

# *The Delta General*

A Publication of the

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

Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter #253, MOS&B

Ella Palmer Palmer Chapter #9, OCR

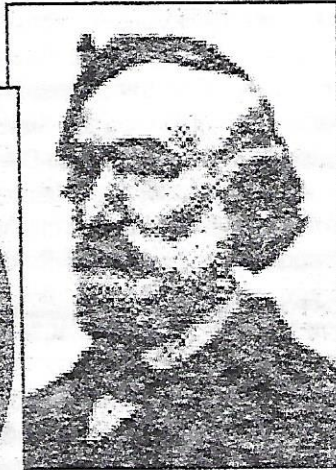
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B/General Benjamin G.  
Humphreys



Ella Palmer



B/General Charles Clark

**June 2002 – Volume 5, Issue 6**

*"It is my philosophy that though the South lost all but honor to save that honor, it was better to have fought and lost than not to fight at all."*

*B.G. Humphreys, "Autobiography"*



## Commander's Note

My Fellow Compatriots,

It was truly a great experience to go to the State Convention and be surrounded with so many like minded people. We had a large number of our members to attend this year with seven men and four of our ladies. I hope next year that even more of you will attend and see the inner works of the SCV on the State level.

I would also like to congratulate Dan McCaksill, Ann McCaksill, and Maranda Haik for their efforts and everyone one else who contributed in making our Camp Scrapbook a success. The Camp won the Scrapbook of the year Award at State Convention. A plaque is being forwarded to us as an award.

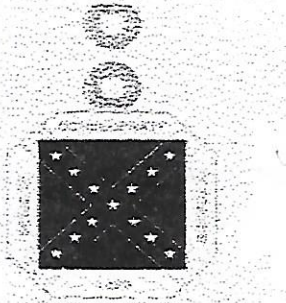
I would like to take this time to encourage our members who have not been attending the meetings lately to make the effort and renew old friendships by attending this month meeting on June 20th. We will have a great speaker, John Morrow, who is also a member of the reenacting unit that our Camp supports. John will speak on the Battle of Ditch Bayou which took place just across the river at Lake Village, Arkansas.

I know that summer will take a toll on our attendance as the vacation season is upon us but please make all efforts to attend for our members are surely missed. Please also make the effort to attend our July meeting which will be our Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest Birthday Picnic that our OCR Ladies sponsor every year. This is always a great time to socialize. Remember to bring a friend.

Also, just to update everyone on some activities, our Camp Colorguard unit has the honor of presenting Colors on July 20 at Vicksburg to dedicate a plaque to the CSS Arkansas and its role in the Vicksburg Campaign. More information will be brought forward in the next newsletter. Also, take time out to visit the Camp Website. Larry McCluney has done a tremendous job in updating it.

Confederately,

Alan Palmer, Commander



## Our Next Camp Meeting Is June 20th

Once again the Camp had a great turn out for a meeting with over 30 people in attendance. Lets keep up the good attendance level everyone. Our May meeting highlighted Ms. Princesella Nowell, President of the Washington County Historical Society, who spoke on General Benjamin Humphreys. She included many of the Camp members in her presentation by getting them to portay different people and reading parts that would bring to life her presentation. This is the second time Ms. Nowell has spoke to our members and we hope to see more of her at our meetings in the future.

Our June meeting will highlight a presentation by John Morrow, Park Interpreter at Lake Chicote State Park, Arkansas. John will speak on the "Battle of Ditch Bayou" by bringing the history of the battle to life with a power point and slide show presentation. This ought to be interesting. You really don't want to miss this one folks.

The bragging rights continues for our Camp Colorguard Unit. The Unit has been invited to present colors and help dedicate a Naval marker for the CSS *Arkansas* on the riverfront at Vicksburg. Past National/Division commander Lamar Roberts heads this project to dedicate the role of the *Arkansas* during the Vicksburg Campaign. The ceremony will be Saturday, July 20. More information will be posted on the Camp webpage as it comes available.

A large number of our members will be attending State Convention to represent the Camp this year including this writer. We hope to

bring back information about what is going on around the State and share it with you at the June meeting.

Also, keep in mind that the July meeting is our Annual General Nathan Bedford Forrest Birthday Party Picnic. Its never too soon to start making preparations for an event that has always had great turnouts.

Hope to see everyone of you on 20 June at our Camp Meeting. Invite a friend and lets turn out in record numbers once again.

## Our Prayers Goes Out to the Artman Family

It is my sad duty to report to the Camp the loss of Johnathan Artman, son of Mayor Paul Artman, Jr. of Greenville, and grandson of Compatriot Paul Artman Sr.

Johnathan was 18 years of age and a graduate of St. Joseph Academy. He died in a tragic automobile accident on Sunday morning May 19 and was buried Tuesday, May 21. Paul, Sr. reported that Johnathan loved the South and its rich heritage and was laid to rest with a Battleflag tucked in his arm.

Paul would like to express his thanks for the flowers that the Camp sent in memory of Johnathan to the funeral.

Please take time out to express the support and love to our fellow Compatriot and his family in this time of morning.



## B/General Charles Clark Chapter #253 Military Order of the Stars & Bars

This is the second in a series of articles honoring our Mississippi Confederate Officers. This month will highlight Brigadier General William Felix Brantley.

William Felix Brantley was born 12 March 1830 in Greene County, Alabama. After migrating to Mississippi with his family, he became an attorney, pursuing his profession 1852-61, when he became a delegate to Mississippi's secession convention.

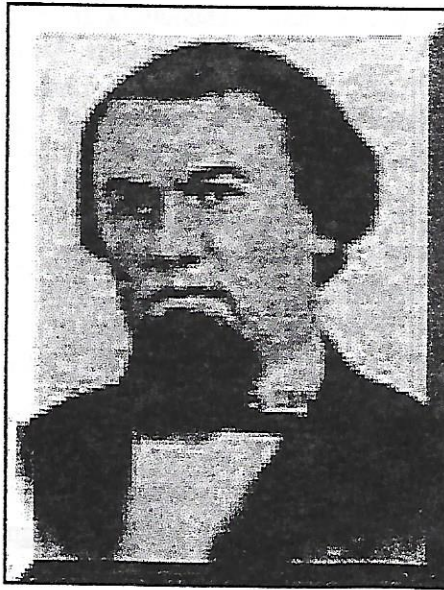
When a local company, the Wigfall Rifles was organized for the Civil War, Brantley was elected its Captain. He was later commissioned colonel of the 29th Mississippi, a unit incorporating his old company, and fought with them through the Civil War at Stone's River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and the battle for Atlanta. For his part in the fight on Lookout Mountain, he was particularly commended by Colonel Walthall, the Brigade Commander.

In the Atlanta fighting, Brigadier General Edward C. Walthall was promoted to Major General and Colonel Samuel Benton was given the brigade command. On 22 July 1864 Benton was severely wounded and died on the 28th, thrusting command on Brantley, who received a Brigadier general's commission to rank from 26 July 1864. Brantley led his Brigade into Tennessee as a part of Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee's Corps and fought in the Franklin and Nashville Campaigns. Then he returned to the rest of the Army of Tennessee in the Carolinas and surrendered with it in April

1865.

Postwar Brantley returned to Mississippi to practice law. On 2 November 1870, near the of Winona, he was murdered as a result of his involvement in an old local feud. The General was ambushed about one half mile east of Winona. He had been warned of the dangers of traveling from Winona to Greensboro. He stated that he intended to go wherever his business called him. He was buried at Tomnolen, Mississippi.

This information is from the Historical  
Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil  
War, Patricia L. Faust, Editor



## Ella Palmer Chapter #9

### Mississippi Society Order of the Confederate Rose

Ladies,

By the time you have read this, State Convention will have come and gone. It was a great meeting which gave us time to elect new officers and take care of some business. Our new State Officers are as follows:

Annette McCluney, President  
Betty Furr, Vice-President  
Maranda Haik, Treasurer  
Vicki Stuart, Secretary

At the Convention, Vicki Stuart also volunteered to be the Newsletter Editor of the *Mississippi Belle*, and hopefully we can get the State Newsletter going again. Also, we voted on how to fund the State Scholarship fund by taking donations from each Chapter of \$25.00 or more each year.

A new OCR Chapter was chartered at the Convention as well. The Mariam Beck Forrest Luxton Chapter named after Nathan Bedford Forrest's mother. They are based in Kosciusko.

I also want to remind everyone that dues will be coming up at the end of August so be prepared to renew your memberships. Also, let us make plans for the Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest Birthday Picnic which will be July 18 this year. I hope to see you on June 20th for our monthly meeting.

Annette McCluney, President



**OCR Membership Dues  
Of \$20.00 are due  
By  
August 31, 2002**

**Don't forget and pay  
early!!**



## National Conventions In Memphis, TN SCV and MOSB July 30 – August 2, 2002

The following article is a portion of an Editorial Comment by John Echols in The Southern Comfort Newsletter (Volume 27, Issue 6, June 2002) of the Capt. Edward W. Ward Camp in Southaven, MS.

Time draws near for the Annual National Conventions of the SCV and MOSB. Fortunately, it is being held in Memphis, TN meaning that our members will have the opportunity to attend without the expense of staying overnight. This is a very important convention for National officers for both organizations will be elected.

Contrary to what some may think, these are not positions of glory and ease. Sacrifices of time and money, time away from your family are made. From 1986-88, this editor (John Echols) had the honor of serving as Commander-General of the MOSB, and then the following two years as Commander, SCV Army of Tennessee Department, so he knows. It is what he calls time filled with rubber chicken and green bean dinners.

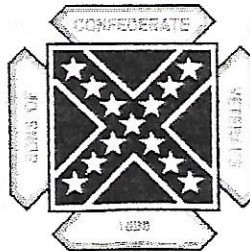
Seeking the position of SCV Commander-in-Chief is a man who will fill the position with honor.

Compatriot Troy Massey of Arkansas has served long and diligently. He most recently visited our state when he attended March the Billy Ray Hankins Division Workshop in Forrest, Mississippi. Troy has the knowledge

and experience to lead this time when many are still working so hard to remove the last parts of our culture and history. Taking nothing away from the other three who are seeking the position, we have known this member for many years, have worked with him on many projects, and know how dedicated he is. To learn more about Troy, his goals and plans, visit his website at <http://geocities.com/harrisonscv/MasseyPlatform.html>.

From his website, Troy says: "I have been interested in history since an early age, thanks to the upbringing of my parents, I have much love for Arkansas and Southern Heritage. Of particular interest is the War Between the States era, 1861-1865. As a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, I want the present and future generations to know the deeds of these Heroic men who sacrificed their all for their beliefs."

"My Motto is: 'Are you getting your money's worth in the Sons of Confederate Veterans?' 'If not, lets change it.' 'Let us not have "Heritage Defense" but "Heritage Offense.'" "Give the Organization back to the people-that is the reason we exist"

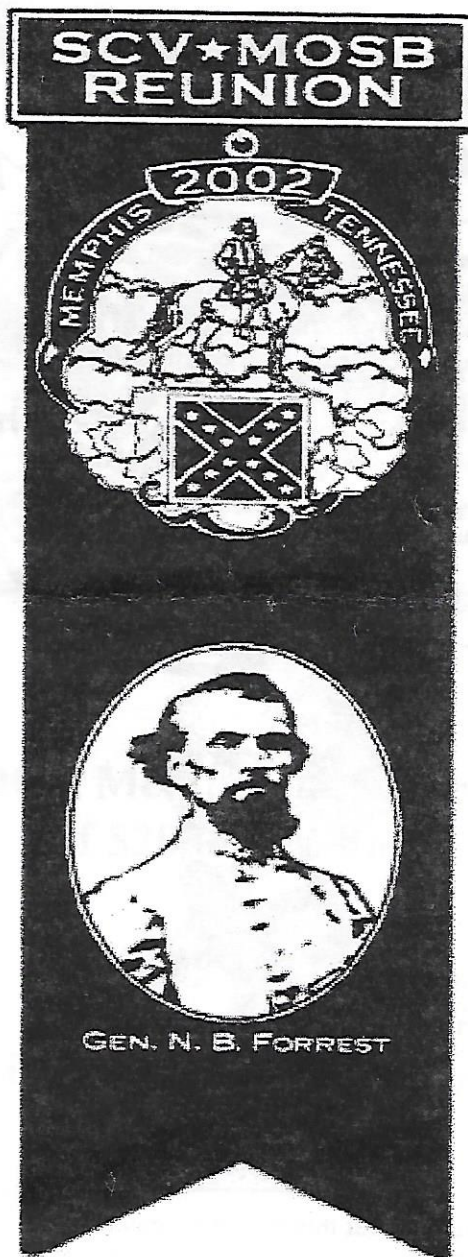


## 107th SCV Reunion Collector's Medal

Even if you cannot attend the National convention, you can still get a piece of history by purchasing a SCV Reunion Collector's Medal. A finer version than the Delegate medal including richer ribbon. Individually engraved on reverse with unique collector sequence number. Only 107 produced and offered to celebrate this 107th Reunion. Price is \$105.00, shipping included. Proceeds go to support the convention and to preserve Memphis' Confederate Park and Forrest Park. This will make a magnificent souvenir of the 2002.

Make check or money order payable to N.B. FORREST CAMP 215 and mail it to:

SCV Memphis 2002 Collector Medal  
P.O. Box 11141  
Memphis, TN 38111





# *Happy Birthday President Jefferson Davis*

“We feel that our cause is just and holy; we protest solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice save that of honour and independence; we ask no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the States with which we were lately confederated; all we ask is to be let alone; that those who never held power over us shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms.”

— President Jefferson Davis, April 29, 1861

## **Attention Camp Members**

Commander Alan Palmer has asked that if any member has not been receiving their Confederate Veteran Magazine to make contact with Adjutant Dan McCaskill. You can contact Dan by phone at 662-686-2975 or e-mail him at [danmccas@tecinfo.com](mailto:danmccas@tecinfo.com)



Take time out this month to remember  
Jefferson Davis on his Birthday



## Hunley Scientists Slowly Unveil the Mystery Why Confederate Sub Sank

BY WILLIAM HAGEMAN *Chicago Tribune*

Posted on Fri, May. 31, 2002

It was just an X-ray on a computer screen, but it told a story. There was a small button, a pocket watch and chain, a folding rule, a pocket knife and a small pair of binoculars. And in the background, the fainter image of a bone. "You can picture Dixon in his waistcoat, with his watch and chain," Warren Lasch says. "He's got his binoculars, his rule, his pocket watch. ... He's at his battle station."

Dixon was Lt. George E. Dixon, commander of the CSS Hunley, a 40-foot submarine that was the South's most secret weapon during the Civil War. And the X-ray is of a block of sediment removed from inside the sub, which vanished mysteriously in 1864 and was raised in August 2000 after it was located in 28 feet of water seven years ago.

The sub is now being studied and conserved at a remarkable state-of-the-art facility in Charleston. Inside that block of muck are the remains of Dixon and the items the captain of a ship would have carried with him, encased as if in a time capsule, untouched for nearly 140 years.

"The story of the Hunley was not the Civil War, not slavery, not states rights," says Lasch, the chairman of Friends of the Hunley, a non-profit organization set up by the South Carolina legislature to oversee the recovery and preservation of the sub. "It's a story of courage, the bravery of the crewmen. It's a story of technology. This was a highly tested and developed

piece of machinery. These things transcend generations and causes."

Working in a 46,000-square-foot building - Building 255 on the now largely abandoned Charleston Naval Base - a team of scientists has employed underwater archeology, genealogy, forensic science, metallurgy, textile conservation and historical research to slowly piece together that story, seeking answers to questions more than a century old, including the big one. "We still don't know why it sank, but we will, in a year, maybe two," Lasch says.

Much is already known about the Hunley, an engineering marvel that was built from a cast-iron boiler. It was powered by a hand crank that ran its length, with seven cranking stations for crewmen who sat on a bench. There were two snorkels to bring in air (though they apparently never worked as well as planned), viewing ports to let in light, keel weights that the crew could detach to help bring the ship to the surface, a depth gauge, a compass (even calibrated to take into account the ship's iron hull) and controls for the captain to use to maneuver the dive-plane levers and the rudder. And the sub once stayed submerged for 2 1/2 hours in a test dive.

The Hunley, financed by and named after New Orleans businessman Horace Lawson Hunley, had a troubled history. It sank at dockside in August 1863, killing five crew-



men. Refloated and cleaned, it sank again during an October training mission, drowning eight more men, including Hunley himself. It was once again salvaged and refitted, and put under the command of Dixon.

On the night it disappeared - a cold, clear February night in 1864 - the Hunley was on a mission targeting the Housatonic, a Union frigate that was anchored about 4 miles offshore, part of the blockade of Charleston. Attached to the front of the Hunley was a 17-foot spar, at the end of which was a 90-pound black powder charge.

The strategy was to ram the Housatonic, then back off, leaving the charge, which would be detonated via a long trip line.

The mission went off as planned, the explosion ripping a hole in the hull of the Housatonic and sending the Housatonic to the bottom with a loss of five lives. After delivering the historic fatal blow - the first time a submarine ever sank an enemy ship - the Hunley surfaced and shined a blue light toward shore to signal Confederate troops there that the mission was a success; the men on shore then lit a bonfire to guide the Hunley back.

But the Hunley never returned. And still no one knows why. There are theories - the men opened the hatches for air as they began their return and a wave washed over the sub and swamped it; gunfire from the deck of the Housatonic was somehow responsible; the cursed sub had simply malfunctioned again; the Hunley was struck and fatally damaged by another Union ship that was coming to the rescue of the Housatonic - but they are just guesses.

Today, the Hunley sits in a tank of water at the high security center, resting at a 45-degree

angle, its bow 17 inches lower than its stern, just as it sat on the ocean floor. The inside of the sub has been excavated, with the remains of seven crewmen removed to a morgue on the premises, and recovered artifacts undergoing examination and conservation. Only Dixon's remains and personal effects - including a lantern thought to be the one he used to signal his comrades ashore - have not been removed from the sediment that filled the ship after it sank and was removed in segments.

Until the Hunley was recovered, not a lot was known about its engineering. No original plans survive. The few sketches and drawings that exist were completed well after the craft had sunk, and were done largely from memory.

"With a secret weapon, which this was, you don't always have good plans," project director Bob Neyland says, while looking over a sketch of the interior of the ship that hangs on a wall at the center. "This diagram shows eight cranking stations. There were really only seven. The diagram shows a wheel. There was nothing like that."

Neyland was the first person Lasch brought aboard the project. A native of Palestine, Texas - his interest in diving goes back to his childhood love of the old "Sea Hunt" TV series - Neyland is an underwater archaeologist who came to the Friends of the Hunley from the Navy, where he heads the Underwater Archeology Branch of the Naval Historical Center in Washington. Under his direction, the Charleston facility has become the most sophisticated operation of its kind in the U.S.

It is stocked with computers, video scopes, lab facilities and high tech equipment, much



of it donated by various companies.

Perhaps more impressive, new technology has often been developed to facilitate the work. For example, before X-raying the contents of the sub, the team debated whether the gamma rays would damage the DNA of the crew members. No studies ever had been done on the subject. Dr. Jamie Downs, chief medical examiner of the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, then undertook a study seeking the answer. Downs found that the DNA would not be damaged, and the X-raying went ahead.

In another example, to get the Hunley ready for display, chlorides, or salts, need to be removed from the iron. Current methods would take seven or eight years, Neyland says, and would involve heating the sub to a very high temperature that could damage it. But an experimental new method has been devised that involves passing electrically charged hydrogen over the sub in a sealed container. It's quicker and would seem to be safer for the sub (it's being tested in France on some of the Hunley's rivets).

Neyland and his team were surprised at the some of things they've found. The Hunley was not as boxy as often pictured. It was incredibly cramped (about 3 1/2 feet tall). The spar to which the explosive charge was attached was near the bottom of the bow, not the top as thought (and it was still solidly bolted to the ship after 136 years). There's a counter-weighted wheel apparently designed to assist the crew while cranking; and when the team removed the ship's outer metal plates, they found supporting frames inside for added hull support.

"It makes perfect sense," Neyland says,

"because if you go down to any depth you'll get hull compression. And these hoops will help the sub keep its shape."

Other surprises found in the sub included a medallion stamped with the name of a Union soldier (after extensive research, it is now believed that one of the Hunley crew kept it as a battlefield souvenir, rather than there being a Yankee aboard) and a small sealed bottle that NASA wants to test, hoping for a sample of uncontaminated air from the 1860s.

Then there was the gold coin. According to legend, Dixon carried a good luck charm, a dented \$20 gold piece given to him by his fiancée for luck and which stopped a bullet from tearing into his left leg at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. It was just a story until last year, when senior archeologist and excavation manager Maria Jacobsen was working in the sub, trying to lift out the block containing Dixon's torso by sliding a thin metal plate under it; her hand was in front of the plate, making sure it didn't damage any of Dixon's pelvic bones. Once all the excavating, conservation and research is done - Neyland expects his team to be writing papers for 10 years after the lab work is finished - a Hunley museum will be established. There is also one pressing mission.

Sometime next year, the crew members will be buried with full military honors in Charleston's Magnolia Cemetery, near the graves of the first two Hunley crews.

"The Hunley means many things to many people," Lasch says. "It's a historic relic, but it's a war grave. These men are war heroes, and their remains will be treated with the utmost respect."

**The Delta General**

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**CampWeb Page:**

**<http://humphreys1625.homestead.com/Index.html>**

**"If I ever disown, repudiate, or  
apologize for the Cause for which  
Lee fought and Jackson died, let  
the lightnings of Heaven rend me,  
and the scorn of all good men  
and true women be my portion.  
Sun, Moon, Stars, all fall on me  
when I cease to love the  
Confederacy. 'Tis the cause, not  
the fate of the Cause, that is  
glorious!"**

**— Maj. R.E. Wilson, CSA**

**The Delta General**

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