



Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



The Delta General

Richard Dillon, Camp Commander

**This Issue is dedicated to
Brig/General Benjamin G. Humphreys**

**Don't Forget to
Pay Your SCV
Dues!! The Grace
Period Ends
August 31st!!**



August Issue - 2017, Volume 20, Issue 7

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Special Picnic for General Humphreys Birthday, Saturday, August 26, at Belmont Plantation in Greenville, MS, starts at 10 AM to when everyone leaves
-

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Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys
Camp #1625, SCV
website: www.humphreys1625.com

Cover

Belmont Plantation is our feature cover for August.

Camp News:

Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

Compatriots,

As Adjutant Larry McCluney told you via email, in lieu of our August Meeting, we are having a picnic at Belmont Plantation on August 26th.

Our OCR Chapter President, Sandra Stillman, works at Belmont Plantation as a Tour Guide (among other duties) and was instrumental in setting up our picnic. Sandra works hard for her OCR Chapter & our SCV Camp. She and the rest of the OCR ladies always provide us with a delicious meal at our regular Camp Meetings.

Please make every effort to attend the picnic and bring your wife, children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. I understand the tour of Belmont Plantation is truly worthwhile and I encourage everyone to take the guided tour.

I look forward to seeing you there.



Camp Meeting Minutes, July 2017

Adjutant's Report – Larry McCluney

There was a small crowd on hand for our July meeting. Salutes to the flags and blessing was given for the meal the Ella Palmer Chapter, OCR provided. There was no speaker because the camp discussed National Reunion business and was given a report on the State Reunion in Oxford.

The Camp also discussed and finalized the trip to Belmont Plantation in Greenville on August 26 to explore our local history and observe General Humphreys Birthday. People will arrive around 11:00. Bring your own lawn chairs, a covered dish, and your favorite drinks. If you want a tour of the house that will be \$10.00.

After the meeting, there was no raffle or drawing because of the small crowd.

August 26, 2017 Camp Picnic and General Humphreys Birthday get together

On Saturday, August 26, the Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, Indianola, MS will have a family picnic on the grounds at historic Belmont Plantation near Greenville, MS. We invite everyone in the First Brigade to attend and members of the Mississippi Division. We will start to gatyher at 10:00 AM, and have lunch at noon. The picnic is to celebrate our Camp's name sake on his birthday, the general and former Governor. Please bring a covered dish, drinks (no alcohol), and your lawn chairs and enjoy the fellowship on the MS Delta. If you want a tour of the Plantation and learn more about life on the MS Delta before the war it is \$10.00 for the tour. Please contact Larry McCluney @ confederate@suddenlink.net for more information and confirmation so we can have a headcount.

Mississippi Division News

Grace Period for Dues is Shortened

The Membership Renewal Statements have been mailed. You should start receiving them after the 4th. Please remember the Grace Period has been changed to end on August 31st. Please renew your membership as soon as you receive your statement in order to avoid any future late fees.

When you mail in your dues to your Camp Adjutant, please put your current email address on the return portion of the statement. These emails will be used by the Heritage Defense Committee to put out information about any future Heritage violations.

Fall Muster

The War Between the States comes to the Last Home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, the weekend of October 20-22, 2017. You can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the 1860's, as you witness the epic struggle that shaped the Nation.

Come and Join Us!

You and your unit are invited to participate in this year's Fall Muster Event. We are in need of all branches of service, (North and South) for this weekend engagement. In this day and time, we must fight even harder to maintain history. You cannot ask for a better opportunity then this. Please help preserve history.

I hope your reenacting schedule allows you to attend this event. Beauvoir needs you! Artillery will be limited to first, eight (8) full scale guns to register.

Please pass this on to others who may be interested. Please complete and return the attached pre-registration form. This will help us with the planning of the weekend to hopefully make this the best Fall Muster Ever!

Return to:

ladnerhm@att.net

or

Fall Muster

Daryl Ladner

2244 Beach Blvd.

9241 Road 232

Biloxi, MS. 39531

Picayune, MS 39466

Or Fax: 228-388-4400



Beauvoir's annual Trader Village will be September 6 through September 11 this year! Take a step back in time and come out to shop our Village of Artisans' hand-crafted candles, soaps, baskets and many more goods. Food vendors will be on site, as well as living historians.

General Admission, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily

Trader Village is currently accepting applications from vendors specializing in handmade, vintage, antique and repurposed items. Food vendors and artists are also invited to showcase their talents. Trader Village vendor applications can be found on www.visitbeauvoir.org under the "Tours & Events" tab. Only 5 more weeks!!

Member for the Board of Directors at Beauvoir Needed

Gentlemen,

There is currently a vacant position open on the Board of Directors of Beauvoir. This will be an interim appointment until June, 2018 at which time the selectee must be ratified, for the remaining three year term, by the corporate members of Beauvoir.

Ideal candidates will have experience in business

administration, finance, facilities maintenance, or a formal degree in a similar discipline. Demonstrated experience in small group dynamics such as working with teams, governing Boards, or other established ability to work with other individuals.

Candidates must be current members, in good standing (not be under a pending or active reprimand, suspension or order of expulsion) of the SCV National and Mississippi Division SCV. Furthermore, candidates must maintain membership, in good standing, in these organizations, while serving as a member of the Beauvoir Board of Directors.

The selectee will be required to take an Oath that they will actively work to promote, protect and preserve the interest of Beauvoir to the best of their ability. Additionally, the selectee will pledge to support the decisions of the Board of Directors.

Interested parties have until 12:00 midnight, August 12, 2017 to submit their information. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

If you are interested in seeking this position please send a cover letter of interest and your resume to the President of the Board of Directors, Owen McDowell at owenmcdowell@beauvoir.org.

Mississippi Division Heritage Defense Chairman

Compatriots,

While the SCV cannot engage in partisan politics, our Charge requires us to engage in issue related politics, such as issues pertaining to our heritage, as so many of our members are already doing on the community level.

Brigade Commanders or their designees please have your camps compile and forward to you each member's email, snail mail and phone number, along with voting precinct and county.

Camps should also compile lists of state legislators in their area, including party affiliation and best guess as to whether they can be influenced by us, and send that information to the Heritage Defense Committee as we get ready to defend the flag, and probably the monuments too this coming legislative session. This as an ongoing process to be updated periodically and passed on to the new Brigade Commander when terms expire, as we know we will be fighting not only the state flag, but other heritage issues from now on.

We need to do what we can on the local level, but in some areas it is beyond our control. It is through a statewide effort, working on the governor, Lt. governor and legislature where we can do the most good.

I will have an announcement no later than early next week about the new Constitutional Initiative effort that will include additional language beyond 158, requiring our state supported institutions, agencies, and political subdivisions (cities and counties) to fly the State flag.

Once we have that hammer back in our hands we can be a reliable and leading voice to counter the drumbeat that is only just beginning. See the stories from just the last two days. More will come. If you have not been contacted by your Brigade Commander about participating in the Committee's work, but would like to, please contact me directly.

<http://www.sunherald.com/news/local/counties/harrison-county/article164451312.html>

<http://www.wlox.com/story/36016433/archie-manning-says-he-supports-changing-mississippi-state-flag>

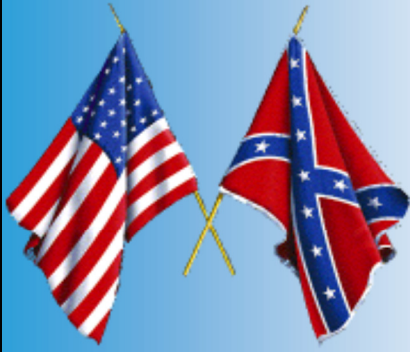
YOS,

Greg Stewart

Heritage Defense Chair

gregstewart@cableone.net

228-234-0220



Civil War and Native American Artifact Show

**Saturday, September 2, 2017
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



Arrowheads, Artillery shells, Pottery, Prints, Relics, Tools, Uniforms, Weapons and more will be on display at the Historical Tishomingo County Courthouse Museum, 203 East Quitman Street, Iuka

Educators needed

Lectures will be held throughout the day in the historic courtroom

(15) 6 to 8 ft tables will be provided inside for educational and/or commercial displays on a first-come first-served basis, and then we will allow others to set up on the lawn. If organization requires more than use of one table, please plan on setting up outside.

\$20.00 set up fee for commercial vendors.

Authentic Artifacts Only—No Reproductions

For additional information, please contact Billy at 662-279-3986 or email btt44@hotmail.com, or email Jeff at papahamrick@gmail.com

This event is being held in conjunction with Iuka's annual Heritage Day Festival.

FLAG RESTORATION

In many cases the old veteran's battle flags are our last physical link to their valor. Many of their flags are in possession of the State of Mississippi Archives and History. There they are rotting away to dust. It is up to us as decedents of these brave men to preserve their battle flags for our descendants to see. There are three funding activities. Direct donations, SCV car tags, and sale of coffee cups. Our camp has a supply of coffee cups. Ask me about cups. You get the SCV specialty tags at the court house, just ask.

BRICKS FOR BEAUVOIR



The plans are for a brick plaza around the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Each brick would cost \$50.00 and would have the name of a Confederate ancestor of members of the SCV who give to the effort. "The Bricks for Beauvoir" Project is spearheaded by Larry McCluney, Past Commander of the Mississippi Division. Thirteen columns, in a crescent, will represent the 13 States of the Confederacy and will fly the flag of each respective State. The project is drawing near the end. It is projected the project will be

complete by Fall Muster. By all reckoning there are 153 more spaces left in the archway



At the first private General Executive Council meeting of the 2017 SCV National Convention, Gabriel Nokes, son of Joe and Patty Nokes of the Benjamin Humphreys Camp 1625 was appointed the Commaner-in-Chief's Ensign. This is a great Honor for this young man and for the Mississippi Division.

State Flag

The fight to remove our state flag continues with a new battle front opening every day it seems. A new city follows suit with the heritage haters and removes our state's flag from a position of honor in city and county offices. It is like they have all drunk the same "Kool Aid" and have this vision that without the battle flag as a part of our state flag all other problems will melt away. Some cities and counties in our great State have rebuked the haters and have voted to continue to fly our state flag. The haters of our heritage never give up. After a failure, they not only double down on that strategy but develop a new and innovative ways to destroy the symbols of our heritage. A case study of this strategy is the war against our flag of the great state of Mississippi. You all know the efforts of the past to force removal of our present state flag. Popular votes, court cases, arm twisting of legislatures and proposed constitutional amendments are all examples that have so far failed. These efforts have all been opposed by the majority of the people of the state but a very vocal minority continue to carry the fight against our heritage. Their lack of victories has left, our left leaning cities and universities to lower our beautiful state flag. Now with a very important event to our state, the bicentennial of our statehood, will come a new effort to change our state flag, a flag to celebrate the bicentennial. This flag will fill the empty flag poles around the state and there will be resolutions celebrating our bicentennial and the flag developed to celebrate the occasion. Along with this fell good movement, there will be a continued effort to change our state flag in the legislature. One of the "hate the flag" strategies is to over the year of our bicentennial to gather momentum to have this flag to replace our current flag. My position is as always no compromise no surrender. Contact your Representative and Senator in Jackson and voice your opinion on our state flag. The speaker of the house will continue his effort to erase our proud heritage. The Clarion Ledger, in an attempt to fuel the fire decided to ask for proposed flag designs



Mississippi Division E council meeting

The next E council meeting is Sept 16 at the war memorial building in Jackson

Jeff Davis Legion

The new editor of the Mississippi division newsletter, the Jeff Davis Legion, is Past Division commander and past newsletter editor John Echols. Thanks John.



Confederate Soldiers are also United States Veterans!



Through the following Congressional acts, Confederate Veterans were recognized by the United States Government as equivalents to Union Veterans.

Congressional Appropriations Act, FY 1901, signed 6 June 1900
Congressional Act of 9 March 1906

U.S. Public Law 810, Approved by 71st Congress 26 February 1929

U.S. Public Law 85-425: Sec. 410 Approved 23 May 1958



Did you know these famous Americans were also descendants of Confederate Veterans?

- 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps General John A. Lejeune's father was Confederate Captain Ovide Lejeune.
- Marine Lt. General Lewis "Chesty" Puller's grandfather was Confederate Major John Puller, 5th VA Cavalry killed in 1863.
- Army General George S. Patton's, grandfather, Confederate Colonel George Patton, was killed at Winchester, VA in 1864.
- Army Lieutenant General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. was killed on Okinawa in 1945 as the Commander of the US 10th Army. His father was Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner.
- US Army Air Corps Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest, III was shot down and killed over Germany in 1943. His great grandfather was Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.
- President Theodore Roosevelt's uncle was Georgian Confederate chief foreign agent Captain James Dunwoody Bulloch, CSN.
- President Woodrow Wilson's father, Reverend Dr. Joseph Ruggles Wilson, was a chaplain in the Confederate Army.
- President Harry S. Truman was a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans on the record of William Young, a trooper in Upton Hayes Company of Missouri Partisan Rangers.
- More than 70 million Americans are descended from these men, many of whom have served honorably in our armed forces.
- Confederate Generals Joe Wheeler, Fitzhugh Lee, Thomas Rosser and Matthew Calbraith Butler, Colonel William Oates and Captain William Washington Gordon II all served our nation after the war as generals in the Spanish-American War in 1898.



After the War, Union and Confederate Soldiers, Sailors and Marines came together in a national spirit of unity and reconciliation. If the men who fought against each other came together in reconciliation, then why can't we honor all American veterans? If we don't honor all veterans today, then we will set the precedence to dishonor our veterans tomorrow. Help the Sons of Confederate Veterans honor them, their monuments, their symbols, and their memories.



Sons of Confederate Veterans

www.scv.org — www.scvheritagedefense.org

a 501(c)3 not-racial, non-sectarian, non-profit veterans educational organization • CFC 10116

Attention Adjutants and Camp members who would like their annual dues covered by the things you were going to buy anyway:

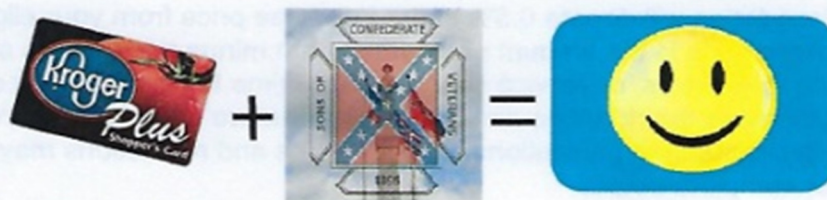
Kroger Community Rewards

Do you shop at Kroger? You can now give a percentage of what you spend on groceries directly to your SCV Camp or Beauvoir when you use your Kroger Plus Card. No cost to you. Big benefit for the Camp and our activities. (This doesn't interfere in any way with your gas points, etc.)

Go to Krogercommunityrewards.com and create an account using your actual Kroger rewards card number. Follow the directions below. It's really easy and every little bit helps of take care of our shelter babies. Thank you!

TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

- Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com
- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please let them know that they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter the NPO number(of your camp or Beauvoir's) from list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call [800-576-4377](tel:800-576-4377), select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.



- Kudos to Camp #265 for finding this program. Several camps in Tennessee do enough business at Krogers to pay their members annual dues. Imagine what can do for retention!

In Honor of General Humphreys Birthday

Benjamin Grubb Humphreys (August 26, 1808 – December 20, 1882) was an American politician from Mississippi. He was a general in the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War and served as Governor of Mississippi from 1865 to 1868, during Reconstruction.

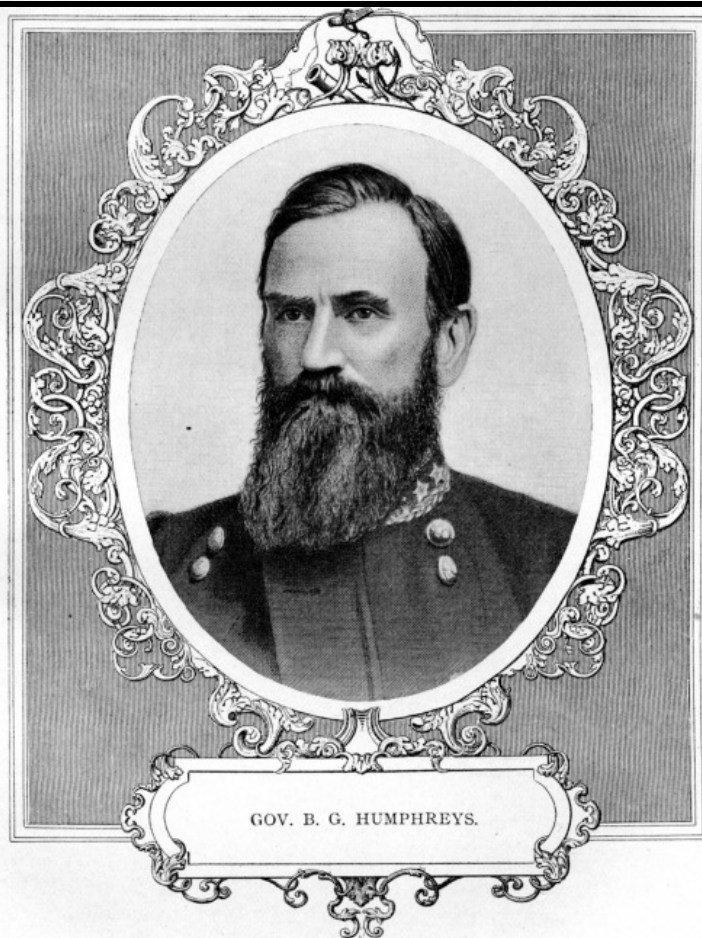
Humphreys was born in Claiborne County, Mississippi, on the Bayou Pierre. He was educated in New Jersey and enrolled at West Point in the same class as Robert E. Lee. However, he was expelled when he participated in a "Christmas frolic" that ended up turning into a riot. Upon his return to Mississippi, he was elected to the state senate representing his native county and served from 1839 to 1844. In 1846, he moved to Sunflower County, Mississippi, founded Itta Bena, and continued as a planter.

Humphreys was commissioned a captain in the Confederate States Army in 1861. He was subsequently promoted to brigadier general after the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. There, Humphreys's regiment was part of the force that attacked Federal positions at the Peach Orchard, driving the defenders back toward Cemetery Ridge. Humphreys took command of the brigade upon the mortal wounding of Brig. Gen. William Barksdale.

He remained in command of the brigade through the end of the war.

After the surrender of the Confederate Army, Southern politicians and Army officers were not automatically pardoned and were forbidden to hold public office. At the time of his candidacy, Benjamin Humphreys was unpardoned, and President Andrew Johnson did not want him elected. Unwilling to withdraw his candidacy, on October 2, 1865, Humphreys was elected as a Democrat, but was not immediately recognized as the Governor of Mississippi. Without presidential approval, on October 16, 1865, Humphreys had himself inaugurated and sworn in as the 26th Governor of Mississippi. By October 26, 1865, Mississippi provisional Governor, William Sharkey, received from President Andrew Johnson a pardon authorizing political office under the Reconstruction plan. He won re-election in 1868 and continued with a second term, but with the beginning of Congressional control of Reconstruction he was physically removed by occupying U.S. armed forces on June 15 of that year.

After his retirement from politics, Humphreys entered a career in insurance in Jackson, Mississippi. He continued there until his retirement in 1877, when he moved to his plantation in Leflore County, Mississippi, where he died in 1882. He is buried in Wintergreen Cemetery, Port Gibson, Mississippi. Humphreys County, Mississippi, is named after him. His son, also named Benjamin G. Humphreys, entered into a political career of his own. He became a Congressman and was on the Harbors and Rivers Committee, where he was instrumental in the successful amendment that created and added levees to the charter of the commission.



Unit Highlight: Companies A and B, 10th Mississippi Infantry

The 10th Mississippi Infantry was organized in March 1861 with an original enrollment of 841 officers and men for a term of one year. Among the officers was future Confederate general Joseph R. Davis, a nephew of President Jefferson Davis. The original companies, under the command of Col. Seaburne M. Phillips, were

- Company A - Mississippi Rifles (Hinds County)
- Company B - Ben Bullard Rifles (Itawamba County)
- Company C - Port Gibson Riflemen, aka Port Gibson Rifles (Claiborne County)
- Company D - Lowndes Southrons (Lowndes County)
- Company E - Southern Avengers (Lowndes County)
- Company F - Hill City Cadets (Warren County)
- Company G - Rankin Rifles (Rankin County)
- Company H - Bahala Rifles (Copiah County)
- Company I - Madison Rifles (Madison County)
- Company K - Yazoo Minute Rifles (Yazoo County)

The troops assembled in Mobile, Alabama, and were transported to Pensacola, Florida, for garrison duty there to help man the coastal defenses. They encamped near Fort Barrancas, opposite Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa Island, both held by Union troops. Several companies engaged in building new fortifications or strengthening existing ones, as well as supporting the artillery crews during periodic bombardments over four months. Colonel Phillips and scores of other men died of disease while stationed near Pensacola. The depleted regiment fought in the Battle of Santa Rosa Island in October 1861. In February 1862, the regiment was sent back to Mississippi, where it was brigaded with other Mississippi troops under the overall command of Col. James R. Chalmers. The term of enlistment expired in March.

"New" 10th Mississippi

The regiment was reorganized at Corinth on March 15, 1862, for a term of two years. The new companies were:^[1]

- Company A - Horn Lake Volunteers [formerly Co. E, 9th MS Infantry] (DeSoto County)
- Company B - Natchez Southrons [also listed as Co. C] (Adams County)
- Company C - Ben Bullard Rifles [also listed as Co. D] (Itawamba County)
- Company D - Mississippi Rifles [also listed as Co. G] (Hinds County)

- Company E - Lowndes Southrons (Lowndes County)
- Company F - Port Gibson Rifleman (Claiborne County)
- Company G - Fulton Guards [also listed as Co. B] (Itawamba County)
- Company H - Rankin Rifles [also listed as Co. A] (Rankin County)
- Company I - Bahala Rifles (Copolah County)
- Company K - Beauregard Relief (Tippah County)
- Company L - Capt. Finley's Company
- Company M - Capt. Dobson's Company
- Company N - Capt. Bell's Company
- Company O - Capt. Inge's Company
- Company P - Capt. Betts' Company

In April, the new 10th, now under the command of Col. Robert A. Smith and numbering only 360 men, fought in the Battle of Shiloh in West Tennessee. It later participated in Braxton Bragg's Kentucky Campaign and suffered significant casualties at the Battle of Munfordsville, including Colonel Smith. Chalmers' Brigade, including the 10th Mississippi, was part in the advance toward Louisville in September. Under Col. James Barr, Jr., the 10th fought in the Battle of Perryville before retreating with Bragg's beaten army across the Cumberland Gap on October 20. Marching through Tennessee, the regiment camped near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in November. It fought in the subsequent Battle of Stones River in late December and early January 1863.

The 10th again was part of a general Confederate retreat, finally encamping near Tullahoma, Tennessee, until July 1863 when it advanced to Chattanooga and then on to Bridgeport, Alabama. It subsequently participated in the Chickamauga Campaign in September and in the attack on Missionary Ridge at Chattanooga in November before retreating to winter quarters near Dalton, Georgia.



Mississippi Rifles and Ben Bullard Rifles (Companies A and B),
10th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry, 1861

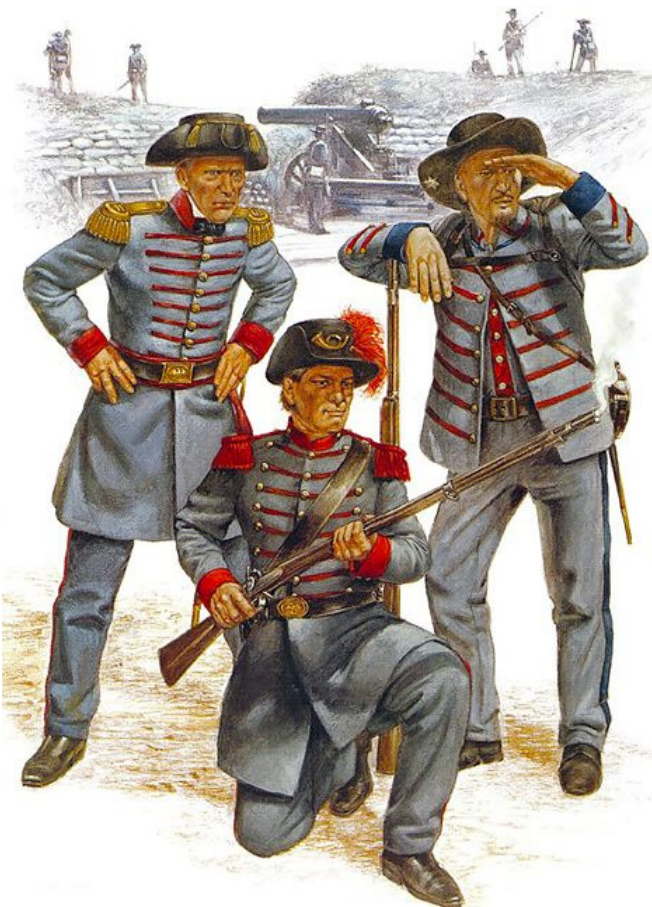
Editor's Note to the Picture:

Not too many Confederates are shown in green uniforms. Here are some green uniforms worn by Mississippi troops. The green uniforms with red trim are attractive. Also note the three cornered hat on the right.

In the spring and summer of 1864, the 10th participated in the Atlanta Campaign. Colonel Barr was mortally wounded in the Battle of Marietta and replaced by James M. Walker. The survivors were part of the Franklin-Nashville Campaign in November before wintering near Meridian, Mississippi. In the spring of 1865, the consolidated regiment took part in the Carolinas Campaign before surrendering with the army of Joseph E. Johnston at Bennett Place in North Carolina in April.

Editor's Note Continued:

Another illustration of the Ben Bullard Rifles at Penscola. I believe this was originally published in one of the *Men-at-Arms* series by Osprey.



The History of Belmont Plantation

"An antebellum house in the Mississippi Delta is a rare sight. This rich land, which would prosper during the Cotton Kingdom's second stage in the late 1800s, was sparsely populated in the years before the Civil War. Without levees to hold back the annual spring floods from the Yazoo, Tallahatchie, and Sunflower rivers and myriad streams and creeks, it was uninhabitable. Vast cypress swamps were roamed by bears and choked by alligators and water moccasins. Those few pioneers adventurous or foolish enough to try their hand in this harsh land battled malaria, typhoid, and yellow fever. It was much easier, and immeasurably safer, to plant cotton in the gentle hills of Marshall County or along the Tombigbee River prairies than to risk life, limb, and fortune in the Delta.

There was one exception. On the westernmost edge of the region, Washington County was a remote outpost of pre-Civil War civilization. Greenville grew into a decent-sized town in the mid-1800s, and a hardy contingent of Kentuckians and Carolinians carved out plantations along the banks of Lake Washington. Settlements with names like Wayside, Chatham, Erwin, and Glen Allan ringed the lake and gave rise to most of the Delta's rare antebellum architecture.

The sale of Choctaw Indian lands in the 1820s and Chickasaw lands a decade later brought an influx of settlers to north and central Mississippi. Only a few were willing to tackle the challenges of the Delta, with its heat, floods, fevers, and wild animals. Of those who did, none made a more lasting architectural impact than the Worthington brothers. Kentucky natives Samuel, Elisha, William, and Isaac Worthington bought thousands of acres of land in Mississippi and Arkansas and established vast plantations. Each brother built at least one house. Isaac's was Leota, close by the Mississippi River at Leota Landing. He ignored the warnings of his neighbors that the house was too close to the river. Rising spring floodwaters took first his lawn, then swept Leota from its foundations and off to the Gulf of Mexico. Samuel Worthington's Wayside was a thirty-eight room mansion that also, if more indirectly, was a flood victim. It withstood the disastrous 1927 holocaust, only to be condemned and demolished when the new levee construction placed it on the west side of the earthworks. Of all the Worthington houses, only Belmont remains. The land where it stands was sold by the U.S. government to Governor Alexander G. McNutt, the first white man to own it. Samuel Worthington purchased it in 1853 to complement his three existing plantations: Redleaf, Mosswood, and Wayside. Two years later Samuel sold it to his brother, Dr. William W. Worthington (pictured, above left). Worthington was apparently more of a planter than a doctor, as evidenced by his eighty slaves and the hundreds of acres which surrounded Belmont. He built his house between 1855 and 1861. It is a blend of the prevailing Greek Revival and Italianate styles of the day. The main two-story block is red brick with a full-height portico featuring square Doric columns, turned balustrades, and a pediment pierced by a circular window. The cornice line is heavily bracketed. The roof is of shallow pitch, hipped and crowned with molded chimneys. Windows are tall and narrow, capped with stone lintels. An ell extends from the main block to the rear.

Inside, Belmont features some of the finest decorative plaster work in Mississippi. Local lore holds that German plaster artists were stranded in Washington County when the Civil War started; having no means of escape and no other work, they whiled away the war years by carving intricate molding and ceiling medallions into Belmont's plaster. Another version relates that Dr. Worthington met a group of Italian carvers on a boat trip to New Orleans and convinced them to return with him to Belmont. Regardless of its origins, the decorative work in Belmont rivals the finest interiors of Natchez or Columbus.

The large central hall is backed by an elegantly turned stair. Two rooms open on either side of the hallway. To the right, the formal rooms can be divided by huge wooden doors which glide in and out of the walls. On the left [is a music room and a library]. Upstairs are four bedrooms, separated by a wide hallway that serves as a [billiard] room. Ceilings soar to fourteen feet on both levels. A two-story ell adds several more bedrooms, kitchen space, and [the formal dining room], all opening onto long, high-ceilinged screen porches that look out over endless cotton fields. Altogether, the house encompasses nine thousand square feet, with three thousand square feet of porch space, ten bedrooms, and twelve fireplaces.

Originally, the grounds extended to the Mississippi River. Just across the road (now [the levee]) was Wayside, the home of Dr. Worthington's brother, Samuel. That house suffered more directly than did Belmont during the Civil War, with one of Samuel's sons being shot by Union soldiers in his own pasture. Roving bands of troops wreaked havoc across Washington County for several months, foraging and burning Greenville. Remarkably, all of the Lake Washington homes, including Belmont, were spared.

Belmont remained in the Worthington family until the early 1930s. A young girl living at Wayside in the early years of the twentieth century recalled Dr. Worthington's son, always known as "Mr. Will": "[He] was really a southern gentleman. He wore white linen suits and panama hats and on hot days he carried a parasol, or umbrella, and he was a very genteel person." (Recounted from Mary Howey Key, interview by Roberta Miller, MDAH and Washington County Library System Oral History Project (Oct 1977).)

Governor Dennis Murphree bought the house from the Worthington heirs during the Depression and converted it into a hunting lodge. Over the next half-century, it was occupied only by hunters and sportsmen. The elegant rooms were filled with bunk beds, mattresses, muddy boots, and deer heads. Plaster cracked, and sections of the elaborate ceiling medallions crumbled. A room in the back ell was designated for drinking, in a valiant effort to keep inebriated sportsmen from further damaging the old home. After the hunting club disbanded, Belmont was converted back into a private residence. Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Cuquet restored it to its antebellum elegance. It stands a few hundred feet back from the traffic of Highway 1 as a last reminder of the Worthington brothers and the pioneers who claimed the Delta."

Mr. Cuquet was quite a colorful character- a former New Orleans attorney and banker who developed the Delta's first casinos in Tunica and Greenville. He also served as a WWII spy and later helped the FBI solve a notorious white slavery case. Mr & Mrs Cuquet lived in Belmont until 2012. The Cuquet restoration was completed towards the end of 1993, and despite all valiant efforts to sell the home or find a family member who would care for the massive estate, it began to fall into a state of decline even during the Cuquet's final decade of residence.

Belmont Plantation was foreclosed by the bank in 2014 and was subsequently put on the market at a dramatically reduced price because of the now extensive restoration work that was needed to bring the home back to its former glory. The front porches were collapsing, the entire plumbing system was a wreck, the roof was littered with leaks, and the once stately mansion was filled with mildew, mold, and a variety of Delta critters. Unlucky for those critters, interior designer, builder, and historic preservationist Mr Joshua Cain had his eye on the plantation for some time.

Joshua is a son of the South (a distant cousin of Governor Dennis Murphree who saved Belmont during the depression); born in Brandon Mississippi, and is an ardent supporter of Mississippi historic places. He has a long family history in the state going all the way back to its origination, both in the Delta and the Hill Country. It has been his lifelong dream to save and restore an antebellum estate, so he traveled to the Delta in the dead of a bitter 2015 winter and saw the old girl in 9 degree weather- it was love at first sight and the rest will be written in history..



The Delta General

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