



The Delta General

Joe Nokes, Camp Commander



HIGH NOON RALLY

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

10am to 4pm

**South Steps of the Capital
in Jackson, MS**

**This rally is for the preservation of
the State Flag of 1894.
Speakers are scheduled throughout
the day!**

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD,
CITIZENS OF MISSISSIPPI!!!!**

December 2015, Volume 18, Issue 12

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Thursday, December 3, 7:00 PM at 1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola - Remember Camp Elections
- Tuesday High Noon – January 19, 2016 – Mississippi Flag Rally
- Lee/Jackson Banquet – January 23, 2016 – Place TBA

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

Camp News:

Commander's Report – Joe Nokes

Friends and Compatriots,

It seems that the flag raising ceremony was a great success. Our camp gave \$500 and the Division gave \$1,000 toward the 20'x25' flag on a 100' pole next Highway 82 east in Greenwood. Approximately 300 people attended the ceremony that has caught a lot of attention in Leflore County but once again our state flag flies in their skies regardless of the city's and county's vote. What a great victory.

Other victories have followed since as well. Mississippi State University and the Mississippi University for Women both have voted not to remove the state flag. It also looks like Delta State University may not remove the flag as well. This is great news as we prepare for High Noon on January 19th, 2016.

I feel pretty sure that the state will undergo a vote to change the flag in the upcoming year. We absolutely MUST do all we can to marshal our forces for that unsavory, unnecessary upcoming event. We all know that in 2001, the state voted to keep the current flag; so, the best thing that could happen in that unfortunate scenario is that the flag be reaffirmed by an even larger margin. Let's do ALL that we can to promote our State Flag at every turn.

The last important point that I would like to touch on is this month's program. We will be making plans for the upcoming Lee-Jackson banquet for January. We need everyone's voice, opinion, and (yes) help with planning as this will probably our biggest Lee-Jackson event in several years. We will also be electing new officers to lead our camp during the 2016-2018 years. Please if you are interested in a Camp position, let your voice be heard at our December meeting.

As I close, remember that we do make a difference. And we can continue to make a difference in big ways and in small ways each and every day. We do these things by staying true to our beliefs, following our hearts, and honoring those very men and women who lived, fought, bled, starved and died for us.

Deo Vindice,

Joe Nokes

Camp Meeting, November, 2015

Adjutant's Report – Dan McCaskill

7:00 pm Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Compatriot Dan McCaskill. 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 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 and then read "The Charge" given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

Program: Our program for the evening was presented by Dan A. McCaskill. Dan gave a short program on the workings of the MS Division Executive Council. He also discussed with the members what was being done in the fight to preserve our State Flag.

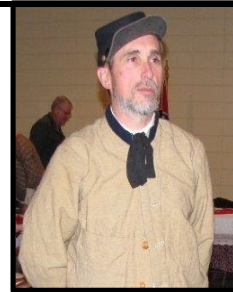
Announcements: The Wirt Adams Raid on Natchez Re-enactment is this weekend November 6 – 8, 2015. There will be a State Flag raising ceremony in Greenwood on November 14th to raise one of the biggest State Flags in the State of Mississippi.

Officer Reports: Commander Joe Nokes gave a report on the Carrollton Pioneer Days. It was a good day with many participants from the Camp and other Re-enactors. The reception was very positive with a hearty invite for next year's event. 1st Lt. Commander Richard Dillon reported on the Mississippi Shiloh Monument dedication. He reported that there were 600 – 800 in attendance and that General Cross gave a very inspiring speech. December is open but will have officer elections and January will be our Lee-Jackson Banquet. 2nd Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell was absent. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Camp had a current membership of 52 which included 3 new members and one past member. Unfortunately, the Camp lost 8 members because of failure to pay dues. Letters would be sent to these members in hope that some would renew their membership. All dues have been forwarded to National and Division leaving the Camp with \$ 2,229.29 in the checking account. As Camp Editor, Larry asked if anyone was having trouble with the newsletter. As AOT Commander, Larry announced that he would be running for a second term as Army of Tennessee Commander. MOS&B was absent; OCR President Sandra Stillman reported that the Chapter was accepting donations for raffle items for the Lee – Jackson Banquet.

Camp Business: The Camp finalized the vote to donate \$ 500 to the Greenwood Flaggers in their effort to raise a Mississippi State Flag in Greenwood. With the size of the anticipated attendance at the Lee – Jackson Banquet, The Camp voted to let Larry McCluney explore the possibility to hold the Banquet at the Greenwood Country Club and report back to the Camp at its December Meeting. Plans for the Banquet will be finalized in December. December is also time for the election of new Camp Officers. Dan McCaskill announced he will be retiring as Camp Adjutant after 15 years of service. Anyone who wishes to serve as a Camp Officer please contact Commander Joe Nokes, Adjutant Dan McCaskill or come to the Meeting. With no other business coming before the Camp, Kenneth Ray made a motion to adjourn which was duly seconded by Mike Campbell and passed.

The Meeting was turned over to the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter for the raffle. I have to apologize for failing to record the results of the raffle.

The Meeting was dismissed with a word of prayer from Junior Stillman. Attendance for the evening was 15.



Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

For our December meeting we will be finalizing plans for our Lee/Jackson Banquet which will feature Lt. Commander in Chief Tom Strain on January 23, 2016. This is also election time for our Camp officers. We will also be visited by Jeppie Barber on the Flag Petition Drive as well.

Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President

Dear Ladies,

December 3rd is our scheduled meeting date. Some of this time will be spent making initial plans for the Lee-Jackson Banquet. Yep! It's that time of year again and time is needed to plan for this event, because we want it to be very special. Please keep in mind possible decorating ideas and contributions for the annual raffle. If, at any time, you have ideas to share, please contact me at 662-347-2782.

Peace and Grace to all,
Sandra Stillman, President



Mechanized Cavalry Report

Men of the 1G:

Over the years our Division and other state Division's dates have been in conflict with our Mechanized Cavalry Annual. This has been brought up at the last two Officers Call including the one at Arkansas last week. The SCVMC is now working with all States that have MC Annuals scheduled so that the dates will be changed to not conflict with our Division Annuals. We have more 1G members in the Division leadership than ever and that is where we need to be as SCV members. If I am not mistaken Mississippi Division Annual is always the first weekend of June and the Mechanized Cavalry Annual for 2016 will be 15-18 June 2016 at Cedar Key Florida, so start making plans for both now. Budget your time and money for these two events next year starting today even if you have to miss other events.

The 2015 Mechanized Cavalry Annual in Arkansas was great! As far as I know everyone made it through the week without any accidents and safe at home now. There were a few breakdowns but all were taken care of. 1G was well representative with 7 members. The following are the scheduled Annuals....
2016 Florida (15-18 Jun 2016 at Cedar Key Florida); 2017 North Carolina 2018 South Carolina; 2019 Texas

Mississippi Division News:

Buy One Now . . . Show Your Pride in Your Southern Heritage

Gentlemen,

Beginning July 1, 2015 you can now get the original issue Division License plate design for your car again. Simply take the photo attached to this email and show it to the person where you renew your vehicle license plate and request this design. You can use the initials CV along with the picture to let them know which one to get. The additional cost is still \$31 added to your tag's cost.

If you wish to keep the tag with the Beauvoir design you can. The Department of Revenue does not make you turn them in like other tags. However, none of the money from the old Beauvoir tag will go to Beauvoir. They have received permission for their own tag. You would need to contact the people at Beauvoir to find out how to get that tag if you wish to run it on your car.

As in the past money raised from the sale of the Division License plate will go to restore the battle flags in the possession of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



Stroll Beauvoir for Christmas

Family night December 4, 11, 18, 2015

General admission \$12.50 adults, \$10.00 seniors, \$7.50 6yrs-18yrs, 5 and under Free

Includes: pictures with Santa, free kid crafts, tour of the home, hay-ride, pony rides, and entertainment.....

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

\$5.00 per car Stroll garden with Christmas lights

Closed Christmas day

Live Nativity performed by Break Through Ministry on:

November 30, 2015, December 1, 2015

Live Nativity performed by Camp Ground Baptist Church on:

December 22, 2015, December 23, 2015

\$5.00 a car-load

Stroll Beauvoir for Christmas

6pm - 8pm

Upcoming

Division Events

Upcoming Mississippi Division Conventions

The 2016 Mississippi Convention will be Hosted by the Hattiesburg camp with the convention at Beauvoir.

Friends of Beauvoir

Beauvoir the Home of Jefferson Davis is Owned and Operated by the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Here is an Invitation to give the Past a Future!

Go to http://www.beauvoir.org/Support_Beauvoir/index.html for details

Bricks for Beauvoir

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

The Mississippi Flag Rally, HIGH NOON,

On Tuesday January 19, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, on the South Grounds of The Capitol, there comes at a pivotal point in The State Legislature secession, especially The House - We can make a difference, Prepare to come and bring 6 friends / Mississippians Standing For Her Flag..... Will You be in that number?

Upcoming Mississippi Division Conventions

The 2016 Mississippi Convention will be Hosted by the Hattiesburg camp with the convention at Beauvoir.

Upcoming National Conventions

2016 – Dallas/Ft. Worth Texas <http://scv2016.org/>

2017 – Memphis Tennessee

Announcement for Board Director at Beauvoir

Compatriots,

At the last regular (November) Board meeting at Beauvoir I announced my intention to step aside as Executive Director to clear the field for serious, trained professional for the post. The recent financial recovery of the institution makes this possible.

After 36 years of dedicated service Rick Forte is electing to go Emeritus, a position he deserves. I am therefore, announcing my intention to seek the Director position he had occupied and hope to honor his legacy.

Director Alan Palmer has been tasked with heading up the Search Committee so to the extent any of you can, please pass along the information that the institution has begun the process of finding serious, trained candidates for the position of Executive Director and send them his way (cpalan61@yahoo.com). The more candidates Beauvoir has, the better off we will be. The consensus was that a three month search, at a minimum, should be enough. I am pledged to stay longer if it goes needs more time than that.

Greg Stewart

LET US REMEMBER

Past Division Commander Lamar Roberts is still in need of our thoughts and prayers. He has been a steadfast and dedicated member of this Division, sacrificing much to aid in the preservation of our history and history. We can do nothing less that offer our prayers for his speedy recovery and continue to keep him in our thoughts.

Lamar's home address issue 129 Hoxie Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180. His email address is: lamarsue@bellsouth.net

A Member's Opinion on the Above Subject

Compatriot Rick Forte, Jr. of Hattiesburg, said "Ole Miss has betrayed the State of Mississippi and all Mississippians. The state college board should proceed to revoke the university's charter and disband the school. Divide the disciplines and schools between Southern Miss and Mississippi State."



2013 Mississippi Code

Title 37 – EDUCATION - Chapter 13 - CURRICULUM; SCHOOL YEAR AND ATTENDANCE IN GENERAL- § 37-13-5 –

Display of Mississippi and United States flags; course of study Universal Citation: [MS Code § 37-13-5 \(2013\)](#)

(1) The flag of the State of Mississippi and the flag of the United States shall be displayed in close proximity to the school building at all times during the hours of daylight when the school is in session when the weather will permit without damage to the flag. It shall be the duty of the board of trustees of the school district to provide for the flags and their display.

(2) Whenever the flag of the United States is to be flown at half-staff by order or instructions of the President or pursuant to federal law, all public schools shall lower the United States flag in accordance with the executive order or instructions or federal law. The school shall announce the reason that the flag is being flown at half-staff to all students in assembly or by teachers in the various classrooms or by prominently displaying written notice throughout the school stating the reason that the flag has been lowered.

(3) In all public schools there shall be given a course of study concerning the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Mississippi. The course of study shall include the history of each flag and what they represent and the proper respect therefor. There also shall be taught in the public schools the duties and obligations of citizenship, patriotism, Americanism and respect for and obedience to law.

Disclaimer: These codes may not be the most recent version. [Mississippi](#) may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained on this site or the information linked to on the state site. Please check official sources.

A TIME TO REMEMBER THEM



From Ole Miss Student

From the front lines with boots on the ground on Ole Miss campus, Andrew Soper, junior Business major & ASB senator – "I have said this and will continue to reiterate it; we are the silent majority and have been for the past several decades. Conservatives in the state of Mississippi have been hiding in the shadows, scared to take action and speak out. Some are nervous to do this because of how liberals might act; they attack our freedom of speech and try to silence us through political correctness..... I support the flag of the state of Mississippi and love her people.....I have been and still am in a constant battle to keep the flag of the state of Mississippi flying at the University of Mississippi. We have outsiders constantly coming into our great state of Mississippi of whom try to change everything about it because they find it "potentially offensive". Ole Miss ASB senate is composed of 50% of senators of which are not from the state of Mississippi and they voted 33-15-1 to take down OUR state flag from campus grounds. I can go on and on; but I ask you, my fellow Mississippians, when is enough going to be enough? These people are not only trying to ruin OUR state but the country as a whole.....Show them that we will no longer stand aside and let our state be taken from us. I ask you from one Mississippian to another, rise up and act!"



*121st Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
and the 22nd Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose Reunions
Beauvoir*

June 10-12, 2016 in Biloxi, Mississippi
2016 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, 2015)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$30.00 _____

SCV REGULAR REGISTRATION (JAN. 1st, 2015 TO MAY 22nd 2016)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$35.00 _____

SCV LATE REGISTRATION (POST-MARKED ON OR AFTER MAY 23rd 2016)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$45.00 _____

OCR REGISTRATION ON OR BEFORE MAY 22nd, 2016, \$10.00 EACH. AFTER MAY 23rd, 2016 \$15.00***** _____

ADULT SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$20.00 PER ADULT _____

CHILD'S PLATE (12 AND UNDER) SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$12.50 PER CHILD _____

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

VENDOR TABLE (AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE, COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)

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

LAST HOME OF PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS SATURDAY AFTERNOON TOUR
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)*****QTY. _____ **FREE TO REGISTERED 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, 2016.

For your convenience, ALL events will be held at Beauvoir

Host hotels

South Beach Biloxi
1735 Beach Blvd
228-456-9003/888-599-7093
www.sbbeachhotel.com
discount code: JDPL

Regency Inn & Suites
11969 Bobby Eleuterius Blvd
D'Iberville, MS 39540
228-396-1570
regencyinnbiloxi@yahoo.com
discount code: Beauvoir

Reunion Contact Information:

Host Camp Commander:
Jessie Sanford
Jessiesanford101@comcast.net
Phone: 601-447-1929

Make Checks Payable to:

LTG Nathan Bedford Forrest
#353

**Mail Registration Form
and Payment To:**

Jessie Sanford
106 East 6th ave
Petal, MS 39465

**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 2016.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans presents the
2016 Stephen Dill Lee Institute
RECONSTRUCTION

*The following speakers have agreed
to speak in Columbia:*

Jeffery Addicott, Law Professor at St. Marys Law School
in San Antonio

Earl Ijames, Curator of the NC Museum of History
in Raleigh

Don Kennedy, author of *The South Was Right!*

Ron Kennedy, author of *The South Was Right!*

Donald Livingston, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at
Emory University, founder of the Abbyville Institute

Egon Tauseh, Author and former Adjunct Professor of
Constitutional and Contract Law



February 5-6, 2016 – Columbia, South Carolina

The 2016 Institute will be held at the Columbia Marriott in downtown Columbia,
call 803-771-7000. Meet the Speakers reception hosted by the
Lt. General Wade Hampton Camp 273.

Registration: \$150 per person, \$125 for SCV members and family.
Includes Saturday breakfast, lunch and banquet.

Register by calling 1-800-MY-DIXIE or visit our web site at

www.stephendleeinstitute.com

~ Scholarships available for teachers and students ~

For more information visit our web site at www.stephendleeinstitute.com
or call Brag Bowling at (804) 389-3620

CDs from previous Stephen Dill Lee events are available on our website



F

or more than anyone, Christmas is a tradition we preserve for children; they await its arrival with excitement hanging up their stockings and marvelling at the tinsel and lights on the Christmas tree. Then of course

the excitement of Christmas morning with bubbles of laughter as they unwrap and discover what "Santa" has left for them under the tree. Of course it is a festive season for all Christians but children are at the heart of the festival that celebrates the birth of a child.

N

ot all children had this happiness at Christmas during the war, some, like this young boy *William T. Biedler*, who was said to be 16 when this photograph was taken in 1863 attained the rank of Sergeant with *Mosby's Raiders*. As a cavalry unit it is very unlikely he would have carried a flintlock musket. *Mosby* always favoured pistols. Towards the end of the war there were many like this lad in the freezing trenches at *Petersburg* where too many were killed. The flintlock musket is an indication of a shortage of supplies at the beginning and towards the end of the war, it may be that it was his family's gun for hunting, as nearly all families in those days relied on hunter-gathering to survive; or it may have merely been a studio prop. His uniform is a homemade version, hand sewn. The use of children is largely true of the South when man-power was short and children took up the musket to defend their mothers and other family members; with father

long gone to war, they are now the 'man of the house.' They did it not for patriotism, not for slavery, not for any ulterior motive other than to protect their homes, as much as any Americans did during the *Revolutionary War*. Innocent, young

and naïve, he would have "*Seen the Elephant*" The look on his face is one of great sadness and when I recently encountered it for the first time it brought a tear to my eye. *Sergeant William Thompson Biedler* was in *Company C, 43rd Virginia Cavalry Battalion, Mosby's Rangers*. This young trooper was born in *Virginia*, 1846. *William Thompson* later married and had 4 children, passing away 1897 in *Balto, Maryland*. Life for this young boy in the *Rangers* was very different from that in other Confederate cavalry units; there were no camps, formal uniforms or drill. *Mosby's* men didn't remain together between engagements, *Mosby* said that if his men had set up camp they would have all been captured. After a raid, *Rangers* merely dispersed to individual homes where they boarded or else bivouacked in the woods. Over 80% of the *Rangers* were from *Virginia*; as a result the *Battalion* enjoyed overwhelming popular support. As a Federal cavalryman noted, "*Every farmhouse in this section was a refuge for guerrillas, and every farmer was an ally of Mosby and every farmer's son was with him, or in the Confederate Army.*" In return, the men shared loot they captured with local civilian supporters. After a wagon train raid at *Berryville* in August 1864, the *Battalion* gave half of the captured cattle to families who fed and boarded them.

Uniform to Mosby's men meant something grey, otherwise the men might dress as they pleased; Mosby did insist that they wore some sort of uniform so as not to be shot as spies if captured, but many were shot anyway. Rangers used their share of any captured money to outfit themselves with gold-braid, gilt buttons and ostrich plumes in their hats. As one Ranger commented, "There were meek and lowly privates among us, of whom it might truly be said that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these." This sartorial splendour was most prevalent in "Darling Company." One Ranger commenting, "The company seemed to contain nothing but dandies who, in order to maintain their prestige, are obliged to fight all the harder." The company's commanding officer Captain Montjoy a sharp dresser himself, was exceedingly proud of his company of 'Fighting Dandies.'

This Ranger is with the Missouri group that fought throughout the war against an enemy within their midst. He bears all the hall marks of the so called "Dandies." He carries two Remington pistols.

The Battalion didn't carry sabres or carbines, traditional cavalry weapons; Mosby found that carbines, while useful for sniping were ineffective in the close-quarters fighting he preferred. His men found sabres more useful for whacking stubborn mules than for fighting. The weapon of choice was the forty-four calibre *Colt revolver*, with which the men practiced constantly to perfect their marksmanship.

Rangers were as unconventional in their tactics as they were in their dress and weaponry. One Ranger noted, "The Battalion has no knowledge of drill or bugle calls and practice, nothing required of a soldier." A Confederate Army inspector complained the Battalion didn't seem to keep any paperwork. "There were no rolls, files or descriptive books, required by regulation." This was no doubt another way of hiding the identity of his army in the event that paperwork might fall into enemy hands. Although Rangers appeared disorganized by ordinary standards, their success was the result of careful scouting, meticulous planning, and daring raids. Mosby used fear as a force multiplier, Federals never knew where he might strike next and in so doing, tied-up large numbers of men protecting their flanks and rear.

Although Mosby's tactic of dispersing his men after a raid preserved the Battalion from destruction, it increased the risk of capture for individual Rangers. A review of compiled muster rolls shows that 360 Rangers were captured during the war, capture could have fatal consequences. On 16 August General Grant ordered General Sheridan to hang any Ranger he caught without trial. On 23 September 6 Rangers from Company D were captured during an attack on Union cavalry reserves near Chester Gap. The men were taken to Fort Royal and summarily executed. As might be expected, this action enraged the Rangers and led to the execution of a like number of Union prisoners-Editor.

Sources:

<http://civilwarhorror.blogspot.co.nz/2013/01/civil-war-photo-friday-william-t.html>

[http://www.ancestry.com.au/genealogy/records/william-thompson-](http://www.ancestry.com.au/genealogy/records/william-thompson-biedler_5814516?geo_a=r&geo_s=us&geo_t=au&geo_v=2.0.0&o_iid=41019&o_lid=41019&o_sch=Web+Property)

[biedler_5814516?geo_a=r&geo_s=us&geo_t=au&geo_v=2.0.0&o_iid=41019&o_lid=41019&o_sch=Web+Property](http://www.ancestry.com.au/genealogy/records/william-thompson-biedler_5814516?geo_a=r&geo_s=us&geo_t=au&geo_v=2.0.0&o_iid=41019&o_lid=41019&o_sch=Web+Property)

<http://scottsvillemuseum.com/war/harris/home.html>





Christmas in the *American Civil War* was celebrated in both the *Northern States* and the *Confederate States of America* although the day didn't become an official holiday until five years after war's end. The war continued to rage on Christmas Day and skirmishes occurred throughout the countryside. Celebrations for both troops and civilians saw significant alteration. Artists like *Thomas Nast*, used wartime Christmas to reflect Union beliefs. In 1870, Christmas became an official Federal holiday when *President Ulysses S. Grant* made it so in an attempt to unite North and South. In this act he was most successful and it continues to serve that purpose to this day. Without doubt one of the most significant events of his and America's life and a saving grace in the minds of many.

This painting by American artist *George H. Yewell* 1830-1923 was completed during the war. It's entitled "Christmas Eve 1863." Southern children would not have such treasures to marvel over in shop windows.



On the first Christmas Day during the war, *Lincoln* hosted a Christmas party during the evening; earlier that day, he'd spent many hours trying to legitimize the illegal capture of Confederate



representatives to *Great Britain* and *France*; they were *John Slidell* and *James Murray Mason* in what became known as the "Trent Affair."

Abraham Lincoln and his son *Thomas "Tad" Lincoln* visited injured soldiers at various hospitals in 1862. Many Union soldiers in 1863 received gifts from *Tad* who had been deeply moved by the plight of Union soldiers when he was taken by his father to see them. The gifts were mostly books and clothing. The most famous Christmas gift *Lincoln* ever received came on 22 December when *William Tecumseh Sherman* announced the capture of *Savannah, Georgia*. Military exercises also took place on 25 December 1861, a *Blockade Runner* was caught by the Union navy, and there were two skirmishes in *Virginia* and *Maryland*. In 1862, there were several skirmishes, and Confederate *General John Hunt Morgan* engaged in his famous *Christmas*

Raid of Kentucky; on that single day, *Morgan's* men destroyed everything he possibly could of improvements the *Louisville and Nashville Railroad* had made along 35 miles of track from *Bacon Creek* to *Lebanon Junction*. There was a military execution for desertion that soldiers were forced to witness, one of many on both sides. In 1863, Union forces destroyed

Confederate salt works at *Bear Inlet, North Carolina*; there were also several skirmishes between Confederate artillery and the Union navy on *Stone River* near *Charleston, South Carolina*. Poor *Charleston* was to suffer terribly throughout the war. In 1864, Confederates fiercely repelled a Federal assault of sixty warships on *Fort Fisher* leaving the Union navy bewildered and battered, while in the western theatre of war there were several skirmishes.

Those not actively campaigning celebrated Christmas in several ways.

Union soldiers would use salted pork and hardtack to decorate Christmas trees. Others were given much more appetising meals; a Captain from Massachusetts treated his soldiers to luxury food as turkey, oysters, pies, and apples. The lot of the average soldier was not so fortunate, many received no treats or privileges. In one incident on 25 December 1864, a group of 90 Union soldiers from Michigan, led by their captain, dispensed "food and supplies" to poor Georgians, with mules pulling the carts decorated to resemble reindeer by having tree branches tied to their heads. In some units, celebrating Christmas was not allowed.



On Christmas Day 1862, soldiers of one unit were punished for firing celebratory salutes for the holiday. The officer had got it wrong, they had been firing a funeral salute for a fallen comrade, but they were punished just the same.

Early American Christmas card, hand stitched, dated 1860. The tradition was already well established in Britain thanks to Prince Albert, German husband of Queen Victoria.

Carols, hymns, and seasonal songs were sung with some, such as *Deck the*

Halls, Oh Come all ye Faithful and Hark the Herald Angels Sing by Mendelson. Christmas Cards were rare although popular in Europe. *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* wrote his poem for peace on Christmas Day 1864, "*Christmas Bells*." He'd just received news of his son, *Lieutenant Charles Appleton Longfellow*, having suffered severe wounds in November during the *Mine Run Campaign*. The poem was set to the tune "*Waltham*" by *John Baptiste Calkin* sometime after 1872 and has since been received into the established library of Christmas carols. The carol doesn't include two stanzas that focused on the war.

Christmas wasn't the same, presents fewer, especially in the South. In *We Were Marching on Christmas Day*, author *Kevin Rawlings* notes that some southern children worried about the Union blockade and one little girl, *Sallie Brock Putnam*, plotted the course Santa would take to avoid it. Sometimes fathers on both sides were allowed leave, children were said to react to their fathers as "near strangers." Excuses for a lack of Santa included, "*Yankees having shot him*." Thomas Nast wasn't the only one to use Christmas as propaganda, on the Union side, *The New York Herald* blatantly engaged in propaganda; one illustration included *Santa Claus* fuming that he couldn't reach Southern children through the *Northern Blockade*. On the Confederate side, *The Richmond Examiner*, disgusted at the commercialism even then, described Santa to its young readers as "*a Dutch toy monger who was a New York/New England Scrub and Hottentot who had nothing to do with traditional Virginian celebrations of Christmas*." By "Dutch" they meant German. Many were shot for desertion at Christmas only because they were caught coming back to their lines after seeing their families, particularly in the South when home was nearby.

Even when the war was over, *Nast* had a gruesome drawing in the Christmas 1865 issue of *Harper's Weekly* depicting the heads of several Confederate Generals at the feet of *General Grant* in an image centred around Santa. After the war *Nast* purposely made the *North Pole* the home of *Saint Nick* so that no one else could use him for nationalistic propaganda even though *Nast* himself was the worst offender. Today many still dismay at the commercialism of Christmas as we are all whipped into a frenzy of spending to satiate the greed of big business. Nothing much has changed since the war.

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_in_the_American_Civil_War

HISTORY OF THE MISSISSIPPI FLAG OF 1894



On January 22, 1894, Governor John Marshall Stone sent a written message to the Mississippi Legislature calling its attention to the fact that Mississippi did not have a state flag or a coat of arms and urged the lawmakers to correct this oversight.

The legislature responded quickly to Governor Stone's suggestion and sent him a bill February 6 creating a state flag.

The description of the flag recommended by the joint legislative committee was: The official flag of the State of Mississippi shall have the following design: with width two-thirds (2/3) of its length; with the union (canton) to be square, in width two-thirds (2/3) of the width of the flag; the ground of the union to be red and a broad blue saltire thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with thirteen (13) mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding with the number of the original States of the Union; the field to be divided into three (3) bars of equal width, the upper one blue, the center one white, and the lower one, extending the whole length of the flag, red (the national colors); this being the flag adopted by the Mississippi Legislature in the 1894 Special Session.

According to the best information available, Senator E.N. Scudder of Mayersville, a member of the Joint Legislative Committee for a State Flag, designed Mississippi's new flag.

In 1924, Fayssoux Scudder Corneil, Senator Scudder's daughter, stated in an address to the annual convention of the Mississippi Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, that her father designed the flag and included the Beauregard battle flag in the canton corner to honor the Confederate soldier. Corneil recalled: "My father loved the memory of the valor and courage of those brave men who wore the grey.... He told me that it was a simple matter for him to design the flag because he wanted to perpetuate in a legal and lasting way that dear battle

flag under which so many of our people had so gloriously fought."

On February 7, 1894, Governor Stone, a Confederate veteran himself and former Colonel of the Second Mississippi Infantry Regiment, signed into law the bill creating the state flag.

The emblem adopted in 1894 remained the official state flag only until 1906 when a legal oversight resulted in the repeal of the law establishing it. In 1906, Mississippi adopted a revised code that included a provision that repealed all general laws that were not reenacted by the legislature or brought forward in the new code. For some reason, which contemporary documents and records do not reveal, the compilers of the new code did not bring forward the law that created an official state flag and a coat of arms. Because of this oversight, which surely must have been inadvertent, the state of Mississippi does not have an official state flag.

The 1906 repeal of the law establishing a state flag completely escaped the notice of Dunbar Rowland, the director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and editor of the Official and Statistical Register of the State of Mississippi. In the 1908 edition of the register, Rowland included a full-page, color picture of the "State Flag of Mississippi."

The repeal also escaped the notice of the state legislature, which passed a flag desecration statute April 8, 1916, (which is still in force today) making it illegal to deface or disfigure "the flag...of the State of Mississippi..."

A year later when The Annotated Mississippi Code Showing the General Statutes in Force August 1, 1917 was adopted, William Hemingway, a Jackson attorney who compiled the code, did not include the 1894 statute establishing the flag, but he did include a reference to the state flag in Section 903 entitled: "Flags – Desecration of the nation and state prohibited.

Even though Mississippi did not legally have an official state flag after 1906, no one seemed to have known it and practically everyone who was interested in such things presumed that it did and continued to fly the flag that was adopted in 1894.

Whether it was the flag by law or custom, the flag of the State of Mississippi with its prominent display of a

Confederate battle flag was recognized as the official flag of the State of Mississippi.

When the so-called “Beauregard Battle Flag,” which is identified incorrectly in the public mind as the “Rebel” or Confederate flag, resurfaced as a southern symbol of resistance to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, one of America’s great legal, social, and cultural successes, murmurings about the Mississippi flag’s “racism” were heard.

The Movement overturned virtually all of the nation’s racially discriminatory laws and opened up new avenues of power and influence to African-Americans. After achieving a fundamental and substantive change in American race relations, many African-Americans eventually turned their attention to the symbols and icons of racial discord, which are the vestiges and residue of southern resistance to racial equality.

In the 1970s, following the forced racial integration of Mississippi’s public school system and the integration of intercollegiate athletics, the prominence of the battle flag at high school and college sporting events prompted a discomfort and eventually a deep resentment among blacks in whose recent memory the flag was identified with the Ku Klux Klan, the white Citizens’ Council, and various hate groups who perpetrated heinous crimes against blacks and hoisted the Rebel flag as a symbol of their belief and commitment to white supremacy.

As the battle flag was becoming increasingly associated with the advocates of white supremacy, historical organizations and southern heritage groups were unable or in some cases, unwilling, to separate or distinguish the historical character of the battle flag or protect or insulate it from the political agenda of its modern bearers.

The simmering public controversy over the “Rebel flag” exploded at the University of Mississippi in 1983 when John Hawkins, the university’s first black cheerleader, announced that he would not wave or distribute Rebel flags at Ole Miss football games. Friends and foes of the flag engaged in an ongoing public discourse on southern history and heritage, on slavery and racial suppression, on the alleged and actual causes of the Civil War.

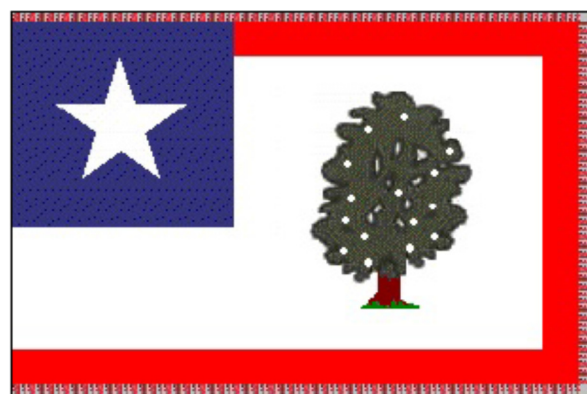
Amidst this tumult, the late Aaron Henry, a member of the Mississippi Legislature and president of the Mississippi Conference of the NAACP, introduced a bill to remove the

battle flag from the state’s flag at the beginning of the 1988 legislative session. This bill was never brought to the floor for a vote, nor were any of the others he introduced in 1990, 1992, and 1993.

Following the failure of these bills, the Mississippi NAACP filed a lawsuit April 19, 1993, in the Hinds County Chancery Court seeking “an injunction against any future purchases, displays, maintenance or expenditures of state funds on the State Flag” on the grounds that its display violated the “constitutional rights [of African-Americans] to free speech and expression, due process and equal protection as guaranteed by the Mississippi Constitution.”

After the Chancery Court dismissed the suit June 14, 1993, the NAACP appealed to the Mississippi Supreme Court. While adjudicating this case, the Court recognized the inadvertent 1906 repeal of the law establishing an official state flag. Notwithstanding the fact that the state had no official state flag, the Supreme Court upheld the lower court’s dismissal of the suit. The Court further declared that the display of the flag, however offensive it might be to some citizens, “does not deprive any citizen of any constitutionally protected right.”

The Court further stated that a dispute over the adoption and display of a state flag is a political issue that must be resolved by the legislative and executive branches of state government not the judiciary.



THE MAGNOLIA FLAG

Flag of the State of Mississippi 1861 as described in the State Constitution. This is the flag that flew during the War for Southern Independence.

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**Mississippians have already had
a discussion about the state flag.**

Mississippi
Governor
Phil Bryant

**It was put to a vote and an
overwhelming majority chose to
KEEP THE FLAG**