

The Delta General

July, 2010

Volume 13, Issue 7

The official publication of the
Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, MS Division, SCV

CAMP NEWS:

ADJUTANT'S REPORT: DAN McCASKILL

When arriving at the church, we found the Fellowship Hall to be a sauna with the temperature being 90 degrees. Needless to say, the Meeting was moved to the Sanctuary where the AC was working. Commander Claude "Junior" Stillman called the Meeting to order around 7:00 pm. Junior asked Camp Chaplain Earl McCown to open the Meeting with a word of prayer and to bless the food brought by the ladies of the OCR. Color Sergeant Joe Nokes led in the Pledges and Salutes to the Flags. After the prayer and salutes, Commander Stillman recessed the Meeting and invited everyone to the adjoining room to partake in the evening meal. Once appetites were satisfied, the Commander reconvened the Meeting. There were few Officer Reports; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that no

money had been spent since last Meeting and no new members had been recruited. He also reported that each member should receive Membership Renewal Notices sometime in July. Camp Editor Larry McCluney asked if everyone had received their newsletter. As Historian-in-Chief, Larry reported that a gentleman was in the process of placing a Roll of Honor Medal in the Cottonlandia Museum in Greenwood. The gentleman asked Larry if our camp could provide an Honor Guard for the dedication. Larry presented the question before the members for consideration. A motion was made by Earl McCown that members of the Camp serve as Honor Guards for the dedication at Cottonlandia. The motion was seconded by Gator Stillman and passed unanimously.

Dan McCaskill is doing the same for one of his Ancestors and had the Roll of Honor Medal and certificate displayed at the Meeting. The medal will be put on display at the Confederate Museum at Beauvoir when completed. These medals are available through GHQ for any Confederate Veteran whose

name appears on the Roll of Honor. For information about the medal, contact Larry McCluney or Dan McCaskill.

Larry also reported on a meeting he had with the Greenwood Tourism Commission to discuss events for the upcoming Sesquicentennial. The Commission stated none were being planned but if the Camp wanted to plan some events, they would support our efforts with advertising and possibly some grant money. Larry was given an application for said grant money. Larry needed to know from the Camp if it was interested in sponsoring any events so he could apply for the grant money. It was discussed to plan an educational and/or an open debate event or events during the Sesquicentennial. Gator made a motion to pursue obtaining grant monies for the events discussed. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed unanimously.

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BLACK CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS

Professor Edward C. Smith is the foremost authority in America on black Confederates and the participation of blacks for the Southern side in the War Between the States. In this Two-DVD talk that totals over 70 minutes, Professor Smith is fascinating, articulate and witty. He broke the crowd up continuously with laughter and applause. He received a THUNDEROUS standing ovation at the end. Professor Smith maintains that blacks had it within their power to make the War Between the States a "four-week war" had they chosen to side with the invading Yankees and sabotage, poison, rape and pillage, but of course they did not. They were steadfast in their loyalty to the South, which enabled the South's war for independence to be a bloody four-year contest with a million casualties including 600,000 deaths that ended only after the South was laid waste.

You will **rave** about this talk! Books in Print: ISBN: 0-9818980-9-2
ISBN13: 978-0-9818980-9-4 Published by Charleston Athenaeum Press

This set belongs in EVERY personal and public library in America, and in every high school and college library. **Buy it and donate it.** Big discounts available to historical organizations for fundraising. Please visit our website today at www.BonnieBluePublishing.com and please help us spread the word that these DVDs are available.

THANK YOU!

Gene Kizer , Producer Charleston Athenaeum Press

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SPEAKER FOR JULY

Our July 15 meeting will be our General Forrest Birthday Celebration. Larry McCluney will present the Jeckyl and Hyde Personalities of General Nathan Bedford Forrest for our program. I hope to see you all there in record numbers just as we did at our June meeting.

Adj's Report Continued from page 2 . . .

1st Lt. Division Commander Alan Palmer reported to the Camp that the MS Division would not be participating in a program planned by the SC Division to produce commemorative silver coins representing each State and Territory of the CSA. The cost was too high and return on the investment was questionable. Alan also asked that Mississippi needed as many camps as possible to be represented at the National Convention to support Vicksburg's bid for the 2013 National Convention.

It was announced that the Camp would discuss proposed National Constitu-

tion changes and the slate of candidates at the July Camp Meeting. The National Convention will be in Anderson, SC July 21-25, 2010.

Our speaker for the evening was published author, syndicated columnist and Prison Minister Bob Neal from Geneill, MS. Bob has a rich Confederate Heritage with two general officers. Bob entertained us with several anecdotes about his family. One story was about his family's meeting with "Sherman's Boys" in Georgia. Their house was not burned but everything inside was brought out, piled up and burned while they watched. Another was one about his daughter Christi who had been

working in New York City for three years coming home for a visit wanting him to stop the car and getting out to look at the stars. She had forgotten how beautiful they were because they cannot be seen in New York and that we need to remember Who put them there.

With no other business coming before the Camp, Junior asked Earl to dismiss the Meeting with a word of prayer. Junior thanked the ladies of the Order of Confederate Rose for the wonderful food. Attendance for the Meeting was 30.

Submitted by,
Dan A. McCaskill, Adj.

MOS&B News:

COMMANDER REPORT: ALAN PALMER

My Dear Friends

In keeping with last months MOSB theme I intend to highlight Mississippi officers each month. Last months article on Brig Gen Charles Clarks after action report from 6 April 1862 was interesting to me when I discovered that it was half of Clarks Division that Albert Sidney Johnston had borrowed and was leading in battle when he fell mortally wounded. Pay attention as that may be a trivia question in the future !! I would still love to highlight our own members officer or government ancestors if someone would send me some information. Starting with Brig. Gen Clarke I am going to have a little information on Mississippi General officers each month until we go through them all. I hope you enjoy learning more about the military leaders our great state produced during the WAR BETWEEN THE STATES !

Confederately Yours, Alan Palmer

Brig/Gen William Edwin Baldwin

Baldwin was born on July 28, 1827, in Statesburg, South Carolina. His family moved to Mississippi when Baldwin was young. He grew up to become the operator of a book and stationary store in Columbus. After training in the local militia for several years, he joined the Confederate Army in 1861, and was commissioned colonel of the 17th Mississippi Infantry. He and his troops were sent to Pensacola, Florida, but were later ordered to East Tennessee. From there, Baldwin was attached to the army in central Kentucky. He was commended for his troops' bravery during the initial attack on Fort Donelson, Tennessee. At Fort Donelson, Baldwin was taken prisoner, and was held at Fort Warren in Boston. After he was exchanged, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general, commanding a brigade of Mississippi and Tennessee regiments in the Army of West Tennessee. Again commended for gallantry for his service at Coffeeville, Mississippi in 1862; he went on to lead troops at Port Gibson, Champion's Hill and

throughout the Vicksburg Campaign. After being captured again, Baldwin was paroled and sent to the District of Mobile. Due to a broken stirrup he fell from his horse and died on February 19, 1864, near Dog River Factory. He is buried in the Friendship Cemetery in Columbus, Mississippi.

Brig/Gen William Lindsay Brandon

Brandon was born near Washington in Adams County, Mississippi. The exact date of his birth is not known because the family records were destroyed in a fire in 1831 but it is believed he was born in 1801. He was educated at Washington College and the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) where it is believed he studied medicine. He returned to Tennessee and became a prominent planter and sometime physician. He served in the state legislature in 1826 and rose to the rank of major general in the state militia. When the war erupted Brandon helped form the 21st Mississippi infantry regiment and in spite of his age, about 60, he was named commander of Company D, the Jeff Davis Guards, with the rank of captain. Shortly

before the 21st was sent to Virginia, Brandon was named lieutenant colonel. The 21st saw action during the Seven Days with Brandon commanding the 21st for a time until he was severely wounded at Malvern Hill, losing a leg. After returning to duty in time to see action at Gettysburg, he was promoted to colonel on 14 August 1863. He accompanied the rest on James Longstreet's 1st Corps to Tennessee and saw action at Chickamauga and during the Knoxville campaign. Shortly after the 1st Corps returned to Virginia Brandon was appointed brigadier general to rank from 18 June 1864. He was named to head the Mississippi Bureau of Conscription. The bureau closed before the end of the war, mainly due to a lack of draftable men in Mississippi at the time as the war wound down.

After the conscription bureau closed Brandon returned to his plantation, Arcole, in Wilkerson County, Mississippi and to planting. He remained there, in semi-retirement, until he died on 8 October 1890. He is buried in Wilkinson County, Mississippi.

JOINING THE MILITARY ORDER OF STARS AND BARS (MOS&B)

Membership in the Military Order of the Stars & Bars is limited to male descendants, either lineal or collateral, of the officers who served honorably in the Army, Navy and other commands of the Confederate States of America and male descendants of the elected and appointed civilian officials of the Confederate States; the national Confederate Government; and the Five Civilized Tribes which allied with the Confederacy. All members must be at least twelve years old. Ancestral documentation must accompany all applications for membership. First year national dues are \$50 and must accompany your completed application. This fee covers the national dues for the current year, plus the succeeding year. Annual renewals for national membership are \$35. Your State Society and Local Chapter may also have annual dues in addition to the national dues.

DELINQUENT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – LETS GET THEM BACK HOME

Below is a list of delinquent camp members who might rejoin the SCV. I do not guarantee any address. If anyone in addition to myself who wishes to contact anyone on this, please do so. Renewal dues are \$ 55 which includes the renewal fee. Thanks for the help. Dan McCaskill

Delinquent Members

Aderholdt, Frank W., Jr. 309 Arcadia Street; Hattiesburg, MS 39401; 601-296-1350
 Bariola, Todd 213 Bayou Road; Greenville MS 38701-7736
 Barrett, Ray P.O. Box 201; Avon, MS 38723
 Bell, Dan C. 246 Old Ruleville Road; Cleveland, MS 38732; 662-721-0235cell
 Busby, Matthew 1722 Beal Avenue; Lansing, MI 48910
 Davis, Kirk 100 Davis Road; Hollandale, MS 38748 (last known address)
 Davis, Trey 100 Davis Road; Hollandale, MS 38748 (last known address)
 DeLoach, Dalton 203 West Barton; Greenwood, MS 38930
 Furr, Randy 2214 Lake Lincoln; Wesson, MS 39191
 Haik, Thomas 330 South John Chicks Drive; Greenville, MS 38701
 Haley, Darrel 161 Primrose; Greenville, MS 38701
 Henderson, Mark P.O. Box 464; Inverness, MS 38753
 Chris Hill 5 St. Jude Road; Leland, MS 38756 (last Known)
 Horton, Jeff 107 Lakeview Drive; Leland, MS 38756
 Jackson, Charles 1212 Cottage Drive; Greenville, Ms 38703
 King, Mark 120 Peninsula Drive; Leland, MS 38756
 Lee, John Aaron 119 East Monroe; Greenwood, MS 38930
 Lowenthal, John 2520 Maple Crossing Drive; Bullwin, MO 63011
 Magee, Randy 130 Pettiet Lane; Leland, MS 38756
 McCaskill Hunter 3448 Old Hwy 61 S; Leland, MS 38756
 McCaskill, Joshua " " "
 McCaskill, Matthew " " "
 McDaniel, Vince 1003 River Road; Greenwood, MS 38930
 Maxey, Bobby 273 Sykes Road; Indianola, MS 38751
 Neal, Philip ???
 Peyton, Bryan P.O. Box 633; Hollandale, MS 38748
 Preus, Christian 11511 Treelawn Street; Gulfport,
 Read, John, Jr. 306 Rexburg Road; Leland, Ms 38756
 Rose, Sammy P. O. Box 1387; Indianola, MS 38751
 Swain, Walter B. 54 Dunleith Road; Leland, MS 38756
 Trotter, Ike P. O. Box 1145; Greenville, MS 38701
 Upshur, Bob P.O. Box 155; Stoneville, MS 38776-0155
 Upshur, Rob P.O. Box 313; Stoneville, MS 38776-0313
 Worthington, James P.O. Box 153; Avon, MS 38723

Remember, renewals for the up coming year are due in August. Lets try to have 100% renewal of our members as we prepare to go into the Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence. As well all know, it is going to take all of us to shed light on the truth to those who will be attacking our heritage the next four years during this observance.

N.B. Forrest Birthday Celebration
Sunday July 11, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.
at Forrest Park in midtown Memphis
Hosted by: N.B. Forrest Camp 215, SCV
and Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest Historical Society, Inc.
Please attend our Annual Forrest Birthday Celebration, this coming
Sunday afternoon July 11th beginning at 2:00 p.m.
Bring your flags, your wreaths and your own lawn chair.
Guest Speaker:
The Honorable Melvin McClure, Jr.
Author, Historian and retired Chancery Court Judge
Topic: "The Wartime Horses of Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest"
Refreshments provided by the Forrest Camp
We need uniformed Re-enactors for the flag presentation and for
the musket salute.
Please spread the word to your member list,
your friends and your family.
For more information please contact
Cmdr. Fred Lincoln (901) 466-1159.

106th Annual



Gen'l N.B. Forrest

Birthday Celebration

189th Anniversary

Sunday, July 11th, 2010

2:00 p.m.

Forrest Park, Memphis

(Union Ave. @ Manassas St.)

The Public is invited.
(Bring your own lawn chair)

Guest Speaker:

(Ret.) Lt. Col. Tom McKenny
"Jack Henson's One Man War"

Flag Parade
Opening Ceremonies
Proclamations:
music
Guest Speaker
21-gun Musket Salute
Wreath-laying




Sponsored by the General N.B. Forrest Camp 215
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Memphis
For more information, contact: Fred Lincoln, Forrest Camp Commander, 901-466-1159
Co-sponsored by the Gen. N. B. Forrest Historical Society

SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE – AUGUST 13-14, 2010

All you **politically incorrect** folks, come celebrate the **South** with the Jones County Rosin Heels SCV Camp at the **Southern Heritage Conference** at Bethlehem Baptist Church about 5 miles east of Laurel, MS on Highway 184 E. We'll have **in your face** speakers, music, food and fellowship!

Our speakers are **Chaplin-in-Chief, Bro. Cecil Fayard, Past Division Commander, Larry McCluney** and **Alabama Tea Party speaker, Bro. John Killian**. Some of the others may show the current issues are related to the War. We'll meet Friday, **August 13** at 6:00 PM to visit, shop and get seated to start at 7.00pm. We meet again at 8:30 AM Saturday with speeches to start at 9.00 AM, **August 14** We'll break for dinner at noon and eat on the premises, and come back afterwards for the afternoon session.

Saturday night dress casual or dress out in Confederate uniforms and antebellum ball gowns or wee kilties for the **Saturday evening supper and Confederate Ceiledh** at 5:00. We will try to eat at 5.30. At a Ceiledh, everyone is invited to sing, tell a joke, read a poem, etc. At the supper and **Ceiledh** we'll post the colors. We will need all **uniformed Confederates and kilted Scots to bring weapons** and join in to protect colors, and piper.

(They'll either enjoy it, or they need it!)

NOON DINNER \$10.00 PER PERSON, SUPPER \$15.00 PER PERSON

You MUST make MEAL RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE

Mail check to: Jones County Rosin Heels, P. O. Box 52, Laurel, MS 39441

PHONE: 601/649-1867 days, 601/426-2041 nights, email:

csaford@hotmail.com

Comfort Suites is convention motel. Special rates until August 6 –\$76.00

Call 601-649-2620 and tell them you are with the Southern Heritage Conference for special rates.

We'll see you at the Southern Heritage Conference! Put us down!

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

THERE WILL BE _____ OF US FOR NOON DINNER @ \$10.00 EACH, AND _____ OF US FOR SUPPER @ \$15.00 EACH, AND

CONFERENCE ADMISSION _____ (\$15.00 FOR FAMILY) OR

CONFERENCE ADMISSION _____ (\$10.00 FOR INDIVIDUAL)

I ENCLOSE A CHECK FOR \$ _____ (POST DATED IS OK)

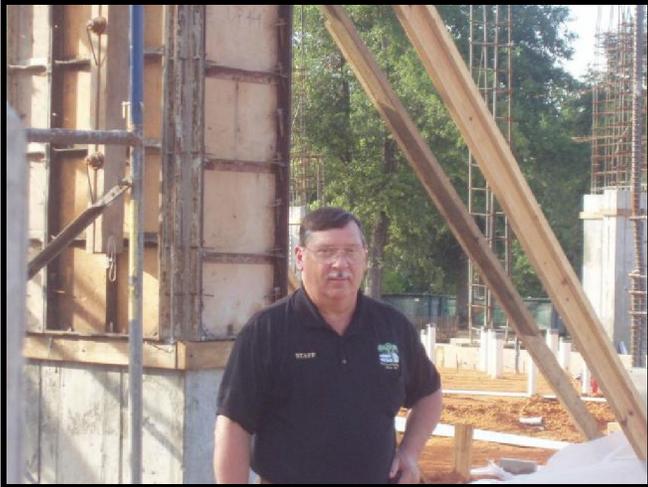
!!!!MEAL RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY 8:00 AM, AUGUST 8 !!!!
Vendors tables are free, but limited and filling up fast. Please contact us.

SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE

P. O. Box 52

LAUREL, MS 39441

GREETINGS FROM BEAUVOIR



The slab is poured and we are going up!



Beauvoir wins Mississippi Heritage Trust 2010 Heritage Award of Excellence for the Restoration of Beauvoir



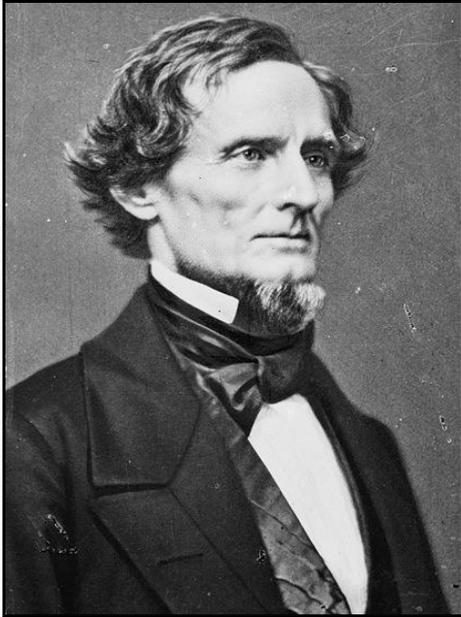
Birthday cake was served to our guests, and a great time was had by all!



June 3, 2010-Jefferson Davis Birthday Celebration at Beauvoir! We had a great turnout despite the weather!



WHAT EXACTLY HAPPEN IN THE CASE OF THE UNITED STATES VS. JEFFERSON DAVIS?



Enough intrigues, maneuvers, plot twists, and changes of the political wind exist to fill a book (and it would make a good one). It is quite a complex matter, but the bottom line is that the case never went to trial and the indictments were dismissed. The proceedings dragged on into 1869, but Davis himself was only in the courtroom on two separate days. Davis was captured by troops and held at a military base (Fort Monroe) in a state before a military tribunal, but the fabricated case connecting him to the assassination (the primary informant was convicted of perjury) fell apart before Davis was charged.

The government soon decided that any trial for treason would have to be in a civil court, and in Virginia, the base of Davis' alleged treasonable activities, directing armed rebellion against the United States. Neither John C. Underwood, circuit court judge for the District of Virginia, nor Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, who presided over the circuit including the Virginia district, felt he had any authority as long as Davis was held by the military. Chase in particular wanted to avoid such dangerous legal waters, and he continued to find excuses to avoid hearing the case. Underwood's competence was questionable, and he was known to be overly zealous (he had bragged to congressional committee in 1866 that he could pack a jury to insure a conviction), so Chase's presence was essential for a respectable verdict. Because of the issues of military control of Davis' imprisonment, Chase refused to issue a writ of habeas corpus in June 1866, but almost a year later, in conjunction with an order to the military authorities from the president, a writ of habeas corpus brought Davis to Richmond to be

transferred to the authority of the federal courts.

He appeared before Underwood on May 13, 1867, bail was set at \$100,000, and the bond was immediately posted. "Deafening applause" broke out in the courtroom when Davis was freed. Horace Greeley, one of a growing number of northerners who wanted the case settled so the country could get on with the healing process, had secured backing for the bond and personally guaranteed a quarter of it. He was in the courtroom that day and met Davis after his release.

After half a year with his family in Canada, Davis returned to Richmond in November 1867 for what was supposed to be the beginning of the trial. Court convened on the 26th, but Chase was not present, and the government asked for a postponement. Davis was released on his own recognizance, and the defense asked that some sort of consideration be given him so he would not be "subjected to a renewal of the inconvenience" of making the trip to Richmond if a trial was not going to be held. As it turned out, Davis would not have to appear in court again during any of the subsequent proceedings.

As time passed, many elements changed, and so did the players. U.S. attorneys general came and went, (three different men were involved in the Davis case). Andrew Johnson was impeached and nearly convicted. And the 14th Amendment was passed and ratified. Johnson began to fear that if Davis were tried and acquitted—a very real possibility with a Virginia jury—he (Johnson) would be impeached again and removed from office. For a variety of reasons, no significant action was taken until after the 1868 election.

In an unusual twist, Chase made known to Davis' attorneys, a distinguished group of northern and southern litigators, his opinion that the third section of the 14th Amendment nullified the indictment against Davis. His contention was that by stripping the right to vote from high Confederate officials, a punishment for treasonable activities had been legislated, so Davis could not be punished again for the same crime. Davis' friends reminded his lawyers that Davis (who was in Europe and out of telegraphic range) wanted a trial because he saw it as an opportunity to vindicate both himself and the actions of the Confederacy, i.e., the constitutional right to secede. Davis' lawyers, however, pointed out that Davis' life was at stake, and there was a general agreement that they could not pass up the opportunity to arrange what they believed to be an honorable settlement. One of the attorneys later wrote Davis that the defense team also felt that if they could establish a

precedent based on the 14th Amendment, it would lift the threat of prosecution for other Confederate leaders as well.

On November 30, 1868, Davis' lawyers filed a motion requiring that the government attorneys show cause why the indictment should not be quashed. A hearing on the motion was held before Chase and Underwood on December 3-4, and on the 5th they announced their finding. The vote was split—Chase favoring laying aside the indictment, and Underwood, who had overseen the grand juries responsible for the indictment, wanting the case to be tried. Chase's anger with Underwood was obvious, and he stated for the record why he believed the 14th Amendment exempted Davis from further prosecution. The certificate of division between Chase and Underwood was forwarded to the Supreme Court, and the indictment technically remained pending, but there would be no more action taken. It was clear that Chase would favor overturning a guilty verdict, making the government hesitant to proceed.

The Davis case remained on the circuit court docket for February 14, 1869, but the government indicated at that time that it would not prosecute. The indictment was, therefore, dismissed, as were indictments against thirty-seven other ex-Confederates, including Robert E. Lee. Davis' lawyers contacted the Justice Department to make sure that other indictments against him in Washington and Tennessee were not going to be prosecuted.

The full story of the case remains to be told, but there are a couple of articles which provide good background information. Eberhard P. Deutsch, "United States v. Jefferson Davis: Constitutional Issues in the Trial for Treason," *American Bar Association journal*, 52 (Feb. and March 1966): 139-45, 263-68, deals with the legal matters of the case. Roy F. Nichols, "United States vs. Jefferson Davis, 1865-1869," *American Historical Review*, 31 (Jan. 1926): 266-84, covers many of the political issues involved. Bradley T. Johnson's detailed court record is reprinted in Davis, *Jefferson Davis, Constitutionalist*, edited by Dunbar Rowland (10 vols., 1923), 7:138-227.

No work has been done on public perception of the case in North and South. The involvement of influential northerners, with Horace Greeley at the center of activity, was a major factor in what transpired. There is also much left to be written about the maneuvering of Chase, Johnson, and the Justice Department.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

June 5th, 2010 AT 4:30 P.M. 115th Annual Meeting, Grenada, MS

MINUTES:

1. The meeting was called to order by Commander Bill Atkinson at 4:30 P.M. on June 5th, 2010
2. The opening prayer was given by Commander Bill Atkinson.
3. Division Adjutant Jim Strickland called the roll of Executive Council officers: (All EC members were present except – 2nd Brigade Councilman James Taylor, 3rd Brigade Councilman Mike Webb, 4th Brigade Councilman Knox Poole, 5th Brigade Cmdr. Troy Savoie, 5th Brigade Councilman Mike Merritt Absent)
4. **Motion** made and seconded to adopt the minutes from the February Executive Council meeting. Motion was passed.
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Motion** was made and seconded for the Division to pay the Beauvoir portion of membership dues to Beauvoir on July 31st every year beginning with 2010. Motion passed.

- b. **Motion** was made and seconded to have the 2nd Brigade Commander Buddy Ellis deliver the former New Albany Camp a letter of commendation/appreciation for replacing the Confederate flags at the Brice's Crossroads site. Motion passed.
- c. Recommendation was to delay release of the *Jeff Davis Legion* Summer Issue 2010 until after the national SCV meeting.
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Beauvoir Director Rick Forte discussed some work the City of Biloxi was wanting to do on the Beauvoir property. Rick denied their request so the city will do the work on the street side of the fence. Fall Muster is looking for someone to take over as organizer since Wallace Mason has requested to relinquish that duty.
 - b. Brigade reports were not given at this meeting because they were presented in the Convention Business Agenda book.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. Recommendation was made for the Commander to write a reminder address-

ing the issue of separation of the SCV and political causes/issues. This is to be published in the *Jeff Davis Legion*.

- b. Recommendation was made for the Camp Adjutants to call or email the Division Adjutant when a membership application is received to verify that the person has no complaints from other camps against them.

- c. **Motion** was made and seconded to not participate in the South Carolina Division SCV coin collection project. Motion passed.

- d. Ed Funchess reported that the *Chronicles of Beauvoir* book is now on sale. A previous issue with the book has been resolved.

8. Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Allen Terrell
July 3rd, 2010

THE BATTLE OF VICKSBURG – April 30 – July 4, 1863

From mid-Oct. 1862, Major General Ulysses S. Grant made several attempts to take Vicksburg. Following failures in the first attempts, the Battle of Chickasaw Bluffs, the Yazoo Pass Expedition, and Steele's Bayou Expedition, in the spring of 1863 he prepared to cross his troops from the west bank of the Mississippi River to a point south of Vicksburg and drive against the city from the south and east. Commanding Confederate batteries at Port Hudson, La., farther south prevented the transportation of waterborne supply and any communication from Union forces in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Naval support for his campaign would have to come from Rear Adm. David D. Porter's fleet north of Vicksburg. Running past the powerful Vicksburg batteries, Porter's vessels, once south of the city, could ferry Federals to the east bank. There infantry would face 2 Confederate forces, one under Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton at Vicksburg and another around Jackson, Miss., soon to be commanded by Gen. Joseph E. Johnston.

In Jan. 1863 Grant organized his force into the XI Corps under Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand, the XV Corps under Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, the XVI Corps under Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, and the XVII Corps under Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson. Simultaneous with Grant's Vicksburg offensive, Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks began his maneuvering along the Red River in Louisiana. Hurlbut's corps was subsequently transferred to New Or-

leans. With his 3 remaining corps, Grant began operations late in March. On the 29th and 30th McClernand's and McPherson's men, at Milliken's Bend and Lake Providence, northwest of Vicksburg, began working their way south, building a military road to New Carthage, La., preparatory to a move south to Hard Times, La., a village opposite Bruinsburg, Miss.

On the night of 16 Apr., at Grant's request, Porter took 12 vessels south past the Vicksburg batteries, losing 1 to Confederate fire. On 17 Apr. Grierson's Raid began. Led by Brig. Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson, Federal cavalry left La Grange, Tenn., for 16 days riding through central Mississippi to Baton Rouge, La., pulling away large units from Vicksburg's defense to pursue them. Porter, encouraged by light losses on his first try, ran a large supply flotilla past the Vicksburg batteries the night of 22 Apr. Sherman's troops, many at work on a canal project at Duckport, abandoned this work, joined in a last action along the Yazoo River, northeast of Vicksburg, and 29-30 Apr. made a demonstration against Confederate works at Haynes' Bluff and Drumgould's Bluffs, diverting more of Pemberton's force. Also on 29 Apr., as McClernand's and McPherson's troops gathered near Hard Times, Porter's fleet assailed Confederate batteries at Grand Gulf, 33 mi. southwest of Vicksburg, testing the Grand Gulf area as a landing site for Union troops. Though Porter found the guns there too strong, he had suc-

ceeded in further diverting Pemberton in Vicksburg.

Grant had originally determined that Rodney, Miss., would be the starting point of his invasion, but took the advice of a local slave and picked Bruinsburg instead. McClernand's and McPherson's corps were ferried east across the Mississippi from Hard Times 30 Apr. That day Grant sent word north for Sherman to follow McPherson's route south and join him.

On 1 May the Federal invasion force engaged the Confederates in the Battle of Port Gibson. Pemberton had just over 40,000 men assigned to the Vicksburg region. Since they were scattered throughout the area, chasing Grierson and wary of Sherman, few of them could be brought to bear against Grant on short notice. Defeated at Port Gibson, Pemberton's troops moved north. Grant, to Pemberton's confusion, pushed northeast. Sherman's corps joined him 8 May, and 12 May the engagement at Raymond was fought. Johnston took personal command of Confederates at Jackson, 15 mi northeast of Raymond, 13 May. On 14 May Federals quickly won an engagement at Jackson, cut off Johnston from Pemberton, and ensured the latter's isolation for the rest of the campaign. In 2 weeks Grant's force had come well over 130 mi. northeast from their Bruinsburg landing site.

Continued on page 8 . . .

The Battle of Vicksburg continued . . .

Ordering Sherman to destroy Jackson's heavy industry and rail facilities, Grant turned west, roughly following the Southern Mississippi Railroad to Bolton, and 16 May fought the climactic combat of his field campaign, the Battle Of Champion's Hill. With the largest force he had yet gathered to oppose Grant, Pemberton nevertheless took a beating there and pulled his army into the defenses of Vicksburg. In a delaying battle at Big Black River Bridge, 17 May, Confederates crossed the Big Black, destroying their river crossings behind them. Undeterred, Federals threw up their own bridges and continued pursuit the next day.

Approaching from the east and northeast, McClellan's, McPherson's, and Sherman's corps neared the Vicksburg defenses 18 May, Sherman's veering north to take the hills overlooking the Yazoo River. Possession of these heights assured Grant's reinforcement and supply from the North. The next day Federals made the failed first assault on Vicksburg. The second assault, 22 May, was a disaster for Union forces, showed the strength of the miles of Confederate works arching east around the city, and convinced Grant that Pemberton could only be defeated in a protracted siege.

The siege of Vicksburg began with the repulse of the 22 May assault and lasted until 4 July 1863. As the siege progressed, Pemberton's 20,000-man garrison was reduced by disease and starvation, and the city's residents were forced to seek the refuge of caves and bombproofs in the surrounding hillsides, Hunger and daily bombardments by Grant's forces and Porter's gunboats compelled Pemberton to ask for surrender terms 3 July. Grant offered none, but on the garrison's capitulation immediately paroled the bulk of the force. Many of these same men would later oppose him at Chattanooga.

LT. GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST'S FAREWELL TO HIS TROOPS



By an agreement made between Lieut.-Gen. Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, and Major-Gen. Canby, commanding United States forces, the troops of this department have been surrendered.

I do not think it proper or necessary at this time to refer to causes which have reduced us to this extremity; nor is it now a matter of material consequence to us how such results were brought about. That we are BEATEN is a self-evident fact, and any further resistance on our part would justly be regarded as the very height of folly and rashness.

The armies of Generals LEE and JOHNSON having surrendered, you are the last of all the troops of the Confederate States Army east of the Mississippi River to lay down your arms.

The Cause for which you have so long and so manfully struggled, and for which you have braved dangers, endured privations, and sufferings, and made so many sacrifices, is today hopeless. The government which we sought to establish and perpetuate, is at an end. Reason dictates and humanity demands that no more blood be shed. Fully realizing and feeling that such is the case, it is your duty and mine to lay down our arms -- submit to the "powers that be" -- and to aid in restoring peace and establishing law and order throughout the land.

The terms upon which you were surrendered are favorable, and should be satisfactory and acceptable to all. They manifest a spirit of magnanimity and liberality, on the part of the Federal authorities, which should be met, on our part, by a faithful compliance with all the stipulations and conditions therein expressed. As your Commander, I sincerely hope that every officer and soldier of my command will cheerfully obey the orders given, and carry out in good faith all the terms of the cartel. Those who neglect the terms and refuse to be paroled, may assuredly expect, when arrested, to be sent North and imprisoned. Let those who are absent from their commands, from whatever cause, report at once to this place, or to Jackson, Miss.; or, if too remote from either, to the nearest United States post or garrison, for parole.

Civil war, such as you have just passed through naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred, and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all such feelings; and as far as it is in our power to do so, to cultivate friendly feelings towards those with whom we have so long contended, and heretofore so widely, but honestly, differed. Neighborhood feuds, personal animosities, and private differences should be blotted out; and, when you return home, a manly, straightforward course of conduct will secure the respect of your enemies. Whatever your responsibilities may be to Government, to society, or to individuals meet them like men.

The attempt made to establish a separate and independent Confederation has failed; but the consciousness of having done your duty faithfully, and to the end, will, in some measure, repay for the hardships you have undergone. In bidding you farewell, rest assured that you carry with you my best wishes for your future welfare and happiness. Without, in any way, referring to the merits of the Cause in which we have been engaged, your courage and determination, as exhibited on many hard-fought fields, has elicited the respect and admiration of friend and foe. And I now cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the officers and men of my command whose zeal, fidelity and unflinching bravery have been the great source of my past success in arms.

I have never, on the field of battle, sent you where I was unwilling to go myself; nor would I now advise you to a course which I felt myself unwilling to pursue. You have been good soldiers, you can be good citizens. Obey the laws, preserve your honor, and the Government to which you have surrendered can afford to be, and will be, magnanimous.

N.B. Forrest, Lieut.-General – Headquarters, Forrest's Cavalry Corps
Gainesville, Alabama – May 9, 1865

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL SCV CONSTITUTION

Proposed Constitutional Amendment #2010-1C – Proposed by Mark V. Brandon – General Henry Watkins Allen Camp 133

To prohibit a sitting CIC and GEC from refusing to hear an appeal by a member referred by the disciplinary committee for action by the GEC.

13.7 Appeal. The accused may appeal the decision by submitting a request for an appellate hearing to the Commander-in-Chief within thirty (30) days of the date from which the notice was sent. The request for appeal, once received by the Commander-in-Chief, shall be ordered for hearing before the General Executive Council in a timely manner. The General Executive Council may decide whether or not to *must* hear the appeal *if requested by the disciplined member*; a 2/3 majority shall be necessary to uphold the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The General Executive Council may remand the case to the Committee for reconsideration. The accused shall be notified of the decision of the General Executive Council by U.S. Mail or private carrier which provides proof of delivery.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment #2010-2C – Proposed by Charles Kelly Barrow – John McIntosh Kell Camp 107

2.1. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, in furtherance of the Charge of Lieutenant General Stephen D. Lee, shall be strictly patriotic, historical, educational, fraternal, benevolent, non-political, non-racial and non-sectarian. The Sons of Confederate Veterans neither embraces, nor espouses acts or ideologies of racial and religious bigotry, and further, *strongly* condemns the misuse of its sacred symbols and flags in the conduct of same. Each member is expected to perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

Proposed SCV Constitutional Amendment 2010-3C – Proposed by Chuck McMichael – Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor Camp 1308

To allow a family to ensure that its son or grandson will always be a member of the SCV. Fathers and Grandfathers will be able to do this for a male heir from the time of birth, which is most likely a time when they have a high interest in the child someday being a member. In many cases it may also bring peace of mind to the member that he has met this obligation and does not worry if he will be in a position to do so in later years.

3.6. Life Membership. Members who make

a qualifying contribution to the Life Membership Endowment Fund shall be termed Life Members.

3.6.1. The amount of the qualifying contribution shall be twenty-five (25) times the amount of annual dues for applicants up to 65 years of age, and half that amount for applicants 65 years of age or older with applicable rules and forms to be determined by the General Executive Council.

3.6.2. Life Members shall be exempt from the payment of per capita dues to General Headquarters.

3.6.3. Life Members may receive such special recognition, certificates and badges as the General Executive Council shall deem proper.

3.6.4 *A contribution to the Life Membership Endowment Fund may be made on behalf of anyone who is otherwise qualified to be a member. Proof of qualification shall be presented at the time of contribution. If the named individual is under the age of regular membership, he will be a Cadet Member in good standing until reaching the prescribed age. At that point his Life Membership shall be activated and he shall receive such special recognition, certificates and badges as the General Executive Council shall deem proper for Life Membership.*

Proposed SCV Constitutional Amendment #2010-4C – Proposed by Denne A. Sweeney – COL A. H. Belo Camp 49

The purpose of this amendment is to make this section consistent with section 13.10, which states that expelled members are not eligible for reinstatement

3.3.2. Expulsion. Any individual expelled from membership under the provisions of this Constitution and Standing Orders shall be stricken from the roster, and the Adjutant-in-Chief shall take care to note his name so that he may not be readmitted nor reinstated to membership except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Executive Council upon recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief.

Proposed SCV Constitutional Amendment #2010-5C – Proposed by Mark Simpson - Brig Gen Samuel McGowen Camp 40

3.6. Life Membership. Members who make a qualifying contribution to the Life Membership Endowment Fund shall be termed Life Members.

3.6.1. The amount of the qualifying contribution shall be twenty-five (25) times the amount of annual dues for applicants up to 65 years of age, and half that amount for applicants 65 years of age or older and

half that amount again for applicants 80 years of age or older with applicable rules and forms to be determined by the General Executive Council.

3.6.2. Life Members shall be exempt from the payment of per capita dues to General Headquarters.

3.6.3. Life Members may receive such special recognition, certificates and badges as the General Executive Council shall deem proper.

Standing Orders Amendments Proposed SCV Standing Ordes Amendment #2010-1SO – Proposed by Denne A. Sweeney – COL A. H. Belo Camp 49

The purposes of this amendment are:

1. *To provide for staggered terms on the committee so that expertise in convention planning can be built and maintained over time. The expertise gained should aid the SCV in lowering the cost to members of attending conventions. Place the financial burden on the National organization so that divisions or camps will not be tempted to profiteer, nor will they go into the red due to bad planning. Allow for reunions to be held in locations that may have minimal local SCV support.*

6.12. Convention Planning Committee. The committee shall consist of a chairman and at least three members appointed by the Commander in Chief provided that there shall be no more than two (2) members from the same Division. Initially, the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint members to the Committee with terms of three years, three years, two years and one year, respectively. Additional members beyond three shall be appointed for one year. Thereafter, the term of office of the members of the Committee shall be three years; provided that the members of the Committee shall serve, and be competent to act, until their successors shall have been duly appointed and confirmed. If any member of the Committee shall be unable to serve his full term because of death, resignation or disability, the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term. The General Executive Council shall have the power, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to find and determine the existence of disability for the purpose of this Section. In addition, the Executive Director will be a permanent member of said committee. This committee shall assist camps or divisions in making bids to host a General Reunion and in the planning of General Reunions.

Continued on page 10 . . .

**The Delta General
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. . . Continued from page 9 on the proposed Amendments to the National SCV Constitution

The Committee, in conjunction with local SCV organizations that wish to host a National Convention, shall plan and organize all National Conventions, and is charged with the following responsibilities:

a. Keeping convention fees and charges as low as possible without incurring financial liabilities to the SCV. The Committee should plan to make a small profit for the SCV, which shall be shared between the National Organization and local SCV organizations assisting with the convention, in a manner to be determined by

the GEC. Insuring that Convention guidelines established by the GEC are faithfully executed. Executing all financial contracts on behalf of the National organization.

Filing an after-action report which shall include full financial disclosure, as well as detailed attendance statistics. The GEC may direct that the Committee provide additional information.

b. The committee shall also recommend sites & hosts for future conventions and Reunions whose commencement shall be neither before the tenth (10) of July nor after the twenty-fifth (25) of July each year.

c. Perform such other duties as may be

assigned to it.

**Proposed SCV Standing Orders
Amendment #2010-2SO
Proposed by Charles Kelly Barrow
John McIntosh Kell Camp 107**

10.4. It shall be the duty of the Commander of every Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to call a meeting of his respective Camp upon the days appointed by the civil authorities for the commemoration of any Confederate soldier, sailor, *marine* or statesman, and to commemorate such day by appropriate services.

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