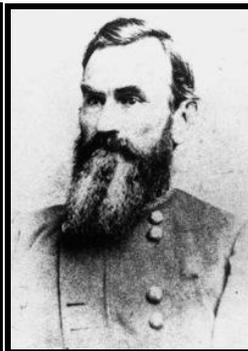


The Delta General

Editor: Larry McCluney Phone: 662-453-7212

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Upcoming Events

December 19 –
Camp Meeting

Jan. 17, 2009 –
Lee/Jackson
Banquet

Speaker will be
Bro. James
Taylor, MS Di-
vision Chaplain

COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Compatriots,

I hope all of you had a blessed and safe Thanksgiving Day. Like all of us, I spent the day getting stuffed with great food, visiting with family & friends and watching football. On a sadder note, we need to remember the passing of Lofton A. Davidson. Lofton was called home by our Lord on November 28, 2008. Lofton was laid to rest next to his wife, Freda, on

December 2, 2008 at Millington, TN. Lofton is the tenth member of our Camp to cross over the river.

I had the pleasure of inducting our newest camp member, Chris Hill, into our Camp. Chris marks the fifth new member to join the camp and help offset the lost 6 members.

Our Camp Meeting this month will be a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the reason

for the Christmas Season. We plan to meet, eat and make merry and only conduct camp business as needed. So, come out, bring a little food and enjoy an evening of fellowship and merriment with your fellow compatriots and friends.

God Bless the South,

Dan A. McCaskill, Camp
Commander

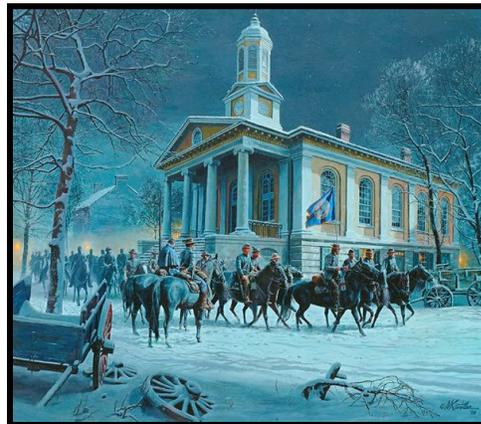
CHRISTMAS IN THE CONFEDERACY

"Oh When will this war end? Will another Christmas roll around and find us all wintering in camp? Oh! That peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness." (<http://home.att.net/~smerela/christmasletters.html>)

Today Christmas is a time of celebration. We honor Jesus who came to this world to save us from our sins. We enjoy being with family and sometimes with family we have not seen in a while. Many of us sit down to tables with serving plates mounded with food. And oh yes, we take part in the exchange of presents. All the family traditions of Christmas are observed once again. Finally we remember and honor family members who have passed on into eternity ahead of us.

The years 1861-1865 during the War of Northern Aggression were not happy times especially during Christmas for all the families who had members far off somewhere in the army. Soldiers were often far from home lamenting the happier times spent with their families before the war. Some of their letters below gleaned from different sources on the Internet allow us a glimpse into their hearts at Christmastime.

Continued on page 6 . . .



ATTENTION: Address Changes

If anyone in our Camp has a mailing address change, e-mail address change, or has not received their Newsletter; please contact Larry McCluney at 662-453-7212

or e-mail – confederate@roadrunner.com

CAMP HAPPENINGS

The Camp Meeting of November 20, 2008 was called to order by Commander Dan McCaskill. Camp Chaplain Earl McCown opened the Meeting with an invocation with special emphases on remembering Ralph Washington and Lofton Davidson. Ralph had surgery in relation to kidney stones and Lofton had a fall and cracked a vertebra in his lower back and expects to have surgery in the next few days to cement it back together. Commander McCaskill led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. A welcome was extended to all members and guests attending the Meeting.

Commander McCaskill had the pleasure of inducting Chris Hill into the Camp. Dan presented Chris with his membership card and certificate. Dan also welcomed Alan back to the meetings after his long absence while he cared for his ailing father who passed on November 2nd.

The following announcements were made: **1)** There will be no Christmas Ball at the Old Courthouse Museum this year due to lack of interest and increased expenses; **2)** The Lee-Jackson Birthday Pot Luck Supper will be held on Saturday, January 17th at the 1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola, MS. Social Hour will be 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. The speaker for the evening will be MS Division Chaplain James Taylor.

Officer Reports included the following: 1st Lt Cmdr Gator Stillman gave an update on the release of the short film by Jamie Matthews with a release date sometime in January 2009. Also, it was suggested, moved and voted to have next months meeting be the Camp Christmas Party.; 2nd Lt Cmdr Junior Stillman was working on several prospective members but could not get any commitments; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that delinquent member John Creech had renewed his membership bringing the membership back to 57. We lost 5 members but gained 5 new members which kept us at 57. Dan reported the Camp was ahead of budget and had almost \$ 600 left with only two months left in the fiscal year. He also reported one Division member had registered for the 2009 Convention. Editor Larry McCluney asked if anyone had not received the Delta General by email to please send him your email since he is still recovering from a crashed computer. Larry would get together with the Adjutant to purge and add to his email list. As Division Commander, Larry presented to the members a proposed confederate POW-MIA Flag that was presented to the GEC for adoption. The flag had a gray background with a blue St. Andrew's Cross, Confederate Seal in the middle, a gold star which represented the POW or MIA and the 13 stars of the Confederate States. Also, he reported that most of the money borrowed from National for defense of the gentleman from Memphis who was wrongfully fired had been paid back to National. As Historian-in-Chief, Larry asked for volunteers to help index papers of the SCV in 39 boxes located at the MS Department of Archives and History. A lengthy discussion ensued with Alan bringing up the point that several men across the Confederation were monitoring ebay for SCV papers to be purchased with money provided by National. OCR President Miranda McCaskill asked that their members consider donating items for their raffle at the Lee-Jackson supper to help raise funds for their part of the 2009 Convention.

Camp Business : Commander McCaskill announced that the Fellowship Hall has been reserved for the Lee-Jackson Birthday Pot Luck Supper and that notices would be sent out via the newsletter and cards. Dan presented an artist rendition of the 2009 Convention Medal to the members for their approval. The medal design was approved with no changes. Dan asked that all members start selling ads after the first of the year with the following prices: full page, \$ 100; half-page, \$ 50; quarter page, \$ 25; Business Card, \$ 15; and Veteran Memorial, \$ 10. Dan also asked for a design for a convention t-shirt.

Other business was brought before the Camp by Larry McCluney. Larry asked for an extension of the deadline for applying for the Oliver and Jeffrey McCaskill Scholarship on behalf of Pierre Westbrook. An extension was granted by the McCaskill Family to December 1st which Larry assured would be amble time.

With no other business coming before the Camp and with the hour getting late and having no scheduled speaker, Larry's impromptu program was postponed until next Meeting. The Meeting was dismissed with a word of prayer from Chaplain Earl McCown. Dan thanked the ladies of the OCR for the refreshments. Attendance for the Meeting was 19.

OCR HAPPENINGS:

LOSS OF A MEMBER IN THE CALHOUN CITY CHAPTER

Ladies,

I wanted to tell you that we lost one of our OCR members. She just recently joined again. Her name is Elizabeth Hardin White. She's about 20 or 21, married this year in February and just gave birth to her first child. They said she had toxemia but are really not sure if it was that or a heart attack or what killed her. We are all devastated. Please keep her family in your prayers. She is the MS Division, SCV Chaplain James Taylor's great niece. Even though Beth was married Bobby, Beth's parents are taking most of the responsibility. They young couple had no insurance and was just starting off in life. We are asking that donations, not flowers be sent to Beth's parents. We made our checks out to Billy & Lindy Hardin. Their address is: Billy & Lindy Hardin . . . 361 Hwy 341 N . . . Houlika, MS 38850

Billy is the Lt Commander Calhoun Avengers and Lindy is the President of the OCR.

Respectfully,

Annette McCluney, President – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS:

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF BEAUVOIR BY ALLEN TERRELL

It was a desire and hope of Past 3rd Brigade Commander Roy Wooten that all members of the Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans become a participating Friend of Beauvoir. The money derived from this program helps with the daily operational expenses of Beauvoir. Although Beauvoir has reopened it is still nowhere near the pre-Katrina period of tourist visitation. However, there are still expenses that must be met. If you can find it within your budget I want to encourage you to become a Friend of Beauvoir. I hope you can find it within your financial means to help fulfill a dream of our late Compatriot, Roy Wooten. If you are already a Friend, I thank you but if you are not, please consider this request.

Clip or copy the below information and send it to the address below. Share this with as many friends and family as you can.

Membership categories (please check one)

Student \$15.00
 Individual \$25.00
 Family \$40.00
 Patron \$100.00 - \$249.00
 Sustaining \$250.00 - \$499.00
 Benefactor \$500.00 - \$999.00
 Sponsor \$1,000.00 - \$4,999.00
 President.s Cabinet \$5,000.00 +
 Corporate \$500.00 and above
 _____ Amount

General and Contributing Membership

Name: _____

Names of Children (if applicable): _____

Address (Street): _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone (Home): _____ (Alternate): _____

There are benefits such as free admission, quarterly newsletter, and discounts on museum shop purchases. Obviously because of the state of affairs at Beauvoir post-Katrina, member benefits have been suspended but will be reinstated once Beauvoir is rebuilt and opened. You may contact Beauvoir at the phone number below with any questions about the benefits part of membership. For additional information, please call or write:
 (228) 388-9074

BEAUVOIR . . . 2224 Beach Boulevard . . . Biloxi, MS 39531

STEP BACK IN TIME AT BEAUVOIR By **KAT BERGERON** - kbergeron@sunherald.com

BILOXI -- Beauvoir House, an 1852 National Historic Landmark that has garnered national publicity since its post-Katrina revival, celebrates its reopening with a first-ever "Victorian Christmas at Beauvoir," a six-night tour that begins Monday. A miniature Victorian village, complete with train and Ferris wheel, decorates the Library Cottage, the newly completed replica of the pavilion where Jefferson Davis wrote "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government." The U.S. statesman and Confederate president retired to the beachfront Beauvoir estate in the 1870s.

Before Katrina claimed all but the large Greek Revival raised cottage, Beauvoir celebrated Christmas with a Festival of Trees, impossible to orchestrate this year. "We decided a Victorian Christmas is the best way to celebrate Beauvoir's recovery," said Rick Forte Sr., acting director and chairman of Beauvoir's combined boards. "Victorian Christmases are a step back in time for all of us involved in Southern history. Compared to the commercialism of today, it was a special and romantic time. "We are very proud to show Beauvoir from where it was after the storm to where we are now. Beauvoir is the front cover of the 2009 AT&T phone book and AAA's Southern Traveler magazine has designated us as an 'official travel treasure.' A recent chapter in the recovery story is completion of the Library Cottage and its twin, both flanking the front lawn near Beach Boulevard. The price tag for each was \$300,000, paid by federal and state historic-preservation grants and Beauvoir funds. Any new construction or repairs will return Beauvoir to its 19th-century appearance during the Davis era. The antebellum house, now decorated with holiday greenery, candles and a live Santa for the special night tours, reopened in June after a \$3.9 million restoration that stripped away out-of-character modern changes. Both the house and cottages are reinforced with invisible storm-strengthening techniques.

The modern presidential library, which will include a museum and gift shop, is in the blueprint stage and should open in 2010, as will the replica kitchen. A director's house that will look like the former carriage house and a carpenter's shop are also planned.

NATIONAL SCV NEWS:

DAVIS STATUE MAY BE MOVING ON- RICHMOND MUSEUM

By WILL JONES

TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

A statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis apparently won't stand -- or be stored -- at the American Civil War Center, after all.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans are talking to two other sites about the life-size bronze statue after talks with the American Civil War Center at Tredegar Iron Works broke down, said Brag Bowling, a Richmond resident and board member of the Southern heritage group.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans had offered to donate the statue, and museum officials had said they would accept it. That decision, however, came with no guarantee of where or whether the statue might be displayed or how it might be interpreted.

Bowling said yesterday that's not good enough. "As a steward of SCV money, I'm not going to take that risk, where it might not be displayed or it might be made in a way that denigrates the intent of the statue," he said. "Theoretically, they could take the thing and melt it down. I think Richmond has missed an opportunity to open up the sesquicentennial of the Civil War."

Christy S. Coleman, museum president, said she considers the matter closed even though the Sons of Confederate Veterans left open the possibility of a temporary loan. She said she doubts that will happen

because, under the museum's collections policy, officials would still not guarantee how the statue might be used.

Coleman said she would have preferred for the group to have talked to museum officials about a potential gift before offering the statue. "If you're really trying to help an organization, you're looking at what the organization's needs are."

The American Civil War Center opened in 2006 to tell the story of the Civil War and its causes, conduct and legacies from the Union, Confederate and African-American perspectives.

Bowling had hoped the piece would be displayed and interpreted, and used to educate the public about Davis and to attract visitors to the museum. After museum officials announced they would accept the statue, Coleman said it might be helpful in showing how the Civil War is remembered.

The statue, by Gary Casteel of Lexington, depicts the Confederate leader standing with his son Joe and with Jim Limber, a mixed-race orphan who was taken in by the Davis family. The statue will cost more than \$100,000 and is scheduled to be complete this month.

Bowling said he isn't interested in questioning the motives of museum officials or in participating in a fight like the one in 2003, when a statue of Abraham Lincoln was placed at Tredegar over protests of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Bowling said he's now talking to two other



sites about the statue, but he declined to name them. He said he had hoped to unveil the statue in Richmond on Feb. 22 -- to mark the anniversary of Davis' inaugural address at Capitol Square. Another option is to present it June 3 to commemorate Davis' birthday.

"This is not some piece of junk. This is a really fine statue," Bowling said. "We'll take it where we aren't hamstrung by policies."

Contact Will Jones at (804) 649-6911 or wjones@timesdispatch.com

If they get the statue, they will melt it down and make little Lincoln statues. They are hell bent on destroying our Southern Heritage thru lies being passed off as truth. A Lincoln statue where Lincoln has never been is a prime example.

THREE CHARGED WITH DESECRATING A CONFEDERATE OFFICER'S GRAVE

TIDE WATER NEWS . . . DECEMBER 4, 2008

COURTLAND — Three men have been arrested and charged in connection with the June desecration of a Confederate grave at the Gillette family cemetery east of Courtland. Southampton County lawmen have made arrests in last summer's desecration of a Confederate grave site. Kyle Sinclair Burks, 21, Aaron Richard Howard, 20, and Justin Thomas Rainey, 23, were charged with one count each of violation of sepulcher and attempted grand larceny. Southampton County authorities who made the arrest would not speculate on the men's motive. The three are accused of digging up the grave of Maj. Joseph Ezra Gillette, the man for whom the Urquhart-Gillette Camp 1471 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans was named.

Gillette served as a captain and then a major in the 13th Virginia Cavalry. He died at his family's ancestral home, "Cedar Lawn," on Nov. 1, 1863, from wounds he received at Brandy Station. He is buried in a small family cemetery that is maintained by the local SCV camp. Detective Cpl. Richard Morris, a spokesman for the Southampton Sheriff's Office, said after the incident that vandals had dug 4 feet into the grave and there was "nothing to indicate" that the vandals had reached Gillette's remains.

Army of Tennessee News:

MESSAGE FROM AOT COMMANDER KELLY BARROW

Compatriots and Friends,

I pray that y'all had a happy Thanksgiving and did not eat too much. As I write, I think of the many blessings that have been bestowed upon my family and the SCV in the last year. As the Year of Davis comes to an end, I can't help think of what is around the corner for us. The Sesquicentennial will be upon us quickly and we must be ready for this awesome challenge. It will be our time to shine and to really understand and uphold the Charge of General Stephen D. Lee. We need to be working with our allies, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Children of the Confederacy, to help accomplish this enormous task. We will also need strong leadership to move us forward. With this in mind, I have asked AOT Councilman Tom Strain to head up the AOT Sesquicentennial Committee. It will be Tom's job be to contact Division Commanders to find out who is the Sesquicentennial Chair for that Division and to begin continuous contact with the Division Chair, reviewing and discussing ideas, making sure Division has proper support needed for events, etc. Tom will also create a calendar of all events in AOT, which will be uploaded to the AOT website.

Before and during the Sesquicentennial I believe the SCV will experience tremendous growth. Knowing the value of each man, we must endeavour to retain them in the SCV. We must find out what makes people stay and what makes them leave. We need to find the formula to keep people in the organization and use it. Due to the importance of this issue, I have appointed Ohio Division Commander and AOT Newsletter editor Mike Lawson to undertake this important position as AOT Retention Chairman. It was under Mike's leadership that saw the Ohio Division retain 100% retention. Mike will be contact each Division to talk about retention ideas, suggestions or problems. I hope you will give both Tom and Mike your assistance and prayers in the jobs they have taken. I know they will make the AOT proud.

I am sure by now that you have heard the good news concerning our on AOT Inspector Bazz Childress. Bazz had his day in court at the end of October and was vindicated. I, like many others, appreciate the stand that Bazz made with the hotel in Concord. Bazz displayed courage and fortitude that is example to us and our ancestors.

The school named for Nathan Bedford Forrest in Jacksonville, Florida was brought under attack by the usual suspects. After going before the school board and telling the same old lies, the Kirby Smith Camp and many others came to the rescue. On election night, the locate school board showed the rest of America that common sense and intelligent still reign in the face of political correctness. The board voted to keep the name Nathan Bedford Forrest.

The dates for the AOT meetings have been set, so mark your calendar and make plans to attend. The Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp #1372 of Birmingham, Alabama will be hosting the meeting on Saturday, February 21st in Birmingham. The March meeting will take place on Saturday the 14th in Lexington and will be hosted by the John C. Breckinridge Camp #100 of Lexington, Kentucky. The itinerary of these meetings will be forthcoming but a number of dynamic speakers are alright being lined up, so don't miss out.

With Christmastide approaching and keeping with the verse that it is "more blessed to give than receive." I would like for you to consider a number items to give this year that would be beneficial to the SCV. Purchasing a membership for a friend or a family member is always a right move. For men and women and children who aren't eligible, I strongly ask you to consider enrolling them into the Friends of the SCV. If you would like to help with the restoration of Elm Springs, please reflect upon purchasing an Honorary Deed to Elm Springs. They make a great gift and the money goes to Elm Springs. Contact David Stinson at extension 205 regarding any purchase.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a most blessed New Year. Let us, during this holiday season, stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas and keep that love and knowledge in our hearts all year long. If you do this, I promise you that you'll be blessed. If I can be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is kiltedkelly@inbox.com and my home number is 770.412.1646

Remember to give to Jefferson Davis Statue Fund! Several Divisions in the AOT have taken the challenge laid down by South Carolina. The Alabama Division has accepted the challenge and as of today, has pledged \$5000 for the fund. I encourage those that have not given to date to discuss it at your next Division Executive Council. Details are still being worked on as far as placement, but the statue is a reality.

Something I would also like to see happen in 2009 is that every camp, brigade, and Division purchase the **Confederate Veteran** magazine for their local schools, libraries, colleges, universities and historical societies. This is one great way to promote ourselves and the Cause in the community. By doing this, I believe this will be planting the seeds that will lead to a bountiful harvest in the years to coming. The cost is only \$10.00 a year and is a great investment for our future. Contact Cindy Crowe at extension 208.

In keeping with 2009 being the "Year of Dixie", the Army of Tennessee will once again have an essay contest. The topic is the History of Dixie. It is open to school aged students and monetary prizes will be given to the winners. More details will be announced very soon.

Deo Vindice!

Charles Kelly Barrow , Cmdr, Army of Tennessee



The Delta General

1412 North Park Dr

Greenwood, MS

Camp Officers

Commander
(Adjutant) -

Dan McCaskill

1st Lt Cmdr- Charles
"Gator"Stillman

2nd Lt Cmdr- Claude
Stillman

Color Sgt - Ralph
Washington

Appointed

Officers:

Editor/Webmaster -

Larry McCluney

Chaplain - Earl
McCown, Jr.

Sgt-at-Arms -

Thomas Haik



December 23rd [1863]

Since the cook had been sent out to purchase goods I did the cooking for the mess. He returned at night with a few articles which cost at the following rates: Onions \$2 per dozen; butter \$3 per pound; chickens \$3 each; pork \$1 per pound; also some eggs at \$3 per dozen to make some eggnog for Christmas. Today I wrote a lengthy letter to my wife, but the person I had intended to carry it had gone. This was a disappointment.



LINE CAMP-FIRE BEFORE THE GREAT SIEGE

December 24th

This morning battalion guard mounting began for the three batteries. It is Christmas Eve. I am sitting in my little cabin and my thoughts carry me away to Helena where I see my good wife before the hearth with three children around her; the eldest a girl standing and looking earnestly into her mother's face; the second a boy five years old, sitting in a small chair looking into the fire; and the youngest a girl about four, leaning on her mother's lap—all listening attentively to what their intelligent mother is relating in regard to the visits of Santa Claus having visited them on former Christmas Eves with presents of toys, their curiosity is at its height to know if he will come tonight and fill their stockings. Ah, will not these little innocents be disappointed? Their father has seen them for twenty mouths, and is now far away battling for home and liberty, and has no means by which he can convey them toys or money to purchase them. Whether their mother has the means to spare in procuring Christmas presents for them is unknown to me, but I pray heaven to provide her with the necessaries of life, and to bless and cheer the young and innocent hearts of my children during the Christmas holidays. Happy Christmas to my wife and children!

December 25th

Before breakfast the Doctor made some eggnog, a worthy luxury that is seldom enjoyed in the army. Had sausages for breakfast, quite a treat, the first within the last twelve months. Ralph Bailey and Willie Smith called at my cabin about eleven o'clock, when Bailey made the second eggnog. All went smoothly in the battery. Out in the open air some of the men were hopping to the notes of an old fiddle trying to be merry.