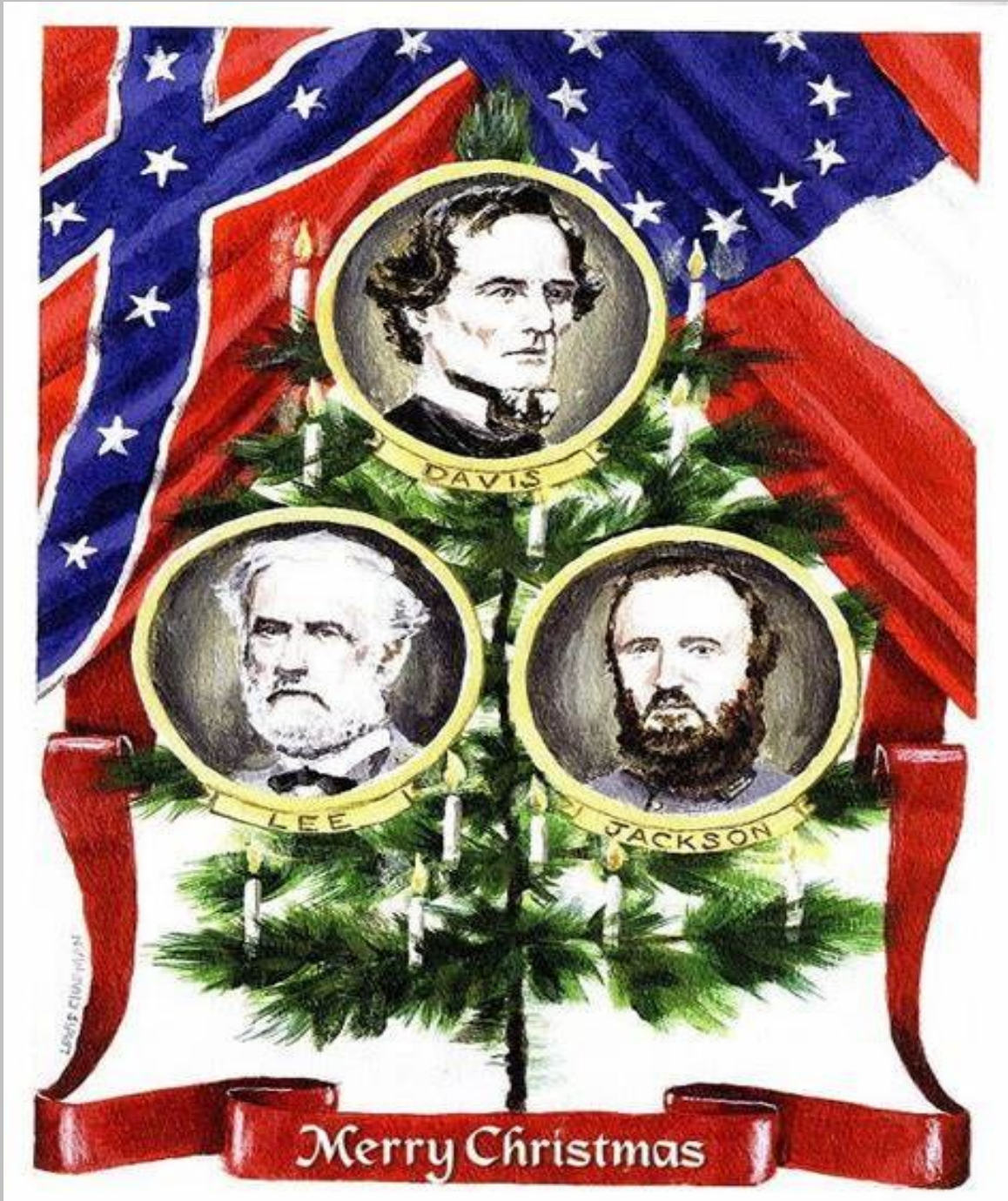


The Delta General

This Month's Issue: A Confederate Christmas



Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

December 2023, Volume 26, Issue 12

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Commander's Comments — Larry McCluney

Compatriots,

First off, Merry Christmas! This is the time of year that we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Halleluiah and peace on Earth, good will to all men. The temperatures are cooler temperatures are now and the coming of a new year is ahead of us.

This month's Camp meeting will be a business meeting as we elect new officers and finalize our Lee/Jackson Banquet. Our guest speaker for our Lee/Jackson Banquet, which is sure to be a great one and you need to make plans early for it because seating will be limited to 65 people, highlights Ms. Shelby Harriet-Hildebaugh and her latest book, "Behind the Rifle." (See page 3 for more information).

As we gather this December encampment, let us look to the future of our Camp as we elect new officers who will lead us in the next two years. Those who are considering, please take to heart our Charge and the oaths you took when you joined this organization. If your goals and ideas are for the promotion of that said Charge, you will go far. For those who have not been attending lately, you have missed some great programs recently. Let us all remember, one Saturday evening out of a month is not much to ask of you to participate in your Camp's activities and meetings. Remember, our ancestors gave 365 days of four years. Can you not give one evening a month to participate? There are other ways you can participate such as attend your Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet once a year, attend your Camp's Memorial Day Service once a year, support our activities such as the new headstone our Camp erected that our Camp paid for or give money toward projects such as the \$1,200 we collected to help with the National project to rebuild the pedestal for the Forrest Equestrian Statue at Elm Springs."

If there is one thing I have learned over the years on the National, State, and local levels of our organization, dedication is the key to success of our endeavors. Let us all rededicate ourselves to carry out our DUTY and set our priorities to set aside this time to attend meetings and support our Camp activities as we wind this fiscal year down. Remember, "If not US, Who? If not Now, When?"

In closing, remember, it is your duty to protect the Confederate Soldier's good name so that his legacy will continue for future generations. As always, remember compatriots, you are "The Thin Gray Line!" Remember to bring a friend at our next Camp meeting and let's continue growing our numbers.

May God Bless you and your family this holy of holy holidays.

Adjutant's Report — November 11, 2023 - Dan McCaskill

Our Camp Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Camp Commander Larry McCluney. Larry asked Camp Chaplain Earl McCown to open the meeting with a prayer and to bless our evening meal. Following the prayer, Camp Commander Larry McCluney led the members in the Pledge and Salutes to the Flags. Adjutant Dan McCaskill read "The Charge" given to the sons by General Stephen D. Lee in New Orleans, LA.

Camp Commander Larry McCluney welcomed everyone to our monthly Camp Meeting. While waiting for the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter #9 OCR, Commander McCluney started the business of the Camp Meeting.

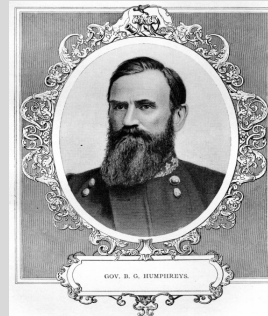
The First Order of Business was the adoption of the October Minutes as published in The Delta General. Kenneth Ray made the motion to adopt the minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Earl McCown and the motion passed without objection.

The Second Order of Business: Officer Reports – Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Michael Anthony was absent. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported no money had been spent from the Camp's account since last Camp Meeting. The MOS&B member dues were run through the account. The current account balance is \$ 2,469.33. Missy Stillman reported for the OCR that a Confederate Museum Logo Tumbler will be raffled off and if anyone wanted to donate an item for the Lee-Jackson Raffle to please bring it to the December Meeting. Military Order of Stars and Bars Commander Earl McCown reported all membership dues of the Charles Clark Chapter # 253 have been paid and the Annual Report has been submitted to National. The Chapter is still looking for more members. Camp Editor Larry McCluney asked members about the newsletter. Everyone said they did not have any problems accessing the issue and that the issue was very good. Camp Commander Larry McCluney reported on upcoming events. The Mississippi Division Reunion will be held in Flowood, MS June 7 – 8, 2023. The National Reunion will be held in North Charleston, SC July 17 – 21, 2024. The Commander-in-Chief has issued a challenge to the Armies, Divisions and all Camps to raise money for the Confederate Museum. Awards will be given to those who raised the most money at the National Reunion. Finally, December will be Camp Officer Elections. Anyone wishing an officer position may announce his candidacy at the meeting to be held December 9th at 6:00 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Indianola.

At this point in the meeting, Commander McCluney called a recess for the evening meal.

Commander McCluney reconvened the meeting and introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Scotty Garrett, a long-time friend and fellow re-enactor. Scotty's topic was the Battle of Franklin Church in Holmes County, MS. One unique thing about this little battle is it took place in Scotty's "Backyard". This fight took place in January 1865 between elements of Union General Grierson's Raiders and troopers of Confederate General Wirt Adams. Scotty used primary source material to describe the fighting between Adams 330 troopers and 3,500 Union troops led by Col. Embury Osband (source is the Official Records). Franklin Church is located about 4 miles northwest of Goodman, MS. Osband reported the battle opened with being attacked by "1,500" Confederates on his right flank when in actuality this number was only 50 Confederates. Seeing the overwhelming number of yankees, General Adams withdrew his troops east of Big Cypress Creek to the southeast and fought the yankees to a standstill. The Federals made a hasty retreat when the Confederates brought some artillery to bear. It was a very interesting presentation.

With no other business coming before the Camp, Kenneth Ray made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Earl McCown and the motion passed without objection. Attendance for the meeting was 10.



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Larry McCluney
Camp Commander / Editor:
Confederate @suddenlink.net

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Guest Speaker for Lee and Jackson January 13, 2023

Shelby Harriel will speak on her latest book *Behind the Rifle*. Below is a short synopsis of the book.

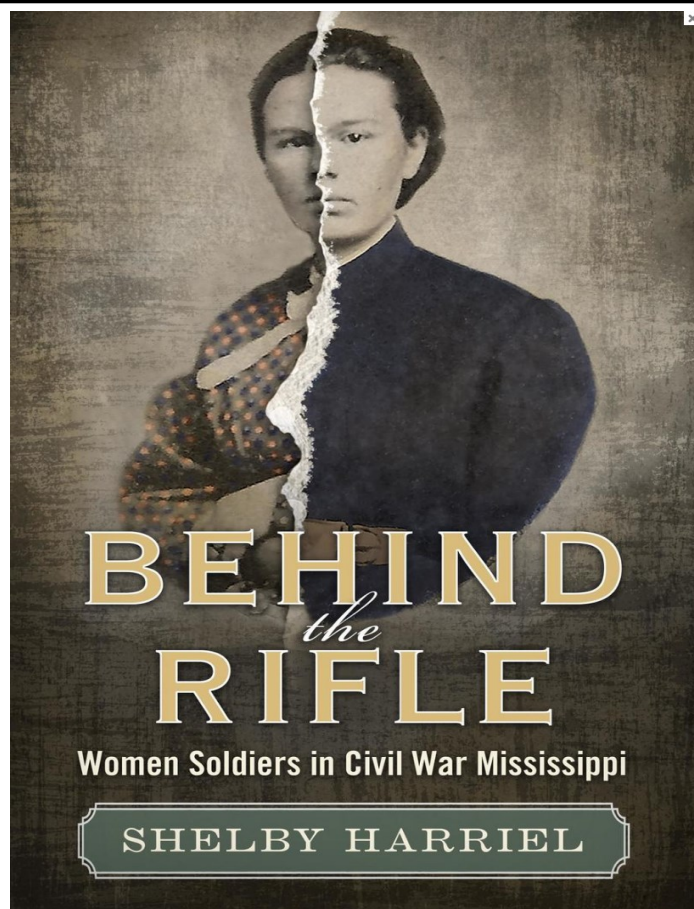
Description

During the Civil War, Mississippi's strategic location bordering the Mississippi River and the state's system of railroads drew the attention of opposing forces who clashed in major battles for control over these resources. The names of these engagements—Vicksburg, Jackson, Port Gibson, Corinth, Iuka, Tupelo, and Brice's Crossroads—along with the narratives of the men who fought there resonate in Civil War literature. However, Mississippi's chronicle of military involvement in the Civil War is not one of men alone. Surprisingly, there were a number of female soldiers disguised as males who stood shoulder to shoulder with them on the firing lines across the state.

Behind the Rifle: Women Soldiers in Civil War Mississippi is a groundbreaking study that discusses women soldiers with a connection to Mississippi—either those who hailed from the Magnolia State or those from elsewhere who fought in Mississippi battles. Readers will learn who they were, why they chose to fight at a time when military service for women was banned, and the horrors they experienced. Included are two maps and over twenty period photographs of locations relative to the stories of these female fighters along with images of some of the women themselves.

The product of over ten years of research, this work provides new details of formerly recorded female fighters, debunks some cases, and introduces over twenty previously undocumented ones. Among these are women soldiers who were involved in such battles beyond Mississippi as Shiloh, Antietam, and Gettysburg. Readers will also find new documentation regarding female fighters held as prisoners of war in such notorious prisons as Andersonville.

Shelby Harriel-Hidlebaugh is an instructor of mathematics at Pearl River Community College. Her research on women soldiers of the Civil War has been published in various newspapers, magazines, websites, blogs, and brochures for the National Park Service and state historic sites. She has given numerous presentations about women soldiers in over ten states.



Chaplain's Corner — Earl McCown

As Christmas think of our ancestors. I can only imagine the sad times they had during Christmas time. away from their families. What a terrible Holy season.

Although Christmas is a Christian holiday until Grant made it one in 1863, many soldiers observed the war as a way to bond with family and long lost traditions. traditions celebrated during the war. Christmas was widely celebrated in Europe for centuries. When the Puritans came to the New World, they brought with them a distaste for the holiday. Instead of a joyful, family oriented holiday that it is today, they turned Christmas into a solemn occasion that involved praying and reflecting on sin. Feeling that it was more of a European pagan holiday that a Christian celebration, Puritans officially banned Christmas in Boston for over 20 years during the mid 1600s. Even after the ban was lifted it was still viewed with suspicion and dragged on as a dull, muted holiday for over two centuries later.

In the early 1800s, a growing religious revival spurred the return of Christmas celebrations in many states. In 1830, Louisiana became the first state to make Christmas a holiday. Other states followed suit and soon families started sending Christmas cards, singing carols, preparing holiday meals and attending winter dances. Children received small homemade gifts such as hand carved toys, fruit and cakes. Families had Christmas trees, which were small and sat on top of a table, that they decorated



approaches, I tend to forget during the Civil War the hardships experienced at home. They were so far from home and loved way to spend such a

Christmas wasn't an official holiday. President Ulysses S. Grant, in 1870, made it a national holiday throughout the country. Many of the current traditions we have today were actually started during the Civil War era.

Christmas was widely celebrated in the North, but the South

with strings of dried fruit and popcorn.

During the War, soldiers celebrated by decorating their camp Christmas trees with hardtack and salt pork and singing carols such as "Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night." After General William Sherman captured Savannah in December 1864, some of his soldiers dressed their horses up like reindeer by attaching branches to their headgear and delivered food and supplies to hungry families in Georgia.

Although some soldiers, especially Union soldiers in the beginning of the War, enjoyed special Christmas dinners of turkey, oysters and pies, our Confederate soldiers felt blessed to receive a can full of coffee and a quarter ration of hardtack and sowbelly for their menu.

One of the most famous Christmas gifts was when General Sherman captured Savannah, Georgia in December 1864, and sent Abraham Lincoln a telegram that read: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 100 and 50 guns and plenty of ammunition, also about 25,000 bales of cotton."





News from B/G Charles Clarke Chapter 253 Military Order of the Stars and Bars

The Mississippi Society Military Order of the Stars and Bars will have their Annual Meeting Saturday, February 17, 2024. The location for the meeting will be at the American Legion Post #72, 113 Fairground Spur, New Albany, MS, 38652.

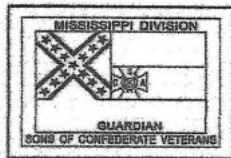
The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.

Mississippi Division News: Guardians needed

Everyone knows the atmosphere in this country where it comes to anything Confederate. Last summer we saw how vulnerable our Memorials were to the rioters. Sadly, it has spread to the cemeteries the place where the left wants all the Memorials moved. In the past few weeks, the Sleeping Lion Memorial to the Confederate dead in Oakwood Cemetery in Atlanta, GA has been removed. Our Confederate Dead and our Memorials are at risk to removal and vandalism. This why we need Guardians to watch over our Memorials and burial sites of our Confederate Dead. Most of our members live in Counties with Confederate Memorial Monuments and all live near a cemetery where Confederate Dead are buried. The Mississippi Division has the MS Division Guardian Program for burial sites where a person adopts a burial site or several sites and watches over the site ensuring it is properly cared for. The Division now has the MS Division Monument Guardian Program. With this program, a person signs up to keep watch on a Memorial. There is a contact person to report any vandalism and/or threats of removal. If anyone is interested in this program please see the attached application and information.



Mississippi Division Guardian Program



.. **Purpose:** The program is designed to honor the memory of our Confederate ancestors and through its implementation will provide the preservation of their final resting places and will document for future generations their sacrifices.

1. **Eligibility:** Any Mississippi Division camp member in good standing, who is at least 12 years of age and who has demonstrated his desire and ability to serve as a GUARDIAN. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in the program to honor our ancestors and to protect their final resting place.

1. **DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- (A) He shall care for and protect the grave(s) of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the gravesite is kept clean and well maintained year round. He shall perform these duties personally unless he is physically unable because of health reasons. At no time shall these responsibilities be passed on to another without the approval of the GUARDIAN committee for the Alabama Division.
- (B) He will be responsible to appropriately mark the grave so it is designated as a final resting place of a Confederate Veteran. This can be by stone, plaque, Cross of Honor, etc. He will also be responsible for replacing or repairing any marker that is worn, damaged or destroyed.
- (C) He shall personally visit the grave a minimum of two times a year to include Confederate Memorial Day or at least one week prior. He shall place a wreath or a small Confederate flag or both on the grave.

1. **APPLICATIONS, REVIEWS & APPROVAL:**

- (A) Individuals who wish to participate in the GUARDIAN program must complete and submit the Guardian Application form to the Mississippi Division Guardian Committee Chairman. The Committee Chairman will then forward the application on to the Guardian Committee for approval. The application must be accompanied with a map showing the location of the gravesite along with written driving instructions to the cemetery. A before photograph of the gravesite must also be submitted before approval. An after photograph can be submitted for the file as work is completed.

- (B) The applicant must also remit a one-time \$10.00 fee with the application to cover the cost of the GUARDIAN pin and certificate, which will be awarded upon the candidate's approval for membership in the GUARDIAN program. The fee is non-refundable.
- (C) Individuals who are not accepted into the GUARDIAN program will be given an explanation in writing by the Review Committee. The applicant can request an appeal of the decision. The Review Committee will review the applicants appeal and render a decision. The decision of the Review Committee is final.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Multiple Gravesites: GUARDIANS may care for more than one gravesite and will be

recognized by the Guardian Review Committee. Special certificates or indications on the Guardian pin may be authorized to signify the care of multiple veterans' graves. Normally no more than 25 gravesites will be authorized for a Guardian to care for. The Review Committee may authorize more than 25 on a case by case basis under the advice of the applicants Camp Commander.

- (A) **Forfeiture of Guardian position:** A Guardian who cannot meet the requirements of his position due to relocation, health or other reasons must notify the Review Committee. All fees are non-refundable.
- (B) **Bequeathing of GUARDIAN position:** A Guardian may transfer his responsibilities as a Guardian to another SCV member in good standing with prior approval by the Review Committee. There is a \$10 fee for transferring the Guardianship. This fee will cover the new Guardian's membership pin and certificate. If he is already in the Guardian program there will be no fee to cover the certificate designating the new guardianship he is undertaking.
- (C) **Revocation of GUARDIAN status:** The Review Committee may revoke the status of a participant in the Guardian program if he fails to carry out his duties and responsibilities as outlined. The Committee reserves the right to inspect, with or without notice, any GUARDIAN'S Confederate Veteran's gravesite to confirm compliance with all of the rules and regulations specified in the program.

- (E) **Wilderness Gravesite:** This is a gravesite that is completely neglected or abandoned in remote area. Application for this special designation must be accompanied with before and after pictures of the gravesite and the Guardian must meet all other requirements of the program.



SCV_CHAT
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE
ONE WEEK AT A TIME

**SCV Chat — Every Monday Night on Facebook
at 7:00 PM Central time and on Thursday
Nights at 7:00 PM for Look Around the
Confederation**

Mississippi Guardian Program Application

Turn Application into Division Guardian Committee Chairman

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone #: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____

Location: _____

GRAVESITE DETAILS

Confederate Veterans Name: _____

Rank: _____ Unit: _____ Co.: _____

Born: ____/____/____ Died: ____/____/____ Condition of site: Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent

(circle one)

Location of Grave: (include name of cemetery, city and county): _____

Marker on Grave denoting Confederate Service: _____ Cross of Honor? _____

Documentation of Confederate Service: List book, service record, etc. _____

I affirm that all the information here is true and accurate. I agree to faithfully care for and protect this Confederate Veteran's grave in accordance with the GUARDIAN PROGRAM rules for as long as I am able. In the event I cannot carry out my duties, I shall notify the Review Committee immediately. I also understand that the Review Committee can revoke my status as a GUARDIAN for good cause.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Committee Chairman: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Mail Application, Map and Photos to:

Mississippi Division Guardian Program
123 Douglas Street
Bruce, MS. 38915



**2024 SCV MS Division Reunion
Registration Form**
128th Reunion – Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
30th Reunion – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose
Flowood, Mississippi – June 7-9, 2023
Hosted by the Rankin Greys SCV Camp 2278 and MS Society, OCR
Hilton Garden Inn



Compatriots of the Mississippi Division SCV and Ladies of the Mississippi Society OCR,

We are thrilled to invite you to our upcoming Annual Reunion, hosted by the Rankin Greys Camp 2278. The Reunion will be held on June 7-9, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Flowood, MS.

Our Annual Reunion serves as a gathering of our esteemed compatriots, families, and friends. It is a time when we come together to transact the business of our organization but also as a time to celebrate our shared honorable heritage, reflect on our achievements from the past year, and envision the future of our organizations. Please make plans to join us for a memorable weekend. Our host hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/janflgi-hilton-garden-inn-jackson-flowood/>. Located in the heart of beautiful Flowood, Mississippi, our venue offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all attendees. Room Rates are \$129.00 a night; use the code MSSCV to receive this room rate when booking.

Registration is now open, and we encourage you to secure your spot at our reunion at your earliest convenience. Please take advantage of our early registration rates. This year we are please to announce that **YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE** at (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mississippi-division-scv-reunion-2024-registration-669731193027?aff=oddttdcreator>) . For those who would prefer, you can still mail your registration form with a check or money order. If you are attending the awards banquet, please make sure you indicate your meal preference. **If you are choosing the steak option, include your preferred doneness.**

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our convention planning committee at msscvreunion2024@gmail.com or visit the Eventbrite page and visit the FAQ section.

To give you an idea of what will take place at this year's reunion, we have this rough itinerary.

Friday June 7th

- 12:00 PM- 5:45 PM SCV/OCR Registration- Host Hotel
- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM Division Executive Council Meeting-Host Hotel
- 6:00 PM- 6:30 PM Memorial Service- Mississippi Confederate Monument- Old Capitol Green
 - Traditionally, this service is held on Sunday morning and is a time for us to reflect on our Confederate Ancestors and the Compatriots. We figured that we could move it to Friday evening to encourage participation and set us in the right mind for the weekend.
- 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM President's Reception and Birthday Party-Old Capitol Museum
 - Jefferson Davis was born on June 3, 1808, and constitutionally we have our reunion the weekend following his birthday. This year we will celebrate at the Old Capitol, a building well known to President Davis. Come enjoy refreshments and wonder the halls where southern statesmen like Davis, LQC Lamar, Benjamin Humphreys, Robert Lowry, Steven D. Lee, and William Barksdale once strowed. Then join us in the House Chamber where secession was debated for an interesting presentation. We will have private security as well as Capitol Police to ensure we are not disturbed.

Saturday June 8th

- 7:00 AM- Color Guard Muster
- 8:00 AM- Opening Ceremonies
- 9:00 AM- Mississippi Division, SCV Business Meeting with Beauvoir Corporate meeting to follow.
- 9:30 AM- Mississippi Society, OCR Tea and Business Meeting
- 5:00 PM- Cocktail Hour- Cash Bar at Hotel Lobby
- 6:30 PM- Awards Banquet
 - The doors for the banquet will open at 6:00 PM and we ask that everyone be seated by 6:30 PM. Our keynote speaker will be SCV Executive Director Adam Southern.



**2024 SCV MS Division Reunion
Registration Form**
128th Reunion – Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
30th Reunion – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose
Flowood, Mississippi – June 7-9, 2023
Hosted by the Rankin Greys SCV Camp 2278 and MS Society, OCR
Hilton Garden Inn



SCV Member Name: _____

Title/SCV Camp Name & Number: _____

Title/OCR Chapter Name & Number: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies (quantities limited). Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. OCR members will have a Tea and receive a medal if payment is provided below.

REGISTRATION AMOUNTS

SCV Member – on or before May 6, 2024, \$60.00 / After May 6, 2024, \$70.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

OCR Member – on or before May 6, 2024, \$30.00 / After May 6, 2024, \$35.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

Friday Night President Davis Birthday Reception (Old Capitol)

on or before May 6, 2023, \$20.00 / After May 6, 2023, \$30.00 QTY _____ \$ _____

Awards Banquet - \$45.00 per Adult QTY _____

QTY _____ \$ _____

Please Indicate:

Chicken: _____ Steak: _____ Level of Doneness: _____

(NO RECEPTION OR BANQUET REGISTRATION AFTER MAY 10, 2024, **INCLUDING WALK-UPS**)

Individual Ancestor Memorial - \$10.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

Half Page Ancestor Memorial - \$40.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

Full Page Ancestor Memorial - \$100.00 each QTY _____ \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT

=====➔ \$ _____

Please Make Checks Payable to **Rankin Greys Camp 2278** & Mail to:
 Rankin Greys Camp 2278 C/O: Chris Bryant, 387 Rankin Gerguson RD, Pelahatchie, MS 39415

SCV Contact: George Conor Bond (601) 813-7820 OCR Contact: Suzi Bond White (601) 813-1191

HOTEL INFO

Hilton Garden Inn Jackson/Flowood
 118 Laurel Park Cove , Flowood, MS, 39232
 Use MSSCV when booking for \$129.00 room rate
 (601)487-0800

HELP NEEDED FOR BEAUVOIR!!

BEAUVOIR, THE LAST HOME OF CONFEDERATE PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS IN BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI SUFFERED SEVERE DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE KATRINA IN 2005 AND IS STILL IN NEED OF REPAIRS AND UPKEEP. THE HOME, PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, MUSEUM, AND CONFEDERATE CEMETERY MAKING UP THE GROUNDS AT BEAUVOIR ARE ONE OF THE FEW LOCATIONS WHERE PEOPLE CAN STILL VISIT TO FIND THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT THE CONFEDERACY, IT'S LEADERS, THE FIGHT FOR STATES RIGHTS, AND FREEDOM FROM AN OVERBEARING GOVERNMENT. THE MAIN ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY NEEDS REPAIR (THIS IS THE FIRST IMPRESSION A VISITOR GETS). THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT, JUST LIKE THE ONE OUR ANCESTORS FOUGHT, HAS MADE MATERIAL AND LABOR COSTS OVERLY HIGH. SCV CAMP SAM DAVIS #596 IS REQUESTING DONATIONS TO HELP IN THE PROJECT OF PAVING THE DRIVEWAY, PLEASE HELP US KEEP THIS BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY MAINTAINED AS BEFITTING OUR PRESIDENT'S LAST HOME. FOR EACH DONATION OF \$35.00 (OR MORE) THE SAM DAVIS CAMP WILL ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DONATION WITH A ONE-OF-A-KIND BEAUVOIR MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AS A THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION. DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO: SCV SAM DAVIS CAMP 596, P.O. BOX 7532, D'IBERVILLE, MS 39540

DEO VINDICE

POC: JOE NEWMAN

1ST LT COMMANDER

228-326-8263

DONALD C. MCFALL

ADJUTANT

228-297-0007

mastersarg70@gmail.com



erans for a gift from your estate simply by naming the SCV for a bequest.
3) If you have Life Insurance, Investment Accounts, IRAs... Another easy way of helping the SCV is to name the SCV as a beneficiary for a percentage of these accounts.

4) You might find it better to give non-cash assets, such as shares of stock or real estate. Giving appreciated assets to the Sons of Confederate Veterans enables you to make a tax deductible gift* and avoid capital gains tax.*

5) You might also consider giving directly from your IRA, either a specific amount or your required minimum distribution.*

6) Do you have assets that are not generating income? Using these assets to fund a Charitable Trust can provide you with income and benefit the SCV as the remainder beneficiary. Plus, there are tax advantages* that you might find very attractive.

We can help. Give us a call and we can walk you through the process of these types of planned gifts and other ideas. Contact Adam Southern at exedir@scv.org or call 1-800-380-1896.

R. S. Jason Boshers, Commander-in-Chief

Walter D. "Donnie" Kennedy, Lt. Commander-in-Chief

James Ronald Kennedy, Chief of Heritage Operations



THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT ELM SPRINGS

The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is under attack as never before. The National Battlefield Parks have been taken over by the "it's all about slavery" provocateurs. Museums have changed their collections and interpretations to present what they call the cultural history of the War for Southern Independence. In reality this new perspective is nothing more than South bashing. The forces of political correctness have gone into high gear. They attempt to ban any and all things Confederate through their ideological fascism.

There needs to be at least one place where the people of the South and others can go to learn an accurate account of why so many struggled so long in their attempt to reassert government by the consent of the governed in America!

The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building that will have two purposes. One of the uses of this new building will be to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. At the SCV Reunion in July of 2009 the GEC set up a building fund for this purpose. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and in the media.

These plans have now become a reality. The ground breaking has taken place and the museum is now open.

Take this journey with us and support the museum as a donor or join the Friends of the Museum today!

Send Donations to:

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Attn: National Confederate Museum

P.O. Box 59

Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card.

www.theconfederatemuseum.com



National SCV News

Having an Impact on Future Generations!

It's National Estate Planning Awareness Week & Time to Consider Year-End Gifts

This week is National Estate Planning Awareness Week and it's an opportunity to plan for a brighter future for you, your family, and the organizations that are important to you. Estate planning is of vital importance and an opportunity to decide what happens to your assets and how they can impact the lives of your family as well as impacting lives through the organizations close to you heart, such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the National Confederate Museum.

This is also the time of year for considering year-end tax-deductible* gifts to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and other organizations you deem worthy.

Consider the following:

- 1) Do you have a Will? If not, it's time to have a Will drafted so that you can decide in advance how your assets are to be distributed.
- 2) A Will is also an excellent way to include the Sons of Confederate Veterans



2024



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

NATIONAL REUNION



July 16 - July 21 2023

The Embassy Suites in North Charleston, S.C.

Please make Checks Payable to **Low Country SCV**

Mail to: **2024 SCV National Reunion**

P.O. Box 1049, Ladson, S.C., 29456

To Register & Pay Online: SCV4.org/2024

For more information: Contact Rick Little:

(843) 305-3085 / Support@SCV4.org



Sons of Confederate Veterans

129th Annual National Reunion

Charleston, South Carolina July 16-21, 2024

REGISTRATION FORM



Please Print Clearly or Type

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street or PO Box

City

State

Zip Code

Email: _____

Phone #: () _____

SCV Camp Name: _____

Camp #: _____

State: _____

Your Rank, Title, or Position: _____

Spouse Name (for Name Badge): _____

(Note: Do not pay registration fee for spouse - not required)

One Free Ancestor Ad Info:

Ancestor Name		Company	Unit	State of Service			
Date	Time	Event			Price	Qty	Total
SCV Only Reunion Registration - Includes Medal (EARLY Jan.1 , 2023 thru Jan. 1, 2024)					\$90		
SCV Only Reunion Registration - Includes Medal (REGULAR - Until July 1, 2024)					\$100		
Tue. July 16, 2024	6:00 PM	Dinner - The Battle of Secessionville by Gene Kizer Jr.			\$80		
Wed. July 17, 2024	10:30 AM	Fort Sumter Tour 1 (includes transportation)			\$100		
Wed. July 17, 2024	12:30 PM	Fort Sumter Luncheon (Note: luncheon overlaps with both tour times, so do not purchase luncheon & Ft. Sumter tour)			\$60		
Wed. July 17, 2024	1:00 PM	Fort Sumter Tour 2 (includes transportation)			\$100		
Wed. July 17, 2024	6:00 PM	Fort Sumter Dinner			\$80		
Thu. July 18, 2024	12:30 PM	H.L. Hunley Luncheon (NOTE: luncheon will overlap with the 12:30, 1:00, & 1:30 tour times)			\$60		
Thu. July 18, 2024	12:30 PM	Tour - H.L. Hunley Submarine & Museum (includes bus)			\$55		
Circle Desired Tour Time Only 50 people per time slot		12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00 Tour times assigned on 1st come basis so times not guaranteed					
Thu. July 18, 2024	2:00 PM	UDC Ladies Tea & Antebellum Fashion Show			\$35		
Thu. July 18, 2024	5:30 PM	Hunley Dinner & Afterhours Tour w/ Randy Burbage includes a dinner at hotel, then self-drive to Hunley tour			\$95		
Thu. July 18, 2024	6:00 PM	Dinner - Confederate Spy Rose Greenhow			\$80		
Fri. July 19, 2024	7:00 AM	Breakfast - Chaplain's Breakfast			\$35		
Fri. July 19, 2024	9:30 AM	UDC Museum & Market Street (All Day 9:30 to 3:30)			\$45		
Fri. July 19, 2024	12:30 PM	SCV Awards Luncheon			\$60		
Fri. July 19, 2024	2:30 PM	Tour - Battery / White Point Garden (includes bus)			\$45		
Fri. July 19, 2024	5:30 PM	Dinner - The Battle of Secessionville by Gene Kizer Jr.			\$80		
Fri. July 19, 2024	5:30 PM	Fort Sumter Dinner Cruise & Afterhours Tour w/ Rick Hatcher NOTE: self-drive to tour boat downtown & dinner served onboard.			\$100		
Sat. July 20, 2024	7:00 AM	Mech Calv Breakfast			\$60		
Sat. July 20, 2024	12:30 PM	SCV Luncheon			\$60		
Sat. July 20, 2024	12:30 PM	Tour of St. Michaels Church / Provost Dungeon (LIMITED TOUR - only 50 tickets available)			\$50		
Sat. July 20, 2024	7:00 PM	SCV Banquet, Debutante Presentation & Grand Ball Note: Dress Attire is Coat & Tie or Period Uniform / Civilian			\$100		
EXTRA Ancestor Memorial Ad (Note: 1 free Memorial ad included with registration cost) NOTE: To submit additional Ancestors Memorial info, USE back of this form or separate form.					\$10		
EXTRA Reunion Medal (Note: 1 medal is included with registration, so order extras here)					\$25		
2024 Numbered (1-100) Reunion Medal (This medal NOT included with registration)					\$100		
FINAL TOTAL - Registration, Tours, and Meals							

Please make checks payable to: "Low Country SCV"

Mail form & check to: **Low Country SCV, PO Box 1049, Ladson, SC 29456-1049**

For more information, please email: support@SCV4.org



Friends of The Confederate Museum at Elm Springs Annual Membership Application

All memberships are tax-deductible and include the E-Newsletter.

_____ Yes, I want to join the Friends of The Confederate Museum at Elm Springs

_____ Is this a Corporate Membership?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Membership Levels & Benefits

Longstreet Level: \$25

- Membership for one
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs

Judah P. Benjamin Level: \$50

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs

Patrick Cleburne Level: \$100

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs
- 10% Gift Shop Discount

N. B. Forrest Level: \$250

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs
- Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum
- 10% Gift Shop Discount
- Free Elm Springs Hat or T-Shirt

Robert E. Lee Level: \$500

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs
- Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum
- 15% Gift Shop Discount
- Free Elm Springs Hat and T-Shirt

Jefferson Davis Level: \$1000

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs
- Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum
- 20% Gift Shop Discount
- Free Elm Springs Hat, T-Shirt and Polo

Please check the following membership level:

_____ Longstreet Level

_____ Judah P. Benjamin Level

_____ Patrick Cleburne Level

_____ N. B. Forrest Level

_____ Robert E. Lee Level

_____ Jefferson Davis Level

Please make checks payable to Sons of Confederate Veterans and mail to:

Sons of Confederate Veterans, P. O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402

If paying by credit card, please call (931) 380-1844 or email at exedir@scv.org



Friends of Elm Springs

Annual Membership Application

All Proceeds go to the restoration and maintenance of the Home
Elm Springs built in 1837

All Memberships are tax-deductible and include the E-Newsletter

_____ Yes, I want to join the Friends of Elm Springs

_____ Is this a Corporate Membership?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Membership Levels & Benefits

Elm Tree Level: \$25

- Membership for one
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs

Cool Spring Level: \$50

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs

Todd Family Level: \$100

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs
- 10% Gift Shop Discount

Susan Looney Level: \$250

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs
- Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum
- 10% Gift Shop Discount
- Free Elm Springs Hat or T-Shirt

Abram Looney Level: \$500

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs
- Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum
- 15% Gift Shop Discount
- Free Elm Springs Hat and T-Shirt

Frank Armstrong Level: \$1000

- Family Membership
- Unlimited Tours of Elm Springs
- Unlimited Tours of The Confederate Museum
- 20% Gift Shop Discount
- Free Elm Springs Hat, T-Shirt and Polo

Please check the following membership level:

_____ Elm Tree Level

_____ Cool Spring Level

_____ Todd Family Level

_____ Susan Looney Level

_____ Abram Looney Level

_____ Frank Armstrong Level

Please make checks payable to Sons of Confederate Veterans and mail to:

Sons of Confederate Veterans, P. O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402

If paying by credit card, please call (931) 380-1844 or email at exedir@scv.org

Forrest's Last Ride



Forrest's Last Ride is the name of the project to reconstruct the gravesite of Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest on the grounds of Historic Elm Springs and the National Confederate Museum. This will be a very large project as the plaza is 50 feet deep and 75 feet wide. Everything that was with the graves is now on the grounds and waiting to be reconstructed. The Equestrian Statue, which is the headstone of the graves will be repaired and returned to its rightful place. This project is for the repair, reconstruction, and placement of the Forrest Gravesite in its entirety and as intended by the artist Charles Henry Neihaus.

On September 18, 2021, we gathered to lay to rest, Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest were on the grounds of Historic Elm Springs. On October 1, 2022, the General Executive Council voted to rebuild the entire plaza as it was originally Constructed. The estimated cost to reconstruct the entire plaza is \$150,000. Currently, \$76,000 has already been raised. This project is being done by the great-great-grandsons of General Forrest and the General Executive Council.

This cannot happen without your help and donations. This cannot be built until the money has been raised. If you wish to contribute, please send your donations to SCV National.

To pay by check:

Please make your check payable to SCV National with Forrest Plaza in the memo line and mail to:

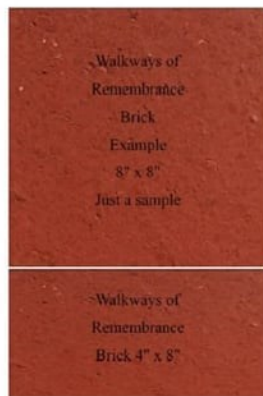
SCV
P. O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

To pay by phone: call 931-380-1844, ext. 209

To pay online: <https://scv.org/paypal-donations/>

You take them down, and we will put them back up!





Walkways of Remembrance
Bricks and Pavers For the Walkways for the
General Headquarters for the Sons of Confederate Veterans at Elm Springs
and the
Confederate Museum at Elm Springs

Remember and honor your Confederate Ancestor, a family member or any cherished memory with the purchase of a Memorial Brick to be laid for a walkways at the General Headquarters for the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs.

Brick sizes:

The 4" x 8" brick will allow 3 lines with 21 characters (including spaces) per line and will cost \$50.

The 8" by 8" brick will allow 6 lines with 21 characters (including spaces) per line and will cost \$100.

Layout for 4" x 8" brick with 3 lines max and 21 characters per line max (including spaces) \$50

Layout for 8" x 8" brick with 6 lines max and 21 characters per line max (including spaces) \$100

Make checks payable to SCV and write "Bricks" in the memo line. Please fill out this form and mail to:
SCV, P.O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402
Credit card payments are available by calling 1-800-MYSOUTH and contacting Merchandising.

Please include all your contact information so we can contact you.

Name: _____
Address/City/State/Zip: _____
Phone number: _____
Email address: _____

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SECESSION DOCUMENTS

Garrick Sapp

If the lie did not begin with Ty Seidule, he popularized it in his 2015 Prager U. video:

"The secession documents of every single Southern state made clear, crystal clear, that they were leaving the Union in order to protect their peculiar institution of slavery."

This falsehood is repeated regularly by the ignorant and informed alike. Seidule was the head of the History Department at The United States Military Academy. He knows the information below, so he is a liar. What follows is a brief description of the secession documents, ordinances, and declaration of causes (where they exist) for each of the 11 States that seceded and the official date. The States did not produce a common or standard set of documents.

South Carolina – December 24, 1860 Slavery was specifically cited after referencing 1852, where South Carolina "declared that the frequent violations of the Constitution of the United States, by the Federal Government" almost resulted in secession then. It would be fair to say slavery was front and center. "But an increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding States to the institution of slavery has led to a disregard of their obligations, and the laws of the General Government have ceased to effect the objects of the Constitution". The word "slavery" appears six times in the document, and it is alluded to in other places.

Mississippi – January 9, 1861 Mississippi's declaration was about slavery. "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery—the greatest material interest of the world. Its labor supplies the product which constitutes by far the largest and most important portions of commerce of the earth."

Florida – January 10, 1861 The Florida Ordinance of Secession does not contain the word slavery, any derivative, or allusion. It declares that "the State of Florida hereby withdraws herself from the Confederacy of States existing under the name of the United States of America..."

Alabama – January 11, 1861 The Alabama Ordinance of Secession alludes to slavery and only specifically mentions slavery in the form of inviting other "slaveholding" states to a convention of states "for the purpose of consulting with each other as to the most effectual mode of securing concerted and harmonious action in whatever measures may be deemed most desirable for our common peace and security." The document cites the election of a "sectional party" that was "avowedly hostile to the domestic institutions and to the peace and security of the people of the State of Alabama".

Georgia – January 19, 1861 Georgia is famously one of the four states who listed a declaration of causes. It is the most comprehensive and slavery took up the most space in the context of Constitutional violations. There was significant attention given to the preferences the central government gave to manufacturing and navigation interests and that "they received for many years enormous bounties by the general acquiescence of the whole country".

Louisiana – January 26, 1861 The Louisiana Ordinance of Secession does not mention slavery or any derivative or contain any allusions to slavery. The first declaration was that "the union now subsisting between Louisiana and other States, under the name of 'The United States of America' is hereby dissolved".

Texas – February 1, 1861 The Texas Declaration of Causes begins with this: "The government of the United States, by certain joint resolutions, bearing date the 1st day of March, in the year A.D. 1845, proposed to the Republic of Texas, then a free, sovereign and independent nation, the annexation of the latter to the former, as one of the co-equal states thereof..." This sets the stage for the rest of the document which argues the United States is not abiding by that agreement. Significant in the discussion is slavery, but it is not the only Constitutional grievance. "They have impoverished the slaveholding States by unequal and partial legislation, thereby enriching themselves by draining our substance."

A Little Context—The states above were the first seven to secede. The next four would not secede until after Fort Sumter and Lincoln's call for troops "in order to suppress" the States "too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings or by the powers vested in the marshals by law." Virginia was next, a few days after Sumter, and Tennessee was last, six months after South Carolina.

Virginia – April 17, 1861 The Virginia Ordinance of Secession is a legalistic document that references other slaveholding States: the "Federal Government having perverted said powers, not only to the injury of the people of Virginia, but to the oppression of the Southern slaveholding States". There is no other reference to slavery.

Arkansas – May 6, 1861 The Arkansas Secession Ordinance essentially says that they warned the US Government that if coercion was used against States that had seceded, Arkansas would secede. They were good to their word. Slavery is not mentioned.

North Carolina – May 20, 1861 The title of the North Carolina ordinance says all you need to know: "An Ordinance to Dissolve the Union Between the State of North Carolina and the Other States United with Her Under the Compact of Government Entitled the Constitution of The United States." The ordinance does not mention slavery.

Conclusion—The lie that every Southern States' secession documents made it "crystal" clear that their separation from the Union was because of slavery is persistent. Some will say that allusions to slavery still count as slavery being the cause. Please refer to the beginning of the document. An allusion is not crystal clear, by definition, or in reality. The reality is that there were many Constitutional issues outside of slavery. Besides, even with the easier standard of accepting allusions to slavery, it only takes one not to allude to slavery for it to be a lie. There are several, and modern historians know this. Face it. Ty Seidule lies.

SOLDIERS REST

The city of Vicksburg served as a major hospital center in the early years of the Civil War. A section in the Cedar Hill Cemetery was set aside to provide a fitting burial place for Confederate soldiers who died of sickness or wounds. Known as "Soldiers' Rest," the plot in Cedar Hill Cemetery is the final resting place for an estimated 5,000 Confederate soldiers.

A local undertaker, Mr. J.Q. Arnold, was hired by the Confederate government to bury Southern soldiers, and carried out those duties throughout the siege of Vicksburg. Mr. Arnold meticulously maintained records of the soldiers he buried, assigning each one a grave number. Regrettably, his list and map of the cemetery disappeared after the siege, although a portion of his list was re-discovered in the early 1960s, giving the name, rank, company, unit, and date of death for 1,600 soldiers. Approximately 3,500 names are unknown. The document is now part of the archival records at the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg, MS.



A soldier of stone stands guard over the resting place of Confederate Heroes.

Soldiers Rest - Vicksburg, Mississippi

Due to the disappearance of Mr. Arnold's records, only a few private headstones marked the plot until 1893. On April 26 of that year, the ladies of the Confederate Memorial Association dedicated a beautiful stone monument featuring the standing figure of a Confederate Soldier. It was not until the early 1980s,

following the discovery of the partial list, that the headstones were erected through the combined effort of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Veterans' Administration. The stones were arranged with military precision and placed in state groupings. In 1998, an additional 72 headstones were erected by the Sons of Confederate Veterans to honor soldiers whose identities were established on a second list which surfaced in the collection of the Old Courthouse Museum.



The "Old Douglas" memorial at Cedar Hill Cemetery near Soldiers Rest.

Soldiers Rest also contains memorial markers for those who died at Cooper's Wells in Hinds County, as well as the sailors who perished on the CSS Arkansas. Unfortunately, stones could not be placed at the actual resting places for the soldiers in both of these groups, so a decision was made to honor their memory by placing memorials for them in Soldier's Rest.

Discoveries continue to be made about the history of Soldier's Rest. As recently as August 2018, a new list of more than 150 previously unknown soldier and widow burials was discovered and is in the process of being added to the records. Ms. Anna Fuller, in cooperation with several other volunteers, researches and maintains the information about those Confederate heroes who are interred there.

More information about Soldiers Rest, as well as information about events and new memorials can be found at their website: <http://Soldiersrestvicksburg.com/> or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SoldiersRestCSA>

Painted Canteens During the Civil War and One Artist Who Painted Them

Shannon Pritchard, October 9, 2023,

blueandgrayeducation.org

The canteen, typically made up of two pieces of wood or tin with a pewter spout and cork, was part of every Civil War soldier's kit. They were carried over the shoulder using a leather or cloth strap. And, they became popular surfaces for artists to create works of art, both during and after the Civil War.

This oil-painted Confederate canteen depicts a Confederate cavalryman wearing a gray kepi, an oilcloth raincoat, yellow pants, and knee-high riding boots. He is supporting his weary infantry companion, who is wearing a gray jacket and dark pants under a full-length gray greatcoat. The weary horse, rider, and infantryman are traveling through a war-torn area in the rain, and the sun is setting on the Confederacy in the background.

I believe the artist was depicting the road from Appomattox, as both are unarmed and both have despairing countenances. The painting is outlined in gold, which is still brilliant. The spout is also painted gold.

The lettering on the reverse, "Souvenir of the trip to RICHMOND Va Oct. 1881," gives great insight into the history of painted canteens. Just above the date, lightly written in pencil, is "Yorktown Centennial."



The front of the canteen, depicting a Confederate cavalryman and his weary infantry companion

October 1881 was the centennial of Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. In 1881, meetings of Confederate veterans were still very much frowned upon by the Federal Government and evidently the veterans gathered in Richmond under the auspices of celebrating the Yorktown centennial.

At that gathering, two prominent Confederate artists donated work to the ladies' bazaar; one was Alan Shepard, and the other John Adams Elder. Elder painted the canteens shown here, and later, it would be the model for one of his most famous works, "After Appomattox" in 1886.

Author and historian Michael Aubrecht says, "Elder remains the most coveted of pre- and post-Civil War artists and is considered one of the most celebrated artists ever to come out of the Civil War era."

And, in 2008, Christopher O. Uebelhor wrote, "Elder's work played a significant role in postwar America, helping to perpetuate the idea of the glorious Old South and the 'Southern mystique,' which is still very much alive today."

The second painted canteen appears to depict the view from Bellona Arsenal toward the hills of Richmond overlooking heavy artillery and a prisoner of war camp at Belle Isle. Both canteens were painted by the same artist in Richmond, which lends credence to my impression that the artillery scene is indeed Bellona.



The front of the canteen, depicting what is believed to be Bellona Arsenal



A note describing the canteen's subject matter

The discovery of the dated and addressed canteen sheds light on other painted canteens. Since both of these were painted and sold as souvenirs of the trip to Richmond, it stands to reason that a large portion of the few surviving painted canteens with a military scene were painted at the same time by the same artist.



The reverse of the canteen



The Death of Jefferson Davis, December 6, 1889

The Christmas Season of 1889 was a time of sadness in Dixie. Hundreds of thousands of people came to remember and pay their last respects to Jefferson Davis in the crescent city of New Orleans.

Jefferson Davis, and wife Varina, found great contentment and peace at "Beauvoir" their beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast Home. This is where he wished to die when his time came but it was not to be.

Davis completed his book *A Short History of the Confederate States of America* in October 1889. On November 6 Varina attended to their home as Davis left for Briarfield Plantation to take care of family business. As he traveled through New Orleans Davis was exposed to a cold-rain that caused him a severe cold and bronchitis that was further complicated by Malaria. On the 13th he left Briarfield to return to New Orleans. Varina Davis, who had taken another boat to Briarfield, met him on the river, and he finally received some medical care. They arrived in New Orleans on the 16th, and Davis was taken to the home of a friend, Charles Erasmus Fenner, an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Davis remained in bed but was stable for the next two weeks; however, he took a turn for the worse in early December.

Milo Copper, a former servant of the Davis family, upon hearing of Davis' illness, made the long trip from Florida to New Orleans to be near Davis' side. As Cooper entered Davis' sick room, he burst into tears and fell on his knees and prayed that God would spare the life of Jefferson Davis and bless the family. Just when Davis appeared to be improving, he lost consciousness on the evening of the 5th and died at age 81 at 12:45 a.m. on Friday, December 6, 1889, in the presence of several friends and with his hand in Varina's.

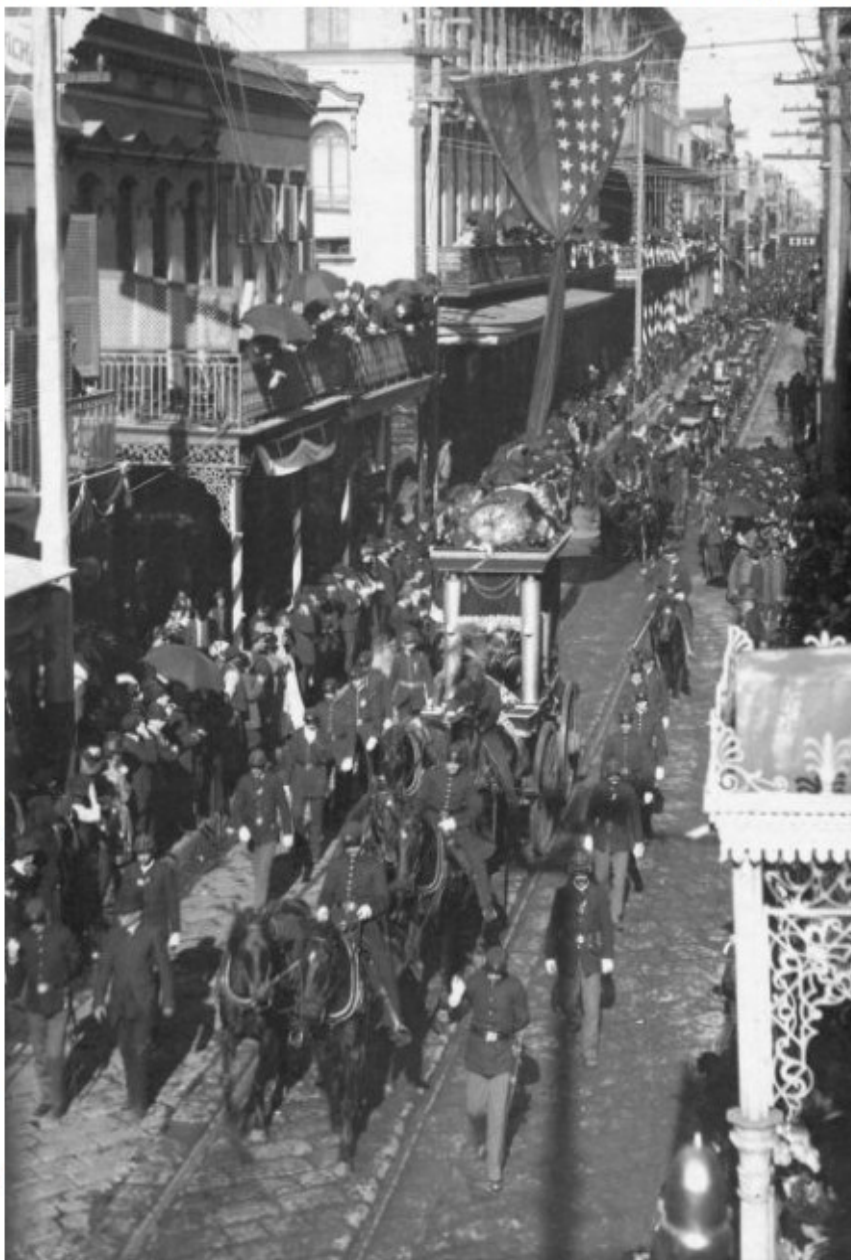
The news of his death hit the front page of many Southern newspapers. The praises and tributes read similar to that of a New Orleans paper:

"Throughout the South are Lamentations and tears; in every country on the globe where there are lovers of liberty there is mourning; wherever there are men who love heroic patriotism, dauntless resolution, fortitude or intellectual power, there is an sincere sorrowing. The beloved of our land, the unfaltering upholder of constitutional liberty, the typical hero and sage, is no more; the fearless heart that beats with sympathy for all mankind is stilled forever, a great light is gone—Jefferson Davis is dead!"

The body of Jefferson Davis laid in state at the city hall of New Orleans, Louisiana from midnight, December 6, 1889, to December 11th. The United States and Confederate flags hung from above and in the city hall that was covered with many flowers.

The church bells tolled as over 80,000 people lined the streets of New

Orleans to pay their respects to a Southern legend. All schools and businesses were closed that day. Those men who comprised the honor Guard for the procession to Metairie Cemetery included: the Army of Northern Virginia Association, the Army of Tennessee and the Washington Artillery. Metairie Cemetery would be a temporary burial place for Davis as he was moved in 1893, by funeral train to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.



Funeral Procession of Jefferson Davis in New Orleans

Making the story sadder, the United States War Department did not recognize Davis and the US flag was not flown at half-mast. The US flag was flown at half mast in the South. Jefferson Davis was the only former Secretary of War that was not given the respect and honor by the United States Government. Eighteen months after his death and temporary burial in New Orleans Metairie Cemetery, Davis' widow, Varina, decided the final burial place was to be Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery, considered the National Cemetery of the Confederacy. His remains were removed from the vault in New Orleans and placed on a flag-draped caisson escorted by honor guards composed of his old soldiers to Memorial Hall, where he lay in state. The next day, as thousands of people silently watched from the sidewalks and balconies, the caisson bore his body to a waiting funeral train. On the way, bonfires beside the tracks lit up ranks of Davis' old soldiers standing at attention beside stacked arms. In Richmond, gray haired veterans escorted him to the Virginia statehouse, where thousands filed past in respect before interment.

On October 17, 1978 President Jimmy Carter posthumously restored of citizenship rights to Jefferson F. Davis by signing S. J. Res. 16 into law and made the following statement: In posthumously restoring the full rights of citizenship to Jefferson Davis, the Congress officially

completes the long process of reconciliation that has reunited our people following the tragic conflict between the States. Earlier, he was specifically exempted from resolutions restoring the rights of other officials in the Confederacy. He had served the United States long and honorably as a soldier, Member of the U.S. House and Senate, and as Secretary of War. General Robert E. Lee's citizenship was restored in 1976. It is fitting that Jefferson Davis should no longer be singled out for punishment.

Editor's Note: The Caisson that carried President Davis' Coffin in New Orleans is on display at Beauvoir.

Christmas in the Confederacy

Excerpts below were written by Varina Davis, the wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, describing Christmas of 1864 in the Confederate White House in Richmond, Virginia.

"For as Christmas season was ushered in under the darkest clouds, everyone felt the cataclysm which impended but the rosy, expectant faces of our little children were a constant reminder that self-sacrifice must be the personal offering of each member of the family."

Due to the blockades around Confederate states, families could not find certain types of food and merchandise for their holiday celebrations, and available items were outrageously priced. The Southerners had to substitute many of the ingredients in the favorite Christmas recipes, and they had to make most of their gifts and tree decorations.

In Richmond, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family lived, it was discovered that the orphans at the Episcopalian home had been previously promised a Christmas tree, toys, and candy. The excerpt below shows how the people of Richmond creatively worked together to bring Christmas to the orphans in spite of the war's shortages.

"The kind-hearted confectioner was interviewed by our committee of managers, and he promised a certain amount of his simpler kinds of candy, which he sold easily a dollar and a half a pound, but he drew the line at cornucopias to hold it, or sugared fruits to hang on the tree, and all the other vestiges of Christmas creations which had lain on his hands for years. The ladies dispersed in anxious squads of toy-hunters, and each one turned over the store of her children's treasures for a contribution to the orphan's tree, my little ones rushed over the great house looking up their treasure eyeless dolls, three-legged horses, tops with the upper peg broken off, rubber tops, monkeys with all the squeak gone silent and all the ruck of children's toys that gather in a nursery closet. Some small feathered chickens and parrots which nodded their heads in obedience to a weight beneath them were furnished with new tail feathers, lambs minus much of their wool were supplied with a cotton wool substitute, rag dolls were plumped out and recovered with clean cloth, and the young ladies painted their fat faces in bright colors and furnished them with beads for eyes."

When the orphans received their gifts, "the different gradations from joy to ecstasy which illuminated their faces was 'worth two years of peaceful life' to see."

General Robert E. Lee and Santa Claus

Dear General Lee:

We think you are the goodest man that ever lived, and our auntie says you will go right straight to heaven when you die; so we want to ask you a question, for we want to know the truth about it, and we know that you always speak the truth.

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

Your little friends,
Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie



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

My dear little friends:

I was very glad to receive your kind letter, and to know by it that I have the good wishes and prayers of three innocent little girls, named Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie.

I am very glad that you wrote about Santa Claus for I am able to tell you all about him. I can assure you he is one of the best friends that the little Southern girls have. You will understand this when I explain to you the reason of his not coming to see you for four years.

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

Halt! Halt!, I said; but at this the funny fellow laughed, and did not seem inclined to obey, so again I cried Halt!. And he drove down to my side with a sleigh full of toys. I was very sorry for him when I saw the disappointed expression of his face when I told him he could go no further South; and when he exclaimed, Oh, what will my little Southern children do! I felt more sorry, for I love little children to be happy, and especially at Christmas. But of one thing I was certain--I knew my little friends would prefer me to do my duty, rather than have all the toys in the world; so I said: Santa Claus, take every one of the toys you have back as far as Baltimore, sell them, and with the money you get buy medicines, bandages, ointments, and delicacies for our sick and wounded men; do it and do it quickly--it will be all right with the children.

Then Santa Claus sprang into his sleigh, and putting his hand to his hat in true military style, said: I obey orders, General, and away he went. Long before morning he came sweeping down into camp again, with not only every thing I had ordered, but with many other things that our poor soldiers needed. And every Christmas he took the toy money and did the same thing; and the soldiers and I blessed him, for he clothed and fed many a poor soul who otherwise would have been cold and hungry. Now, do you not consider him a good friend. I hold him in high respect, and trust you will always do the same.

I should be pleased to hear from you again, my dear little girls, and I want you ever to consider me,

Your true friend,
General Robert E. Lee



Brig/Gen. Benjamin G.
Humphreys Camp
#1625
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS
38930

E-mail:
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Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE, COMMANDER GENERAL,
UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, APRIL 25, 1906.