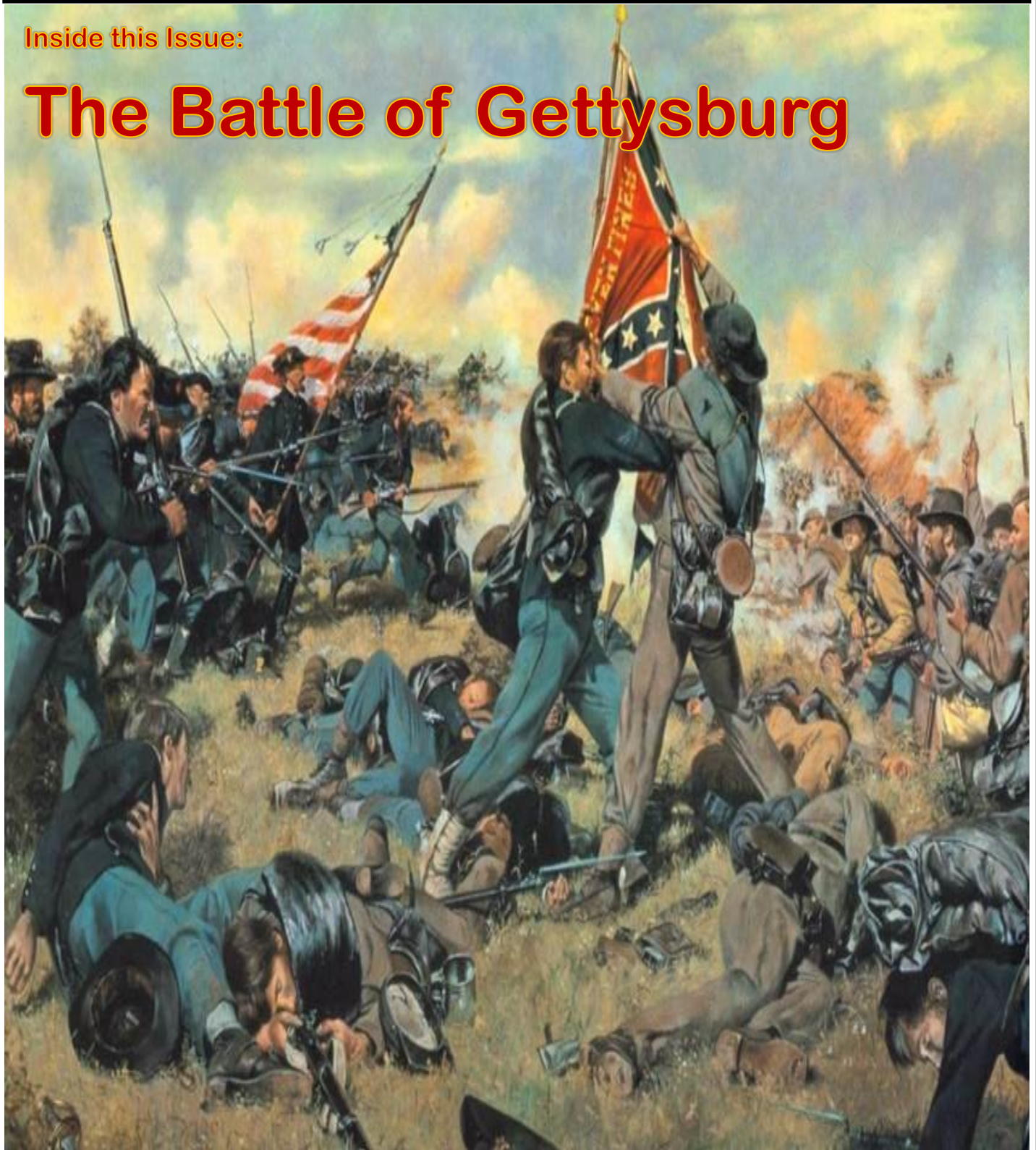


The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

Inside this Issue:

The Battle of Gettysburg



July- 2018, Volume 21, Issue 7

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

The Delta General

Commander's Report: Larry McCluney

My fellow Compatriots,

It was great seeing everyone last month, and I was proud to see our numbers up from May. We had a great State Reunion with three Camp members present as delegates. National reunion is just around the corner and if you have not registered yet, there are forms in this issue. This year, the National reunion is being held in Franklin, TN and it is an election year. My thanks to the Ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter for making the night a great success for us all with a meal once again. As the attendance and excitement grows once again in our Camp, we need you, our regular members even more to make our meeting nights even better and rededicate our Camp to living Stephen Dill Lee's Charge. Remember our meeting times have changed to the first Saturday of each month, meeting time at 6:00 PM.

At this month's Camp meeting, we will need to decide who the Camp wants the delegates to vote for at National, we need to finalize stuff for the Ella Palmer 20th Anniversary, and hopefully Dan can give us a report on the State Reunion. Remember, Dues Renewals are due no later to Dan by August 30. He needs to have them postmarked by August 31 or you will be charged a late fee.

Our next Camp meeting is July 7. Do not forget July 13 is General Forrest's Birthday so let's wave our flags proudly for the General. Please make all efforts to attend as we prepare for discussion on our Division's new proposed Constitution and the selection of delegates for the Reunion. I look forward to seeing you there as we gather together once again

Deo Vindice

Adjutant's Report by Dan McCaskill — May 5, 2018

The Meeting was called to order by Commander Larry McCluney at 6:00 pm. Camp Adjutant Dan McCaskill was called upon to open the Meeting with a word of prayer and blessing. This was followed by Color Sergeant Earl Allen leading everyone in the Pledge and salutes to our Flags followed by the reading of "The Charge" given to us by L/G Stephen D. Lee.

Larry gave a brief Commander's report reminding members of the Division Reunion June 8 – 10 at Beauvoir.

Larry also commended the Camp Members and friends who helped straighten the Confederate Headstones in the Confederate Plot in the Old Greenwood Cemetery.

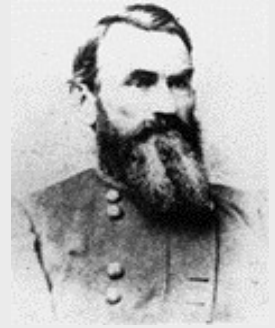
A motion was duly made and seconded to adopt the minutes from the May Meeting. The motion passed.

At this time, Larry recessed the meeting and invited our guests and members to partake in the evening meal provided by the Ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter, OCR.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander: Zack Kiker was absent. 2nd Lt. Commander: Jimmy Alford did not have anything to report; Adjutant: Dan McCaskill reported that all money advanced for the purchase of the 25-year Service Medals has been collected with only \$ 35 outstanding. So far, Fiscal 2018 dues have been collected for 13 Camp Members. This number includes two past members. Hopefully, over the next couple of months dues for the other 31 members will be sent to the Adjutant. With the influx of dues, the account balance has grown to \$ 2,128.83 with no money spent. MS OCR: Missy reported that the Society was preparing for their State Reunion; Ella Palmer OCR: Sandra reported she would be representing the Chapter at the State Reunion; AOT Commander: Larry reported on the Memphis situation which was not good. Without giving details, Larry stated that negotiations were back to square one. Larry will be campaigning for Lt. CIC at the Division Reunion in Biloxi.

New Business: The only new business was to discuss the Division Reunion and select delegates for the Reunion. The only major item on the Reunion Business Agenda was the proposed updated Division By-Laws. A motion was made and duly seconded and passed to give the Camp Delegate discretion to vote in the best interest of the Camp and Division. The Camp is entitled to four delegates based on membership. Representing the Camp will be Larry McCluney, Dan McCaskill and Gator Stillman.

Old Business: The Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR will be celebrating their 20th anniversary in August. The speaker for the occasion will be Brenda Smith and her subject will be "The Assassination of General Earl Van Dorn. Brenda will have books for sell.



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3. National News – pp. 7-11

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- Siege of Vicksburg

Upcoming Events

- Camp Meeting – June 2, 2018
- Division Reunion

June 8-10, 2018 @ Beauvoir

Camp Commander

Larry McCluney
confederate@suddenlink.net

Editor

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confederate@suddenlink.net

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

With no other business, Larry asked for a motion to close the Business Session which was made by Joe Nokes and seconded by Dan McCaskill and passed.

Due to the need to discuss the business at the Reunion, there was no scheduled program. The Ladies of the OCR held their "Capture the Yankee" who is still at-large. Better luck next time.

The Meeting was closed with the singing of Dixie and a closing prayer from Dan. It was a great meeting with 15 attending. Our next meeting will be Saturday, July 7th, same time and same place.

Camp Announcements

Remember, our Camp meetings are the 1st Saturday each month starting at 6:00 pm. Our meeting on July 7 at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola, MS. The Camp will be discussing the 20th Anniversary of the Ella Palmer Chapter, OCR and preparing for the National SCV reunion.

- National SCV Reunion: The Reunion will be held in Franklin, TN on July 18-21, 2018

Pease mark your calendar for these events. We need as many as possible to attend, especially the Memorial Service. In this day and time, we need to make our presence known to the public.

Dues Renewal Notice

The time to pay your Annual Dues is just around the corner. To facilitate the process we are going to start a series of reminders starting with this notice. Your Annual Dues are a total of \$ 50 which includes Confederation, Division and Camp dues. Those of you who are Confederation and/or Division Life Members pay only those dues that apply to your status. Checks can be made out to "B. G. Humphreys # 1625, SCV and mailed to Dan A. McCaskill at 205 Cypress Street; Leland, MS 38756.



From the Chaplain's pen by Earl McCown

Religion in the War Between the States

It is very clear that religion stood at the center of the war for both sides. Both North and South looked to God for meaning, and each side believed with equal fervor that God was on their side. Many ministers, generals, leaders and editors went so far as to claim that God had ordained the war, and would decide its duration, its damages, and its outcome. The victor, would of *course*, show just whose side God was on. New England political and religious leaders had proclaimed themselves God's "chosen people." With the start of the War, southerners laid claim to the title and through speech, print and actions proceeded to "prove" their point.

For the Confederacy, this "chosen" status not only presumed their victory, in what would turn out to be a long and bloody conflict. In fact, the South claimed to be a uniquely Christian nation. The new Confederate Constitution, adopted on March 11, 1861 and in effect from February 22, 1862 through the conclusion of the War, officially declared its Christian identity, "invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God". Southern leaders chose as their national motto Deo Vindice ("God will avenge").

Confederate President Jefferson Davis proclaimed that the time had come to "recognize our dependence upon God and request His merciful protection."

I do believe that our nation, today, could prosper greatly, by adopting and following President Davis' proclamation: recognize our dependence on the Almighty God beg Him for merciful protection!!

MS Division News

Beauvoir Coastfest

A family friendly event underneath the oak trees with the gulf coast breeze.

Biloxi, MS. July 7, 2018. Local Music Bands, Food Vendors, Shopping Tents, Antique Classic Cars, the Last Home of Jefferson Davis House Tour, and the Southern Half of the War Between the States 1861-1865 Soldiers' Museum. Bring a chair and a quilt, listen to live music, and enjoy life. Walk around the classic cars and chat with the owners. Cool off inside our air-conditioned museum to learn about southern military history from the years 1861-1865. Enjoy eating food from the local food vendors. Take a tour of the Last Home of Jefferson Davis with a period dressed tour guide on the half hour of every hour.

Enjoy the gulf coast breeze underneath the oak trees!

Facebook: Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library @ beauvoirms www.visitbeauvoir.org/events

Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library's Mission Statement is to Educate the World about Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Soldier

Bobby Sue Koch, Event Director, 228-388-4400 ext 217, bkoch@beauvoir.org

When: July 7, 2018. 9:00 am. - 4:00 pm. Where: Beauvoir, Biloxi Price: \$20.00 Adults \$5.00 Children 6-18

POTENTIAL FLAG CONSERVATION PROJECTS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI DIVISION,

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

1968.61.1 – 23rd Mississippi Infantry, Co. A, Blount Guards

First National pattern flag made of silk. Captain C.G. Blount raised the Blount Guards in August, 1861, in luka in Tippah County. Blount's sister presented the company with this flag shortly before they left to join General Albert Sidney Johnston's forces in Kentucky.

Conservation Estimate: \$27,000



MISSISSIPPI BURNING

Although flag protests are frequent in Mississippi, burning the banner is rare. A group of about 30 mostly out-of-state demonstrators on June 18 burned a Confederate battle flag and then a separate Mississippi state flag Monday in front of the governor's mansion. The Mississippi Poor People's Campaign includes activists in 40 states who are demonstrating. Monday was the climax of six weeks of demonstrations in Mississippi. Last week, for example, protesters built a cardboard shack symbolizing homelessness with signs calling for better social services and health care for the poor.

National News

South Carolina Mayor Wages War on the Flag

Members of three Sons of Confederate Veterans camps gathered at the edge of Holly Hill on the Saturday before Father's Day to erect a sign and three flags: American, South Carolinian and Confederate. By Thursday, the display was covered with red graffiti. "I expected it," said Ronald Shuler of Providence, a SCV member who donated the one-acre property outside the town limits for the display.

Holly Hill Town Council asked the SCV in April not to erect the display. A public hearing a few days later also brought out opponents to the display. "I'm very disappointed the flag went up," Holly Hill Mayor William Johnson said. "The community asked the group not to do it," he said.

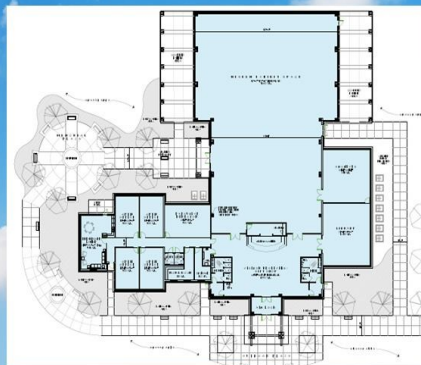
SCV S.C. Division Commander Jamie Graham of Conway said he and other descendants of Confederate veterans erected the flags along U.S. Highway 176 "to honor our forefathers as fathers" just one day before Father's Day.

Shuler said when talks first began about the project, the plan was to erect one large Confederate Flag, not the three flags currently at the site. He said the purpose of displaying the Confederate flag is "always to honor our ancestors who stood up for what they believed in in the 1860s. That's it."

Graham said, "My Confederate ancestors were not slave owners. They did not fight as Confederate soldiers for the institution of slavery." He said they volunteered for service because the government was using their farmland as staging areas for troops, which they saw as government overreach. Graham said the state SCV division is seeking out other privately owned lands, where the group may place similar Flag displays. He said the Holly Hill location is the first Flag-raising the group has done for such a purpose.

Mayor Johnson said everyone he has talked with is opposed to the Confederate Flag flying at the edge of town, "We must do something to get those flags down."

The display is on private property in Orangeburg County, but not within the Holly Hill town limits. Local "authorities" appear to be non-cooperative in apprehending the perpetrators of this crime against our heritage.



This is a rendering and the floorplan for The National Confederate Museum to be built at the our Headquarters in Columbia, TN. Groundbreaking will commence soon, but we have only a small portion of the funds required to build our museum. We need your help! Education is the long term solution to upholding Stephen D. Lee's Charge and our museum will be the penultimate museum dedicated to the Confederate Veteran! Who else will tell the truth about our ancestors? The media? Academia? Schools? No one!

We need you to donate now!



The National Confederate Museum at Elm Springs

Please donate today - our ancestors need their story told truthfully!

Museum Fund, Sons of Confederate Veterans, PO Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402

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

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

Forrest Park Defense Fund

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124

Paul Gramling Announces Candidacy

Gentlemen of the SCV,

In 1896, our Confederate Ancestors, knowing the thin gray line, the Confederate Veterans themselves, would vanish in a few short years, agreed to help establish the next group of Southern Defenders - the Sons Of Confederate Veterans. Our forefathers knew there would come a time when the South would have to endure a continuous onslaught against everything for which they sacrificed and died. They knew they could count on their Sons to defend their good name and to vindicate the cause for which they fought. Well....that time is NOW!!!

It is said, "A man will be judged by his works." That is what I ask of you. Judge me for my works and the job I have done with the SCV, for I will be standing for the position of Commander-In-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at our National Reunion in Franklin, TN.

It is my desire to do my duty to the best of my ability.....that is to promote and grow the SCV, to defend our Confederate Veterans at all costs, and to teach our youth so the truth will be handed down to our descendants.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served you as your Lt. Commander-In-Chief for almost two years. I look forward, with anticipation and optimism, to serving as your next Commander-In-Chief.

It is well known, the battles we are fighting today are from the east coast to the west coast and north and south. These attacks are never ending. Just as the resolution was passed in 1991 to eradicate everything Confederate, we see that becoming more real everyday. Having been given the blessing from the Confederate Veterans themselves, the Sons Of Confederate Veterans WILL advance the Colors, the Truth, and the Cause for which They Fought.

However, one man cannot do it alone. It will take the COMMITMENT of EVERY member to resist the forces of destruction. WILL YOU STAND WITH ME??

Thank you for your support.

Paul Gramling, Jr. , Lt. Commander-In-Chief

Sons Of Confederate Veterans



Johnnie Holley Announces Candidacy

Fellow Compatriots of the Sons of Confederate Veterans:

These last few years have been a stressful and eye opening experience for the SCV. As our gallant ancestors faced an enemy with superior resources and manpower, we in the SCV are now facing the same powerful enemies. Our enemies of the past are still with us but now we also face enemies with unlimited financial resources and superior intelligence gathering capabilities who have total access to the media.

We have seen our monuments and history attacked at all levels. We have seen laws we felt protected us, flaunted and ignored. We have seen our resources drained due to the attacks all across the nation. We must learn from our past responses and develop new approaches to these attacks. We must learn from the past and develop a comprehensive plan for our future.

I have held Camp, Brigade, Division and Army level offices in the SCV. I have been closely involved with legal defenses from counties all the way up to the Supreme Court of the United States. I feel I now am qualified to ask you to honor me by electing me as your Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Confederate Veterans were chosen by our enemies as the "easy target". In my opinion, we in this country now face an enemy who is intent not only on erasing our Confederate Heritage but also destroying the very foundations on which our nation was built. If they can remove our monuments and destroy our Heritage, they will, as they have shown, destroy our Constitution, our churches and all the values that our gallant ancestors fought so hard to defend.

To meet these challenges, the SCV must continue to modernize and strengthen our organization. We must build and supply our Museum and make it a source of information from which to spread the truth of our Cause. We must develop ways to increase our financial base through grants, fundraisers and donations from outside sources. We must reach out to Heritage groups, veterans groups, and any organizations that share our vision.

Over the next months, I will provide you specific goals that I will pursue, if elected. I am not running as a candidate from the ATM, AOT, or ANV. I am running as a candidate for Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and I ask for your support in electing me to that office.

God Bless the SCV,

Johnnie Holley

Commander ATM

Candidate for CIC



Larry McCluney Announces Candidacy

Fellow Compatriots,

As you can tell, we are experiencing a period of "Reconstruction" of our own reconstruction just as our ancestors predicted as our enemies embolden themselves with continued attacks upon our heritage. We see our own communities tearing down statues and monuments that they graciously accepted and honored over a hundred years ago. These attacks will continue until everything that is Confederate is erased and those people get to rewrite history until even the framers of this nation are purged from our schools. As a result, these attacks have placed the Sons of Confederate Veterans in the limelight of the world press and revealed that our organization is the protector and authority of everything Confederate. If we are to persevere we must seize this opportunity to promote Growth, Unity, and Progress by recruiting new members in our organization, educate the public about the true Cause our ancestors fought for, and promote our organization in our communities.

To accomplish this, we need the proper leadership to see this carried out in a gentlemanly and orderly fashion. To meet this challenge, we need men with new innovative ideas who are willing to work hard at bringing our membership together under a common Cause, and to meet the demands that the "Charge of Gen. Stephen D. Lee" has laid before us. Our "enemies" think they have us on the ropes and we cannot withstand the tied of change they are forcing upon us in the name of "political correctness.". They continue to paint a picture about our ancestors and the Cause they fought for was immoral, illegal, and unjust. The SCV is the largest and most recognizable organization for the promotion of Confederate Heritage and it is time we capitalize on that fact. We must hold true to Stephen D. Lee's Charge to us and make our organization something that will be perpetuated for future generations so that they too may take pride and celebrate a rich Confederate heritage that we have inherited.

But, there is serious work before us that needs to be done in an aggressive and imaginative manner, emulating the principles that our ancestors fought so hard for. It is time to look at our problems with new eyes, keeping in place the wisdom gleaned from the lessons of the past. We need to use 21st Century ideas to fight this growing threat of "political correctness."

As a high school and college teacher for twenty-five years, it has been my job to teach students our nation's history. I have seen political correctness infiltrating our history books. It has been a struggle to teach the "truth" in our classrooms. Yet, the youth of today are eager to know the truth when it is presented. As a Southerner and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for over 20 years, it is my duty to teach the truth about the Cause our ancestors fought for and to uphold the "Charge" they have left for us. This, I am faithfully carrying out. As a member of the GEC for the past eight years as AoT Councilman and now AoT Commander, I have proven that I have the energy, the experience, and the right attitude to lead and represent this organization. And so, I humbly ask you for your prayers and your support as I make my formal announcement to run for the office of Lt. Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Larry McCluney
Army of Tennessee Commander,
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Jimmy Hill Announces Candidacy

Since joining the SCV a little over 13 years ago I have had the honor of being a part of the greatest organization that supports the remembrance of the Confederate soldier. I believe in the Charge given to us by General Stephen D. Lee in 1906. It meant even more to me to discover that the man accepting the Charge was Commander in Chief Thomas McAdory Owen, from Alabama. The soldiers left us in charge of their legacy; What we do to protect their good name and promote the truth of their actions falls on all of us. My term as Alabama Division Commander ends on May 19th. I am announcing my candidacy for Army of Tennessee Councilman.

I am a life member of the Alabama Division and at National. I am a member of the Sesquicentennial Society and a Founding Sponsor of the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs. I started the Guardian program in Alabama and was one of the original Guardians at National. I was the editor of the Alabama Confederate for almost 9 years. I have held multiple positions in my home camp, the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768 in Athens, including Lt. Commander and Commander. I was a Brigade Commander for two terms, 1st Lt. Commander of the Division for two terms and am finishing my term as Division Commander. I have worked on goals and projects at each level and am proud of the accomplishments especially at the Division level where our members have proven time and time again that in Alabama, we will answer the charge.

If elected, I will support the Commander in Chief and the Army of Tennessee Commander. I will represent all of the members of the AoT to further our growth and to insure that we are ready for the future. There is a lot of work to be done, I feel I am up to the challenge.

I hope to see many of you in the upcoming months at the Division reunions and the upcoming AoT workshop in Athens. There will be more coming on a new Facebook page. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

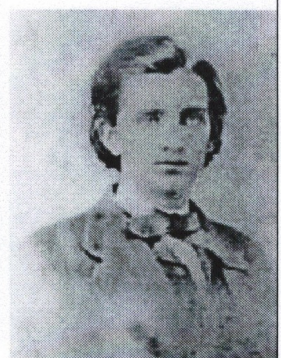
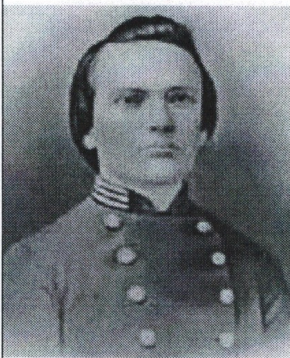
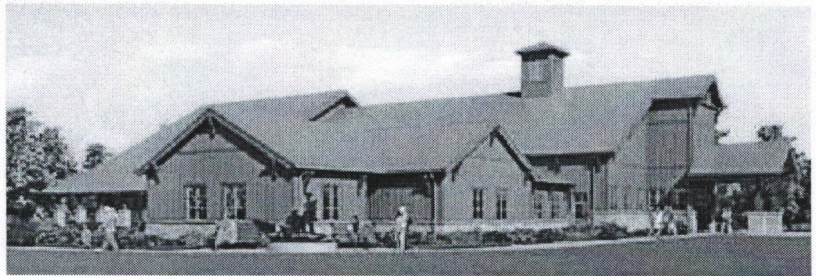
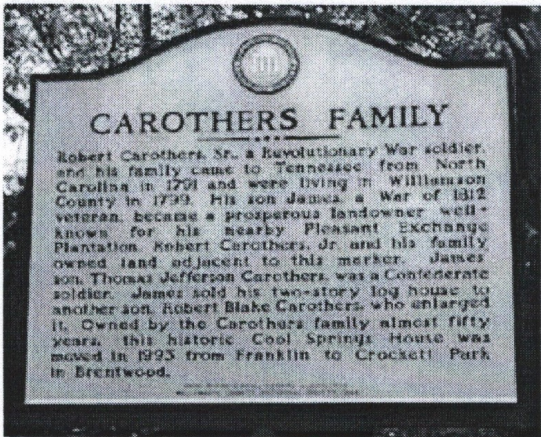
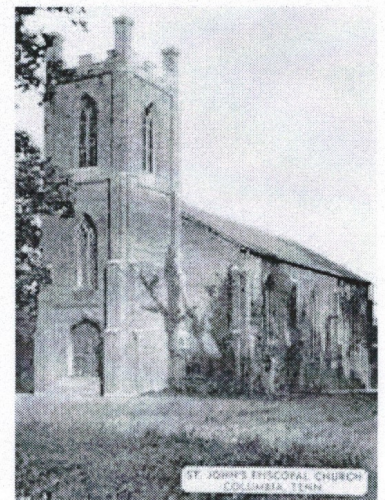
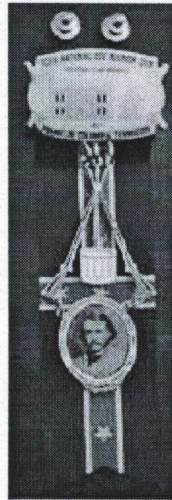
"We Dare Defend Our Rights"
Jimmy Hill
Commander, Alabama Division

123rd Annual Reunion

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1896 Franklin/Columbia, Tennessee 2018

Hosted by the General Headquarters, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc.



123rd Annual Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

1896 Franklin/Columbia, Tennessee 2018

Name _____ Title/Position _____
 SCV Camp & number _____
 (Check one) GEC _____ AOT _____ ATM _____ ANV _____ OCR _____ UDC _____ Other _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone _____ Cell _____
 Email _____ Guest/spouse name _____

Registration

*(Only SCV members are required to pay registration fees)

Early Registration (Before 1 April 2018)*

Qty _____ x \$ 60.00 = \$ _____

Late Registration (After 31 March 2018)*

Qty _____ x \$ 70.00 = \$ _____

· Extra Reunion medal

Qty _____ x \$ 35.00 = \$ _____

· Numbered Special Edition Medal (2-200) (request a number: _____)

Qty _____ x \$ 150.00 = \$ _____

Meals

Chaplain's Breakfast (Thursday)

Qty _____ x \$ 30.00 = \$ _____

Heritage Luncheon (Thursday)

Qty _____ x \$ 35.00 = \$ _____

Gen G. W. Gordon Breakfast (The National Confederate Museum) (Friday)

Qty _____ x \$ 30.00 = \$ _____

Awards Luncheon (Friday)

Qty _____ x \$ 35.00 = \$ _____

Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast (Saturday)

Qty _____ x \$ 30.00 = \$ _____

Grand Ball and Banquet (Saturday) (\$70 single/\$130 couple)

Qty _____ = \$ _____

Tours

Ladies' Tour of Belle Meade Plantation (Thursday morning)

Qty _____ x \$ 45.00 = \$ _____

Battle of Franklin Tour (Thursday afternoon)

(\$40/\$75) Qty _____ x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____

Ladies' Franklin Square Shopping Tour (Friday morning)

Qty _____ x \$ 15.00 = \$ _____

Hood's 1864 Nashville Campaign: Maury County Tour (Friday)

(\$40/\$75) Qty _____ x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____

Sam Davis' Home Tour (Saturday afternoon)

Qty _____ x \$ 40.00 = \$ _____

Ancestor Memorial (Recognition in Reunion Program)

Qty _____ x \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

(Please complete Ancestor Memorial form and include it with your registration. Deadline is 15 May 2018)

Late fee for each meals/tours not received by GHQ by 1 June 2018

Qty _____ x \$ 5.00 = \$ _____

GRANT TOTAL \$ _____

Payment: ☐ personal check ☐ **PayPal ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Credit card # _____ **Exp Date** _____ **Security Code** _____

(**3% fee will be added for PayPal and credit card payments) (PayPal/credit card payments will be accepted online or at the door. Cash accepted at the door. Checks will NOT be accepted at the door.) In the unlikely occurrence that an event is cancelled your cost will be refunded.

· Medals are available while supplies last. Each registrant receives one medal. The purchase price of extra Reunion medals will be refunded if supplies run out. *Special Edition Medals are numbered 1-200 and numbers will be assigned on a first-come first served basis, as long as supplies last. If you would like a specific number(s), please make a note on your registration form.

· **Meals, tours and numbered Special Edition medals will be available for at-the-door registration on a space-available basis. Once tours and meals reach maximum capacity, they will be no longer available for purchase.**

· **To guarantee meal tickets and tours, registration MUST be received by 1 June 2018.**

Hotel reservations: Visit our website: www.scv.org/new/reunion2018 or call Franklin Marriott Cool Springs reservations at (866)238-4218. Rooms are \$129 per night if you ask for the SCV Reunion Special Rate. All prices subject to state and local taxes.

Make Check payable to: Sons of Confederate Veterans and mail to:
 SCV, 2018 Reunion, P. O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402-0059

Confederates surrender Vicksburg

The Confederacy is torn in two when General John C. Pemberton surrenders to Union General [Ulysses S. Grant](#) at Vicksburg, [Mississippi](#). The Vicksburg campaign was one of the Union's most successful of the war. Although Grant's first attempt to take the city failed in the winter of 1862-63, he renewed his efforts in the spring. Admiral David Porter had run his flotilla past the Vicksburg defenses in early May as Grant marched his army down the west bank of the river opposite Vicksburg, crossed back to Mississippi, and drove toward Jackson. After defeating a Confederate force near Jackson, Grant turned back to Vicksburg. On May 16, he defeated a force under John C. Pemberton at Champion Hill. Pemberton retreated back to Vicksburg, and Grant sealed the city by the end of May. In three weeks, Grant's men marched 180 miles, won five battles, and took 6,000 prisoners.

Grant made some attacks after bottling Vicksburg, but found the Confederates well entrenched. Preparing for a long siege, his army constructed 15 miles of trenches and enclosed Pemberton's force of 29,000 men inside the perimeter. It was only a matter of time before Grant, with 70,000 troops, captured Vicksburg. Attempts to rescue Pemberton and his force failed from both the east and west, and conditions for both military personnel and civilians deteriorated rapidly. Many residents moved to tunnels dug from the hillsides to escape the constant bombardments. Pemberton surrendered on July 4, and President [Abraham Lincoln](#) wrote that the Mississippi River "again goes unvexed to the sea." The town of Vicksburg would not celebrate the Fourth of July for 81 years.

Vicksburg Surrendered Three Times?

A New York Herald Tribune wagon and reporters in the field during the Civil War, courtesy of the Civil War Home Page website. Reporters in the 1860s dabbled in personal opinions. They were wordy. They depended too much on rumors. But they brought Americans a running account of bloodshed on the battlefields. Newspapers were limited. They did not have the ability to publish photographs. They relied primarily on the slow, expensive telegraph for news from reporters in the field.

In 1848, six New York papers established The Associated Press, which still exists as the world's largest news organization. The AP opened the first news bureau in Washington in 1856. Four years later, on the eve of war, it assigned the first reporter to fulltime coverage of the president.

Prior to the war, for a period of six weeks after Congress adjourned, the AP correspondent was the only reporter covering the nation's Capitol. Today, round-the-clock coverage requires hundreds of people. Civil War editors had problems with conflicting battle reports. Rather than explain them, they simply published all available information. It was, to say the least, confusing.

Many citizens North and South opposed actions of their state and national governments as war clouds formed. Some editors did the same. The Weekly Courier in Rome, Ga., warned secessionists that it was "vastly easier to get into trouble than to get out of it." In Tennessee, editor Parson Brownlow of the Knoxville Whig resisted secession even after the war had begun. Brownlow said that if given the choice of going to hell or joining the Confederacy, it would probably take him a week to decide. He was arrested.

Actually, in 1860, a year before war broke out, most newspapers in Confederate states believed in preserving the Union, provided that Southern rights, as they viewed them, would be protected. A year later, all but a handful endorsed the Confederacy.

There were mixed feelings in the North, too. Several newspapers were taken to court in 1861 for alleged pro-Confederate leanings. Among them were the Brooklyn Eagle and the New York Daily News. Later, newspaper offices in West Chester and Easton were attacked by loyal Unionists for taking pro-Southern positions. In Massachusetts, an editor was tarred and feathered for Southern sympathies.

Southern newspapers had trouble keeping reporters as many joined the army. They also had early problems in obtaining paper. Some were forced to use the back side of wallpaper as newsprint.

Competition, particularly in northern cities, was so tough that reporters did whatever it took to get their stories back to the office. If that didn't work, one wag said, there was always "bribery, subterfuge, plagiarism and outright fakery." One historian said that "Vicksburg surrendered three times in the papers before yielding to [General] Grant."

With telegraph lines unavailable, George Smalley of the New York Tribune spent 30 hours travelling by horse, railroad boxcar, ferry boat and wagon from Sharpsburg, Md., to New York, writing his story on the Battle of Antietam. He got there at 6 a.m., turned in the story, got three hours sleep and started back to Maryland.

Homer Byington, also of the Tribune, was en route to Gettysburg before the battle began. At Hanover, he found that Confederates had cut the telegraph wire. Byington hired five men, rented a handcar from the railroad and set out to restring five miles of wire along the track. After the battle, he knew exactly where to go to file his story to New York.

Reporters, too, had to deal with their own losses. Sam Wilkeson of The New York Times sat beside the body of his son, a Union lieutenant, writing his story on the Battle of Gettysburg.

At least two black men were among northern writers. One was Thomas Morris Chester of Harrisburg, who wrote for the Philadelphia Press. After the war, he was the first black man to appear in Dauphin County Court as a lawyer, the first black admitted to practice before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the first black American to appear as a barrister before the courts of England. In all, Civil War journalism grew into what we have today, although in the 1860s there were no "sound bites" and no "film at 11."

Battle of Gettysburg

Day 3 - July 3, 1863



The Battle of Gettysburg, fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863, is considered the most important engagement of the American Civil War. After a great victory over Union forces at Chancellorsville, General Robert E. Lee marched his Army of Northern Virginia into Pennsylvania in late June 1863. On July 1, the advancing Confederates clashed with the Union's Army of the Potomac, commanded by General George G. Meade, at the crossroads town of Gettysburg. The next day saw even heavier fighting, as the Confederates attacked the Federals on both left and right. On July 3, Lee ordered an attack by fewer than 15,000 troops on the enemy's center at Cemetery Ridge. The assault, known as "Pickett's Charge," managed to pierce the Union lines but eventually failed, at the cost of thousands of rebel casualties, and Lee was forced to withdraw his battered army toward Virginia on July 4.

In May 1863, Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia had scored a smashing victory over the Army of the Potomac at Chancellorsville. Brimming with confidence, Lee decided to go on the offensive and invade the North for a second time (the

first invasion had ended at Antietam the previous fall). In addition to bringing the conflict out of Virginia and diverting northern troops from Vicksburg, where the Confederates were under siege, Lee hoped to gain recognition of the Confederacy by Britain and France and strengthen the cause of northern "Copperheads" who favored peace.

On the Union side, President Abraham Lincoln had lost confidence in the Army of the Potomac's commander, Joseph Hooker, who seemed reluctant to confront Lee's army after the defeat at Chancellorsville. On June 28, Lincoln named Major General George Gordon Meade to succeed Hooker. Meade immediately ordered the pursuit of Lee's army of 75,000, which by then had crossed the Potomac River into Maryland and marched on into southern Pennsylvania.

Upon learning that the Army of the Potomac was on its way, Lee planned to assemble his army in the prosperous crossroads town of Gettysburg, 35 miles southwest of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. One of the Confederate divisions in A.P. Hill's command approached the town in search of supplies early on July 1, only to find that two Union cavalry brigades had arrived the previous day. As the bulk of both armies headed toward Gettysburg, Confederate forces (led by Hill and Richard Ewell) were able to drive the outnumbered Federal defenders back through town to Cemetery Hill, located a half mile to the south.

Seeking to press his advantage before more Union troops could arrive, Lee gave discretionary orders to attack Cemetery Hill to Ewell, who had taken command of the Army of Northern Virginia's Second Corps after Lee's most trusted general, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, was mortally wounded at Chancellorsville. Ewell declined to order the attack, considering the Federal position too strong; his reticence would earn him many unfavorable comparisons to the great Stonewall. By dusk, a Union corps under Winfield Scott Hancock had arrived and extended the defensive line along Cemetery Ridge to the hill known as Little Round Top; three more Union corps arrived overnight to strengthen its defenses.

As the next day dawned, the Union Army had established strong positions from Culp's Hill to Cemetery Ridge. Lee assessed his enemy's positions and determined—against the advice of his defensively minded second-in-command, James Longstreet—to attack the Federals where they stood. He ordered Longstreet to lead an attack on the Union left, while Ewell's corps would strike the right, near Culp's Hill. Though his orders were to attack as early in the day as possible, Longstreet didn't get his men into position until 4 pm, when they opened fire on the Union corps commanded by Daniel Sickles.

Over the next several hours, bloody fighting raged along Sickles' line, which stretched from the nest of boulders known as Devil's Den into a peach orchard, as well as in a nearby wheat field and on the slopes of Little Round Top. Thanks to fierce fighting by one Minnesota regiment, the Federals were able to hold Little Round Top, but lost the orchard, field and Devil's Den; Sickles himself was seriously wounded. Ewell's men had advanced on the Union forces at Culp's Hill and East Cemetery Hill in coordination with Longstreet's 4 pm attack, but Union forces had stalled their attack by dusk. Both armies suffered extremely heavy losses on July 2, with 9,000 or more casualties on each side. The combined casualty total from two days of fighting came to nearly 35,000, the largest two-day toll of the war.

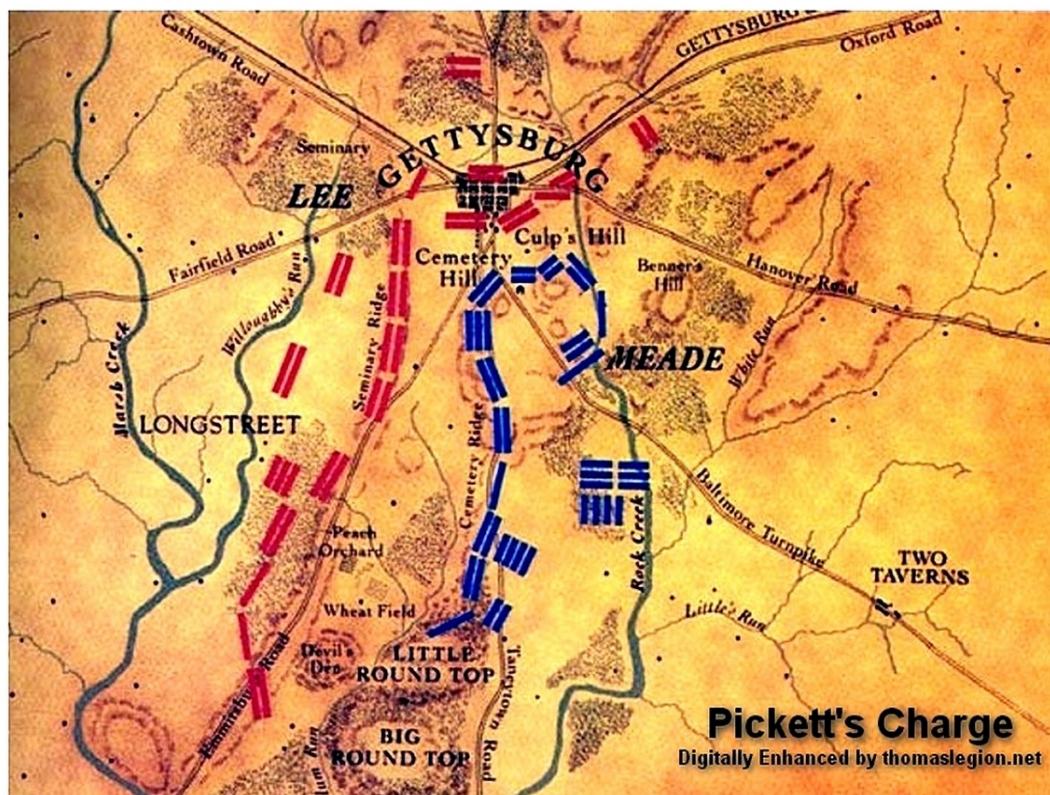
Early on the morning of July 3, Union forces of the Twelfth Army Corps pushed back a Confederate threat against Culp's Hill after a seven-hour firefight and regained their strong position. Believing his men had been on the brink of victory the day before, Lee decided to send three divisions (preceded by an artillery barrage) against the Union center on Cemetery Ridge. Fewer than 15,000 troops, led by a division under George Pickett, would be tasked with marching some three-quarters of a mile across open fields to attack dug-in Union infantry positions.

Despite Longstreet's protests, Lee was determined, and the attack—later known as "Pickett's Charge"—went forward around 3 pm, after an artillery bombardment by some 150 Confederate guns. Union infantry opened fire on the advancing rebels from behind stone walls, while regiments from Vermont, New York and Ohio hit both of the enemy's flanks. Caught from all sides, barely half of the Confederates survived, and Pickett's division lost two-thirds of its men. As the survivors stumbled back to their opening position, Lee and Longstreet scrambled to shore up their defensive line after the failed assault.

His hopes of a victorious invasion of the North dashed, Lee waited for a Union counterattack on July 4, but it never came. That night, in heavy rain, the Confederate general withdrew his decimated army toward Virginia. Though the cautious Meade would be criticized for not pursuing the enemy after Gettysburg, the battle was a crushing defeat for the Confederacy. Union casualties in the battle numbered 23,000, while the Confederates had lost some 28,000 men—more than a third of Lee's army. The North rejoiced while the South mourned, its hopes for foreign recognition of the Confederacy erased.

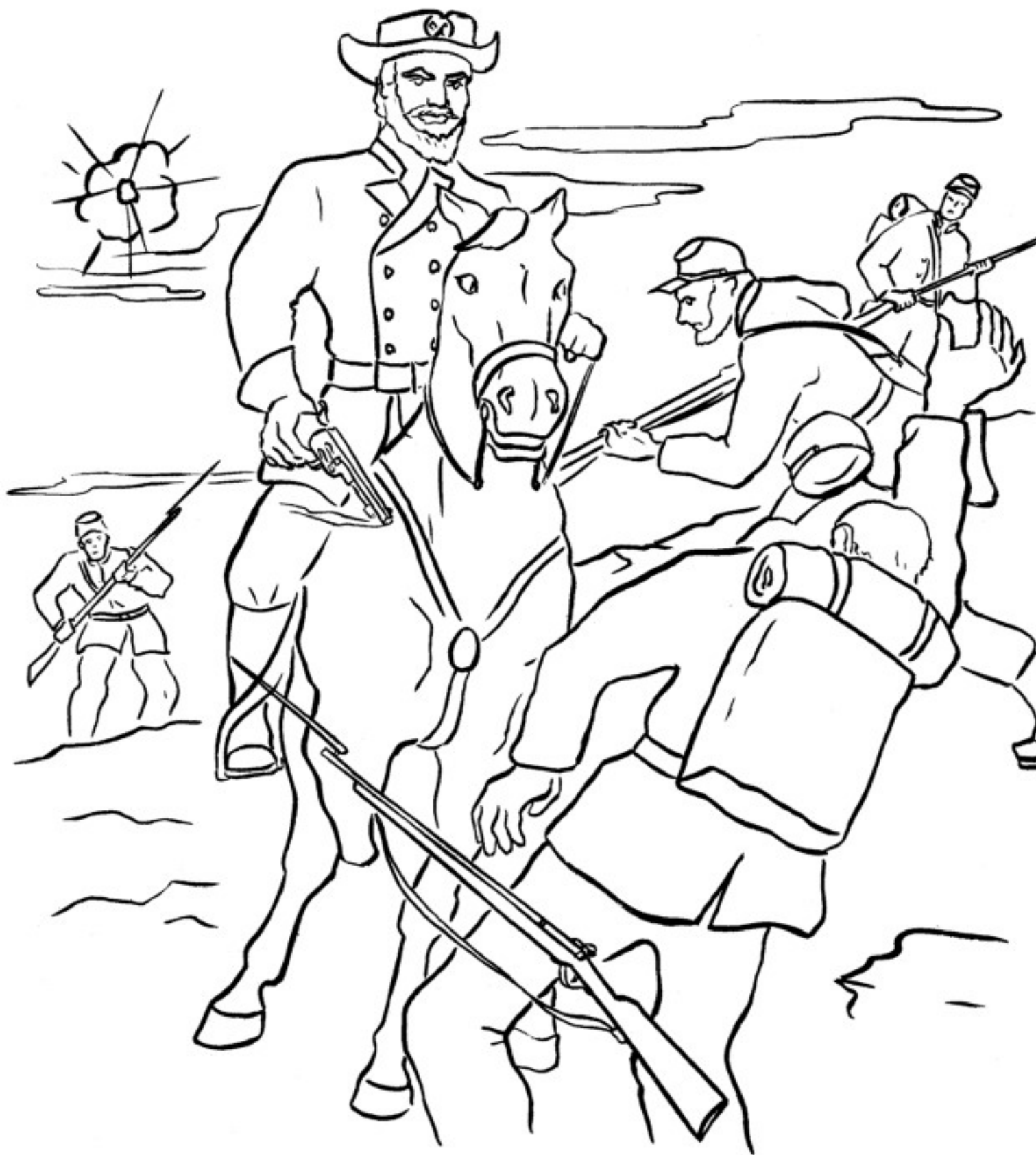
Demoralized by the defeat at Gettysburg, Lee offered his resignation to President Jefferson Davis, but was refused. Though the great Confederate general would go on to win other victories, the Battle of Gettysburg (combined with Ulysses S. Grant's victory at Vicksburg, also on July 4) irrevocably turned the tide of the Civil War in the Union's favor.

Gettysburg, July 3





On the battlefield at Gettysburg, soldiers in blue and grey met in combat.



General Lee and his men fought on bravely.

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