

Camp Commander: Dan McCaskill

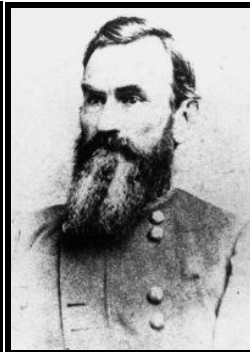
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The Delta General

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Upcoming Events

Our April meeting
will feature SW
Louisiana Brigade
Commander John
McGibboney who
will speak on Civil
War Medicine

May 29-31, MS
SCV / OCR Con-
vention in
Greenwood, MS

COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Compatriots,

April 1st starts Confederate Heritage Month which was again declared such by Governor Haley Barbour. How will you celebrate Confederate Heritage Month? You can come out to the Greenville Cemetery on Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 pm to honor the 123 Confederate Veterans buried there. It is part of the Charge given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee to preserve the memory of the Confederate Veteran. We preserve their memory by remembering their sacrifices to try and establish a nation of their own. We remember their sacrifices to defend their State and homes from invading armies from the north. We remember them as one of the greatest fighting armies in the world. If we forget them, the Confederate Veteran will be lost forever. So, during the month of April, fly your Confederate Flag in their memory and honor.

Again, I must remind everyone that the Reunion is just around the corner. Most of the plans have been laid out and we will tie up the loose ends by the April Camp Meeting. The one big item we are still in need of is raffle items. If any of you can contribute a nice item, please try to bring it to the April Meeting. If you have not registered by the time you are reading this note, Registration Fees have gone up to \$ 30. Of a total of 75 SCV and OCR members of our Camp and Chapter, only 11 have registered. Folks, it is looking very bad for the host Camp and Chapter. If you have never been to a Division Reunion, here is your chance.

Our April Camp Meeting will feature John McGibboney from Monroe, Louisiana. John will give a program on Surgical Practices of the War Between the States. Come on out and learn something new about the War.

God Bless the South,

Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Commander



WELCOME NEW OCR MEMBER

Patricia Nokes



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

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MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS:

FIRST-EVER MISSISSIPPI CONFEDERATE FLAG BOOK

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

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

5597 Fair Cove

Memphis, Tennessee 38115

(or) email purchase request to flagsusedms@gmail.com.

BEAUVOIR UPDATE

The art restoration in Beauvoir House is 90% finished-(see photo's below)-the faux oak finish on the doors are beautiful and adds class to everything(furniture, curtains, etc.). The fresco art in the Reception Hall, Front Parlor and Library Room are finished(see photo's below).They are simply breathtaking! Faux marble finish to the fireplace mantles are to begin shortly.

The Maintenance Department has been busy cleaning and restoring the grounds. The Security Department has the REDNET security system installed and operating. The Gift Shop keeps adding great items for everyone (see photo's below)

We hope to have bids on the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum to be let in May 2009.

Stay tuned, more good news to come!

Rick Forte Sr.
Chairman of the Combined Boards
and Acting Director

Mississippi Division and Beauvoir 2009 Confederate Memorial Day is April 25th. Make plans to attend and honor our Confederate Heroes. Dinner on the grounds-12 noon-Memorial Service-2 p.m.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, April is the month in which the Confederate States began and ended a four-year struggle; and

WHEREAS, on Confederate Memorial Day, we recognize those who served in the Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, April 27, 2009, is set aside as Confederate Memorial Day to honor those who served in the Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, it is important for all Americans to reflect upon our nation's past, to gain insight from our mistakes and successes, and to come to a full understanding that the lessons learned yesterday and today will carry us through tomorrow if we carefully and earnestly strive to understand and appreciate our heritage and our opportunities which lie before us.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the month of April 2009 as:

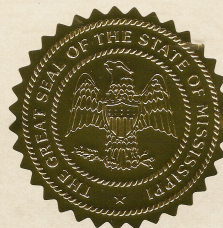
CONFEDERATE HERITAGE MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and that the citizens thereof undertake measures to become more knowledgeable of and better understand the role of the Confederacy in American History.

AND FURTHER, we charge the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans to organize and conduct, in cooperation with other state historical organizations, fitting and appropriate public observances to commemorate and publicize this rich heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord, two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-third.



Haley Barbour

FORT PEMBERTON . . . CONTINUED FROM MARCH ISSUE

The seventh man, very young, a grown-up-anyhow bit of mortality, who until he came to handle steel had worked in iron, stood next, perhaps, to Edward Cary in the affections of the mess. Dreadful as was this war, it had as a by-product the lessening of caste. Men came together and worked together as men, not as conventions.

"Yes, it is lovely," said the warehouse man. "I used to think a deal about beauty."

"Woman's beauty?"

"No. Just plain beauty. Cloud or sea or face or anywhere you found it. At the end of every furrow, as Jim might say." Jim, who was the sergeant, shook out rings of smoke. "It ain't only at the end of the furrow. I've seen it in the middle."

The worker in iron stretched his thin body, hands under his young head. "I like fall better'n spring. Late fall when it's all red and still, and at night there are shooting stars. Spring makes me sad."

"What are you doing with sadness?" asked Edward. "You had as well talk of Jack-o'-Lantern being sad! — I like all seasons, each with its proper magnificence! Look at that pine, black as wrath —"

"Look at the pink water about the old Star of the West —The charmed water burnt away A still and awful red."

Continued on page 6 . . .

NATIONAL NEWS:

THE SCV IS BACK IN THE RACE GAME

Forrest Park has quietly been added to the National Register of Historic Places, and efforts to rename the park or disinter the bodies buried there have, for now, been laid to rest. The park at Union and Manassas where Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife are buried received the honorary designation this month from the National Park Service.

The park has long been a point of racial controversy in Memphis, with local officials and other groups periodically rallying to rename the park and remove the statue of Forrest, a revered cavalry leader in the Civil War who also was a slave trader and a leader of the Ku Klux Klan. The nomination was submitted by the Forrest Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "It's just a great honor to have the park and the statue recognized as a historic place," said Lee Millar, the camp's public affairs officer. "We're very happy for fellow historians and the city and county to have another site listed on the national register."

Although not involved in seeking the designation, the Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy also was excited by the news. "I'm very happy, basically because it's just a part of Memphis' history that needs to be preserved for future generations," said president Audrey Rainey. Attorney and former Shelby County commissioner Walter Bailey tried to quash the nomination but says continued protests will be put on hold. "I think we're at a point where until such time as we see some concern by our city leaders, we have to continue to pause," Bailey said.

And he doesn't blame the Forrest supporters for their success. "It seems to me the responsibility and the blame rest with our city leaders for being so passive about it," Bailey said. Last fall, the nomination went before the Tennessee Historical Commission. Initially approved, the vote was rescinded after about a dozen Memphians, including Bailey and state Rep. G.A. Hardaway, protested, arguing that the park had been created to pay homage to a slave trader. The Sons of Confederate Veterans withdrew the nomination, regrouped and successfully appealed the state commission's decision to the park service, which administers the register.

Despite the successful bid, the designation is an honor, not a shield. Because Forrest Park is owned by the city of Memphis, the city has the authority to rename it or have the graves moved unless the project involves federal dollars, said Bill Reynolds, spokesman with the National Park Service in Atlanta. "If the city makes changes to the site in some way, shape or form that would or could cause a potential review of the status of the site, it could cause it to lose its designation if the historical integrity of the site is compromised in any way," he said.

The 8-acre park was established in the early 1900s and was designed by famed park and landscape designer George Kessler. The sculpture of Forrest was done by Charles H. Niehaus, whose work can be seen at the Library of Congress.

THE WORDS “JEFF DAVIS” INSCRIBED IN LINCOLN’S WATCH

Confirming a rumor that has circulated for generations, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History opened a gold pocket watch that belonged to Abraham Lincoln on Tuesday and discovered a message secretly engraved there by a watchmaker who repaired it in 1861. Jonathan Dillon April 13- 1861 Fort Sumpter was attacked by the rebels on the above date. J Dillon,” the brass underside of the watch movement reads. The inscription continues: “April 13- 1861 Washington thank God we have a government Jonth Dillon.” The story of the engraving had been passed down through the years by descendants of Jonathan Dillon, the watchmaker, without ever being verified. Then recently one of his great-great-grandsons, Douglas Stiles, a lawyer from Waukegan, Ill., discovered an April 1906 article in *The New York Times* in which Mr. Dillon described making the engraving. In the article Mr. Dillon, then 84, recounted that he was working at M. W. Galt & Company, a watch shop on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, in April 1861 when the shop’s owner, Mr. Galt, hurried upstairs to tell him, “War has begun; the first shot has been fired.” “At that moment I had in my hand Abraham Lincoln’s watch, which I had been repairing,” Dillon told *The Times*, adding that he later learned it was the first watch that Lincoln ever owned. An immigrant from Waterford, Ireland, he told *The Times*, “I was the only Union sympathizer working in the shop.”

The National Museum of American History acquired the watch in 1958 through a bequest by a great-grandson of Lincoln. Approached by Mr. Stiles last year about the *Times* article, the museum’s curators brought in expert watchmakers to open the timepiece. “It’s a good opportunity to show how we do the research about the collection,” Brent D. Glass, the museum’s director, said on Tuesday. The opening of the watch was also timed to coincide with “Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life,” an exhibition that opened at the museum in January.

Harry R. Rubenstein, the curator of the exhibition, said the museum had considered opening the watch in private and then decided to include the public. “It’s a moment of discovery, and you can only discover things once,” he said. “We wanted to share it.” Working under a strong light with magnifying glasses and minute tools, George Thomas, a master watchmaker from Towson, Md., had a bit of difficulty removing one of the pins but finally opened the back to reveal the underside of the watch movement. “The moment of truth has come,” he said. “Is there or is there not an inscription?” He called Mr. Stiles, who attended the event with his brother, Don, 57, of Bloomington, Minn., to deliver the verdict. “There is an inscription!” Mr. Stiles said with elation. “My goodness, that’s Lincoln’s watch,” he said later in wonderment. “My ancestor put graffiti on it.”

The inscription is not entirely accurate. Aside from misspelling Sumter, Mr. Dillon was evidently unaware that the opening shot of the Civil War had been fired on April 12, not April 13. It also seems that Mr. Dillon’s memory of the message was a little fuzzy as recounted in the 1906 article. He remembered his engraving as reading: “The first gun is fired. Slavery is dead. Thank God we have a President who at least will try.” The back of the watch movement also bears two other inscriptions: “LE Grofs Sept 1864 Wash DC,” probably engraved by another repairer, and what appears to be “Jeff Davis.” Whether the latter was intended as a retort by another watchmaker to Dillon’s pro-Union sentiments is unknown. (Jefferson Davis was the president of the rebel Confederacy.) The discovery of the Dillon message is likely to hearten enthusiasts of Lincoln lore. “It’s a different message, but it still has that hopeful sound that the union will hold together, the country will go on,” Mr. Rubenstein said. “That Lincoln carried this hopeful message in his pocket unbeknownst to him — it casts you back.”

Mr. Glass, the museum’s director, said it came as little surprise that the message did not mention slavery after all; Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in separate executive orders in October 1862 and January 1863. “In 1861 the preservation of the union was the key issue, and the abolition of slavery came later,” he said. Mr. Glass likened the watch’s engraving to a note Thomas Jefferson attached to the underside of the writing table on which he wrote the Declaration of Independence. In the note, Jefferson wrote of the importance of preserving the desk because of what it was used for. “I think there is a human instinct to want to communicate to the future,” Mr. Glass said.

Mr. Thomas said the timepiece was in “mint condition” and had its original hands. He said that it was made in Liverpool in the 19th century, but that the gold case in which it resided for generations was made in the United States. Although Mr. Rubenstein described the timepiece as Lincoln’s “everyday pocket watch,” acquired when he was practicing law in Springfield, Ill., Mr. Thomas said it looked almost untouched. “It seems the president did not wear it much,” he said. Mr. Stiles said he had first heard the story of the watch engraving sometime in the 1970s from a great-uncle. Last year, he said, a cousin in Ireland mentioned the story to him, which prompted him to start searching the Internet. At the end of Tuesday’s news conference, museum curators asked if the watch could be wound in the hope that those present could “hear the ticking, the sound that Abraham Lincoln heard,” as Mr. Rubenstein said. It was the sole letdown of the day. “It’s frozen,” Mr. Thomas said. “It hasn’t been touched in a hundred years.”

The watch was reassembled and will be returned to view at the museum, along with a detailed photograph and a transcript of the engraving. “Does it change our view of history? No,” Mr. Glass said. “But it adds to our understanding of how an ordinary person was affected by the events of the day.”

JIM LIMBER DAVIS SIMPLY WAS PART OF THE DAVIS FAMILY –

By Gordon Cotton

Who was Jim Limber? And what did he do to be in the middle of a controversy? He's the child holding Jefferson Davis' right hand in a life-size bronze sculpture that nobody seems to want. Until recently he was hardly more than a footnote in history. Limber was African-American. The Sons of Confederate Veterans commissioned the sculpture.

The story of Jim Limber is unique and heartwarming but also tragic. It began Feb. 14, 1864, when Mrs. Davis — Varina — saw him on the street in Richmond, terribly beaten and abused by his guardian, a free woman who claimed the child's mother had given him to her when the mother died. Mrs. Davis couldn't stand to see a child abused, so she took the boy home with her to the Confederate White House.

There probably wasn't a busier man anywhere than Jefferson Davis, but he took the time to go to city hall and have the little boy's papers registered to make sure he didn't get back under the control of the cruel guardian.

The little boy said his name was Jim Limber when he was in his everyday clothes, but he was "Jeems Henry Brooks" when he wore his best suit on Sundays. He appeared to be about 7 years old and became the constant playmate of Jeff Jr., who was 8.

Mary Boykin Chestnut, keeper of the famous Dixie diaries, wrote Feb. 15, 1864, the day after Mrs. Davis had rescued the child, that she "saw in Mrs. Howell's room the little negro boy Mrs. Davis rescued yesterday from his brutal negro guardian ... dressed up in little Joe's clothes and happy as a lord. He was very anxious to show me his wounds and bruises, but I fled." (Mrs. Howell referred to was Varina Davis' mother; little Joe was the Davis son who fell from the White House balcony and died from his injuries).

Jim fit right in with the other children, and he became a fierce ally of the sons of the upper crust, who lived near the White House. They were the "Hill cats," and they had a longstanding hereditary hate that went back almost a century to the "Butcher cats," sons of the working class who lived at the bottom of the hill. A shower of stones and bricks was likely to come at any time, and there were also set battles which were usually won by the Butcher cats. All was fine — just boys being boys — until one day Jim Limber came home with blood pouring down his face from a scalp wound. That's when Davis the peacemaker decided it was time to walk down the hill and meet with the Butcher cats. Once back at the house he amusedly told Varina their response: "President, we like you, we didn't want to hurt any of your boys but we ain't never going to be friends with them Hill cats"

As the sun began to set on the Confederate government and the first family and high-ranking officials had to flee, Mrs. Davis went on ahead with her children, maids and coachman. On April 19, 1865, she wrote her husband and included the news that "the children play all day — Billy and Jim are fast friends as ever."

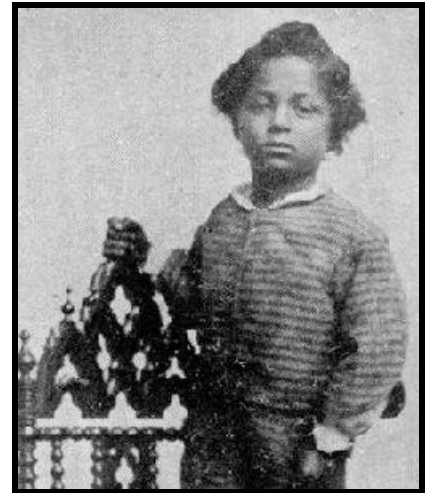
After Davis had joined his family, they were captured in south Georgia; Jim Limber was with them. Just a few days earlier, Varina Davis had written that "Lamber is thriving but bad." The president's family and entourage were taken to Savannah and sent by ship to Virginia as prisoners, and a boisterous Union captain, Charles Y. Hudson, decided to take Jim Limber. (Despite the child's "free" papers, some Northern officials claimed he was one of the slaves from Brierfield). The man, who was described by Varina Davis as "a drunkard, thief, and liar," went out of his way to cast insults upon the family, but Varina wrote that the man's intention "to take our poor little negro protege as his own" troubled them more than his insults. As fortune would have it, among the victors at Port Royal was an old friend, Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxton, who held the title of inspector of plantations and settlements of freedmen on confiscated Sea Island estates. The Davises had known Saxton before the war, and they had total faith in him. They asked him to take Jim Limber, to save him from Hudson's degrading influence, and see to it that got an education. Saxton agreed, and the child was handed over to the officers on the tugboat that had come alongside.

When Jim Limber realized he was being taken from the Davises, "he fought like a tiger," and the Confederate vice president, Alexander H. Stephens who witnessed the episode, wrote that the child "had to be held to prevent his jumping overboard." Then the Davis children — Margaret, Jeff Jr. and Billy began crying and screaming, too. Varina Davis and her maid, Ellen, wept. When Mrs. Virginia Clay, whose husband was a prisoner, threw him some money, he paid no attention, and Varina Davis wrote, he "kept on scuffling to get loose; he was wailing as long as he could be ... seen by us."

According to The Papers of Jefferson Davis, edited by Dr. Lynda L. Crist, the child was sent to nearby Old Fort Plantation where there was a school for free people, then lived for a time in Charleston with Gen. Saxton. He accompanied a teacher in 1866 to the North where he was given a good practical education until he was old enough to support himself.

The Davises never saw Jim again, but Varina wrote beside a photo of him, "A great pet in the family and known as Jim Limber." Years later a Massachusetts paper claimed that he bore marks of beating he had received from the Davis family, scars that he would carry to his grave. If there were any, they came from the cruel guardian. Varina knew he would never have said such a thing, "for the affection was mutual between us, and we had never punished him." Jefferson Davis' devotion to children, and their immediate gravitation to him, was well-known in his day. Even his last act in life, when he was terribly ill, was to grant the request of a child at Brierfield.

Back to the present: what is so objectionable about a statue of a great leader holding the hand of a child he befriended? By the way — who is the child on Davis' other side? Nobody seems to have noticed him.



The Delta General

1412 N Park Dr
Greenwood, MS
38930

Camp Officers

Commander
(Adjutant) -
Dan McCaskill

1st Lt Cmdr- Charles
"Gator"Stillman

2nd Lt Cmdr-
Claude Stillman

Color Sgt -
Ralph Washington

Appointed Officers:

Editor/Webmaster -
Larry McCluney

Chaplain -
Earl McCown, Jr.

Sgt-at-Arms -
Thomas Haik



Fort Pemberton Continued from page 3 . . .

"I hated to see the Star sunken. After all her fighting — Sumter and all —"

"Well, we've put her where she'll fight again! It's a kind of Valhalla ending to lie there across Grant's path."

"You can see a bit of spar. And the rosy water all around — rosy as hope. Do you hear that bird over there in the swamp? Boom — boom — boom! Mournful as a whip-poor-will. . . . Heavens! if I could hear the whip-poor-wills in Virginia! -- Have you got any tobacco ?"

The soldier from the lawyer's office sat up. "Grand Rounds ? No. It's. the General by himself ! Heard him say once he had a taste for sunsets."

Loring, one-armed since Mexico, impatiently brave, with a gift for phrases, an air, and a bearing, came down the threadlike path through the palmetto scrub. With three guns and fifteen hundred men he held this absurd structure called Fort Pemberton, and from hour to hour glanced up the Tallahatchie with an experienced and careless eye. If he expected anything more than a play flo-tilla of cock-boats, his demeanour did not show it. In practice, however, he kept a very good drill and outlook, his pieces trained, his earthworks stout as they might be in the water-soaked bottom lands, and he had with discretion sunk the Star of the West where she lay, cross channel, above the fort. He was very well liked by his soldiers.

The seven on the river bank rose and saluted. He made the answering gesture, then after a moment of gazing up the Tallahatchie walked over to a great piece of driftwood and seated himself, drawing his cloak about him with his one hand.

" I want to study that water a bit. Go on with your pipes, men. — I thought I smelled coffee."

"It was made of sweet potato, sir," said the sergeant-major regretfully, "and I'm afraid we did n't leave a drop. We're mighty sorry, sir."

"Well," said Loring amicably, "I don't really like sweet potato coffee, though I'd drink brimstone coffee if there were no other kind of coffee around. That's one of the things I never could understand about General Jackson — he never drinks coffee. The time we could all have sold our souls for coffee was that damned Bath and Romney trip . . . Ugh!" He gazed a moment longer on the rosy, narrow stream and the violet woods across, then turned his eyes. "You're —th Virginia ? There is n't one of you a Cary by chance ?"

"I am Edward Cary, sir." "Come across," said Loring; and when he came gave him a knotted arm of the driftwood. "I heard from Fauquier Cary not long ago, and he said you were down this way and to look out for you. He said he did n't know whether you were a survival or a prophecy, but that anyhow your family idolized you. He said that from all he had read and observed War had an especial spite against your kind —which, perhaps," said Loring, "is not a thing to tell you."

Continued in May Issue