

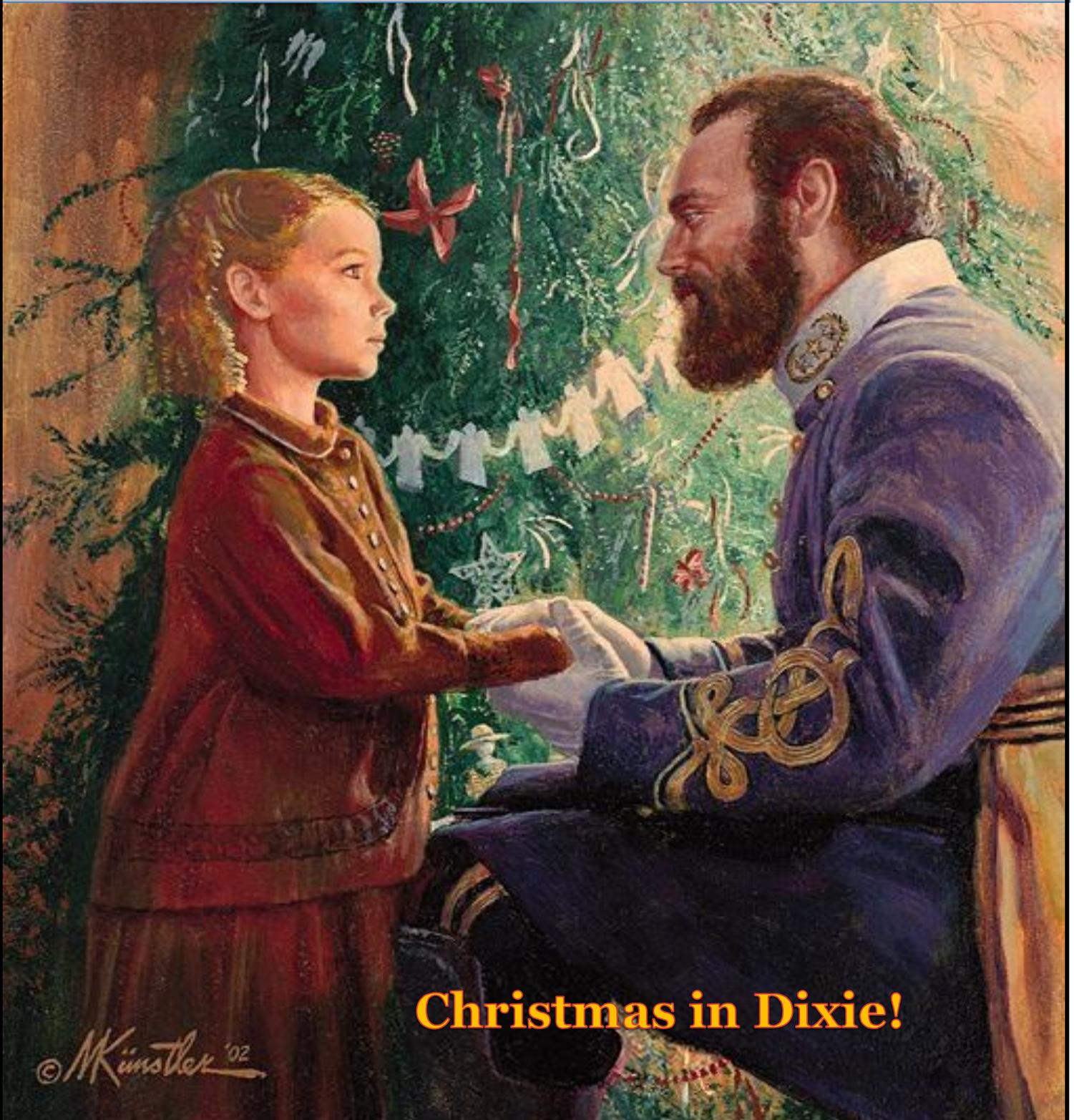


Camp Website: [www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)



# *The Delta General*

Richard Dillon, Camp Commander



**Christmas in Dixie!**

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December Issue - 2017, Volume 20, Issue 11

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – December 6, 2017
- Lee/Jackson Banquet – January 13, 2017 – 6:00 PM

### CAMP COMMANDER

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[rld846@gmail.com](mailto:rld846@gmail.com)

### EDITOR

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Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys  
Camp #1625, SCV  
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### Cover

Jackson and a Little Girl celebrating Christmas – From the Gods and Generals Series

## Camp News:

### Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

Compatriots,

I hope everyone of you has recovered from your Thanksgiving feast and gotten your waist size back to normal.

I want to encourage each of you to attend the December meeting since we will be holding our election for camp officers.

If you want to throw your hat in the ring you can do so before we vote.

In case you can't attend the meeting, I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

Richard Dillon, Commander

## Camp Meeting Minutes, November 2017

### Adjutant's Report – Larry McCluney

The November meeting was a small turnout, but very productive. Members made preparations for our Lee/Jackson Banquet and looking into the election for new officers in December. Our speaker for the Lee/Jackson will be Army of Tennessee Chaplin Bro. James Taylor. The date of the event is Saturday, January 13, 2018, at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola. Social hour begins at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:00. Cost will be \$5.00 per member to cover the entree and supplies. We are asking everyone attending to bring a covered side dish to go with the entree just as we have in the past.

Lets remember, December is election time for our Camp Officers . If you have an interest in serving in one of these positions, please let it be known at our December meeting. We need as many of our members to show up for this important meeting as we elect our future officers to lead us the next two years. We will also be putting the final touches on our Lee/Jackson Banquet as well and we need your input.

There are still a few members who have not renewed their dues and have missed the deadline and will have to pay a late fee. Lets get them in ASAP. Please make checks of 57.50 to SCV and send dues to:

Larry McCluney  
1412 North Park Dr  
Greenwood, MS 38930

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Let us not forget our ancestors who fought away from home during four holidays. Let us remember the sacrifices they made for a Cause that was just.

## Camp Election Time

Our December meeting will focus on Camp elections and final preparations for the Lee/Jackson meeting. If you are interested in running for Camp Commander, LT. Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander, Adjutant, or Color Sgt. Please attend the Camp meeting on December 7 and make it known.

## Mississippi Division News

### Flag Back Up in Ocean Springs, MS

Today (November 21) the State Flag not only went up at Ocean Springs City Hall but was mandated to be flown at all city property with a flag pole. A lot of behind the scenes work went into to pressuring the City of Ocean Springs but today we are going to focus our thanks on the soldiers that were on the ground: Brandy Stringer (this is her County), DeBorah Simpson, Jason Smith and all of their supporters on the coast. They ramped up the pressure that provided us with the result of the State Flag going back up in Ocean Springs.

Today you not only gave us a win but you generated positive news for our cause... The voters voice was heard in Ocean Springs! THANK Y'ALL for your dedication to this campaign!!!

There is one sure way to make this happens across the State, succeed in collecting the required signatures for Initiative 62. Link to the news article can be found here: <http://m.wlox.com/wlox/db/330810/content/xoDs80id>

We are currently working on a huge project for Initiative 62 and need help across the State of Mississippi. Let us show that not only does the State Flag not affect Businesses coming to Mississippi but they actually display the State Flag. Email pictures of Businesses displaying the State Flag to: [SaveTheFlagMS@gmail.com](mailto:SaveTheFlagMS@gmail.com)

(include details below)

Name of Business and City Business is located

Steve Miller  
Clearing House for Initiative 62; MS SCV Heritage Defense Committee

Coalition to Save The State Flag  
c/o Steve Miller  
P.O. Box 10388  
Greenwood, MS 38930  
Click here for Initiative 62 [www.mississippiuscv.org/62](http://www.mississippiuscv.org/62)





## Opening Night

Christmas at Beauvoir is back!! Opening night will be December 7th at 6:00 PM, our Garden and historic Oak Trees will be lit, we'll have Selfies with Santa, Christmas Carolers, and lots of arts and crafts for children. This year, Thursday nights will be our Movie Nights, so come out and enjoy A Christmas Carol and The Polar Express and snack on hot chocolate, milk & cookies, and popcorn.

Family Nights will be Friday and Saturday nights. We'll have Christmas Carolers, Storytime in our Library Pavillion, Selfies with Santa, and stroll our Beauvoir Home.

## PETITION GUIDE

### Initiative 62 - Should the current State Flag be adopted by Constitutional Amendment?



#### Initiative Handbook by Mississippi Division SCV Heritage Defense Committee

**THE PETITION** Initiative Measure No. 62 proposes to amend the Mississippi Constitution to establish the 1894 flag as the ONE Official State Flag for the State of Mississippi, and require that the flag be flown at the principal installations of all State supported institutions, State agencies and political subdivisions.

This is an official form please keep clean of debris and liquids

**PHOTO COPIES**  You can make copies of the petition form; HOWEVER, it must be copied in 8.5 X 14 size, front and back. If you copy it to 8.5 X 11, the entire form will be rejected.

Signatures cannot be submitted as a photo copy, must be original

**CIRCULATION OF PETITIONS**  Anyone can collect signatures for this petition, please properly train them on all details of this handbook or give a copy of handbook and ask them to review it.

Ask persons collecting signatures for you to return completed forms to you (or County Captain if that is someone other than yourself) so they can be submitted for certification.

**MUST BE CERTIFIED** before submitting to the address on the back of the petition.

**COLLECTION OF PETITIONS**  Designate a drop off location for petitions or ask those helping you to call when ready for pick up.

Be sure to inform anyone you give a form to that they return it to you for certification, DO NOT send to address on back of petition until it has been certified with local Circuit Clerk.

**FILLING OUT PETITION**  Always use BLUE INK

PRINT LEGIBLE, this is VERY important in obtaining certification

ONE COUNTY PER SHEET - If signed wrong county, ask to resign correct county sheet PRINT all information except Signature – Legibility is very important for certification.

You can fill out all information except Signature, the VOTER is required to SIGN

Only 1 signature per voter is valid and MUST match what is on voter rolls.

Use NAME and ADDRESS exactly as voter registered, even if recently moved

Address MUST include CITY / TOWN NAME

Voter have a VoterID card? If YES, use it to fill out petition with accurate info

Registered to vote? If NO, see Voter Registration section

Voted recently? If NO, see Voter Registration section

**PRECINCT & CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** In most cases this is never needed, ask your Circuit Clerk when submitting your first copy just in case they want it on there. If they do then you can ask for their help to obtain the information for each entry. DO NOT DATE bottom of form until you turn in for Certification. This date cannot be before any other date on the form or that signature will be invalid.

**"CERTIFICATE OF PETITION CIRCULATOR":** The person that signs the petition as the circulator MUST be a registered voter of Mississippi. Does not have to be voter of county petition is submitted to.

**VOTER REGISTRATION**  Anyone signing petition must be registered to vote, please do not date signature as the date must come after the person is registered to vote.

Voter Registration forms can be obtained from Circuit Clerks office.

Have person fill out a voter registration for their current address and give the registration back to you so you can turn submit it to the circuit clerk in your county, otherwise ask the person to turn it in to the circuit clerk of their county as soon as possible.

Hold the petition with this signature for at least 2 weeks before submitting for certification. This will allow the voter registration to be entered by the clerk.

**CERTIFICATION**  It is preferred that a County Captain handle certification, unless there is no CC for your County. If you wish to serve as CC where one is not already listed, please contact us.

Review each form before submitting to Circuit Clerk, ensure the following o Every entry is dated. Circulator information at bottom is completely filled out.

Submit petitions with a cover sheet that indicates the following (can be hand written) Your name, phone number and address o Total number of sheets submitted for certification o Total number of signatures submitted for certification o Your signature and date o Signature and date from person receiving

Take a photo of cover sheet then give it to circuit clerk representative.

Ask to be called when completed or return in 1 week to check on status.

- When picking up certified petitions you should also get an official Certification letter for those petitions. Keep this certification with those petitions.
- Mail petitions with certification to the clearing house (address on the back of the petition).

**UPDATING STATE SUMMARY** □ For the purpose of tracking the state-wide progress, send weekly updates of your progress to [SaveTheFlagMS@gmail.com](mailto:SaveTheFlagMS@gmail.com) A state summary based on these numbers from all County Captains will be presented to the HDC on a weekly basis and used to help determine progress and needs throughout the campaign.

- Submit the following per county you have o Signatures on hand (not certified) o Signatures on hand (certified) o Signatures at Clerk's office o Note number of certified signatures you have mailed within past 5 days
- QUESTIONS? □ Send any questions or suggestions for this handbook to [SaveTheFlagMS@gmail.com](mailto:SaveTheFlagMS@gmail.com)

### National SCV News

## Removing Confederate monuments, changing street names could prove to be costly measure

In Atlanta, CBS46 reports that as a special committee makes recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on the removal and renaming of Confederate monuments and streets, the cost of making it all happen is moving to the forefront.

A final decision Monday night came down from an 11 person committee selected to decide the fate of Confederate monuments and street names in Atlanta.

The committee would like the city to remove the Peachtree Battle monument on Peachtree Battle Avenue, the James Calhoun portrait hanging inside the state house and the Peace Monument at Piedmont Park. The committee is also looking at changing the name of as many as 32 streets in the city that reference the Confederacy.

Changing street names will prove to be expensive. New signs must be made and city maps must be updated. Emergency responders, mapping companies and the U.S.P.S. and package delivery services will have to be notified.

The process to change the names won't come quickly either. Once the city agrees on a new name, homeowners and renters on the street will be contacted and 75 percent of them have to agree on the change, under Atlanta city code.

Then, there's public hearings where residents can voice their concerns. Afterward, the city council would have to vote yes or no on changing the name of the street.

And if the name is changed, what would you change it to? Some caution against naming a street after people, especially someone still living because it could come back to haunt the city if that person goes from being famous to infamous.

There are all things we could find out in the coming weeks. Mayor Kasim Reed expects to have the recommendations from the committee on his desk by November 20.

## State Flag

In the present clamor to remove all things Confederate, The fight to remove our state flag continues with a new battle front opening every day it seems. A new city follows suit with the heritage haters and removes our state's flag from a position of honor in city and county offices. It is like they have all drunk the same "Kool Aid" and have this vision that with out the battle flag as a part of our state flag all other problems will melt away. Some cities and counties in our great State have rebuked the haters and have voted to continue to fly our state flag. The haters of our heritage never give up. After a failure, they not only double down on that strategy but develop a new and innovative way to destroy the symbols of our heritage. A case study of this strategy is the war against our flag of the great state of Mississippi. You all know the efforts of the past to force removal of our present state flag. Popular votes, court cases, arm twisting of legislatures and proposed constitutional amendments are all examples that have so far failed. These efforts have all been opposed by the majority of the people of the state but a very vocal minority continue to carry the fight against our heritage. Their lack of victories has left, our left leaning cities and universities to lower our beautiful state flag. Now with a very important event to our state, the bicentennial of our statehood, will come a new effort to change our state flag, a flag to celebrate the bicentennial. This flag will fill the empty flag poles around the state and there will be resolutions celebrating our bicentennial and the flag developed to celebrate the occasion. Along with this fell good movement, there will be a continued effort to change our state flag in the legislature. One of the "hate the flag" strategies is to over the year of our bicentennial to gather momentum to have this flag to replace our current flag. My position is as always no compromise no surrender. Contact your Representative and Senator in Jackson and voice your opinion on our state flag. The speaker of the house will continue his effort to erase our proud heritage. The Clarion Ledger, in an attempt to fuel the fire decided to ask for proposed flag designs. Untold amounts of money flow into the flag fight from outside the state. The bulls eye is on us. Politicians at all levels are trying to "read the tea leaves" and come down on the side of winning their office in the next election. Let them know that is not a winning strategy

## Upcoming Mississippi Division Reunion Locations

2018 Private Samuel A. Hughey camp 1452 Southaven, Ms

2019 The Rankin Rough and Ready's camp Brandon, Ms

2020 John C Pemberton 1354 Vicksburg Ms

## Upcoming National Conventions

2018 Franklin Tennessee

2019 Mobile Alabama

2020 Jacksonville, Florida.

**2018 Stephen D. Lee Institute Symposium**  
**The Rational Confederate in an Irrational World**  
**Defending our Southern heritage in an age devoid of logic and reason.**  
**17 February 2018      Shreveport, Louisiana**



The attacks on our Southern heritage are beyond all reason: emotion and insanity rage while facts, rationality, and logic are being driven from public discourse. It is the purpose of the Stephen D. Lee Institute to provide the antidote to these toxins by bringing together some of the best minds in the South to make the case for Dixie.

We are pleased to announce the 2018 Stephen D. Lee Institute will be held February 17, 2018 in Shreveport, Louisiana. Our host hotel for the event is the Hilton Hotel Shreveport; the symposium will take place at the Shreveport Convention center, which is connected to the Hilton.

We are once again putting together a very distinguished line-up of speakers, including...

- Marshall DeRosa - professor of American Constitutional Law and author of numerous books including *The Confederate Constitution of 1861: An Inquiry into American Constitutionalism*
- Ron Kennedy - noted trouble-maker and, along with his brother Don Kennedy, perhaps the most prolific author in the modern Southern movement. Among his many books are *The South was Right* and *Dixie Rising: Rules for Rebels* and many others
- Paul C. Graham - editor of Shotwell Publishing and author of *Confederaphobia!*
- Lee Bright - Two-term S.C. State Senator and renowned defender of Southern heritage
- Jeffery Addicott -- law professor and expert on terrorist tactics; author of *Radical Islam Why?: Confronting Jihad at Home & Abroad* among others
- Charles E. McMichael - Educator, Past SCV Commander-in-Chief and relentless defender of Southern heritage

**Special Offer for Current SCV Members**

Thanks to the support of the SCV General Executive Council, this year, in an effort to make the SDLI as accessible as possible, we are able to offer a special early registration discount for SCV members of just \$95. That's a \$30 savings off our regular registration fee of \$125.

This special \$95 registration fee is only available to current SCV members, and to take advantage of it you must register before January 17.

**Registration Package**

Admission to all symposium programs including a special panel discussion with all of our distinguished speakers Saturday afternoon.

Desert Reception Friday night at the hotel.

Lunch Saturday

**Registration Cost**

\$95 for SCV members who register before January 17.

\$125 for SCV members after January 17

\$150 for non-members (the public is invited)

A limited number of scholarships are available for high-school seniors, college students, and high-school teachers. To register for the event click here: <http://www.stephendleeinstitute.com/events.html> Our host hotel is the Hilton Shreveport, 104 Market St, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 698-0900. The Hilton is extending a special SDLI rate of \$107 (\$119 double-occupancy, plus applicable taxes). The SDLI rate includes free Wi-Fi and complimentary breakfast. You can make a reservation online at the special SDLI rate by clicking here: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/StephenDLeelInst>

Please note: to receive the special SDLI room rate, reservations must be made by January 26, 2018. Questions may be directed to Chris Sullivan at [SDLeelInfo@gmail.com](mailto:SDLeelInfo@gmail.com) or (864)660-9188

# Help Save General Forrest



The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to remove the Forrest Equestrian Statue from Forrest Park and to dig up the graves of General Forrest and his wife MaryAnn from beneath the statue.

The SCV and the Forrest family descendants must raise money to fight the city in this second attack on General Forrest. We need your help.

## Help us to save the graves and monument of General Forrest

Can you, or your camp or Division donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

Please sign me up as a supporter.      No membership fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribute through PayPal at our ally at : [www.citizenstosaveourparks.org](http://www.citizenstosaveourparks.org)

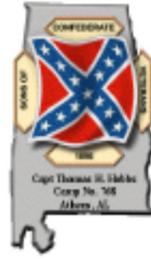
Please donate to our cause:      Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_      check number \_\_\_\_\_

### Forrest Park Defense Fund

PO Box 241875,      Memphis, TN      38124



# Army of Tennessee Workshop



Revival Building  
9 AM to 3:30 PM  
February 24, 2018  
303 Washington St.  
Athens, Alabama 35611

Hosted by the Alabama Division and the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768 Athens, AL.

During the Army meeting at the Memphis Reunion, Commander McCluney announced that an AoT workshop would be held in Athens, Alabama in the upcoming months. I am pleased to announce that the meeting will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Revival Building in downtown Athens. Varied topics will be discussed including, SalesForce, how to cope with Confederate negativity, Community involvement and others. The cost of the event is \$20 and this includes lunch. Due to caterer constraints, lunch reservations will be cut off on January 24<sup>th</sup>. After January 24<sup>th</sup>, the registration fee will be \$5, which does not include lunch. Food sites are nearby in walking or driving distance.

On Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have a Jambalaya Supper, prepared by our Commander in Chief Tom Strain. This will be held at the Trinity – Fort Henderson site. Donations will be accepted in lieu of a ticket price. The profits from this event will go to the restoration effort of Fort Henderson and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs. See below for information about Fort Henderson.

A registration form is attached. Directions to both sites will be posted on the Alabama Division website, [alscv.org](http://alscv.org) as well as the AoT Facebook page. Updates on the meeting and topics will be added to the sites.

We look forward to seeing you in Athens!

Jimmy Hill

Commander  
Alabama Division

(256) 614-3613  
[aldivcommander@aol.com](mailto:aldivcommander@aol.com)



# Army of Tennessee

## Workshop



Revival Building  
9 AM to 3:30 PM  
February 24, 2018  
303 Washington St.  
Athens, Alabama 35611

Hosted by the Alabama Division and the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768 Athens, AL.

Registration is \$20 which includes lunch (Ribeye Steak Sandwich, Baked Beans, Chips, Dessert and choice of drink). Pre registration by February 1<sup>st</sup> for lunch (Caterer) After Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, \$5 (no lunch included) Lunch sites are close by (short drive or walk)

Hotel rooms are available with room rates posted on the Alabama Division website, [alscv.org](http://alscv.org)

There will be a Meet and Greet hosted by CiC Tom Strain on Friday night, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Trinity School – Fort Henderson center, on Browns Ferry St. Athens, AL. 35611. Jambalaya and the fixins' will be provided for a donation. Proceeds go to the restoration of Fort Henderson and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you plan to attend the Friday night supper

Please send this completed form, together with a check or money order in the amount of \$20 (by Jan. 24th for lunch) made payable to Alabama Division, SCV After Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, send this form and \$5 (No lunch) and mail it to:

AoT Workshop  
PO Box 375  
Capshaw, Alabama 35742

Contact Workshop Coordinator Jimmy Hill at 256-614-3613 if you have questions.

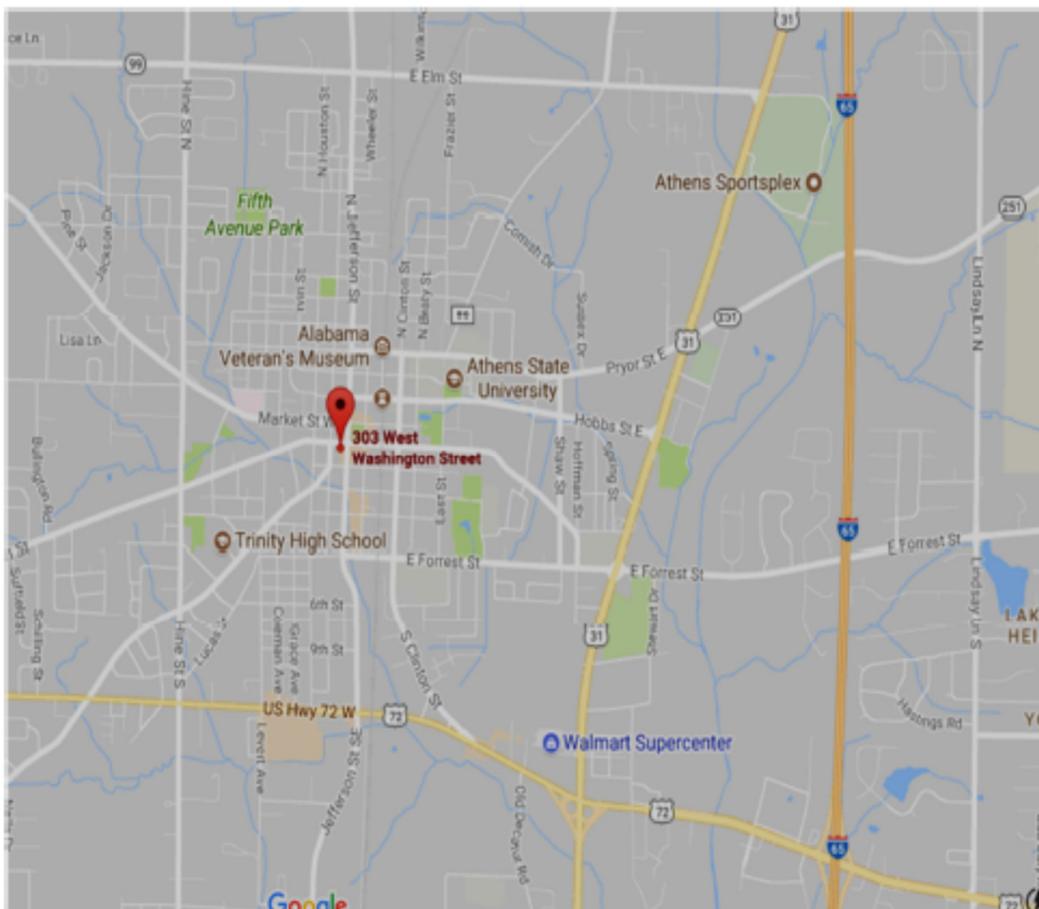
## Hotels

The Host Hotel will be the Hampton Inn. It is located at 1222 Kelli Drive, Athens, AL. 35613 Just off I-65 behind the Cracker Barrel. Phone (256) 232-2377. There is a special room rate of \$109 for Friday night 2/23.

Other hotels at the exit are: Quality Inn, Travel Inn, Sleep Inn, Best Western and Days Inn. Rates run from \$60 to \$80.

We have been notified that TVA will have a work outage at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant outside of Athens during this date. Rooms (especially the low to mid price) will book quickly.

Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> the workshop will be held at the Revival Building in downtown Athens. The address is 303 Washington Street. From I-65 (Exit 351) Take U.S. Hwy 72 west to Jefferson Street (you will go under a railroad bridge just before Jefferson St.) Turn right onto Jefferson St. Follow Jefferson St. to Washington St. (Courthouse square) Turn left onto Washington St. The Revival building will be on your left, directly across from the First Presbyterian Church.



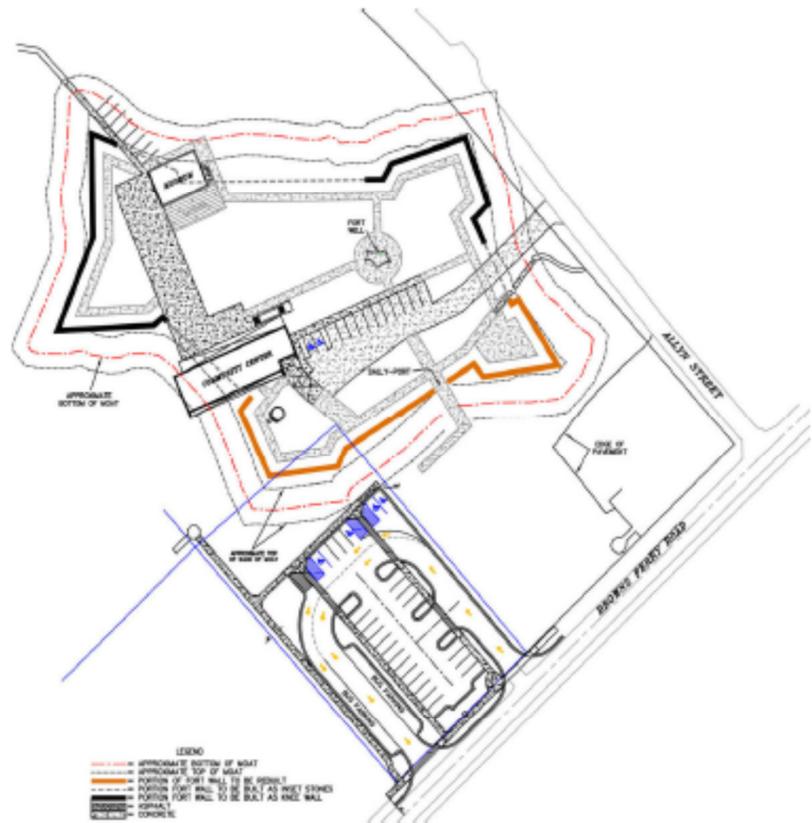
## Trinity – Fort Henderson

Fort Henderson was built in 1863 by federal forces occupying Athens. The fort, situated on Coleman Hill, was a five-sided earthen fort with some frame buildings and underground bomb-proofs. Abatis lined the 15-foot deep perimeter ditch, a small portion of which is still visible. On September 24, 1864, after a brief fight and a clever ruse orchestrated by Confederate Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, the fort and its 900-man garrison of mostly the 110 U.S. colored infantry were surrendered. After moving the prisoners and captured supplies South, Forrest's campaign followed the railroad North to the Union fort at Sulphur Creek Trestle which he took the following day. Federals re-occupied Athens shortly after Forrest's departure.

The site became the location of Trinity School, the first black school in Limestone County. It opened in 1866 and closed in 1970.

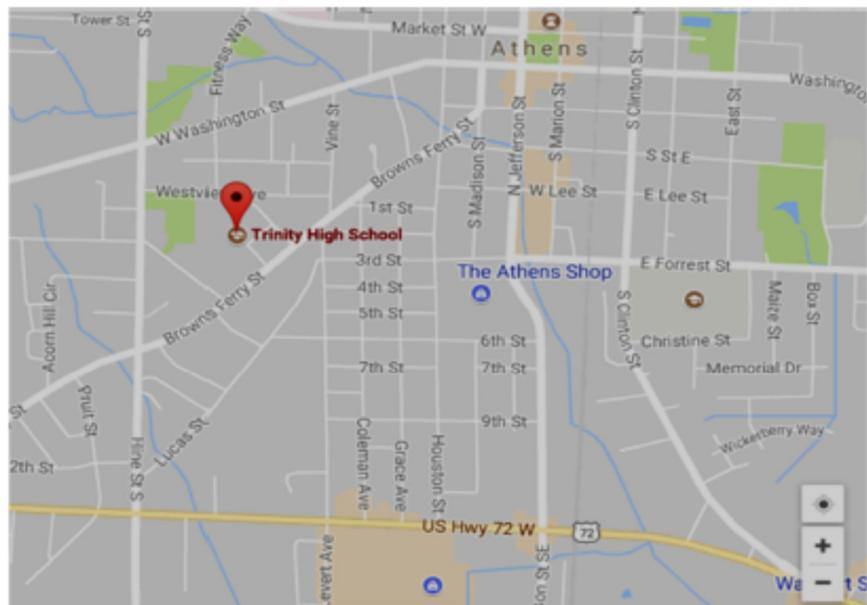
Today the Fort and school property is being restored in part to tell the story of both. The community center has been built and work is now underway on the partial restoration of the fort perimeter. There is a planned museum at the site.

On Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, in conjunction with the AoT meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Jambalaya supper held at the community center on the Fort Henderson site. Commander in Chief Tom Strain will be preparing the meal. Join us at this historic site where General Forrest captured over 900 Union soldiers on his move into Tennessee. Donations will be taken for the restoration of the Fort and the Museum at Elm Springs.



Site plan for the restoration of Fort Henderson  
Fort layout is in bold black and orange lines

The Fort is located at on Browns Ferry Street, Athens, AL 35611. Take Hwy 72 to Levert Ave. Turn right onto Levert. Follow Levert to Browns Ferry Street, turn left, the road to the fort will be just past the Trinity Congregational Church. Turn right at the sign for Pincham-Lincoln Center. Google Trinity High School Athens Alabama for driving directions from your actual location.



# Future Site of *The National Confederate Museum* at Historic Elm Springs



Columbia, Tennessee

TheConfederateMuseum.com  
HistoricElmSpringsCSA

## AUSTRALIA'S FORGOTTEN VETERANS

### CIVIL WAR VETERANS IN AUSTRALIA



ROY W PARKER

**I**n *Australia*, at the core of all our *Civil War* research, is one late researcher in particular who lived in this country, yet was an American, *Roy W. Parker* who can truly be seen as a 'pathfinder' of all studies of the American War Between the States in *Australia* and *New Zealand*. *Roy* uncovered many veterans who came to these southern shores during or after the war and died here, to rest in our soils so far from the scene of the war itself. Certainly *Roy* enthused those of us involved with *Australian Round Tables*. His posthumous publication, while not released until his daughter *Virginia Crocker* had gathered all of his research together, wasn't printed until 2000 by *Bright Print, Wetherill Park. NSW.2164*.

**M**y copy of this much valued book is numbered 347 of only 500 printed. *Roy* rose to the rank of *Major* in the *United States Airforce* during the *Second World War* and completed 56 combat missions with a total of 320 air combat hours in the *Pacific* between August 1943 and March 1945. Awarded the *Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters* in 1944, *Roy* was authorised to wear the *Asiatic Pacific Theatre Campaign Ribbon* with two *Bronze Stars* in recognition for his participation in the *New Guinea* and *Bismarck Archipelago Campaigns*.

**T**he book contains details on 102 servicemen but many more veterans of the War Between the States have been discovered in *Australia* and *New Zealand* since this book's publication, thanks to the diligence of *Terry Foemaker* who has also since passed away and also the combined efforts of our fellows in *Australia*. Sadly, as the *Queensland Round Table* discovered, many of the graves were neglected, unmarked and lost to a tangle of vines and weeds, giving rise to our expression, "*The Forgotten Veterans*." It is one thing to discover that a veteran rests in a certain cemetery but quite another to find the unmarked site's actual location. However with a little bit of cunning, a lot of sweat and a great deal of physical effort, the actual graves of some leading

figures were 're-discovered,' cleared and suitable markers applied for from *America*. The graves were then given the respect and honour they deserve, both USA and CSA equally, regardless of rank, with no prejudice or privilege, both flags flown.



The American Civil War Round Table guard fire a salute over the grave of Richard William Curtis at Toowong Cemetery in Brisbane. Our female reenactors are dressed in funeral garb of the day. Curtis is not a veteran recorded in Roy's book. Curtis was paymaster on board the raider CSS Georgia and CSS Stonewall. He also acted as paymaster for the Confederate raider fleet while based in France and paid out the pensions for the crew and widows of CSS Alabama.

**T**he stories of these 'forgotten veterans' can at last be told and reveals the integrity and loyalty of each veteran during his term of service and in later life in *Australia*. We did this in *Queensland* with no outside financial help, yet regardless of severely limited and meagre finances, our combined personal abilities and resources brought to life these long lost memories. It was also decided by the *American Civil War Round Table Qld Inc.* to give these graves full military honours with a grave rededication ceremony and a salute of black powder rifles of the era and a fully uniformed Colour Guard conducted over each grave. Where possible "Taps" was played over the graves. In the case of naval personnel Taps and "Eight bells" rung. Significantly Jack Ford compiled a Heritage Trail of Civil War veterans buried in *Queensland*, many are in *Toowong Cemetery*.

Paymaster Richard William Curtis CSN who died by drowning in the Brisbane River. See his story in the Dropbox under Queensland's Forgotten Veterans-Editor.

**W**hile Roy died in *Sydney* in 1998 he would be pleased to know how successful his research has been and how he continues to inspire researchers in 2017. During the war, Roy was based at *Amberley Field* in *Queensland*, he married his Australian bride *Poppy* in *Sydney* in 1945 and in April of that year returned to the United States where he finished his war service as a flying instructor in *Idaho*.



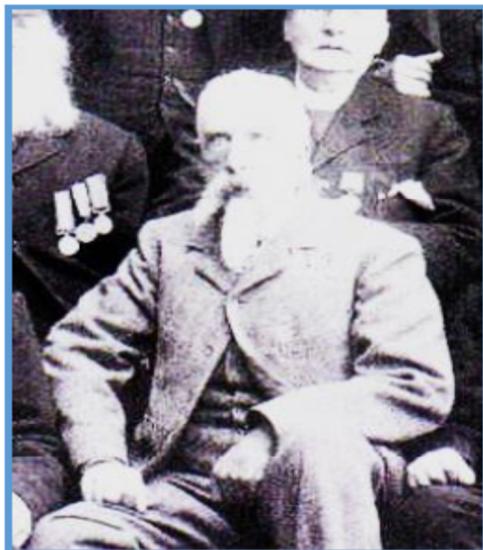
**A** massive International air force had been constructed in *Canada* and these thoroughly trained pilots, many from *Australia* and *New Zealand*, were to be the spear head of an invasion of *Japan*. With the dropping of the nuclear bombs that air force was disbanded. Roy decided to migrate to *Australia* with his wife and young daughter in 1947 where he studied civil engineering at *Sydney University*. He later worked as a commercial airline pilot and retired in 1977 having logged 25,461 hours flying.

**R**etirement gave Roy a chance to pursue his interest in the *Civil War*, researching and locating the graves of veterans who had settled in *Australia*. Roy had a great grandfather who was a *Civil War* veteran Lt. Hoyt Palmer who served with the *Veteran Reserve Corps* and *Hancock's 1st Army Corps* between 1863 and 65. Roy was a historian of the *American Legion "Yanks Down Under" Post No 1* in *Sydney*. He was instrumental in organising *Memorial Day Services* observed annually since 1980 at *Waverley Cemetery* where known veterans are interred. Just as Roy settled in *Australia* so did many *American Civil War* veterans before him.

**T**o understand the *Australian* connections we need to consider the turbulent history surrounding their lives at that time. Many of our *American* readers are amazed to discover that such a strong following of the war exists here and that *ACW Round Tables* flourish. That is understandable but first let me say that it was a multicultural war, involving people from countries around the world so your war is also our war.



**T**he 19<sup>th</sup> century witnessed an exodus as masses of people from all around the globe sought political or religious freedom and of course an economic advantage; to this end they settled in *North and South America*, *Africa*, *Australia* and *New Zealand* and even *Pacific Islands*. Numerous *Germans* and *Irish* found their ways to *America* and *Australia* but sadly in *America* they fled one famine and persecution to find themselves embroiled in a war with an aftermath and consequences that rivalled those they had fled. It is a tragic tale and is why we must ensure it is never forgotten and their deeds forever enshrined in history, including that lonely Confederate soldier whose statue was torn down by mindless vandals. He could just as easily have been *Irish*, *Scottish* or *German* as a Southerner. He was merely a soldier obeying orders, as is the lot of all soldiers and for this reason deserves our respect and honour. All soldiers who serve their country do; *America* would do well to remember this.



Captain Sydney Herbert Davies

**S**ome *Irish* and *Germans* who planned to go to *America* quickly changed their destinations to *New Zealand* and *Australia* where there was relative peace and safety. Of course gold discoveries in those countries was also an incentive. Roy spent some two decades researching veterans of the *American* war who lived and died in both countries. *New Zealand* was a dependency of *New South Wales-Australia* until 1841 and for this reason Roy included three veterans who died in *New Zealand*. I researched a veteran in detail not uncovered by Roy, *Sydney Herbert Davies* who fought at *Gettysburg* and surrendered with *Lee* at *Appomattox*. He was a veteran of the *Crimean War* and came to *New Zealand* to fight against the *Maori Hau Hau* uprising, in so doing, he became a veteran of three wars and was promoted or decorated in all three. *Captain Sydney Davies* established a veterans' association in *Dunedin* and established a servicemen's organisation long before the establishment of the *Returned and Services Association* in *New Zealand*. *Davies* is pictured amongst members of his veterans group and his fascinating story may be read in the *Dropbox*.

**R**oy's task was so much more difficult than ours, with so many *Internet* resources now so easily accessed and so many willing researchers happy to lend a helping hand. He had to extract information from mountains

of paperwork and files, hospital and asylum admissions, naturalisation records, birth, death and marriage indexes, cemetery records, consular dispatches and shipping records. Roy then had to apply to the National Archives for service and pension records to cross check his data. Once all the boxes were ticked Roy then assembled a biographical sketch and added to it as more information came to hand.

**R**oy's archives formed a pool of information that was shared with other members of the *Civil War Research Society* including *Barry Crompton*, the late *Terry Foenander*, *Bob Simpson* and *Len Traynor*. The book was edited from Roy's archives and *Barry Crompton's* unpublished work "*Australia and the American Civil War*," (*James J. Archer Memorial Library, Melbourne, Victoria.*) Without the dedicated work of the late *Virginia Crocker*, Roy's daughter, we would not have been given this tremendous boost to our individual efforts that enable us to tell these tragic stories; at least some had a peaceful and happy ending, leaving a trail of descendants many of whom are unaware of their ancestor's significant role in *American* and later *Australian* and *New Zealand* history.

**U**nfortunately some researchers have added to confusion by identifying false veterans and even when the error was indicated, refused to change the data. To avoid false applications for markers in future, some years ago, it was decided to set up a special committee (*National Advisory Board*) comprised of our most respected researchers who would sanction any application for grave markers and also help avoid duplication. The war graves authorities in America were advised of this and to date the system is working very well. We have names submitted but if the Advisory group cannot verify those names, the data is put aside. We have worked closely since establishment and it has been to the benefit of all as we share our knowledge.

**W**hile Roy was our illustrious pathfinder it was the combined efforts of all those people mentioned in this story as well as *John Duncan*, *Jack Ford*, *John King* and myself *Robert Taylor* and other researchers at various cemeteries who assembled the scattered pieces of information that enables us, at long last, to see these veterans and learn the story they have to tell. We at least ensure that they are not forgotten.

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Back Issues Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/93geeg6qz9scvzc/AACLqnbpTERpPEEd28FgMOMUa>





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# An Australian Perspective.

## Part 3-Dan Allsopp ACWRTQ.



few decades prior to the *Civil War*,

property and religious qualifications were abolished for white men in almost every state for voting purposes. Public welfare was improved as did educational opportunities throughout the country.



The existence of slaves in the United States goes back to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and it became vital for the Southern economy, particularly with cotton plantations. The dominating Southern aristocratic landed gentry believed that slavery was a necessity for their economy. The North, on the other hand, experienced industrial growth in its cities, change was rapid and public opinion against slavery growing. When *Abraham Lincoln* was elected president in 1860 eleven states from the South would secede by June 1861 because he was seen as an extension of anti-slavery.



Texas was the seventh State to secede 1<sup>st</sup> February 1861 with a state convention vote of 166 to 7 and was not readmitted back into the Union until 30<sup>th</sup> March 1870. *Sam Houston* was Governor of Texas at the time, one of the few against secession and tried in vain for others to show restraint. Instead, he was overthrown as Governor and sadly died in 1863 aged 70. *Lincoln* stated that the Union was indivisible and secession illegal and consequently ordered troops to uphold the law and defend federal territory. The *American Civil War* between the United States of America and the Confederate States of America followed and ran from 1861 to 1865; it would prove to be one of the bloodiest conflicts of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. (And a test of the American Constitution and States Rights-Editor.)

As Governor, Sam Houston refused to swear loyalty to the Confederacy when Texas seceded in 1861. With the outbreak of war he was removed from office. To avoid bloodshed, Sam refused a Lincoln offer of 50 thousand troops, a message conveyed by U S Colonel Frederick W Lander, to put down the Confederate rebellion. Houston said, "Allow me to most respectfully decline any such assistance of the United States Government." Instead, Houston retired to Huntsville, Texas, where he died 26 July 1863. After leaving the Governor's mansion, Houston (seen at right, Mathew Brady photo) travelled to Galveston. Along the way, many people demanded an explanation for his refusal to support the Confederacy. On 19 April 1861 from a hotel window he told a crowd, "Let me tell you what is coming. After the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, you may win Southern independence if God be not against you, but I doubt it. I tell you that, while I believe with you in the doctrine of States Rights, the North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction, they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche; and what I fear is, they will overwhelm the South." **Sam Houston** (March 2, 1793 – July 26, 1863)-Editor.



With secession Texas followed South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana and Texas was admitted as a member of the Confederate States of America, 2 March 1861, even though President Davis took control of military affairs the day before. These seven states met at Montgomery in Alabama, 4<sup>th</sup> February 1861 and on the 8<sup>th</sup> February adopted a Constitution for the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America with Jefferson Davis from Mississippi President and Alexander Hamilton Stephens from Georgia Vice-President. After Texas came Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee. The slave states of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri stayed with the Union. The Confederate Flag however, like the Stars and Stripes, displayed a star for every state, yet both flags included Kentucky and Missouri. Texas commemorates a special day known as Confederate Heroes' Day for those who were killed during the war. It's been a public holiday since and still is today.



The bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay, South Carolina from 12 April to 13 April 1861 by Confederate forces commenced the war and there was no turning back. Before this however, secessionists in the South took over various installations and US ships that were undermanned. These included events in Texas such as: 16<sup>th</sup> February 1861, they took the barracks at San Antonio and the US Arsenal there.

The barracks San Antonio, February 1861. Texas troops during surrender.



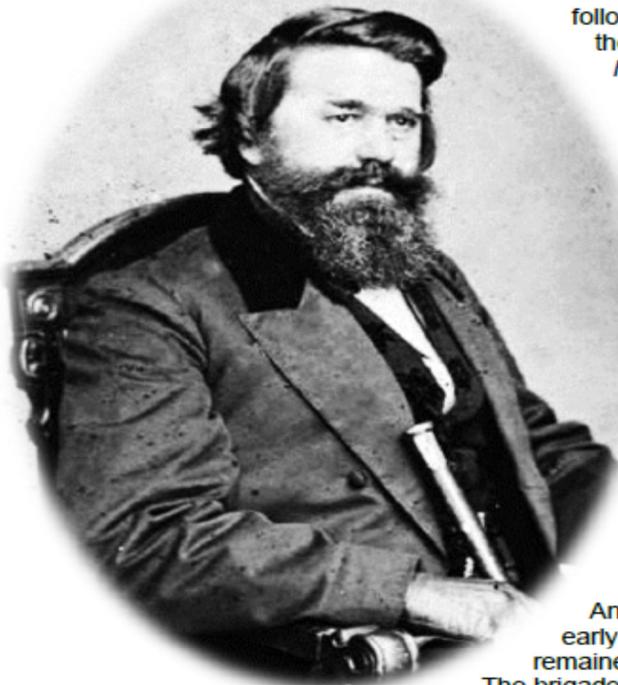
On 21<sup>st</sup> February 1861, Texans took all US military posts when Brevet Major General David E. Twiggs, one of

the highest ranking Generals for the US, surrendered giving up around \$1.5 million in US property and that excludes the forts. In fact on 21 February Camp Cooper in Texas was abandoned by US Troops. On 2 March Texas State authorities

in *Galveston* seized the US revenue cutter, *Dodge*. Then On 7 March both *Ringgold Barracks* and *Camp Verde* in Texas were also abandoned by US troops.



While there is much to be written about Texas in the war, the following events have been selected as points of interest, although there are many more examples that could be mentioned. Author *Hampton Sides* is very helpful. In *Richmond, Virginia*, October 1861 the *Texas Brigade* was formed and commanded by *Brigadier General Louis T. Wigfall*. The brigade was made up of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> *Texas Infantry Regiments* but others were added from *Georgia* and *South Carolina* and remained for a while.



**Brigadier General Louis T. Wigfall** of the Texas Brigade. **Louis Trezevant Wigfall** (April 21, 1816 – February 18, 1874) was a Texas politician who served as a member of the Texas Legislature in the United States Senate and Confederate Senate. Wigfall was among a group of leading secessionists known as "Fire Eaters" advocating the preservation and expansion of an aristocratic agricultural society based on slave labour. He only briefly served as Brigadier General of the Texas Brigade at the outset of war before taking his seat in the Confederate Senate. Wigfall's reputation for oratory and hard-drinking, along with a combative nature and high-minded sense of personal honour, made him one of the more imposing political figures of his time-Editor.



The 3rd *Arkansas Infantry* was added in November 1862

And stayed with the Texans through to war's end. *Wigfall* resigned early in 1862 and *Colonel John Hood* became the brigade's General and remained so for about six months. After *Hood* came *Jerome B. Robertson*.

The brigade was part of *James Longstreet's 1st Corps*, part of *General Robert E. Lee's Army of North Virginia*. The year of 1862 saw the brigade in action in more

than two dozen engagements including *Second Manassas*, *Sharpsburg (Antietam)* and *Fredericksburg*. In 1863 they fought at *Gettysburg*, *Chickamauga* and more. They gained renown for their bravery but of more than 5,000 men, only 600 were present when *Lee* surrendered at *Appomattox* in April 1865.



**Hood's Texas Brigade. The Texas boys gave more than their full measure. Painting by Don Troiani-Editor.**



here was also the *5th Texas Cavalry Brigade* commanded by *General Richard Gano*, he would soon meet a remarkable Indian, the Cherokee Indian leader of his Cherokee Nation called *Stand Watie* who became a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army and was the only Indian up to that time to reach such a high rank. *Watie* and his Cavalry helped *Gano* and his Texans capture a Federal wagon train at *Cabin Creek, Oklahoma* in September 1864. This was a masterstroke because there was sufficient food and clothing for 2,000 men and valued at over \$1.5 million (this amount varies among historians). It also included 250 large wagons, 740 mules and horses. The Confederate Congress passed a joint resolution to thank the two Generals and was signed by *President Davis*. *General Watie* would gain further fame by being the last Confederate General to surrender in June 1865, just over two months after Lee's surrender.



The gallant charge of the Texas 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Lancers. Brilliantly captured in this painting by Don Troiani. See issue 57 page 6 in Dropbox "Art of War" for information about this highly skilled and respected artist Don Troiani-Editor.



In February, 1862 the Louisiana born *Brigadier-General Henry H. Sibley*, on the advice of his second-in-command *Colonel Tom Green* took the town and ford of *Valverde* (meaning "green valley" in Spanish) in *New Mexico*. This was achieved with *Sibley's 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Mounted Rifle Regiments* which he raised in *El Paso, Texas*. This ford was critical for the Union supply lines at nearby *Fort Craig* commanded by *Colonel Edward Canby* who had at his disposal infantry and long range artillery. *Colonel Green* came up with his idea as a result of a stalemate when *Sibley's* and *Canby's* forces faced each other at *Fort Craig*. *Green* reasoned taking *Valverde* would force *Canby* out in the open without the use of his artillery.

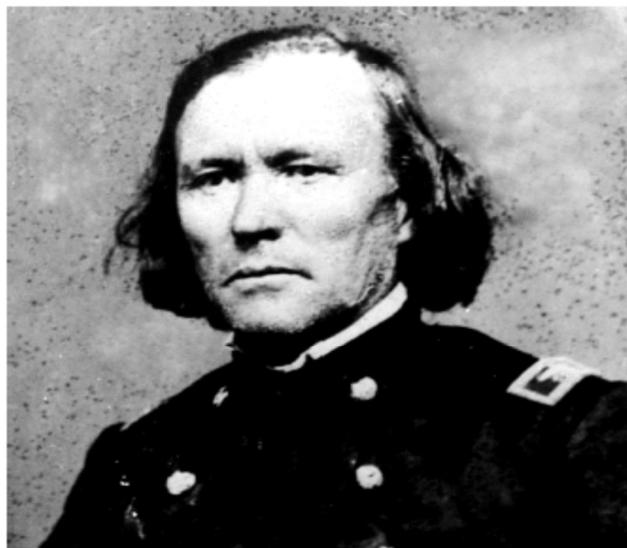
Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley. Very few Confederates would get along with the rather erratic Sibley. Not amongst my respected Generals however he left a legacy as an inventor, amongst his achievements were new military tents and stoves adopted by both American and British armies.

Photograph colour by Mads Dahl Madsen-Editor.



*Sibley* sent his 2,500 *Texans* to ford the *Rio Grande* for this purpose. *Canby* sent out the famed scout and explorer *Kit Carson*

with several companies of volunteers to watch the *Texans'* movements and realised they were heading for *Valverde* and not *Fort Craig*. *Carson* noted the *Texan* horses were away from water and thirsty and one of *Canby's* men, *James "Paddy" Graydon* activated a bold plan. He had two boxes of howitzer shells with fuses tied to two mules and with the cover of night sent them towards the *Texan* camp. However, the mules didn't go all the way, turned around then blew up. The *Texan* horses and mules, which were by now very thirsty, took fright, broke away and headed towards a river that was occupied by Union troops. The result was the Confederates lost over 150 of their animals. On top of this, *Sibley* either suffered a colic attack or was drunk, perhaps both. The *Texans* detested him and command fell to *Green* to position his troops and face *Canby* at *Valverde*. At first, the Union artillery was getting the upper hand but in an anxious move, a company of over fifty *Texan* lancers charged the Union infantry. In a few minutes these men were wiped out, it's said only one escaped. Later, *Texas* would turn this charge into a legend and *Colonel Green* remarked, "One of the most gallant and furious charges ever witnessed in the annals of battle." Eventually *Green* and his *Texans* charged the Union left with the renowned *Rebel Yell*. A second and third wave of *Texans* caused panic among the Union troops. The *Texans* then engaged the Union artillery emplacement, engaged in fierce hand-to-hand fighting including the use of *Bowie Knives*. The *Texans* were successful, when *Canby* had his horse shot from under him, he ordered a retreat. *Kit Carson* didn't agree, he was gaining the upper hand on the right. Nonetheless, the Union forces retreated and Confederates captured *Valverde* along with six Union artillery guns. *Canby*, on the other hand, made it back to *Fort Craig* and held it. The *Texans*, as a result, had lost around 350 horses and mules meaning the cavalry was now an infantry. *Sibley* rose from his sick bed to congratulate his men on their victory but it was a victory he didn't lead. Apparently by now many *Texans* were of the opinion that a *Texan* should lead them, not a fellow like *Sibley* from *Louisiana*.



Kit Carson, famed frontiersman.

**S**ibley and his *Texans* went on to take *Albuquerque* and then *Santa Fe* but these places had almost been abandoned. Meanwhile *Canby*, still at *Fort Craig* could block Confederate supply lines. *Canby* asked for reinforcements and an army of volunteers met and formed in *Colorado* with *John Potts Slough* in command. He and *Canby* were to rendezvous at *Fort Union* to attack the *Texans*. *Slough* however disobeyed *Canby's* orders, left *Fort Union* and pressed on. The Confederates soon learnt of the advance towards them and again *Sibley* didn't lead them but remained in *Albuquerque*, instead sending *Major Charles Pyron*, an *Alabama* man, with 400 *Texans* to meet the Union force. They would run into *Slough's* right-hand man in the advance guard, *Major Chivington* with a similar size force. They fought a tough battle at *Apache Pass* but *Major Pyron* was forced to retreat and lost many *Texans* who were taken prisoner. Each force regrouped with their main body two days later to fight again. The Confederates were commanded by *Colonel William Scurry*, a former Mexican War veteran and *Texan* lawyer. The main battle took place at *Glorieta* on the *Santa Fe Trail*. By the end of the battle, the *Texans* had gained the most ground but *Coloradans* still blocked the path.



The Battle of Glorieta Pass, fought from March 26–28, 1862, in northern New Mexico Territory was the decisive battle of the New Mexico Campaign. Dubbed by some "Gettysburg of the West," it was intended as a decisive blow by Confederate forces to break the Union grip on the West along the base of the Rocky Mountains. Fought at Glorieta Pass through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in what is now New Mexico. Kit Carson knew this territory very well but the *Texans* proved themselves to be tenacious. Battle of Glorieta Pass is painted by Roy Anderson. Texas would always prove a tough nut for the Union to crack-Editor.

**S**ibley staying at the rear of the battle *Slough* lost the respect of his men. *Chivington*, on the other hand, was guided to the rear of the *Texans* with the aim to join the battle from that point. Instead, he sighted Confederate supply wagons and with superior numbers easily captured the prize. He ordered his men to utterly destroy this supply including burning the wagons and killing all the horses and mules by bayonet. The Confederate spirit was broken and *Scurry's* men returned to



*Santa Fe.* With many men injured, *Canby's* wife who lived there, turned her house into a hospital and aided the injured. While she was ridiculed by her Union friends, *Canby's* wife won the hearts of Confederates. *Sibley* was planning to leave *New Mexico*. Meanwhile *Canby* and his troops left *Fort Craig* to meet up with *Slough*, but he resigned his commission fearing a court-martial for disobeying *Canby's* orders while also fearing assassination by his own men, he left *Chivington* in command. *Canby* and *Chivington* met up, but *Canby* left a gap for *Sibley* to march out of *New Mexico* on purpose. *Sibley* took advantage of this but *Canby* and his troops followed to make sure the Confederates left for good.

In 1861–1862, General Canby commanded the Department of New Mexico, defeating Confederate General Henry Hopkins Sibley at the Battle of Glorieta Pass, forcing him to retreat to Texas. At the war's end, he took the surrender of Generals Richard Taylor and Edmund Kirby Smith. As commander of the Pacific Northwest in 1873, Canby was killed during so called 'peace talks' with Modoc Indians, who were refusing to give up their California homelands. Canby was the only United States General to be killed during the Indian Wars. Canby was regarded as an administrator, more than a leader. General Grant believed he lacked aggression, but declared him irreplaceable for his knowledge of army regulations and constitutional law. An interesting paradox-Editor.



When the Union's General Ulysses S. Grant took Vicksburg, in 1863 he wanted to continue through Mississippi and into Mobile, Alabama but Washington Congress preferred to occupy Southern regions. This meant Grant had to scatter his forces including some going back the other way to Louisiana where Major-General Nathaniel P. Banks was planning his invasion of Texas. Two reasons compelled Banks, cotton and that Washington thought Napoleon III would end his idea of controlling Mexico if a Union force took Texas and went to the Rio Grande. Unfortunately for Banks, his venture never came off; he was soundly defeated at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana and it gave him such a fright that he made a rapid retreat. Despite this, the Confederate losses at Vicksburg and Gettysburg were not only a turning point in the war but also decisive in Indian warfare. The Southern side saw families of Cherokees, Seminoles and Creeks become refugees. They fled in massive numbers to north Texas; the land of the Choctaw-Chickasaw. Fortunately, not only the Choctaws and Chickasaws helped them, but so did many generous Texans. On top of that, the Confederate army's high command supplied food, and some soldiers were given leave of absence to assist the Indians with farming and the building of shelters.



One interesting aspect of the Confederate Government is that only two men held their cabinet positions throughout the whole of the Confederacy; one was Stephen Mallory from Florida as Secretary of the Navy, the other was a Texan, John H. Reagan who was Post Master General. When the war ended, US troops occupied Texas and enforced the freedom of slaves. Many Confederate veterans still found it difficult to accept surrender and parts of northern Texas saw a period of outlaws and violent crimes. By 1874, apart from outlaws, Mexican bandits were causing trouble in the south, especially the Rio Grande and Indians in the west were a problem and so, this saw the re-emergence of the Texas Rangers to restore law and order.



Something that greatly assisted the North in the war was rail that connected the North-East and the North West. After the war, rail extended even further and the Transcontinental reached Western Missouri. This, with the removal of Indians and the near extinction of buffalo made buffalo grass of the Great Plains very appealing for cattle. Herds of longhorns were controlled by cowboys who learnt much of their craft from Mexicans. Texans would drive their herds some 1,500 miles to rail heads and 1866 saw the first large scale "Long Drive." It was difficult at first but quickly became a success. Once again the Cherokee saw their lands being invaded, this time by Texan cattlemen who would

graze their cattle on the Cherokee Outlet lands whilst droving from Texas to the markets up north. The problem was overcome with the Cherokee charging for grazing based on the number of head. The Great Plains covered many States and friction would arise between the State's own interests, but eventually, instead of cattle herds travelling to the railroad, the railroad would come to the cattle. Cattle towns would crop up of which many would see the rail come to them. The golden age of this cowboy image and cattle ranches extended to the 1890s. In Texas, like many other states, the cattle industry was big business and the Texan cowboy image was later enhanced by numerous Hollywood movies. Additionally, the television series Rawhide included Clint Eastwood playing Rowdy Yates, from Texas. Collectively, this is the reason



that image still exists today. Another aspect of the 1870s and 1880s resulting from the rail expansion, removal of Indians and the buffalo was the charge to occupy the *High Plains* which included among other territories, western *Texas*. These changes made the *Homestead Act of 1862* workable. Americans, along with immigrants from Europe, flocked to these areas and it was common to see the sign "*Gone to Texas*" on many a cabin door. Those who became farmers after the war experienced problems with bankers, merchants and processors cheating the farmers, not to mention drought and dollar fluctuations that impacted the price of their produce, eventually called for action. *Texas*, in the 1870s led the way with the formation of the *Farmers Alliance* with the goal of rectifying matters. By the 1880s the alliance grew and spread to other states. Altogether, they arranged co-operative purchasing power, farming techniques including farm machinery, marketing and lobbying Congress.



At the turn of the century oil was discovered in *Texas*, the first gush at *Spindletop* was in the south-east in January 1901. This was an oil strike on a grand scale and it was soon realised that oil was the fuel of the future, surpassing coal. With the discovery of oil in other areas of *Texas*, the state quickly became one of the biggest producers in the United States and was the top producer by 1940.

The *Texas* skyline and environment is dominated by 'praying mantis' like rigs. Pollution in places like *Baton Rouge* hangs thickly in the air. And oil spills in *Texas* on land and sea have had terrible environmental consequences. Editor.



Another colossal oil find was discovered in 1930-31 in east *Texas*. It was a time of the *Great Depression* and the oil find was so large that oil prices fell to just a few cents per barrel thus impacting the whole industry. The natural wealth of oil was to have a flow on through the whole *Texan* economy including education, the growth of cities, transport infrastructure, employment and much more.



*Texan* heroes from both world wars were remarkable and include among others: *George Lawson Keene* from *Crockett, Texas*, possibly the most decorated soldier in World War I; *Audie Murphy* from *Kingston Texas*, America's most decorated soldier in World War II and possibly American history. His awards were not only from the United States, but *France and Belgium* as well. *Murphy* appeared in many movies and added to his fame. One such movie was *The Red Badge of Courage (1951)* about a young farm boy going off to fight for the Union in the American War. The Cold War era was significant from an economic point of view in that conscript armies were maintained in *Japan, West Germany*, and

*South Korea* and with this came the huge fleets undertaking patrols and a *Strategic Air Command*. Maintaining this became big industry throughout the country and closed an economic gap between the North and the South in America that existed since the Civil War. This meant *Texas*, along with other states benefitted their economies in turn.

# The Delta General

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Sadly Texas underwent even more terrible tragedy when in *Dallas*, November 1963, *President John F Kennedy* was assassinated. Ironically, it was *Texan* born *Lyndon B. Johnson*, *Vice-President*, who almost immediately was sworn in as the 37th US President and would remain so until 1969. *Johnson* continued and increased the conflict in *Vietnam* but at the same time supported and continued *Kennedy's* vision of the United States landing and returning the first man on the moon. Both of these episodes were part of the Cold War era. In 1961, Houston was selected for the *Manned Spacecraft Center*, later changing its name to the *Johnson Space Center* in 1973 in honour of *President Johnson*. This centre would have involvement with the *Gemini*, *Apollo* and *Space Shuttle* missions. Today, over three quarters of Texans live in cities but the atmosphere of the wide-open areas of their state still exists. Such a feeling is reinforced by the education system in schools that still teaches that Texas was once an independent republic and then culturally, the world is kept aware of the Texan image through cinema and music.

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**Stop Press:** To residents and families of victims of the tragic shooting incident in Sutherland Springs in Texas on Sunday 5 November, Australian members of ACWRTQ extend our sincere sympathies and condolences.

