easy terms, but with his officers he is often exacting and savage." A story is related of his reprimanding a young Lieutenant with such severity that the latter, stung beyond endurance, drew his pistol. Forrest deliberately walked up to him, and using his great physical superiority to the uttermost, literally cut the young man to the ground with his bowie-knife, and then coolly wiping the bloody blade of the knife, mounted, and rode off as if nothing had happened.

It is in connection with one of the most atrocious and cold-blooded massacres that ever disgraced civilized warfare that his name will for ever be inseparably associated. "Fort Pillow Forrest" was the title which the deed conferred upon him, and by this he will be remembered by the present generation, and by it he will pass into history. The massacre occurred on the 12th of April, 1864. Fort Pillow is 65 miles above Memphis, and its capture was effected during Forrest's celebrated raid through Tennessee, a State which was at the time practically in possession of the Union forces. Gen. Sherman had started on an expedition from Vicksburg, in February, through Mississippi; he was to be supported by Gen. Smith with a cavalry column, which, marching from Memphis, was to join him at Meridian. Sherman's march from west to east across the State was so rapidly and skillfully done that it was a mere promenade. The Confederate commander, Gen. Polk, could make no effective resistance to him, but he bent all his energies to preventing the junction of Smith's cavalry column with Sherman. For this purpose he ordered all his cavalry to join Forrest, and intrusted that commander with the task of heading off Smith. This was done most effectually, for the conduct of Gen. William Sooy Smith seems to have been marked from the start with utter inefficiency. His start from Memphis was made late enough to give Forrest time to collect all his forces for resistance; the march of the Union cavalry was an utterly disorganized one, so that when, on the 22d of February, it reached Okalona, 100 miles north of Meridian, discipline seems to have been utterly relaxed. Here Forrest's cavalry met them, and at the first charge the Union forces were practically routed. Everything fell into utter confusion, and Smith had to retreat, pursued by the enemy for 10 days over the wasted country through which he had just advanced. Forrest now saw his opportunity for a raid into the heart of Tennessee. The garrisons there had been weakened by the concentration of forces for the Spring campaign, and he had nothing to fear in the way of a superior force. Late in March he passed into that State, and the route of his advance was marked by outrages and brutalities of the most cold-blooded character. He captured most of the small garrisons on his line of march, in each case summoning the defenders to surrender under a threat that if he had to storm the works he would give no quarter. On the 12th of April he appeared before Fort Pillow. This fort was garrisoned by 500 troops, about half of them colored. Forrest's force numbered about 5,000 or 6,000. His first attack was a complete surprise, and the commanding officer was killed early in the engagement. Still the defenders fought so gallantly that at 2 o'clock the enemy had gained no material advantage. Forrest then sent in a flag of truce, demanding unconditional surrender. While the flag was flying, Forrest's men treacherously crept into positions which they had been unable to take by fight, (a trick they had played at other places,) and thus were in a situation to make the assault which soon followed under every advantage. After a short consultation, Major Bradford, on whom the command had devolved, sent word refusing to surrender. Instantly the bugles sounded the assault. The enemy were now within 100 yards of the fort, and at the sound they rushed on the works, shouting "No quarter! No quarter!" The garrison was seized with a panic: the men threw down their arms and sought safety in flight toward the river, in the neighboring ravine, behind logs, bushes, trees, and in fact everywhere where there was a chance for concealment. It was in vain. The captured fort and its vicinity became a human shambles. Without discrimination of age or sex, men, women, and children, the sick and wounded in the hospitals, were butchered without mercy. The bloody work went on until night put a temporary stop to it; but it was renewed at early dawn, when the inhuman captors searched the vicinity of the fort, dragging out wounded fugitives and killing them where they lay. The whole history of the affair was brought out by a Congressional inquiry, and the testimony presents a long series of sickening, cold-blooded atrocities. Forrest reported his own loss at 20 killed and 60 wounded; and states that he buried 228 Federals on the evening of the assault. Yet in the face of this he claimed that the Fort Pillow capture was "a bloody victory, only made a massacre by dastardly Yankee reporters." The news of the massacre aroused the whole country to a paroxysm of horror and fury. A force of 12,000 men was sent against Forrest, under Gen. Sturgis, who so wretchedly mismanaged the affair that he was utterly routed by him. Another column was sent against him in July, under A. J. Smith, which met with scarcely better success, and the next thing heard of Forrest was when, on the morning of Aug. 18, he made a sudden and daring raid through Memphis, escaping with small loss.

Since the war, Forrest has lived at Memphis, and his principal occupation seems to have been to try and explain away the Fort Pillow affair. He wrote several letters about it, which were published, and always had something to say about it in any public speech he delivered. He seemed as if he were trying always to rub away the blood stains which marked him. He spoke at the Union ratification meeting at Memphis in August, 1866; wrote a letter approving President Johnson's reconstruction policy in October of the same year; was at the Democratic National convention in June, 1868; spoke several times during the political campaign that year, counseling friendly feeling between the North and South; made several written and spoken defenses of his war record at that time, and distinguished himself again by challenging Gen. Kilpatrick to a duel. The latter, who was also on the stump, had attacked Forrest with great severity, denouncing him as a butcher and a murderer. Forrest felt these reproaches so keenly that he sent a challenge. Kilpatrick replied that he would not fight a duel, but if he ever met Forrest, and the latter desired to do anything, he [Kilpatrick] would be ready. The outcome of this was that Forrest and Kilpatrick did meet somewhere in North

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## THE DELTA GENERAL

1412 North Park Dr  
Greenwood, MS 38930

**We are on the Web!**  
[www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)



**Don't be a Straggler!**  
**Come to the Meetings!**



Death of Forrest continued . . .

Carolina, the latter going into the bar-room of the hotel where he was told Forrest was. Forrest was leaning against the bar. Kilpatrick brushed against him. Forrest looked up, recognized his enemy, turned and left the room, and that was the end of the matter. In December, 1873, Forrest had a short correspondence with Gen. Sherman on the prospects of a Cuban war.

Of late years, his views had undergone a considerable change. The guerrilla chieftain had softened down into the retired veteran, anxious, apparently, only for peace with everybody. He was in favor of promoting good feeling between the two sections, and by the terms of his address to his old comrades in arms, asking them to join in decorating the graves of the dead Union soldiers. His last notable public appearance was on the Fourth of July in Memphis, when he appeared before the colored people at their celebration, was publicly presented with a bouquet by them as a mark of peace and reconciliation, and made a friendly speech in reply. In this he once more took occasion to defend himself and his war record, and to declare that he was a hearty friend of the colored race. Gen. Forrest would be remembered only as a daring and successful guerrilla cavalry leader, were it not for the one great and indelible stain upon his name. It was evident that he felt this, as his constantly-repeated defenses of himself show. His daring and recklessness gave him more eclat at one period than his military services were really entitled to. Gen. Wheeler's raid around the rear of Sherman's army was the work of the daring man and the scientific soldier; Gen. Forrest's sudden dash through Memphis, with no more result than the killing of a few men on either side, was the recklessness of the mere guerrilla chief-- which Forrest essentially was.