



The Delta General

December, 2011

Volume 14, Issue 12

The official publication of the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, MS Division,

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Upcoming Events:

- 12/1 – Regular Camp Meeting – Election Year
- Old Courthouse Museum Ball in Vicksburg, MS
- 1/28/12 – Camp Lee/Jackson Banquet

OUR NEXT CAMP MEETING IS DECEMBER 1, COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR CAMP

The past year has seen a drop in attendance to our Camp meetings because of various activities that take place on the third Thursday of each month that we have had to compete with. Thus, at our last June Camp meeting, it was voted on by the membership to change our regular Camp meetings to the first Thursday of each month so we would not have to compete with Masons, Scouts, and other groups that usually meet on that designated time. We will still meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Just changing from third Thursday to first Thursday of the month.

If you have not paid your renewals by now THEN you will need to pay a late fee to be reinstated. Check with Dan McCaskill for the amount. Make check out to SCV and mail to:

Dan McCaskill
205 Cypress St,
Leland, MS 38756-3108

This December is our election time for new officers. Anyone interested in running for any of the Camp offices should begin putting serious thought into this and announcing their candidacy. The elected offices include: Commander, Lt. Commander, 2nd Lt. Commander, Adjutant, and Color-Sgt. Anyone interested in knowing the duties of these offices should consult the Camp By-laws online at http://www.humphreys1625.com/Benjamin_G_Humphreys_Camp_By-Laws_-_2009a.pdf. Our December meeting will also feature a pot luck supper as we prepare for the Christmas season. This will be a chance for our Camp to spend 2011 together one last time.

There is too much exciting things happening as we go into the second year of the Sesquicentennial you do not want to miss or be left out on.

LEE AND JACKSON BANQUET ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Members of the B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625, SCV; Gen. Charles Clark Chapter # 253, MOS & B; and the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR cordially invite you, your family and friends to our
15th Annual Lee- Jackson Birthday Banquet
January 28, 2012

At the 1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall - Indianola, Mississippi
Social Hour: 6:00 pm; Dinner: 7:00 pm
Our Speaker will be the Honorable Tom Strain,
Commander of the Army of Tennessee

GENERAL LEE AND SANTA CLAUS

Dear General Lee:

We think you are the goodest man that ever lived, and our auntie says you will go right straight to heaven when you die; so we want to ask you a question, for we want to know the truth about it, and we know that you always speak the truth. Please tell us whether Santa Claus loves the little rebel children, for we think he don't; because he did not come to see us for four Christmas Eves. Auntie thinks you would not let him cross the lines, and we don't know how to find out unless we write and ask you. We all love you dearly, and we want to send you something; but we have not any thing nice enough; we lost all our toys in the war. Birdie wants to send you one of our white kittens--the one with black ears; but auntie thinks maybe you don't like kittens. We say little prayers for you every night, dear General Lee, and ask God to make you ever so happy. Please let us know about Santa Claus as soon as you can; we want to know for something very, very, very particular; but we can't tell even you why until Christmas time, so please to excuse us.

Your little friends,
Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie

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CAMP NEWS:

ADJUTANT'S REPORT: DAN MCCASKILL

The Camp Meeting of November 3, 2011 was called to order by Commander Junior Stillman. The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. Color Sergeant Joe Nokes led 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. A welcome was extended to all members and guest attending the Meeting.

Commander Stillman had the pleasure of administering the Oath of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to new member Richard Dillon. Richard is from Greenwood and is our Camp's newest member. Welcome, Richard to the SCV!

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Gator Stillman was absent. 2nd Lt. Commander Ronnie Stewart did not have a report. With the deadline to renew your SCV Membership past, Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Camp membership stood at 50 members which is a net loss of five from the previous year. Eight members failed to renew, three members "Crossed Over", two past members renewed and four new members were recruited. Financially, the Camp is well within its fiscal budget. All membership dues to National and Division have been paid leaving an account balance of \$ 1,275.67. Larry reported he had to re-issue the Newsletter because the Adjutant's Report published was from August. Larry apologized for getting the Camp Newsletter out so late and asked if anyone had trouble downloading or receiving the letter. Larry also reported that AOT Commander Tom Strain has been confirmed as our speaker at the annual Lee-Jackson Banquet on January 28, 2012. Earl McCown reported he had collected 99% of the dues of the Camp's MOS & B chapter. Upcoming events are the Wirt Adams' Re-enactment at Jefferson College, Natchez, MS November 11-13, 2011 and the Christmas Ball at the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg on Saturday, December 10, 2011, \$ 25 per person with all proceeds going to the museum.

Camp Business: There was no Camp business for the evening. The December Camp Meeting will be our Christmas Social with a "Pot Luck Supper". Each member is asked to bring a dish and a friend and enjoy the fellowship of fellow members and friends as we prepare for the coming Christmas Season.

Camp Program: Our program for the evening was presented by Earl McCown. It was a little different because he gave a "first person" presentation from the diary of his Grandmother Francis Caroline Archer McCown and family war time letters. The experiences of the War are more vivid when you draw on firsthand accounts. With no other business coming before the Camp, Junior asked Earl to dismiss the meeting with a word of prayer. Thanks goes to those who brought food and drinks to the Meeting. Attendance was 18 for the evening.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

Looking for New Recruits!

When was the last time you tried to recruit new members for the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Brig/General Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp?

Do you ever approach anyone and ask if they are interested?

Try it once in a while and you will find that there are prospective members waiting to hear about our organization.

Don't just wait for someone to ask you first.

Lead the Charge!



JOIN THE MOS&B!
SEE EARL McCOWN FOR MORE DETAILS

The War Between the States produced some of the most outstanding civil and military leaders in the history of mankind. To perpetuate the idealism that animated the Confederate Cause and to honor the courage, devotion and endurance of those who dedicated their lives and services during four years of devastating war, and who, throughout the dreadful decade of reconstruction, labored heroically for the restoration of self-government as the most precious heritage of the American Revolution, male descendants of the officers who honorably served in the Army, Navy and other commands of the Confederate States of America and male descendants of the elected and appointed civilian officials of the Confederate States; the national Confederate Government; or the Five Civilized Tribes which allied with the Confederacy, unite to establish The Military Order of the Stars and Bars, a patriotic and fraternal Society.

If eligible, we invite you to [join](#) our prestigious organization celebrating its 73rd anniversary and the only active heritage organization founded by Confederate Veterans.

Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.,
Commander General
Military Order of the Stars and Bars



GET YOUR MS DIVISION
BEAUVOIR LICENSE PLATE
TODAY!

The Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has commissioned a Beauvoir License Plate in honor of the Sesquicentennial of The War Between the States for all Mississippi Residents!



This Commemorative License Plate is now available at your County Tax Collector's Office, and will only be available for issue in 2011, so be sure to GET YOURS NOW!!! Funds from the issue of this beautiful limited edition plate will be used for the benefit of Beauvoir. If you don't see it, ASK FOR IT!!!!

DIVISION NEWS:

LAUREL CAMP PLANS NEW YEARS' EVE DANCE

Having a 19th century period dance to be incorporated after supper of our Southern Heritage Conference has been discussed for some period of time. Ed Allegretti and his wife Connie have been members of an Irish dance group in Laurel and he has mentioned if it was possible to have one after the conference was over. Carl and George have discussed this prior to Ed's inquiring about it. We had a dance at the old Ramada along with musical entertainment and in 2006 when we had the conference at Western Sizzlin, we danced the Virginia reel. As for having a full fledged period dance it has been put on the back burner in recent years. Because we are at Bethlehem Baptist Church it would not be a good idea to have one there, because even though the dances would be descent and accurate to the time period, we do not want to give anybody from the church that might object and could cause us to lose Bethlehem as our place to hold the conference. So, Ed brought up the idea of using the YWCO where the Irish dance group meets. Several dates were discussed and the only time that we could get Andy & Pat Salassi from Jackson to come and help us in some practice time that evening, before actually starting todance, was Dec. 31st. It was also the only time that Bonnie McCoy could come and play the fiddle to accompany us in dancing. Of course we will have some CD's in order to give her some rest. We begin at 7PM and the dress code will be casual. That does not mean come in your tightie whities or long johns fellas. The Irish dance group is invited and it will be in the calendar of events in the various newspapers in Laurel and also other SCV camps will be contacted. **As always, this is a family oriented event and there will not be any alcohol brought or served.** So, all you Baptists will have to keep a close watch on the Presbyterians and especially the Episcopalians. Just to be safe, you might need to keep an eye on each other also. This will be a dry run (ha, ha, no pun intended) to find out if it would be feasible to have this at the end of each conference. We may get some more people to attend the conference and maybe a new member or two. You never know until you try. This will be discussed at Landrum's during our brief but hopefully productive business/announcement time. If you have questions and/or suggestions make them this month. **Also, this is promoted and hosted by our camp.**

STEPHEN DILL LEE HOME GETS ARCHIVES AND HISTORY AWARD

Two Columbus organizations are the inaugural recipients of awards recognizing excellence in the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history. The Department of Archives and History presented the Capers Award to the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library and the Carr Black Award to the Stephen D. Lee Home and Museum at a luncheon August 2 on the campus of Mississippi University for Women.

The Capers Award, which memorializes longtime MDAH director Charlotte Capers, recognizes smaller institutions or organizations whose mission is to acquire, preserve, and provide access to materials of enduring historical value. The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library was praised for outstanding archival achievement and a strong commitment to the preservation of local history. The library's extensive outreach services include local workshops on preservation topics such as processing/preservation and preserving photographs through the Archival Training Collaborative, work to create an online collection through the Mississippi Digital Library, and the Local History Announcements blog. The library also partners with the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science on the annual "Tales from the Crypt" project.

The Carr Black Award, named in honor of author and former Old Capitol Museum director Patti Carr Black, recognizes outstanding work by Mississippi museums or individuals in preserving, interpreting, and presenting public aspects of Mississippi history, art, or culture. The Carr Black Award was awarded to Carolyn Burns Kaye, the curator of the Stephen D. Lee Home and Museum, for her work as researcher, collector, exhibit planner, and tour guide. Kaye travels throughout the region to promote the house and museum and recently produced a brochure about the house's history. Her efforts have resulted in increased visitation. The awards were established in 2010 and will be presented biennially as merited. Recipients are selected by the board of trustees of the Department of Archives and History. The 2011 Capers & Carr Black Awards each carry a \$300 cash prize.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the United States. The department collects, preserves, and provides access to the archival resources of the state, administers various museums and historic sites, and oversees statewide programs for historic , preservation, state and local government records management and publications. The department is headquartered in the state-of-the-art William F. Winter Archives and History Building, located on the corner of North and Amite Streets in downtown Jackson. For more information call 601-576-6850 or see the MDAH Web site, WWW.mdah.state.ms.us.

BEAUVIOR UPDATE

- Christmas at Beauvoir will be held on Thursday, December 1st, through Saturday, December 3rd, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. each evening. The House will be decorated in Victorian Christmas fashion, Christmas decorations will light the grounds, and Santa Claus will be at Beauvoir each night during the celebration. The Gift Shop will be open with unique Christmas gifts available for purchase. Special night tour admission fees will be \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for school aged children. Bring your camera and enjoy Christmas at Beauvoir!! Call (228)388-4400 for information.
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History Tours Beauvoir! The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Officers of the MDAH toured Beauvoir on October 26, 2011. Beauvoir wishes to thank MDAH for all the support they have given Beauvoir
- Work continually progresses on our new Jefferson Davis Presidential Museum and Library building. The decorative masonry is progressing, and interior work is progressing as well. Interior drywall work has come a long way! The glass panels are now largely installed, and most of the hvac and electrical work is complete!



NATIONAL NEWS: MAILING NOTICE ABOUT THE CONFEDERATE VETERAN MAGAZINE

Gentlemen,

To ensure that your Confederate Veteran magazine is correctly delivered in a timely manner, please visit this link below to check if GHQ has your correct mailing address on file:

<http://www.scv.org/checkData.php>.

To check your data at this link, you will need your SCV ID Number. You will find it printed above your name on the mailing label of the Confederate Veteran magazine.

Changes of address can be made on this link, reported by emailing Bryan Sharp at membership@scv.org, or by calling GHQ at 1-800-380-1896 ext. 201.

The Confederate Veteran magazine is mailed under a nonprofit organization bulk mail rate which costs the SCV about \$0.50 per magazine in postage. The post office will normally not forward mail under this class and they discard the magazines that are undeliverable. If you move and do not inform GHQ of your new address, you will not receive your magazine as it will not be forwarded by the post office.

In addition to the issue of delayed or non-delivery, when GHQ sends a replacement magazine to those that call and enquire as to why they did not receive their Confederate Veteran, it requires that an additional magazine to be printed and costs Headquarters an additional \$2.28 in first class postage. Please report all changes of address to GHQ as soon as possible.

Your cooperation is appreciated and will greatly reduce GHQ mail expense.

Confederately,
Bryan A. Sharp, National Membership Coordinator
SCV HQ / Elm Springs
1-800-380-1896 ext. 201

SCV MEMBER DISCOUNT OFFER FOLD3

Here is a money saving offer from Fold3(formally Footnote.com) that will help generate money for the National SCV or Oakwood Cemetery Project. This is an asset for every camp to have access to in order to help potential members with their genealogy.

Subject: Millions of Confederate Records Now Available Online

We are pleased to announce a special opportunity to SCV Members. The SCV would like to introduce you to Fold3, a great online resource for researching your Confederate ancestors. Fold3 currently offers access to millions of Confederate records. SCV Members can now get an All-Access Annual Membership to Fold3 for only \$49.95 (that is \$30 off the regular price). In addition, for every purchase of a Fold3 membership the SCV will also earn up to \$19 in commissions.

Fold3 provides convenient access to US military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served. Fold3 has:

- Over 78 million images and adding more every month
- Confederate Records: Service Records, Casualty Reports, Citizens Files
- Amnesty Papers & Navy Subject Files
- Revolutionary War Pensions Files & Service records, enlistment, draft cards, war rolls, maps, photos, and more
- Established unique content partnerships with the National Archives and other institutions
- Nearly 2 million registered Fold3 members

Deo Vindice!
Charles Kelly Barrow, Lt.Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans
1800mysouth.com

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

As we process through the challenging years of the Sesquicentennial, leadership training has become even more important to the defense of our Southern heritage. In an effort to insure that our members better understand the challenges of leadership roles and to aid our leaders in acquiring the knowledge to better perform their duties, the SCV has scheduled a 2012 National Leadership Workshop.

This year's event will be held February 11, 2012 at the Clarion Inn & Suites and Conference Center, located at 1051 Highway 165, Monroe, LA 71203. It will be hosted by the Captain Thomas O. Benton Camp 1444. A tentative schedule for the day is posted below along with registration and lodging information. Please note that this event will include relevant presentations and individual workshops for more specialized training for Commanders and Adjutants; however, ALL members are invited to attend!

8:00 - 8:15 Welcome & SCV Protocol Cmdr. Thomas Taylor, Camp 1444

8:15 - 8:30 Introductions & Overview Lt. CIC Charles Kelly Barrow

8:30 - 9:15 Commanders & Command CIC R. Michael Givens

9:15 - 9:30 BREAK

9:30 - 10:15 Adjutants & Administration AIC Chuck Rand

10:15 - 10:30 BREAK

10:30 - 11:15 Recruiting & Retention Lt. CIC Charles Kelly Barrow

11:15 - 12:15 DINNER

12:15 - 1:00 Heritage Defense Chief of Heritage Defense Dr Tom Hiter

1:00 - 1:15 BREAK

1:15 - 2:00 Commander's & Adjutant's Workshops CIC, Lt. CIC & AIC

2:00 - 2:15 BREAK

2:15 - 2:30 Concluding Remarks & Discussion Lt. CIC Charles Kelly Barrow
Benediction

Registration, which includes lunch, is only \$14 each and will be handled through our General Headquarters at Elm Springs. You may mail a reservation with a check or call 1 (800) 380-1896 ext 209 (Cindy) or email accounting@scv.org with credit card information (MC, VISA or AMEX)

Clarion Inn & Suites and Conference Center
1051 Highway 165, Monroe, LA, US, 71203
www.clarionhotel.com/hotel-monroe-louisiana-LA254
SCV Rate \$69 plus tax (DBL)

Registration Sheet

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Camp number _____

Check enclosed () or

Credit Card (MC, VISA, or AMEX) Number _____

Expires _____

MESSAGE FROM CIC MICHAEL GIVENS

2 November 2011
Beaufort, South Carolina
Re: SCV future

Dear Compatriot,

Today is the 466th day since I have been blessed with the mission of leading this venerable league of men. I have been humbled by the task and have thus far done my mortal best. It is my sincerest hope that my involvement will not hamper but rather improve and strengthen the ranks and influence of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

With the able assistance of my vital staff we have begun a process to build the SCV to its rightful place in society as the pre-eminent authority on all things Confederate and American Liberty. The first phase of this effort was the transformation of the Confederate Veteran into more of a scholarly journal with the inclusion of thought-provoking and hard-hitting essays. The second was the development of the VISION2016 program, which will help us determine what has been hindering our growth and how best to drive our membership numbers to 50,000 by the time of our reunion in 2016.

I wish to see to it that this process has a strong foundation to help ensure a dynamic SCV for many years to come. Several of our fellow Compatriots have spoken with me concerning the importance of continuity during this crucial time of structuring the SCV for the future. It is for this reason that I ask for your support for my re-election as your commander-in-chief at the 2012 reunion.

My predecessors to this office made great strides in strengthening the SCV for growth and defense of the Cause of the South. During this time of the Sesquicentennial we have our best opportunity to fulfill our Charge. We must come together during this critical time and rise above the baseless and uneducated accusations of our enemies and win our victories with the finely honed weapons of truth. Who but us, the men of the SCV will stand against the calumny and slander of our people? We are the sons of the very men who wrote the definition of Southern Manhood with their own blood sacrifice. We have been bequeathed a heritage of honour that must not be forsaken. If we are to be successful, then we must work together. If you are interested in helping to secure the future of the SCV, then take a few moments and answer the questions on the attached document and return it to the email address provided. Please answer this questionnaire today and let's get to the work of vindicating the Cause of our ancestors.

I am,
Respectfully yours,
Michael Givens
Commander-in-Chief

In February of 2011, the national leadership developed and in July the general membership of the SCV adopted the following vision: Our Vision

Our vision is of an organization of southern men, 50,000 strong by the time of our 2016 reunion, that knows itself to be, and is widely seen by others as the pre-eminent authority on Southern heritage and American liberty.

Please note that this is not our "goal" or our "mission", or even our "dream". This is the fact of where we'll be in 2016. What I need now is your help in actually getting there. I need much, in terms of time, effort and ideas, but at the moment, what I need most are your ideas. I need you to answer the following questions and provide them to the leaders of this organization by emailing them to me at SCVVISION2016@GMAIL.COM :

1. Do you believe in and support the above vision? If not, why not? If your answer is "yes", then please give me two or three ideas that you have to get us there. What will you personally commit to do?
2. Only about a third of our Camps and Divisions offer any officer training, and none of what there is, is standardized or organized. Would you support an effort to standardize officer training?
3. We know more truth about the War for Southern Independence than almost anybody else, but nobody seems to know that we know it. What can we do, and what will you personally do to get our name "out there"?
4. We have, at best, a disjointed National, Army, Division or Camp plan for public relations. What are your ideas for correcting this? What can you do to help?
5. We know that personal contact is the most effective recruiting and retention tool we have, but we lose close to 1/3rd of our new members every year. What can we do to correct this? We could double in size in a week if every member brought in one new man. Why can we not seem to do this?

Please send your answers to: SCVVISION2016@GMAIL.COM

Thank you,
Michael Givens, Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Be proud of your state and let others know you're from Mississippi!



**Wear a Mississippi Division pin Or display a
Mississippi Division decal!**

**Get either as a thank you gift for
Only a \$5.00 contribution to:**

The Mississippi Division Heritage Education and Defense Fund

SESQUICENTENNIAL NEWS; 150 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH: BATTLE OF CHUSTO-TALASA ALSO KNOWN AS THE BATTLE OF CAVING BANKS

The city now known as Tulsa was first settled by the Lockapoka Creek Indians between 1828 and 1836. They were driven from their native Alabama by the forced removal of Indians from southeastern states, the Cherokee called this the Trail Where They Tear, today we call it the Trail of Tears. The Lockapoka Creek established their new home at a site near what is today Cheyenne and 18th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Under a large Oak tree, they rekindled their ceremonial fire.

Like the rest of the nation, Indian Territory was divided during the Civil War. The first battle fought in Indian Territory was the Battle of Round Mountain in November 19, 1861 between Confederate-aligned tribes and Union Creeks led by Opothleyahola.

After this defeat Chief Opothleyahola led his people northeastward, in search of safety. On December 9, 1861, the force was at Chusto-Talasa, or Caving Banks, on the Horseshoe Bend of Bird Creek (present day about 1 mile North of 86th Street on Delaware near Sperry, Tulsa County, Oklahoma) when Col. Douglas H. Cooper's 1,300 Confederates attacked Chief Opothleyahola around 2:00 pm.

Returning on November 24 to his camp at Concharta, where his supply train was parked, Colonel Cooper learned that the Federal Army had retreated from Springfield and that it was unnecessary for him to take post along the Arkansas border, "but proper to prosecute the operations against Opothleyahola without delay and with the utmost energy," which, Cooper stated in his official report, "I accordingly proceeded to do."

After reorganizing his forces at Spring Hill, near Concharta, and giving his men a few days' rest, Cooper moved on the 29th of November in the direction of Tulsey Town, the Lockapoka Creek Indian settlement. His command, much reduced, now numbered but 780 men, and consisted of 430 men of the Choctaw and Chickasaw regiment, under Maj. Mitchell Laffore; 50 men of the Choctaw battalion, under Capt. Alfred Wade; 285 men of Col. D. N. McIntosh's Creek regiment; and 15 men of Capt. James M. C. Smith's Creek company.

Col. William B. Sims, of the Ninth Texas Cavalry, who had joined the regiment and removed with his sick to Tullahassee, was ordered to support the movement and march with all his available force up the Verdigris River in the direction of Coody's Bluff, where Col. John Drew was posted with a detachment of the First Cherokee Mounted Rifles.

Colonel Cooper had been informed that the loyalist Indians had "taken refuge in the Cherokee country by invitation of a leading disaffected Cherokee"; and on arrival at Tulsey Town he was told by an escaped prisoner that Opothleyahola's warriors, 2,000 strong, were planning an immediate attack.

Colonel Drew was ordered to march south from Coody's Bluff and form a junction with Cooper's force somewhere on the road to James McDaniels'; and Colonel Sims, then at Mrs. McNair's on the Verdigris east of Tulsey Town, was directed to join him at David Van's. Through some misunderstanding, Drew failed to make connection, and Cooper marched north from Van's as far as the Caney River before he turned west and, about noon on Sunday, December 8, found Drew encamped on Bird Creek. He had arrived there Saturday morning with a force of approximately 480 men.

The loyalist Indians were in camp six miles farther south on the same creek, and Drew was in receipt of a message from Opothleyahola "expressing a desire to make peace." Colonel Cooper authorized him to send Major Pegg, of the Cherokee regiment, to Opothleyahola's camp with the assurance that the Confederate commander did not desire the "shedding of blood among the Indians" and proposed a conference the next day. Cooper went into camp on the west side of the creek about two miles below the Cherokees.

Major Pegg was accompanied on the peace mission by Captains George W. Scraper and J. P. Davis and the Rev. Lewis Downing. Late that afternoon, before they returned, Colonel Drew learned that not more than sixty men were in camp and that a rumor was being circulated that they were to be attacked by a large force then close at hand. Drew and a small party of Cherokees mounted their horses and started for Cooper's camp. After proceeding some distance, they turned back to secure the ammunition. In camp they found Major Pegg, who had returned without being able to reach Opothleyahola, but who reported that he had seen "a large number of warriors painted for battle," who would be "down" upon them that night. Pegg himself had been allowed to return only on the "plea of removing some women and children from danger." His report completed the demoralization of the Cherokees, and in the darkness they "dispersed in squads." Some of them, including Major Pegg and Captain Davis, made their way back to Fort Gibson, but many of the Cherokees put on the shuck badge worn by Opothleyahola's warriors and joined the loyal Indians. Among them were Captain Scraper and Captain James McDaniel, the latter a member of the Cherokee National Committee, 1857-59, from the Coowee-scoo-wee district. Only twenty-eight Cherokees were left to follow Colonel Drew to Cooper's camp and pledge their aid in its defense.

About 7 o'clock that night Colonel Cooper was informed of the panic among the Cherokees. He sent Lieutenant Colonel Quayle with a squadron of the Texas cavalry to investigate and report the condition of Drew's camp. Some provisions and a portion of the train were brought down that night by the Cherokee wagonmaster and his teamsters, "true to their duty." The remainder of the camp equipment was removed the next morning.

Cooper's whole command was aroused by the alarm and remained under arms all night, and a company under Captain Parks was sent on a scout to the rear of Opothleyahola's camp.

The loyal Indians did not attack, however, and on the morning of the 9th two companies of Creeks, under command of Captain Foster, went on a reconnaissance in the direction of Park's Store, on Hominy Creek.

Seeking a position that would enable him to maintain lines of communication with his depot at Coweta Mission and with reinforcements expected at Tulsey Town, Cooper re-crossed Bird Creek about 11 o'clock and moved down the east side. He had proceeded about five miles when two runners reached him at the head of the column with a message from Captain Foster saying that he had found the enemy "in large force" and that Captain Parks "had exchanged a few shots with them, taken six prisoners, and was retreating, hotly pursued."

At that moment shots were heard in the rear. Directing the Cherokee train to be parked on the prairie, under guard, Cooper hastily formed his troops in three columns, the Choctaws and Chickasaws on the right, the Texans and Cherokees in the center, the Creeks on the left, and "advanced at a quick gallop on the enemy, who had by this time shown himself in large force..."⁴

Meanwhile, the rear guard repulsed an attack made by a body of 200 loyalist Indians, who were driven back to the creek bottom, a distance of two miles, by a squadron of Choctaws and Chickasaws under Captain Young.

Opothleyahola's main camp at that time is thought to have been on the west side of Bird Creek in a horseshoe bend about two miles north and one mile east of the present town of Turley, in Tulsa County. This belief is strengthened by the fact that the Upper Creeks seem to have had a penchant for bends of rivers, in spite of their early disastrous experience at the Horse Shoe Bend of the Tallapoosa River in Alabama during the Creek War of 1813-14. Their warriors, however, were mainly on the east side, above and below the camp, concealed in the heavy timber that skirted the tortuous windings of Bird Creek. The creek was deep and could be forded only at certain points; but knowing these, the loyal Indians could cross and recross at will.

The strategy of Opothleyahola's forces was clearly outlined by Col. D. N. McIntosh in his official report:

- "1st.They had placed their forces in a large creek, knowing by marching across the prairie that we would be likely to pass in reach of the place.
- "2d. The grounds they had selected were extremely difficult to pass, and in fact most of the banks on the creek were bluff and deep waters, so that no forces could pass across only at some particular points, which were only known to them.
- "3d. This place was fortified also with large timber on the side they occupied, and on our side the prairie extended to the creek, where the enemies were bedded, lying in wait for our approach."

The main body of Cooper's command advanced rapidly across the intervening prairie, clearing the ravines of skirmishers and sharpshooters, and driving the loyal Indians to the creek bank. In describing the terrain, Cooper said:

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Battle of Chusto-Talasah continued . . .

"The position then taken up by the enemy at Chusto-Talasah, or the Caving Banks (the Creeks call the place Fonta-hulwache, Little High Shoals), presented almost insurmountable obstacles to our troops.

"The creek made up to the prairie on the side of our approach in an abrupt, precipitous bank, some 30 feet in height, at places cut into steps, reaching near the top and forming a complete parapet...The opposite side, which was occupied by the hostile forces, was densely covered with heavy timber, matted undergrowth, and thickets, and fortified additionally by prostrate logs."

Cooper was describing, it should be noted, the front along the horseshoe bend. The reverse bends above and below were heavily wooded on the east side. The battle, which lasted about four hours, was a series of attacks and flanking movements. After being driven back into the timber, and often to the creek bank, the loyalist Indians would work around on the flanks of the Confederates and pour in a volley, only to be charged and forced back again. Captain Pitehlynn, of the Choctaw and Chickasaw regiment, stated in his report to Cooper: "The mode of warfare adopted by the enemy compelled us, as you are aware, to abandon strict military discipline and make use of somewhat similar movements in order to be successful."

The Choctaws and Chickasaws fought on the right of the line throughout the engagement; and the Creeks, except at the close, on the left. In the center, however, Colonel Sims divided his Texas cavalry, numbering about 260 men, into two divisions; one, under Lieutenant Colonel Quayle, fighting alongside the Choctaws and Chickasaws; and the other, under his own command, fighting at the side of the Creeks; the two being again united on the right late in the afternoon. Much of the fighting of the Choctaws and Chickasaws centered around "a dwelling-house, a small corn-crib, and rail fence," the location of which cannot now be established with certainty, but which were situated near and probably north of the ravine at the northeast corner of the horseshoe bend.

Just before sunset the Creek regiment ended the fighting on the left by driving the loyalist Indians across the creek; then closed the battle by going to the relief of the exhausted Choctaws and Chickasaws on the right.

Colonel Cooper estimated his force actually engaged at 1,100, and reported a loss of 15 killed and 37 wounded. He was certain the loyal Indians had "over 2,500" in their ranks, and cited Major Pegg's figure of 4,000. But the loss charged to them is 500 killed and wounded but is thought that this number is a gross exaggeration. The Confederates bivouacked that night on the prairie, returning to the battlefield the next morning, but the loyalist Indians had "retreated to the mountains." After burying their dead, Cooper's men marched to David Van's, where the supply train and their wounded had already been moved, and encamped for the night. Col. Cooper was again forced to suspend the campaign against Opothleyahola and the loyalist Indians. For one thing, his supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted; but of far graver importance was the alarming news that the defection among the Cherokees was widespread and growing. On arrival at Van's the night of December 10, Colonel Cooper learned that a body of 100 Cherokees from Fort Gibson had passed through the evening before and joined the loyalist Indians on Hominy Creek. He decided to place his troops in position to counteract any further movement among the Cherokees in support of Opothleyahola.

Colonel Drew, with the Cherokee train, and Colonel Sims and the Ninth Texas Cavalry were ordered to march direct to Fort Gibson. Colonel Cooper, with the Choctaw and Creek regiments, fell back by way of Tulsey Town down the Arkansas. Meanwhile, Col. James McIntosh, in command of McCulloch's Division, then in winter quarters at Van Buren, Arkansas, had been urgently requested to send reinforcements of white troops into the Cherokee country. "The true men among the Cherokees must be supported and protected or we shall lose the Indian Territory," declared Cooper in a letter to McIntosh. Col. Cooper and his Confederates would meet Chief Opothleyahola and his loyalist again in the Battle of Chustenahlah

BATTLE OF SACRAMENTO, KY – DECEMBER 28, 1861 **"FORREST'S FIRST"**

Brigadier General Thomas L. Crittenden moved command of the Fifth Division of the Army of the Ohio to a position above the Lock and Dam #2 on the Green River at Calhoun in November 1861. This was to counter Confederate troop movement sixty miles east in Bowling Green, Kentucky's Confederate State Capital. Crittenden's troop strength included two regiments from Daviess County, a regiment from Hartford along with the 25th and 11th Kentucky Infantry, and the troops from the 31st, 42nd, 43rd and 44th Indiana Infantry. Through the heart of McLean County ran a ribbon of water that was the dividing line of a county, the Commonwealth, and of brothers. Crittenden was charged with holding that line along the Green River. Forrest was charged with breaching it.

Crittenden's formidable strength at Calhoun gave the indication of a pending advance by the Fifth Division across the Green River and toward Bowling Green. General Johnston (CSA) ordered reconnaissance to determine the military situation. On December 26th, in Hopkinsville, Lt. Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest's battalion was ordered to probe the strength of Crittenden's Army in this region. Forrest left Hopkinsville with a cavalry strength of 300 effective men and rode to Greenville. There he was joined by Lt. Col. Starne's 8th Tennessee Cavalry. Captain Merriweather's 1st Kentucky Cavalry, and Captain W.S. McLemore. His two forward scouts, Adam R. Johnson and Robert M. Martin were familiar with the area and each had brothers, whom they may now have to fight, stationed at Camp Calhoun.

Just outside the village of Sacramento, eight miles north of Greenville, on December 28th, 1861, Forrest was approached by Miss Mollie Morehead, a young Confederate sympathizer. She informed Forrest that just over the hill Federal troops were dismounted and watering their horses at a place called Garst's Pond. Mollie, in Forrest's own words, "with untied tresses floating in the breeze, on horseback, infusing nerve into my arm and kindling knightly chivalry within my heart" ignited the fury of "Forrest's First" fight. Eighteen-year-old Major Eli H. Murray of the 3rd KY Cavalry was in command of a scouting mission of about 400 men that had been dispatched from Camp Calhoun that morning. Major Murray was soon to be face-to-face with "that Devil Forrest." Mollie had given Forrest the opportunity of surprise. He pulled up his mount, grabbed a Maynard rifle from one of his men and ordered the charge!!! Major Kelly and Lt. Col. Starnes were ordered to flank left, flank right, while dismounted sharpshooters took aim at the confused Federal troops. Forrest himself rode headlong toward Major Murray's advancing cavalry, standing up in his stirrups with saber raised, and sounding that dreaded Rebel Yell!!!

The fight that began south of Sacramento became a running battle through the town for another two miles and climaxed near the little church at Union Station. Forrest, in a mass of horses and men, had just demonstrated the success of his relentless cavalry maneuver which he first used a few miles down the road and this cavalry strategy would become his trademark throughout his military career.

Brig/General
Thomas
Crittenden



Brig/General
Nathan B.
Forrest

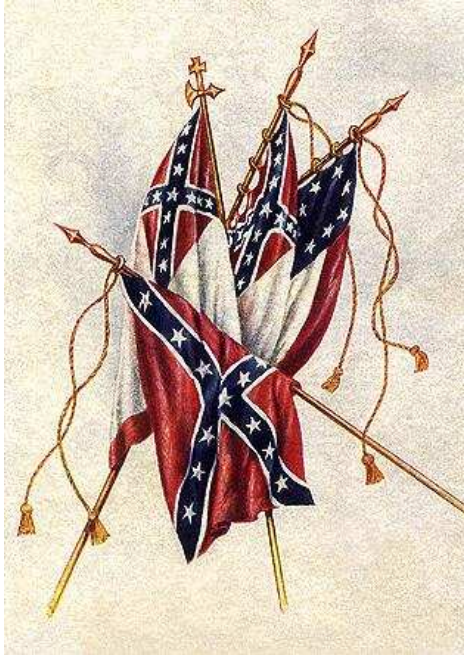


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Lee and Santa Claus from page 1 . . .

The above letter was sent the following day, and in about a week the answer was received:

My dear little friends:

I was very glad to receive your kind letter, and to know by it that I have the good wishes and prayers of three innocent little girls, named Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie. I am very glad that you wrote about Santa Claus for I am able to tell you all about him. I can assure you he is one of the best friends that the little Southern girls have. You will understand this when I explain to you the reason of his not coming to see you for four years.

The first Christmas Eve of the war I was walking up and down in the camp ground, when I thought I heard a singular noise above my head; and on looking to find out from whence it came, I saw the queerest, funniest-looking little old fellow riding along in a sleigh through the air. On closer inspection, he proved to be Santa Claus.

Halt! Halt!, I said; but at this the funny fellow laughed, and did not seem inclined to obey, so again I cried Halt!. And he drove down to my side with a sleigh full of toys. I was very sorry for him when I saw the disappointed expression of his face when I told him he could go no further South; and when he exclaimed, Oh, what will my little Southern children do! I felt more sorry, for I love little children to be happy, and especially at Christmas. But of one thing I was certain--I knew my little friends would prefer me to do my duty, rather than have all the toys in the world; so I said: Santa Claus, take every one of the toys you have back as far as Baltimore, sell them, and with the money you get buy medicines, bandages, ointments, and delicacies for our sick and wounded men; do it and do it quickly--it will be all right with the children. Then Santa Claus sprang into his sleigh, and putting his hand to his hat in true military style, said: I obey orders, General, and away he went. Long before morning he came sweeping down into camp again, with not only every thing I had ordered, but with many other things that our poor soldiers needed. And every Christmas he took the toy money and did the same thing; and the soldiers and I blessed him, for he clothed and fed many a poor soul who otherwise would have been cold and hungry. Now, do you not consider him a good friend. I hold him in high respect, and trust you will always do the same. I should be pleased to hear from you again, my dear little girls, and I want you ever to consider me,

Your true friend,
General Robert E. Lee

From the book *General Lee and Santa Claus*, originally published in 1867, pages 32-35.