



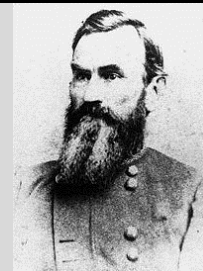
Joe Nokes, Commander

Camp Website: [www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)

# *The Delta General*

December, 2014 Volume 17, Issue 12

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



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Thursday, January 8, 2015 - 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, MS
- Annual Camp Lee/Jackson Banquet, Saturday January 24, 2015 – Social at 6:00 PM, Banquet at 7:00 PM

## **Camp News:**

### **Commander's Message – Joe Nokes**

Friend and Compatriots,

The Holidays are upon us. I know that all of you (like my family) are busy beyond belief. So, in the interest of time, I will try to remain brief and let this month's extra-special newsletter speak for itself. Most of the final planning for the Lee-Jackson has been completed. As always, there will be plenty of good food and good fellowship as we honor two of our heroes. As has been the custom in recent years, we will be holding the banquet at the church. (Anyone who can come early and help with set-up will be appreciated.)

Richard Dillon has scheduled a very special guest speaker: Ms. Mary Carol Miller. She will be speaking on the *Star of the West*, a subject that is very, very "close to home" as they say.

As the holiday season hits full stride, let us take a brief moment to remember all of our ancestors who spent the holidays in service or at home waiting for loved ones to return. The times were especially hard for most of the people of the Southern nation during the holiday season 150 years ago. Many men and boys were sleeping cold and hungry. Many families were not much better off due to privation.

Knowing what we do about the struggles with which our ancestors dealt should make each and every one of us appreciate all of the wonderful blessings that we have today. Most of us have a warm place to sleep, plenty of food to eat, and family and friends for love.

With that in mind, to you my Confederate friends and family, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully,  
Joe Nokes



*Merry Christmas and let us not forget their sacrifices*

## Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

I would like to report a series of speakers that I have booked in advance through the months of May:

- January None ( Finalize Plans for Lee - Jackson Banquet)
- Our speaker for the Lee – Jackson Banquet will be Dr. Ann Carol Miller who is not only a medical doctor but a well known published author
- February: No Meeting
- March: Dr. Wanda Gaddy
- April: Brother James Taylor
- May: Earl McGown

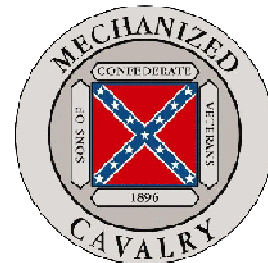
I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you at each and everyone of our meetings during the coming year.

## Mechanized Cavalry Report: Richard Dillon, Cpl

Our Winter meeting is scheduled for Jan. 10, 2015. You should have recently received an email from Captain Bert with all of the details. At that meeting we will formally elect our new Captain. As of this writing, Stephen "Gunner" Rutherford is the only candidate, and I think he will make an excellent Captain.

Our Annual Ride is scheduled for the 1st weekend in June at Marble Falls, Arkansas. If you have not made your reservation, you need to do so quickly.

Don't forget to WEAR YOUR VEST and spread the word about the SCV and the SCVMC!



## Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President

First, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will be renewing our drawings and the Capture the Yankee which is way up over \$200.00. We have some new and interesting items for the drawings as well which helps in paying for the meals. Thank you everyone in advance that participates.

Ladies, we will meet to finalize plans for the Lee/Jackson Banquet and door prizes for the event. Please come and be willing to participate to make this event a success.



## Adjutant's Report for October, 2014 – Dan McCaskill

Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Jimmy Alford was absent so Commander Nokes led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy.

**Program:** There was no program for the evening with all of our attention being on preparations for our upcoming Lee – Jackson Birthday Banquet.

**Announcements:** Some upcoming events are the MS Division Executive Council Meeting Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> in Jackson, MS; The Annual Christmas Ball at the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg the evening of December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Officer Reports:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Richard Dillon announced the next meeting we would have a speaker will be the March Meeting with Wanda Gaddy. There will not be a meeting in February because of the closeness of the Lee - Jackson Banquet. 2nd Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell was absent; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that he has received 4 renewals from delinquent members bringing the camp total back up to 52 but still down from 58 at the end of the fiscal year. The Camp has \$ 3,377 in the checking account and has spent only 40% of its annual budget with 2 months left in the fiscal year. I am happy to report we reached our goal of \$ 475 for the Confederate Headstone Project. As Camp Editor, Larry reported he is putting together a special Christmas Edition of The General which will be sent out before Christmas. As AOT Commander, Larry reported that there are several issues in the Confederation, one of which may result in the expulsion of a past Division Commander. Also, he is placing an order for more AOT pins; MOS & B Commander Earl McCown reported that he collecting dues hoping to revive the Chapter. He received renewal dues from a past member who had not been heard from in 15 years. MS OCR Society: no report; OCR President Sandra Stillman that they are still accepting items for the Lee – Jackson Banquet.

**Camp Business:** Dan McCaskill reported that the VA is in the process of re-defining who may apply for a VA headstone making it easier to get Confederate Headstones. Dan asked if the Camp wanted to put the Headstone Project on hold until after the VA implements their changes. A motion to put the Headstone Project on hold for six months was made by Junior Stillman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Dillon and was passed.

It was re-confirmed that the Lee – Jackson Birthday Banquet will be January 24, 2015 starting at 6:00 pm at the Fellowship in Indianola, MS as a Pot Luck Supper. The Ella Palmer Chapter, OCR purchased a Tankard and two mugs as a possible gift for the Lee – Jackson speaker. A motion was made by Dan McCaskill to accept the OCR offer for the speaker's gift, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Junior Stillman and was passed. The Speaker for the Banquet will be Dr. Ann Carol Miller who will speak on the Star of the West. A motion was made by Larry McCluney to give Junior Stillman the authority to procure the meat for the Banquet and get it cooked at a reasonable price, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Dillon and was passed. The meats for the Banquet will be roast and pork loin. Other items decided upon without motion were to send invitation cards out between Christmas and New Years and that the Color Guard would be CS Marine. Final details will be finalized at our January Meeting which was moved to January 8<sup>th</sup> on a motion by Earl McCown, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Dillon and passed. Our scheduled January Meeting would have fallen on New Year's Day. With no other business coming before the Camp, the business session was adjourned.

Raffle winners were Missy Stillman, book and Sandra Stillman, the Star of the West nail & wood. Dan McCaskill attempted to capture the Yankee but failed in his attempt. Attendance for the evening was 14.

## Lee/Jackson Banquet Announcement

The B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625 will be hosting its 18th Annual Lee – Jackson Birthday Banquet on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at the 1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola, MS starting with Social Hour at 6:00 pm followed by the Banquet at 7:00 pm. Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Ann Carol Miller who will present a program on "The Star of the West". This will be a Pot Luck Dinner therefore no charge.

## **CHRISTMAS DONATION for Beauvoir**

Beauvoir - The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library  
2244 Beach Blvd.  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

In the age in which we live there is no place on earth to better educate the masses as to the truth about the Confederacy or our dear President than the last earthly home of Jefferson Davis--Beauvoir. It was Mr. Davis who said: "Governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them at will when they become destructive of the ends for which they were established."

To be able to continue with our mission of disseminating the truth to this generation, Beauvoir needs your help this Christmas. We want to end the year in the black. We, the members of the Mississippi SCV, are the custodians of Beauvoir. She is our responsibility. I know that the economy is bad and that times are tough. Were they not tough for our ancestors who gave what they had to fight for home and hearth.

If 1,300 members will give \$50.00, we will raise an amazing \$65,000! I realize that not all can do that. If 500 members give \$25.00, that would be \$12,500. If you can give \$5.00 or \$10.00, it too will be appreciated. Some may be able to give more than fifty. Let us honor the memory of President Davis this Christmas with a gift to the preservation of the home he so loved.

P.S. Mail checks to the above address, make checks at to Beauvoir with the memo reading "Christmas Gift."

## **Jim M. Strickland, Sr. crossed over the river this past Sunday, December 7, 2014.**

According to Jim Jr. there will be no funeral service as he wished to be cremated. I asked about a memorial service and he said there would not be one at his wishes. He apparently just wanted to go quietly. His obituary and a memorial guest sign-in can be found at the below link if you would like to distribute. <http://www.lowndesfuneralhome.net/> Memorial gifts can be sent in care of the Gen. William Barksdale Camp; 223 Belle Circle; Columbus, MS 39702

Sent by Shawn Kyzer, Camp Adjutant.

## **Flags Used by Mississippi During the War Between The States**

More than 100 colored Flag Pictures 8 1/2 by 11 with 160 pages More than 300 Named Flag Bearers. ALL PROFITS GO TO THE PRESERVATION OF MISSISSIPPI FLAGS by Mississippi SCV Division

Paper Back: Retail: \$32.00 (plus \$3 shipping & handling)

Hard Back: Retail \$45.00 (plus \$5 shipping handling)

Free shipping for SCV Members who identify their camp

The book is written by SCV Life Member Larry Hawkins and a native Mississippian. Make checks out to Larry Hawkins, and the book can be purchased at SCV Camp 1312, P O Box 11207, Memphis, TN. 38111, and at 5597 Fair Cove, Memphis, Tn. 38115. Larry can be reached at lh232g1b@gmail.com.



## **A Confederate Soldier's Christmas**

The Soldiers in the Confederate Army were so in support of their cause, that they went without many of the creature comforts that were afforded to the northern union army.

Most of the factories and companies existed in the north so the supplies to Confederate troops were few and far between. Many things were often homemade.

Christmas for the Confederate Army consisted of the possibility to rest and have a hot meal. If they were extremely short of supply, they may have only received extra hardtack, mule jerky or Sassafras Tea.

Many did not receive anything but the extra rest provided and the possibly some companionship and good music.

To the upper right; a Confederate Soldier sleeps on Christmas Day.

Please take a moment on this special day to remember  
the sacrifices made by our great Southern Heroes.

May they all "*Sleep in heavenly peace*".







*120th Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
and the 21st Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose Reunions*



June 05-07, 2015 in Columbus, Mississippi  
www.genbarksdale.org

**2015 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**

SCV MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CAMP: \_\_\_\_\_

OCR MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCR CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST'S NAME FOR BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV EARLY REGISTRATION (PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2014)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SCV REGULAR REGISTRATION (JAN. 1ST, 2015 TO MAY 22ND 2015)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SCV LATE REGISTRATION (POST-MARKED ON OR AFTER MAY 23RD 2015)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_

OCR REGISTRATION ON OR BEFORE MAY 22ND, 2015, \$10.00 EACH. AFTER MAY 23RD, 2015 \$15.00\*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$30.00 PER ADULT \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S PLATE (12 AND UNDER) SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$15.00 PER CHILD \_\_\_\_\_

ANCESTOR MEMORIAL (COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$10.00 EACH ANCESTOR \_\_\_\_\_

VENDOR TABLE (AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE, COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$20.00 EACH TABLE \_\_\_\_\_

REUNION PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT (SEE BELOW RATES / COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)\*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

STARKVILLE CIVIL WAR ARSENAL MUSEUM SATURDAY AFTERNOON TOUR  
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ **FREE TO REUNION ATTENDEES!**

STEPHEN D. LEE HOME AND MUSEUM AFTERNOON TOUR  
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ **FREE TO REUNION ATTENDEES!**

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

All Registered SCV / OCR members will receive a Name Badge, Reunion Medal, Reunion Program, and a "Reunion goodie bag".

Late Door Registration will receive the same only as long as supplies last.

OCR Registrants will have a Ladies Tea in lieu of a Reunion Medal.

All registrations submitted for the amounts specified above must be post-marked appropriately within the specified time-frame.

No refunds to be distributed for cancellations on or after June 01, 2015.

\*\*\*For your convenience, ALL events except for the optional tours, will be held on-site at the host hotel\*\*\*

**Barksdale's  
Headquarters Hotel:**

Recommend rooms be  
reserved ASAP as it is  
summer and they will  
become booked.  
ASK for the SCV Rate.

**Courtyard Marriott**  
1995 6th Street North  
Columbus,  
Mississippi, 39701  
662-245-1540

**Reunion Contact Information: Make Checks Payable to:**

**Host Camp Commander:**

Jim Strickland, Jr.  
jmsj@cableone.net  
Phone: 662-570-1581

**Host Camp Adjutant:**

Shawn Kyzer  
camp1220adjutant@yahoo.com  
Phone: 662-722-1738

SCV Camp 1220

**Mail Registration Form  
and Payment To:**

2015 MS Division Reunion  
P.O. Box 404  
Aberdeen, MS 39730

**Reunion Program  
Advertisements:**

\$100.00 for Full Page  
\$50.00 for Half Page  
\$25.00 for Quarter Page

Please submit  
advertisement information  
and order form prior to  
May 1st 2015.





# Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans 2015 Division Reunion June 05-07, 2015



Hosted by:  
The General William Barksdale Camp 1220, Columbus, Mississippi

## ***Barksdale's Headquarters Hotel Information:***

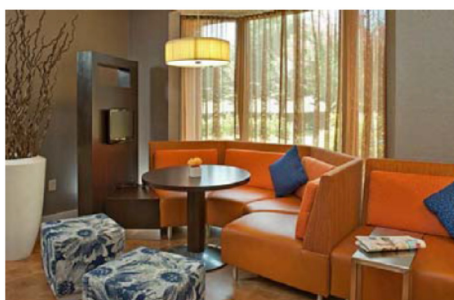
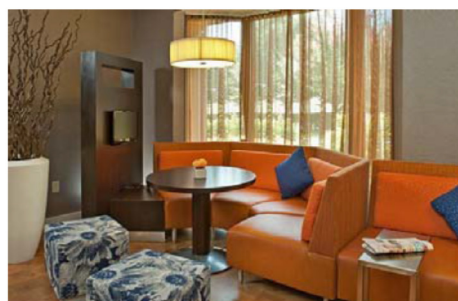
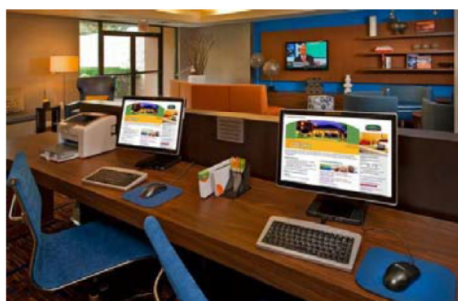
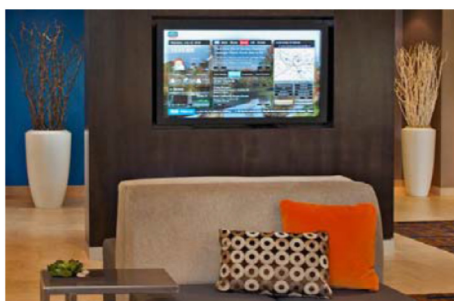
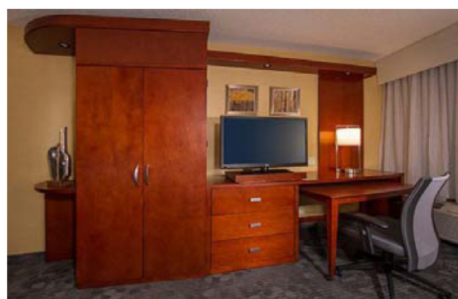
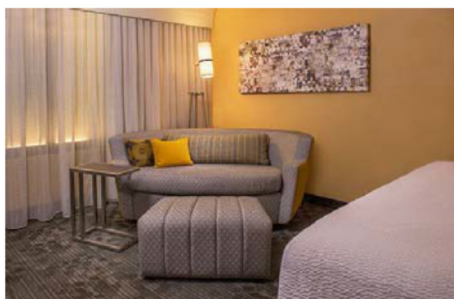
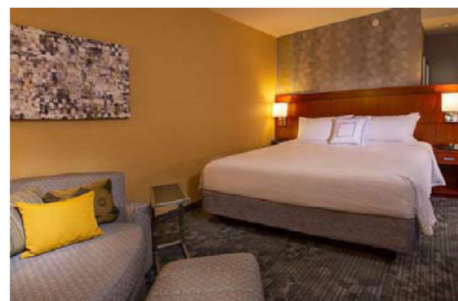
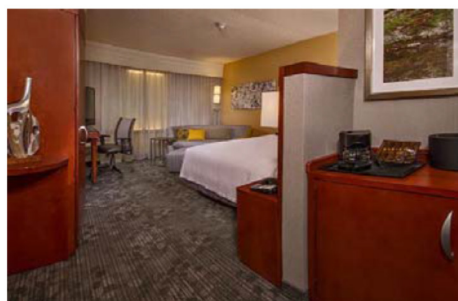
### **Courtyard Marriott**

1995 6th Street North, Columbus, Mississippi, 39701  
662-245-1540

We highly recommend rooms to be reserved ASAP as it is summer and they will become booked.

**Make sure you ASK for the SCV Reunion Convention Rate!!!!**

For your convenience, ALL events except for the Optional Tours, will be held on-site at the Host Hotel.





## Mississippi Eyes Ballot Measure Preserving Confederate Heritage, Making Christianity State Religion, English Official Language

If passed, a measure being considered for Mississippi's 2016 ballots would make Christianity the State Religion, English the official language, and, according to its creators, preserve the State's Confederate Heritage. That's not all — the measure aims to 'restrict or define' Mississippi's Heritage in a number of areas: State Flag and Nickname, and even university mascots.

It's currently officially defined as '**Initiative 46,**' but proponents of the plan call it the '**Heritage Initiative.**' If the petition garners enough response, it should show up on the Mississippi ballots in the 2016 election.

Promoted by the Magnolia State Heritage Campaign, the initiative proposes to do the following: Acknowledge Mississippi as a "*principally Christian and quintessentially Southern state*" and the Christian Bible as a "*foremost source of her founding principles, inspiration, and virtues.*"

Declare English the official language in the state, and require all government and public communications to be in English only. (There is an exception for foreign language instruction, and those places where Latin or French are traditional, such as in medicine and law.)

The Mississippi Flag adopted in 1894 and confirmed by vote in 2001 will be declared the State Flag. (See below.) The salute will be "*I salute the flag of Mississippi and the sovereign state for which it stands with pride in her history and achievements and with confidence in her future under the guidance of Almighty God.*"

"Dixie" be played after the "Star Spangled Banner" at public events.

Declare 'Colonel Reb' (depicted in stained glass below) as the official mascot of the University of Mississippi, and affirm that teams will be called "*The Rebels.*" (The measure also defines mascots for two other state universities, and forbids forcing a list of other universities to merge or consolidate.)

April would be declared Confederate Heritage Month, acknowledged by schools and used to guide curriculum, and the last day of that month would be Confederate Memorial Day, on which government offices would be closed, and employees would receive an unpaid holiday. The week before would be Dixie Week.

The Confederate Flag must be displayed on State Capitol grounds.

Borders would be restored to 'original' boundaries, erasing wording established in 1990.

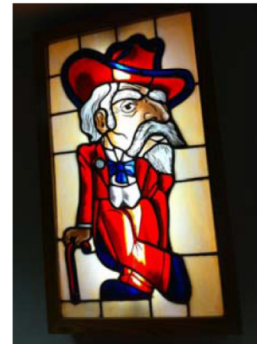
The measure would also ensure that state identification, license tags, and other materials reflect the nickname, state flower, and flag (yes, all state id cards would bear a flag that includes the Confederate Flag as a portion of it), protect the flying of flags over veterans' graves, and officially protect and preserve any publicly owned or held Confederate memorabilia.

According to a local news agency, the initiative is endorsed by such prominent Mississippians as former Miss America Susan Akin, author Julie Hawkins, and former State Representative Mark DuVall.

The petition needs 107,216 signatures, 12% of the number of voters in the last gubernatorial election, in order to be placed on the ballot. Proponents of the measure believe this is a sure thing.

If they're correct, Mississippi could be on the way to declaring Christianity as the State Religion and English as the official language in two years' time.

No more pressing "1" for English.



## Military Order of the Stars and Bars: Commander General's Message

There are great changes that have been occurring in our population over the past several decades. These changes will continue at an accelerated rate. While our over-all population will increase, the number of people of European ancestry will decline. In fact, the population of White Americans will become a minority by the year 2043. We simply don't have a birthrate that will sustain and grow our population. Each year the number of people in this category who will die exceeds the number who will be born.

Ironically, the United States is one of the few industrialized countries with a growing population. In most European countries – and especially Germany and Greece – the population is in decline. The same is true with Japan and South Korea.

The U.S. is the exception because of wholesale immigration and the unusually high birthrate of our immigrants. These demographics will have a profound affect on most of the service organizations, clubs, and heritage groups in our country. We have an aging group of White Americans and most immigrants don't join organizations.

As Commander General, I want to take the necessary steps today that will assure our relevancy for future generations. In the past few years, we have been able to maintain our membership at historic levels.

However, I do expect that we will soon feel the pressure from our Country's changing demographics. For that reason, we will soon be launching a new membership program. The backbone of this program will be advertisements that will appear in the magazines of leading heritage societies. Our initial ad will appear in the quarterly edition of the Sons of the American Revolution quarterly magazine.

We also need to improve our membership retention program. Many of our new members never really get connected to us. They might attend one or two meetings but they eventually drop out from a lack of interest. To combat this trend we simply must have Chapter and Society meetings that are both educational and entertaining. That includes having a guest speaker for every single meeting.

I have worked hard on membership over the past two years. I am particularly excited about our new strategy because it will bring us new members who value heritage organizations like ours. As members of MOS&B we are stewards of our culture and our heritage. We simply must take the necessary steps today to assure us that a new generation will be there to follow in our footsteps. We must also trust those individuals to protect and advance our heritage just as we have done. You have my best wishes.

Deo Vindice!

Wm. Howard Jones, Commander General



## SCV National News:

### Museum of the Confederacy Update

Gentlemen,

The previous communication on this topic was a copy of a letter sent to all Division Commanders. I should have modified it slightly for the broader audience of the Telegraph.

Please make your donations payable to "MoC Committee, Virginia Division, SCV" and send to same at P. O. Box 29814 Henrico, VA 23242-0814. Online payments may be made via PayPal; see the ad at the Virginia Division website, <http://www.scvva.org>

Your donations are tax-deductible. All donations received to date and from this point forward will be applied to this vital effort to save the largest single collection of Confederate archives, artifacts, and memorabilia in the world.

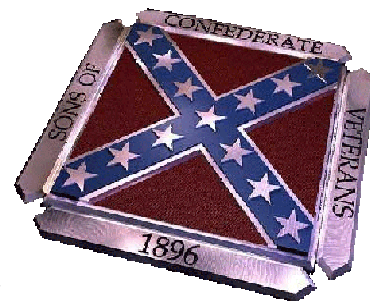
Sincerely,

Edwin Ray, Chairman of the MoC Committee

Virginia Division, SCV

804-517-6587

JRAY250443@AOL.COM



## Message from the CIC

Compatriots and friends,

SCV GHQ is always on the hunt for great looking pictures to be used in various ways in order to promote the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Right now we are looking for some (very) high resolution photographs that show the very best the SCV has to offer. Currently, we are looking for photos of SCV members doing fun things related to The Cause, volunteering, gravesite cleaning, or just having fun. We would like member pictures of the young, not so young, members of all backgrounds, race, hues, and hailing from all different nations. If you have a photograph that screams "We love the SCV" and it's in high resolution, please send it to [cic@scv.org](mailto:cic@scv.org). Please note that it may be used in various promotions so we need to have the rights to use the photo(s).

Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas!

Deo Vindice!

Charles Kelly Barrow, Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Confederate Veterans

[www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)





## Memphis Parks Case, December 18, 2014 (Reported by Lee Miller)

Friends,

This is confidential, so please don't discuss this with anyone until at least next week. The Appeal Brief for our Parks case was filed yesterday, though not due til tomorrow. It is about 52 pages of facts, case law, and positions supporting our complaint against the city. It is excellent work.

As we know the Memphis Chancery Court judge said we didn't have 'standing' and erred in ruling for the city by misapplying law, failing to consider material facts, and several other errors, which led to our prompt appeal. Basically, to have standing, one must have a vested interest, be injured, and that justiciability will solve the problem, that justice can cure the injury.

Our plaintiffs have shown standing but the court ignored this. Here is a brief summary showing one example of our satisfaction of the requirements:

- The SCV, in 1899, requested that a park be created and named Forrest Park. This was indeed done by a city ordinance in Nov 1899.
- The SCV raised the money and erected the 21' one-and-a-half-times life equestrian statue of Gen Forrest in 1905.
- The Forrest Camp SCV, among other improvements over the years, raised in 2012 about \$9000 and, in a joint project with the City of Memphis and the Historical Commission, placed a 10' granite FORREST PARK name marker in the park. Months later the city stole the one-and-a-half ton stone.
- The council then attempted to rename the parks.

Therefore, you see that the SCV has a vested interest spanning over 100 years, has been injured by the renaming and very real theft of the stone, and the courts can cure this injustice by ruling in our favor and taking the appropriate remedial action. This is a simple example but there are many additional examples and a multitude of additional facts.

The same can be applied to the other 2 parks and all of our plaintiffs (individuals, Forrest descendants, and Citizens to Save Our Parks, as well as the SCV).

We can not discuss the specifics of the appeal or the brief at this point but it will be available pretty soon. The defense will receive a copy and then will have 30 days to file an answer. One thing I'd like to point out, as part of our clear argument: According to the city charter and 2 ordinances, the city council does not have any authority to name/rename a park. Only the mayor does, and he has not taken any action in regard to our 3 historic parks. Thus, the city council's resolution to rename the parks is illegal. In addition, a council resolution cannot circumvent or override an ordinance (which created the parks & names).

Here is the state law:

So, even IF the council had the authority to rename a park, which they don't, a resolution CANNOT rename the parks, which would be a permanent change. The council is wrong on all counts.

We know we've always been right. Please join with us and pray for a favorable outcome so that this heritage will not be erased forever. And please continue sending in donations and contributions to our parks defense fund. Our legal costs are substantial in defending this heritage and we need a great deal of help.

The best to all, and Merry Christmas.

## PRESIDENT DAVIS CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS IN MISSISSIPPI

Meanwhile, Confed-erate President celebrated Christmas in his home in Mississippi. "After an absence of nearly two years," he said, "I again find myself among those who...have ever been the trusted object of my affection." But Confed-erate Christmas celebra-tions in the area were cut short by reports of Union troop movements on the Mississippi threatening Vicksburg.

In the fall of 1862, Confederate refugees from the fighting in the areas surrounding the capital began to flood into the city. They included those who fled farms and towns now in Union-held territory, wives of Confederate soldiers looking for employment, and the destitute.

This influx of refugees drove rent prices much higher than they'd been previously, and wartime inflation sent prices on everyday goods skyrocketing. In the city, ten pounds of bacon, which cost \$1.25 in 1860, now cost \$10. Four pounds of coffee jumped from \$0.50 to \$20.

Richmond diarist and author Sallie Brock Putnam wrote about the sadness of Christmas for families who had lost soldiers in the war:

The Christmas dinner passed off gloomily. The vacant chairs were multiplied in Southern homes, and even the children who had curiously questioned the cause of the absence of the young soldier brother from the festive board, had heard too much, had seen too much, and knew too well why sad-colored garments were worn by the mother, and why the fold of rusty crape placed around the worn hat of the father, and why the joyous mirth of the sister was restrained, and her beautiful figure draped in mourning. Congratulations were forced, and tears had taken the place of smiles on countenances where cheerfulness was wont to reign.

Christmas of 1862 saw an important cultural development with the emergence of the modern image of Santa Claus. Famed illustrator FOC Darley published an edition of Clement Clark Moore's A Visit from St. Nicholas ('Twas the Night Before Christmas) featuring drawings of Santa as a plump man with a pipe, furry coat and pointed hat.

Thomas Nast, who in the late 19th century produced what came to be regarded as the definitive representations of St. Nick, published his first Santa drawing in Harper's Weekly, January 3, 1863. "Santa Claus in Camp" showed a star-spangled Santa in his reindeer-drawn sleigh handing out presents to jubilant soldiers.

General Robert E. Lee in Gordonsville A reported 40,000 soldiers watched a baseball game at Hilton Head, S.C., between the 165th New York Zouave regiment and a picked team from other units. One of the players was Abraham Gilbert Mills, later president of the National League.

Across the South there were movements of troops. Confederate General John Hunt Morgan engaged in his famous Christmas Raid in Kentucky; on that single day, Morgan's men destroyed everything they possibly could of the improvements that the Louisville & Nashville Railroad had made along 35 miles of track from Bacon Creek to Lebanon Junction.

Robert E. Lee wrote his wife, "What a cruel thing is war. To separate & destroy families & friends & mar the purest joy and happiness God has granted us in this world.... I pray that on this day when 'peace & good will' are preached to all mankind that better thoughts will fill the hearts of our enemies & turn them to peace."

Meanwhile, along the Rappahannock River, the two armies faced each other, probing their opponent's lines looking for weak spots and capturing prisoners and supplies. Soldiers in both armies did what soldiers normally do during the winter. They rested and refitted. They entertained themselves with games and tournaments. They exchanged supplies with their fellow Americans across the river.

**Thanks to Peter Doré, *English Friends of the South*, for this article.**

## Yes, Santa is a Confederate



Again it will be that time of year again where Santa will be flying house to house bringing joy and happiness to children of all ages everywhere. Santa's trip although not a matter of national security, his trip will be monitored by NORAD and you too can monitor his midnight ride by going to [www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org).

To keep the Yankees on their toes and scratchin' thar heads, Santa pretends to start his midnight ride from the North Pole, but as every southern school boy and girl knows, the trip begins at South Pole.

Santa leaves the South Pole traveling throughout the Southern Hemisphere then travels north along the International Date Line to confuse them Yankees, thus, giving the impression that his trip started up north some where.

So, how does this confirm that Santa is a Confederate? By his uniform and sleigh of course!

Equipped and assisted by Confederate Artillery units under the supervision of Colonel E. Porter Alexander, Chief of Artillery, Santa was given a uniform from the Confederate Artillery Corps and quietly changed it from Confederate Gray with Artillery Red piping to Artillery Red with white piping.

His sleigh was a converted Confederate Caisson and research also indicates that the eight reindeer were brought over from Southern Norway on a Confederate Blockade Runner.

It is also noted that he is alleged to have run the blockade under union fire to Southern children on several occasions during the struggle for Southern Independence.

As you settle down for that long winters nap, just remember that the Rebel Yell you hear in the middle of the night was not in your dreams, but coming from your rooftop.

Merry Christmas to all and Y'all have a good night!

### A Christmas Story...

"Ten Cent Bill" The year was 1919, one year after the end of World War I, and the people of Atlanta, Georgia were celebrating the Christmas Season. Many people attended Church or Synagogue and gave thanks to God for his many blessings. Folks, while shopping, were uplifted by sweet sounds of Christmas music played by the Salvation Army Band. There was a friendly and charitable atmosphere during this time of the year. There were, however, some who were not as fortunate! The aging veterans, in the Confederate Soldier's Home, were proud men who had braved many a battle in the 1860s. One of these men was former Captain Thomas Yopp who saw such battles as that of Fredericksburg where a cannon shell burst knocked him unconscious. The man who stayed with him until he recovered was his servant who had also joined the 14th Georgia Regiment, Company H. Bill Yopp was more than a servant; he and Thomas Yopp were friends who hunted and fished together. Bill Yopp, a Black Confederate, was sympathetic to the men of Atlanta's soldiers home who had been his compatriots in arms over fifty years earlier. During the War Between the States, 1861-1865, Bill Yopp was nicknamed "Ten Cent Bill" because of the money he made shining shoes. He did this for the soldiers at a dime a shine and ended up with more money than most of his comrades. These men, also, cared for him when he was sick. During the Christmas of 1919, Bill wanted to pay back the kindness that was shown to him. He caught a train from Atlanta to Macon, where he was offered help from the editor of a local newspaper [The Macon Telegraph]. He then caught a train to Savannah to raise Christmas money for the old veterans. Bill met many generous people on his trip. Just weeks before the Christmas of 1919, he had raised the money and Georgia's Governor Hugh Dorsey helped him distribute envelopes of three dollars to each veteran. That was a lot of money in those days. The old Confederates were speechless. Tears were shed because of Bill Yopp's good heart and kind deed. Many of these men had little or nothing. Bill was invited to come into the home's Chapel and say a few words. Bill Yopp was later presented a medal of appreciation for his support of the old soldiers and also voted in as a resident of the Confederate Soldier's Home. Bill died on June 3, 1936, the 128th birthday of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He was buried at Marietta, Georgia's Confederate Cemetery with his compatriots. The Confederate Soldier's Home was located at 401 Confederate Ave., in Atlanta, Georgia. Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday Jesus!! The source of information for this story came from the book, entitled: Bill Yopp "Ten Cent Bill" Narrative of a Slave! This book was written in 1969 by Charles W. Hampton.

Thanks to MS Div. Commander Allen Terrell



## Faithful Companions, Confederate Dogs of War



As Confederate Soldiers left the comforts of home for the grim realities of a war, many brought along family pets or adopted stray or wild animals, which quickly took on semi-official roles.

Regiments from the North and the South kept dogs, cats, horses, squirrels and raccoons as mascots. Some chose more unusual animals, including bears, badgers, eagles, wildcats, even a camel.

The Library of Congress has an expansive and truly mesmerizing collection of online archives -- what is most captivating, are the photographs.

This photo is titled: *"Unidentified soldier in Confederate uniform with shotgun sitting next to dog."*

Though we know it is a photo from the War for Southern Independence, no date is assigned to it. They both look a little weary -- either from battle or from the tedium of having to sit for the long business that was taking a photograph in the mid-1860s, we'll never know.

But though there isn't any descriptive information about the young man or the dog beside him -- who they are? or where they're from?, or even if the dog belonged to him? We can be certain of two things: This young man is proud of being a soldier and of his dog, who by virtue of simply being in the photo, is important.

A poem by Benjamin Busch, is called "Dog Trail" is a beautiful, haunting ode, in which the narrator pays homage to his Labrador, a black dog "the color of crows," remembering how he bayed at the moon and how, in the mind of the speaker, the dog was just protecting his own.

*"Defend the house.  
Defend the house.  
Be fearless and savage.  
Stop at nothing but the top of the earth.  
And to the moon: You are too close to what is mine."*  
And then, in the final stanzas, these lines capture it all -- the quality that transcends -- portrait dog, military dog, house dog.  
*"Good dog. All he needed to hear for a lifetime of soldiering."*



Battlefield lore is filled with examples of loyal dogs guarding their dead or wounded masters.  
(Frank Leslie's Illustrated)

These dogs willingly endured the same hardships that the Confederate Soldiers experienced, seeking nothing more than companionship in return.

Besides the dogs acquired by individual soldiers or their regiments as mascots, many of the dogs who went off to war were farm dogs, hunting partners or family pets.

They could easily have chosen to leave when the stress and deprivations of army life became too difficult, but many did not, and the soldiers never forgot their undying loyalty.

*"Only a few moments after we had got into action, our little company dog, a half-breed fox-terrier, "Boykee," who always stuck to the guns, and seemed to enjoy the excitement, was struck in the neck by a piece of shell, directly in front of where I was standing, and ran screaming to the rear. This wound was not a serious one, and he soon recovered from it. He was afterwards ignominiously killed by a snake in Florida".*

Quote from *Life in the Confederate Army* being personal experiences of a Private Soldier in the Confederate Army By Arthur P. Ford, 1905.

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## Sesquicentennial Articles

### The Battle of Nashville

In a last desperate attempt to force Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's army out of Georgia, Gen. John Bell Hood led the Army of Tennessee north toward Nashville in November 1864. Although he suffered terrible losses at Franklin on November 30, he continued toward Nashville. By the next day, the various elements of Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas's army had reached Nashville. Hood reached the outskirts of Nashville on December 2, occupied positions on a line of hills parallel to those of the Union, and began erecting fieldworks. Union Army Engineer, Brig. Gen. James St. Clair Morton, had overseen the construction of sophisticated fortifications at Nashville in 1862-63, strengthened by others, which would soon see use. From the 1st through the 14th, Thomas made preparations for the Battle of Nashville in which he intended to destroy Hood's army. On the night of December 14, Thomas informed Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, acting as Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's chief of staff, that he would attack the next day. Thomas planned to strike both of Hood's flanks. Before daylight on the 15th, the first of the Union troops, led by Maj. Gen. James Steedman, set out to hit the Confederate right. The attack was made and the Union forces held down one Rebel corps there for the rest of the day. The attack on the Confederate left did not begin until after noon, at which point a charge commenced on Montgomery Hill. With this classic charge's success, attacks on other parts of the Confederate left commenced, all eventually successful. By this time it was dark and fighting stopped for the day. Although battered and with a much smaller battle line, Gen. Hood was still confident. He established a main line of resistance along the base of a ridge about two miles south of the former location, throwing up new works and fortifying Shy's and Overton's hills on their flanks. The IV Army Corps marched out to within 250 yards, in some places, of the Confederates' new line and began constructing fieldworks. During the rest of the morning, other Union troops moved out toward the new Confederate line and took up positions opposite it. The Union attack began against Hood's strong right flank on Overton's Hill. The same brigade that had taken Montgomery Hill the day before received the nod for the charge up Overton's Hill. This charge, although gallantly conducted, failed, but other troops (Maj. Gen. A.J. Smith's "Israelites") successfully assaulted Shy's Hill in their fronts. Seeing the success along the line, other Union troops charged up Overton's Hill and took it. Hood's army fled. Thomas had left one escape route open, but the Union army set off in pursuit. For ten days, the pursuit continued until the beaten and battered Army of Tennessee recrossed the Tennessee River. Hood's army was stalled at Columbia, beaten at Franklin, and routed at Nashville. Hood retreated to Tupelo and resigned his command.

### December 1864

In December 1864, Sherman continued with his desired plan - an advance on Savannah. He reached the city before Christmas and offered the city to Lincoln as a Christmas gift. Sherman planned to use the rest of December to allow his troops to rest before marching north to link up with Grant in preparation for an all-out attack on Richmond.

- December 1<sup>st</sup>: The Union army commanded by Schofield, entrenched itself in Nashville and dominated the Cumberland River.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sherman was halfway to Savannah. His subordinates in Nashville were ordered by Washington to confront and defeat Hood's Army of the Tennessee. However, very poor weather hindered both armies.
- December 8<sup>th</sup>: General Grant made it clear that he supported the President's wish that Hood should be attacked immediately by Schofield's men. Either that or he wanted Schofield replaced. The Union commander in Nashville was General Thomas, a subordinate of Schofield. He telegraphed Grant that his cavalry had no horses and that any attack not supported by the cavalry was doomed to failure.
- December 9<sup>th</sup>: Appalling weather in Nashville made all forms of fighting near impossible. Roads had been reduced to quagmires.
- December 10<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army arrived in Savannah.
- December 12<sup>th</sup>: Thomas telegraphed Grant with the information that he would attack Hood as soon as the weather improved.
- December 13<sup>th</sup>: In a further blow to the defenders of Savannah, Sherman's men established a route to the sea that would allow the Union Navy to supply his army. Grant appointed Major-General John Logan to replace General Thomas in Nashville.
- December 15<sup>th</sup>: Once the weather had cleared Thomas ordered an attack on Hood's army at Nashville. The only thing that saved Hood was the shortened day. Other than failing to finish off Hood's army, the attack was an overwhelming success with 1,000 men taken prisoner.
- December 16<sup>th</sup>: Thomas conveys the news to Grant. He followed up the attack with a further massive attack using all the men at his command – 50,000. Hood could only muster 30,000 men. The Army of the Tennessee put up a good defence but defeat was almost inevitable. 4,500 Confederate troops surrendered, 1,500 men were either killed or wounded. 59 out of 156 artillery guns were captured. Hood could only order a retreat for those who survived – a retreat that had to be executed in the dead of winter with minimal supplies.
- December 17<sup>th</sup>: Hood's men started their retreat to Columbia.
- December 18<sup>th</sup>: Savannah refused to surrender to Sherman.
- December 19<sup>th</sup>: Such was the confidence of Sherman – and his numerical advantage – that he could afford to send troops to Grant to assist in the attack on Richmond.
- December 20<sup>th</sup>: The Confederate force in Savannah left the city. 10,000 men managed to withdraw from the city but they were still facing in the field an army six times larger than them. Savannah fell to Sherman. The Confederates left behind in the city 250 heavy artillery guns and 25,000 bales of cotton.
- December 21<sup>st</sup>: Sherman entered Savannah.
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Sherman telegraphed Lincoln the following: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah."
- December 24<sup>th</sup>: Union forces started an attack on Fort Fisher in North Carolina. This fort defended the only remaining port open to the Confederacy – Wilmington. The largest Union naval force of 60 warships gathered before the fort to blast it into submission. However, their task was not easy. The design of the fort and the inaccuracy of those bombarding the fort meant that many Union shells fired from the ships simply flew over the fort and into Cape Fear River.
- December 25<sup>th</sup>: 6,000 Union troops landed to take Fort Fisher but the fort's guns were still intact and kept them pinned down. A rumour that Confederate reinforcements were on their way, convinced the commanders on the ground that they should withdraw.
- December 26<sup>th</sup>: The Union troops at Fort Fisher were evacuated. Lincoln ordered an investigation as to what went wrong and why what should have been a relatively easy victory turned into a full-scale withdrawal.

Continued on page 12 . .

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**Get to Stepping Over to the Camp  
Meeting on January 8!!**

## **December 1864 continued**

- December 30<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln proposed to remove General Ben Butler from the command of the Army of the James. It was Butler who commanded the abortive landing at Fort Fisher. Grant also had a very low opinion of Butler's ability.
- December 31<sup>st</sup>: Sherman's army rested in Savannah in preparation for its advance north to support Grant.