



Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



The Delta General

Richard Dillon, Camp Commander

**February is
Black Confederate
Heritage Month**



**Did Black Confederates Exist? See more on
pages 9 - 15**

February 2016, Volume 19, Issue 2

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 7:00 PM at 1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola
- March 5, Confederate Flag Day and Flag Rally at Beauvoir
- April 8-10, Holly Springs Van Dorn's Raid and Pilgrimage

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

Camp News:

Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

My friends,

First I would like to thank you for having the confidence in me to lead the camp for the next two years. I pledge to you to do the very best job my abilities will allow.

I want to thank everyone who attended the Lee Jackson Banquet. Those of you that could not attend missed being a part of history for BG Benjamin G Humphreys Camp # 1625. This was the first time a Lieutenant Commander on the national level ever addressed our camp. (Thank you, Larry McCluney for arranging this.)

As you are well aware, all things Confederate are under attack. We must, as individuals, Camps, Divisions, and National SCV members, make our collective voices heard if we are to defeat our opponents in this battle. There is no doubt that the louder our collective voice is, the more likely it is to be heard. Additionally, the more voices we have the more volume we project.

With that thought in mind, I ask and encourage you to make every effort to attend each meeting of our Camp, and do everything you can to recruit new members.

I hope to see you at our March meeting.



Camp Meeting, January 7, 2016

Adjutant's Report – Dan McCaskill

7:00 pm Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Compatriot Junior Stillman. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Jimmy Alford was absent so Commander Nokes 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 and then read "The Charge" given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

Program: None

Announcements: None

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Richard Dillon, Lee – Jackson Banquet will be held Saturday, January 23, 2016 at the Deer Creek Town & Racquet Club in Leland. 2nd Lt Commander was absent. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that \$ 144 was spent for ink and card stock for invitations for the Lee – Jackson Banquet. Camp Membership was steady at 48. The Camp Checking Account had a balance of \$ 1,890.00 of which \$ 1,211 was in the Camp Budget. There were no other reports given.

Camp Business: The only Camp business was tying up loose ends for the Banquet and making needed changes in the Banquet Program.

There was no raffle or "Capture the Yankee" this night. Kenneth Ray made a motion to adjourn which was duly seconded and passed. Junior Stillman gave the closing prayer and Commander Nokes dismissed the Meeting. Attendance for the evening was 10.

Lee/Jackson Banquet Report – January 23, 2016

The evening of January 23rd was clear and cold, a perfect winter evening. Guest started arriving at 5:30 pm for Social Hour. Things went smoothly. At 7:00 pm, the Banquet was called to order and the Colors were presented by the CS Marine Color Guard commanded by Conor Bond. Commander Joe Nokes welcomed everyone to the Banquet and recognized our distinguish guests. After introductions, Commander Nokes turned the podium over to AOT Commander Larry McCluney for the presentation of the JROTC H. L. Hunley Award. Larry read the citation for the award and presented the medal and citation to 1st Lt. Commander-in-Chief Tom Strain, who presented them to Lt. Commander Kevin Carlisle, who pinned the medal on Michael Hobson, the H. L. Hunley recipient. Michael is a sophomore at Greenwood High School in the Navy JROTC program. After this presentation, Camp Commander-elect Richard Dillon presented Service Certificates to Joe Nokes for his four years of service as Camp Commander and to Dan McCaskill for his fifteen years of service as Camp Adjutant.

After the dinner, AOT Commander Larry McCluney introduced our guest speaker, 1st Lt. Commander-in-Chief Tom Strain. Tom talked about the unfortunate events that started in June of 2015 and the rampant attacks on everything Confederate that they precipitated. He admitted that the SCV National was taken by surprise by the viciousness and magnitude of the attacks but they quickly regrouped and went on the offensive. Tom emphasized it was our duty to defend our Heritage and educate others of the truths about our Ancestors and what they fought to defend.

Following Tom's program, Commander Nokes called on Mississippi Division Commander Louis Foley to do the honors of inducting the newly elected Camp Officers which Louis did with great gusto. Camp Officer installed were: Camp Commander - Richard Dillon, 1st Lt. Commander- Brent Mitchell, 2nd Lt. Commander- Jimmy Alford, Adjutant - Larry McCluney, Color Sergeant - George Brumfield

The Induction of Officers was followed by our Candlelight Memorial Service in remembrance of our Confederate Ancestors conducted by 1st Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell.

Continued on page 2 . . .



Lt. Commander in Chief Tom Strain presenting the "Forward the Colors" Award to Steve Miller at the Lee/Jackson Banquet. More pictures on page 4.

The final event of the evening was the OCR Raffle. There were many nice prizes plus a silent auction item. It was nice to see family members of the Hunley recipient win some prizes including Michael. The silent auction was won by local farmer Del Burns. Everyone had a great time.

New Commander Richard Dillon closed the Banquet and Jimmy Alford gave the benediction and everyone sang "Dixie". Attendance for the Banquet was 52 along with six who were unable to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Adjutant

Lt. Commander's Report – Brent Mitchell

Hello all, thank you for choosing me to replace Commander Dillon as your new 1st Lt. Commander. As your new 1st Lt. Commander, I look forward to working with the Executive Council in advancing our cause and preserving our heritage, and more specifically to my new duties, procuring great speakers for our monthly meetings for the next two years. It is my goal for each month's speaker to bring new and exciting as well as informative presentations for the benefit of our own knowledge of the Civil War and today's issues that affect our organization. If you have any suggestions for new or past speakers that you enjoyed, feel free to contact me, I'm always open to new ideas and new folks as well as getting our old friends to return and expand upon their previous presentations. Also, as many of you know, I will not be able to make each and every meeting due to my work schedule and new child, but I am always available by phone or email and will make as many meetings as I can. Thanks again for your support, and hope to see you then!



Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President



Dear ladies of OCR,

On January 23, our camp celebrated the birthdays of General Robert E. Lee and General Stonewall Jackson. This year, we gathered at the Leland Racquet Club for the annual social event and enjoyed great food, much laughter and wonderful fellowship. SCV LT CIC Thomas Strain and his wife, Tara, were our special guests. LT CIC Thomas Strain, as our special speaker, challenged and inspired us to continue in our protecting and promoting symbols of Southern heritage. I would like to extend a personal thank you to each person or family that provided items for our raffle. Special appreciation goes to Mr George Brumfield and Ms Princella Nowell for their raffle and silent auction contributions, which helped in making this one of our most successful banquet fundraisers. Due to the scheduling of the banquet, there will message you be a monthly meeting in February. However, everyone is invited to join us March 3, 2016.



Mechanized Cavalry Report

Men of the 1G:

The SCVMC is now working with all States that have MC Annuals scheduled so that the dates will be changed to not conflict with our Division Annuals. We have more 1G members in the Division leadership than ever and that is where we need to be as SCV members. If I am not mistaken Mississippi Division Annual is always the first weekend of June and the Mechanized Cavalry Annual for 2016 will be 15-18 June 2016 at Cedar Key Florida, so start making plans for both now. Budget your time and money for these two events next year starting today even if you have to miss other events.

The following are the scheduled Annuals..... 2016 Florida (15-18 Jun 2016 at Cedar Key Florida); 2017 North Carolina 2018 South Carolina; 2019 Texas



Recruiting Report

This is a report that Dan McCaskill shared and I thought everyone in the Camp would be interested in this report about recruiting in the past for our Camp. We need to start beating the bushes men and get some new/young blood in our Camp as well as retaining them.

Camp Recruiting - 1993- 2015

The following is a list of Camp Members who have recruited members over the years. Not included are transfers and members recruited by members outside the Camp.

Compatriot	Recruited
Dan McCaskill	44
Tommy McCaskill	40
Earl McCown	13
Larry McCluney	13
Kenneth Ray	5
Richard Dillon	5
James Morrow	4
David Williford	3
Bryan McRaven	3
Junior Stillman	3
Gator Stillman	3
James Worthington	2
James Costilow	2
Henry McCabe	2
Oliver McCaskill	2
James Edwards	2

The following members have recruited one member: Randy MaGee, Carey Prather, Rogers Varner, John Lee, Jeff Horton, Jack Taylor, Bobby Maxey, Dale DeLoach, Joe Nokes, Alan Palmer, Matthew Busby and Chesley Roberts. All of these men account for 159 members. 26 Camp Members came from other sources. Out of the current membership (48), 35 have not recruited a new member for the Camp. Just some food for thought.



New Camp Officers installed into their office by MS Division Commander Louis Foley at Lee/Jackson Banquet.

At Right, Lt. Commander in Chief Tom Strain speaks to a very attentive audience as he gives an outlook on the SCV of the future





*121st Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
and the 22nd Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose Reunions
Beauvoir*

June 10-12, 2016 in Biloxi, Mississippi
2016 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM



SCV MEMBER NAME: _____ CAMP: _____

OCR MEMBER NAME: _____ OCR CHAPTER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL: _____ TITLE: _____

GUEST'S NAME FOR BADGE: _____

SCV EARLY REGISTRATION (PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31st, 2015)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$30.00 _____

SCV REGULAR REGISTRATION (JAN. 1st, 2015 TO MAY 22nd 2016)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$35.00 _____

SCV LATE REGISTRATION (POST-MARKED ON OR AFTER MAY 23rd 2016)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$45.00 _____

OCR REGISTRATION ON OR BEFORE MAY 22nd, 2016, \$10.00 EACH. AFTER MAY 23rd, 2016 \$15.00***** _____

ADULT SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$20.00 PER ADULT _____

CHILD'S PLATE (12 AND UNDER) SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$12.50 PER CHILD _____

ANCESTOR MEMORIAL (COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)*****QTY. _____ (X'S) \$10.00 EACH ANCESTOR _____

VENDOR TABLE (AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE, COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)

REUNION PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT (SEE BELOW RATES / COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)***** _____

LAST HOME OF PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS SATURDAY AFTERNOON TOUR
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)*****QTY. _____ **FREE TO REGISTERED ATTENDEES!**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

All Registered SCV / OCR members will receive a Name Badge, Reunion Medal, Reunion Program, and a "Reunion goodie bag".

Late Door Registration will receive the same only as long as supplies last.

OCR Registrants will have a Ladies Tea in lieu of a Reunion Medal.

All registrations submitted for the amounts specified above must be post-marked appropriately within the specified time-frame.

No refunds to be distributed for cancellations on or after June 01, 2016.

For your convenience, ALL events will be held at Beauvoir

Host hotels

South Beach Biloxi
1735 Beach Blvd
228-456-9003/888-599-7093
www.sbbeachhotel.com
discount code: JDPL

Regency Inn & Suites
11969 Bobby Eleuterius Blvd
D'Iberville, MS 39540
228-396-1570
regencyinnbiloxi@yahoo.com
discount code: Beauvoir

Reunion Contact Information:

Host Camp Commander:
Jessie Sanford
Jessiesanford101@comcast.net
Phone: 601-447-1929

Make Checks Payable to:

LTG Nathan Bedford Forrest
1353

**Mail Registration Form
and Payment To:**

Jessie Sanford
106 East 6th ave
Petal, MS 39465

**Reunion Program
Advertisements:**

\$100.00 for Full Page
\$50.00 for Half Page
\$25.00 for Quarter Page

Please submit
advertisement information
and order form prior to
May 1st 2016.

Mississippi Division News:

Information From Division Commander

Gentlemen:

Lt. Commander Chuck Bond will be in charged of Confederate Flag Day at Beauvoir - 03-05-2016. Any one who can help contact him at dixiedad007@gmail.com.

Chairman Joe Abbott Chairman of Heritage Committee Mississippi SCV will be holding a very important meeting at Lake TiakOkhata 02-27-2016. Marc Allen our Public Affairs Officer will go over some of the mistakes being made on these petitions. We want a large turnout and we want at least a representative from

our groups who are involved in saving our State Flag to be there.

Leroy Waller will be Chairman of the Candidates Credential Committee. This Committee consist of our Brigade Councilmen. We have their names on our web page.

Our Executive Council meeting will 03-26-2016 at the American Legion Post in Forest Mississippi 1.30 pm . This will co-exist with the 4th Brigade Johnston -White Picnic. The Picnic will start at 9.30am. Any one Interested in placing proposals on our agenda at the E.C. meeting contact Mike - Wooten pftr72@ol.com. dead line -03-24-2015.

Gentlemen like I said earlier last year , we are in a fight , we need to get these petitions in to Chuck Bond ,address on the form, and they need to be correct.

Keep the Flag flying

Louis P. Foley, Ms. Division Commander SCV.

E-mail: msdivcommanderlou@gmail.com



A Letter from the MS Division Heritage Defense Chairman

Gentlemen of the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans,

Last June a very sick individual killed nine people in Charleston, SC. This was a horrendous act and no SCV member in MS or across the confederation condoned the killing of innocent people. This came after several rulings by the US Supreme Court that we all know were not to our liking. One of these decisions went against the Texas Division SCV on the matter of their Auto tags. It is my conviction that they were sending a message to our enemy's; "We will back you all the way"; declaring open season on any and all things confederate. All across the confederation attacks have been made on Monuments, Street Names, Schools, and Our State Flag. The SPLC has published their plan to go after everything confederate. You may look it up on line. This is all old news you say. Well I mention it as a reminder we are in a war. Our battle is for our Mississippi Flag of 1894.

Back in July the decision was made to not compromise on the flag. It was decided to go after a constitutional amendment to enshrine the flag of 1894 in the MS Constitution. This should have been done 15 years ago, but was not. Fifteen years ago it was a nonbinding resolution and not a Constitutional amendment. That brings me to my purpose for this communication.

Gentlemen, let me be blunt and completely honest. In no way is this meant to be negative, but we need to get our act together. We accepted the lead in this battle now we must deliver. We must have 86,183 signatures collected from across the state; 17,237 from each of the old congressional districts. As of Jan 26 we had collected 1,542 verified signatures. Our rejection rate is 30% so far. That means we will need to gather 152,478 just to make our necessary number. We have until November 5th, 2016 to reach our goal. As you can see we have work to be done. Can we win? Yes, I believe we can. When we get busy and get everyone involved. I said from the beginning we could not do it alone. I still believe that. We must lead and then others will join us.

We need volunteers for many counties. If you can step up please let me know. My contact information is at the bottom. Also, we need contributions, not just for this but for the future. Please if you can, make a donation to the Heritage Defense Fund, you may send a check to Division Adjutant Dan McCaskill. We have established a PayPal Account for your convenience in using a debit or credit card. Just go to the Division web page

<http://www.mississippiscv.org/> at the top you will see DONATE. If you have a PayPal account, can be sent via PayPal to: msdscv@gmail.com . I give you my word we will spend your money wisely.

Thank you for your time. May God Bless and Keep You

Joseph (Joe) Abbott, MS DIV HC Co-Chairman

(H) 601-684-5376 (C) 601-810-7132

E-mail jabbott1036@cablone.net

Buy One Now . . . Show Your Pride in Your Southern Heritage

Gentlemen,

Beginning July 1, 2015 you can now get the original issue Division License plate design for your car again. Simply take the photo attached to this email and show it to the person where you renew your vehicle license plate and request this design. You can use the initials CV along with the picture to let them know which one to get. The additional cost is still \$31 added to your tag's cost.

If you wish to keep the tag with the Beauvoir design you can. The Department of Revenue does not make you turn them in like other tags. However, none of the money from the old Beauvoir tag will go to Beauvoir. They have received permission for their own tag. You would need to contact the people at Beauvoir to find out how to get that tag if you wish to run it on your car.

As in the past money raised from the sale of the Division License plate will go to restore the battle flags in the possession of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG, BOYS

In June of last year the Mississippi Division SCV was forced into yet another Confederate Heritage battle. The assault has now become a war. Our beloved Mississippi flag has, once again, been targeted by the political class for change.

In 1894, a Mississippi Legislature composed of many Confederate Veterans designed and officially gave us our Mississippi flag. A Constitutional Convention was held four years earlier in 1890, again composed of many Confederate Veterans. They gave us our present Constitution but made no provisions for a state flag.

In 2001, the Mississippi Division SCV led the way in a battle to save our precious banner. Mississippians voted in a landslide referendum to keep our flag.

We are leading the way again, Compatriots. Last summer, two decisions were made. The first was to have a rally as soon as possible after the Mississippi Legislature convened and have it on the steps of the Capitol Building in Jackson. The rally would be promoted with state-wide radio advertising paid for by the Mississippi Division SCV. The advertising promotion was approved by our Executive Council in January. The second decision was to support a Constitutional Initiative that would place our 'Flag of 1894' in the Mississippi Constitution which can protect it forever. A referendum, like in 2001, is always subject to change by the legislature.

After three attempts to secure an approved Constitutional Initiative petition from the Mississippi Secretary of State and Attorney General, one was finally granted in early November; Initiative 58. The response from the Mississippi Division SCV has been overwhelming. Over 50,000 petitions have been printed and circulated throughout the Division.

On January 19th, General Robert E. Lee's birthday, we held a huge "High Noon" rally at the Capitol Building. For six hours we were politely loud in our advance on the legislature. Conservative legislators made a public appearance in our support, each holding a Mississippi flag. Hundreds of other Mississippi flags were waving and our voice was heard. The media attention literally brought our cause worldwide coverage in just hours. We don't know what the legislature will do this session, but we feel confident they will once again try and show how much smarter they are than voting Mississippians.

In the words of Jefferson Davis, we must **STAND FAST MISSISSIPPIANS.**

Chuck Bond

1st Lt. Commander, Mississippi Division and
Historian-in-Chief, Sons of Confederate Veterans

My Fellow Compatriots, Today was certainly one of those days that should go into the SCV Did it Book, We had a fantastic Flag Rally on the Back Steps of the State Capitol building in Jackson Ms. We had 2 of the Prettiest Flags as a back drop that can be found, One was a 10'x15' National and the other was a 10'x15 Ms. State Flag, I'm sure Pictures will be posted later. It was great seeing everyone.

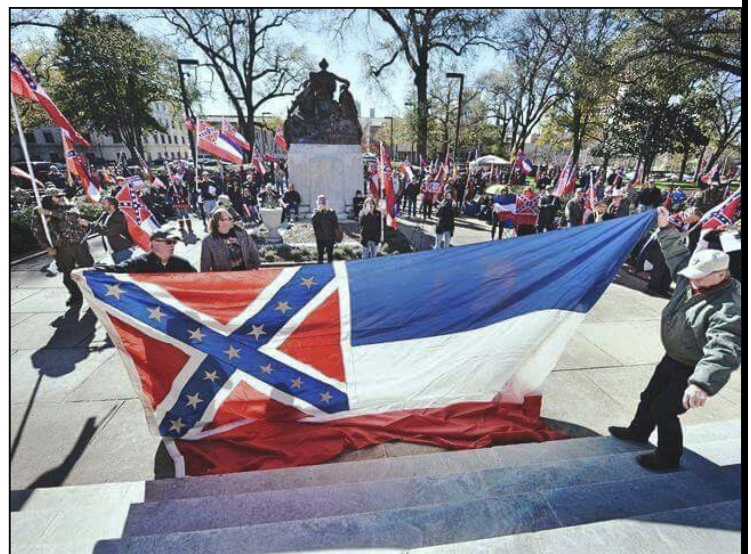
LEROY WALLER



Commander Chuck Bond approaches podium in front of the 10'x15 Ms. State Flag



Above: Div. Lt. Cmdr. Chuck Bond introduces some of the Mississippi lawmakers who supported the rally.



VAN DORN RIDES AGAIN

APRIL 8TH • 9TH • 10TH • 2016 • HOLLY SPRINGS • MS

Reenactment is being held in conjunction with the 78th annual Holly Springs Pilgrimage



In December, 1862, General Earl Van Dorn made his daring raid in North Mississippi, thus halting General Grant's advance on Vicksburg and forcing Grant to retreat back to Memphis, TN.

**Battle reenactments April 9th, Saturday and April 10th Sunday
(usual amenities)**

All units welcome • Walk-ons welcome • \$5.00 registration • Spectators \$10.00

300 acres of rolling hills and a natural amphitheater for spectators

3 motels within a mile of the battle site

All proceeds go to Montrose care and maintenance.

*Historic Home and Church Tours • Hillcrest Cemetery Tours • Luncheons • Sunday Brunch
Saturday Night Dance under the moonlight at antebellum house, Montrose*

Visit www.HollySpringsPilgrimage.com or call 901-490-7275 for Tickets, Registration & Information

MOVE UNDERWAY TO BRING NOLA'S CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS TO BEAUVOIR

By David Elliott Jan 28, 2016 BILOXI, MS (WLOX) -

After a fiery public debate and court battle, New Orleans is ready to move forward with removing four Confederate monuments from city property. Statues and monuments recognizing Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and P.G.T. Beauregard, along with a statue of Jefferson Davis and a historical marker in memory of the Battle at Liberty Park will be taken down. The monuments would be put in a city owned warehouse until New Orleans decides what to do with them. There is a movement on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to make a formal request to give the monuments a new life at Beauvoir in Biloxi. Greg Stewart, Executive Director of Beauvoir, and Gulfport City Councilman Ricky Dombrowski are working together on an idea to ask New Orleans officials to send the monuments to Beauvoir, the historic last home of Jefferson Davis.

"If they truly are going to let those monuments go, the better idea is to have them on display somewhere. There's no better place than Beauvoir," Stewart said. There's no indication that New Orleans would agree to that. Dombrowski said it begins with an official request and that is already in the works with conversations involving several political entities on the coast.

"I started contacting my fellow council members and asked them how they feel about it. It's on the agenda next Tuesday to do a resolution to go over there. I've talked with Biloxi. They're positive. I think they'll do the same thing. I'm also working on Harrison County," Councilman Dombrowski said. While symbols of the Confederacy on display in public places can be a topic of heated debate, Beauvoir is private property. If this comes together, and it's a long shot, how might the monuments be exhibited at Beauvoir?

"I would think Davis would be near the house. We have 52 acres, so Lee could be put anywhere and so could Beauregard," according to Greg Stewart.
http://www.wlox.com/story/31083639/move-underway-to-bring-nolas-confederate-monuments-to-beauvoir#.VqqQ6ezl_xM.facebook



JEFFERSON DAVIS MONUMENT



A descendant of Nathan Bedford Forrest's slaves, Al Arnold, tells his journey of embracing his Confederate heritage. His ancestor, Turner Hall, Jr., a Black Confederate, served as a body servant for two Confederate soldiers and an orderly for Gen. Robert E. Lee. Turner Hall, Jr. was celebrated by Blacks and Whites in his community. Hall attended the last Civil War reunion at Gettysburg in 1938. He was interviewed by the national talk radio show, "We, The People". This is a personal journey of faith, heritage, race and family wrapped around the grace of God through the eyes and honest thoughts of a modern Black man. Arnold argues for African Americans to embrace Confederate heritage to capture the enriched Black history of the Civil War era. He bestows dignity and honor on his Confederate ancestor and challenges the traditional thoughts of modern African Americans. Arnold rests in his faith as the uniting force that reconciles our colorful past to our bright future.

Al is a physical therapist that lives in Madison Mississippi. He grew up in the Northeast Mississippi region graduating from Shannon High School in 1986. Al lived in the small town of Verona during his youth years. He attended Jackson State University and graduated Magna Cum-Laude from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, School of Physical Therapy in 1991. Al was voted most outstanding student by the faculty at UMMC and currently works in the home health industry in the Jackson metropolitan area. He came to the knowledge of his Confederate ancestor in 2008. He started to search for an understanding of why, how, what and when did his great-great grandfather serve during the Civil War. His journey has led him to embrace his Confederate heritage and the roles of slaves in the Civil War. He is a member of the Civil War Roundtable in Jackson, MS. He has a desire to see more African Americans study the Civil War and their connections to this vital part of America's history. To this aim, he has written this book. He believes the Civil War history is Black history.

Al is married to his wife, Tamiko, of 24 years. They have three kids, AJ, Alden and Asa. As a Christian, Al holds firmly to faith in Jesus Christ alone as the only hope for humanity in salvation, forgiveness, oneness, and love. He is an ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church in America where he attends a multi-ethnic church in Jackson, MS. Al loves Bluegrass and Country music. A country boy who loves backyard gardening, cooking, squirrel hunting, studying the Civil War, Church history and old people.



BLACK CONFEDERATES

W

hile I have covered this topic numerous times in the past I will keep on asserting the role that many people, of so called "colour," played in fighting for the Confederacy until I am blue in the face. I will not let history ignore one side of these brave veterans because it's deemed to be "not politically correct," largely by Union biased writers; some of them astute academics. Take me to a tree and hang me there, as were so many dissenting voices in the past, for I will honour all veterans, whether they be black, white or brindle, no matter what side. I will swing defiantly from my branch in protest for all to see, a martyr to victory in history and full recognition of all Americans who stood bravely to fight for their country as they saw it fit, right and proper to do so.



In this picture above, (previous page) a group of former Confederate soldiers pose with a Southern Battle flag. Members of the *Egbert Jones Camp UCV* and guests of Mr and Mrs Robert A. Moore in Huntsville, 2 February 1928. Ten of the men are white, two are black, some wearing medals. If we do a quick survey based on this group, we could assume 20% of the soldiers were black; simple arithmetic; that is... if this picture is indicative of the army as a whole. Of course it isn't but the North would have us believe there were none at all; that it's all the invention of *Sons of Confederate Veterans* to somehow clear their conscience about slavery. My goodness some of the plantations were owned by Northerners and many Southerners had already freed their slaves. Slaves were brought to America by the United States not the Confederacy, only a handful of Southerners owned slaves. Do you sincerely believe these white men would allow some strange black men to attend their reunion if they weren't known to them and were not true veterans?

How many times do I have to say it? The war was not about slavery! Slavery was an issue but it was not black and white, nothing ever is, unless you are a simpleton. I am not often so emotional in editorials but come on folks, wake up and look at history in a more realistic and objective fashion! I would like to see some Southern black men represented in statues on battlefields, there is a nice one at *Vicksburg* to Union soldiers but *Nathan Bedford Forrest* wouldn't object to having a black Confederate by his side in *Forrest Park*. "I came here as a friend...let us stand together. Although we differ in color, we should not differ in sentiment - LT Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA, Memphis, Tennessee - July, 1875" Put your money where your mouth is, instead of wanting to remove the General put a white and black infantryman on either side of him. The war was about Independence and a group of States wanting to separate from the Union and establish their own independent country. They thought it could be done peacefully but when invaded, Southerners rose to defend their homes and families. Throughout, the South largely fought a defensive war. At the end, when *CSS Shenandoah* surrendered her colours, there was a black man amongst the crew. There were American Indians fighting for the South, they too were the last to surrender and there were numerous *African Americans* fighting for the dignity of man and freedom on both sides.

The war is still a battleground for controversial concepts even now 150 years later; one of them being that thousands of African Americans didn't willingly and loyally fight on the side of the Confederacy. The argument forwarded supporting this is that present day so called "neo-Confederates" are eager to find ways to defend the principles of the Confederacy; what a load of baloney! Stepping into this maelstrom is *Harvard* historian John Stauffer, (shown previous page inset) who studies anti-slavery movements, so called civil war and American social protest. (Stauffer is chair of the History of American Civilization Program, and Professor of both English and African-American Studies.) At Harvard Faculty Club, Stauffer opened the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute's Fall Colloquium Series with a lecture on "Black Confederates."

Stauffer acknowledges that critics of the concept now dominate the academic arena, including one scholar who called it, "A fiction, a myth, utter nonsense." How sad that veterans must be so ignored so as to fit into a nice, neat little package. In the picture above, veterans proudly march, behind them is another dark face possibly two with long grey beards. These are not modern day "neo-Confederates." Stauffer is unlikely to have an objective view because of his determined study being very anti-slavery and anti-South. As a broadcast journalist, I am also anti-slavery but born and trained to be objective. I tell the story as I see it, not as others wish me to see it. I don't have academic institutions dictating my political concepts. Don't get me wrong, I admire his qualifications and *Harvard*, but let's please look a little deeper.

Acknowledging the seeming public acceptance in general, Stauffer cites a recent poll showing 70% of 'white' Southerners believe that the cause of the Civil War was not slavery but a deep divide over States' Rights. Now how on earth, in a free democracy, can you have an official poll that excludes black people in your community? Isn't that what the war was all about? As far as I know you can't, not in America. Stauffer also relinquishes his firmly held convictions by saying there is evidence that black Confederates are at least partly true; an assertion that he says got him "beaten up" in a discussion at a Washington, D.C., history event months ago. Obviously he avoids that rugged road and row now.

Professor Stauffer claims, "Although no one knows for sure the number of slaves who fought and laboured for the South, blacks who shouldered arms for the Confederacy numbered more than 3,000 but fewer than 10,000 among the hundreds of thousands of whites who served." Where does this figure come from? He adds that black labourers for the cause numbered from 20,000 to 50,000. Interestingly, even the great social reformer and a man I have much admiration for, Frederick Douglass, a sort of Martin Luther King of his day, supports the story of Black Confederates. Stauffer studied Douglass for his 2008 book *Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*. In August 1861, Douglass published an account of the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) and noted that there were blacks in Confederate ranks. Not black units but within Confederate ranks, in other words they were **integrated**! A few weeks later, Douglass brought the subject up again, quoting witnesses to the battle who said they saw black Confederates. Then in September he said, "There are at the present moment many colored men in the Confederate Army-as real soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders, and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down loyal troops, and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government...there were such soldiers at Manassas and they are probably there still-Frederick Douglass

September 1861." Douglass also talked to a fugitive slave from Virginia, another witness to the same battle who asserted that entire black units were forming in Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia. Stauffer says, "His case can be seen as representative. Masters put guns to (the heads of slaves) to make them shoot Yankees." Now where did he get this juicy piece of information? What concerns your Editor is that his theory is not backed up by actual recorded facts but assumptions. No doubt there were some slaves who felt compelled by their masters but does that mean all of them were? I don't think so and not all blacks were slaves, many were free men and women.



With only a little digging you can find that a few other lesser

known Confederate militia units of *free men of colour* were raised throughout *Louisiana* at the beginning of the war. These units included: the *Baton Rouge Guards* under Capt. Henry Favrot, portions of the *Pointe Coupee Light Infantry* under Capt. Ferdinand Claiborne, *Augustin Guards* and *Monet's Guards* of *Natchitoches* under Dr. Jean Burdin. The only official duties ever given to the *Natchitoches* units were funeral honour guard details. After an August 1861 battle near *Hampton, Virginia*, Union army Colonel John W. Phelps, 1st Vermont Infantry reported on Confederate forces he faced. Colonel Phelps writes, "My scouts report that among the Confederate artillery there is the *Richmond Howitzer Battery* that is manned by negroes!"

There is an account of an unidentified African American fighting for the Confederacy from two Southern 1862 newspapers describing, "...a huge negro fighting under the command of Confederate Major General John C. Breckinridge against the 14th Maine Infantry Regiment in battle near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on August 5, 1862. The man was described as being armed and equipped with knapsack, musket, and uniform and helping to lead the attack. The man's status of being a freedman or a slave is unknown." Following the July 1862 Surrender at Murfreesborough, Tennessee, Lieutenant Colonel John G. Parkhurst of the 9th Michigan Infantry reports African Americans serving with the Confederate 1st Regiment Texas Rangers and 1st Georgia Rangers. His report states, "There were also quite a number of negroes attached to the Texas and Georgia troops who were armed and equipped, and took part in several engagements with my forces during the day." Several African Americans are known to have participated in some capacity on the Southern side at Gettysburg. After the battle in July 1863, "...reported among the rebel prisoners were seven blacks in Confederate uniforms fully armed as soldiers."



Dr. Lewis Steiner, Chief Inspector of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, while observing Gen. Jackson's occupation of Frederick in Maryland 1862: "Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number (Confederate troops.) These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only in cast-off or captured United States uniforms, but in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. These were shabby, but not shabbier or seedier than those worn by white men in the rebel ranks. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie-knives, dirks, etc.....and were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army." This event is supported by a photo of the time and was covered in an earlier edition of the Bugle in full. (See issues # 3, 37 and 39 in the Dropbox.)

Union Brigadier-General D. Stuart reports, "...the enemy, and especially their armed negroes, did dare to rise and fire and did serious execution upon our men. The casualties in the brigade were 11 killed, 40 wounded, and 4 missing; aggregate, 55...." After the war, the State of Tennessee granted Confederate Pensions to nearly 300 African Americans for their service to the Confederacy. While an accurate estimate of the number of African Americans who served in the Confederate armed forces will never be known, the United States Census of 1890 lists 3,273 African Americans who claimed to be Confederate veterans. (So Stauffer is correct when he says likely to be more than 3,000.) This figure doesn't include the dead and we know they far outnumbered survivors. Now we know where he got that initial statistic.

Naval historian Ivan Musicant has written that blacks served in the Confederate Navy. Ivan Musicant says, "Free blacks could enlist with the approval of the local squadron commander, or the Navy Department, and slaves were permitted to serve with their master's consent. It was stipulated that no draft of seamen to a newly commissioned vessel could number more than 5% blacks." Though figures are lacking, a fair number of blacks served as coal heavers, officers' stewards, or at the top end as highly skilled tidewater pilots. William C. Davis, author of "A Government of Their Own": The Making of the Confederacy says, "One of the lost chapters of civil war history has been the passive and even active support that

BLACK CONFEDERATES



Compiled and Edited by
CHARLES KELLY BARROW,
J. H. SEGARS, AND R. B. ROSENBERG

many Southern blacks, free and slave, gave to the Confederacy."

The book "Black Confederates" shines a light on the overlooked facet of this assumed 'contrary' behaviour by a group of African-Americans who appear to have thought of themselves first and foremost as Southerners, as belonging to the South and the South as their homeland. Can Confederate history or black studies afford to ignore the efforts of black Americans fighting on the Confederate side? This behaviour is seen by sceptics as contradictory, revealing and underscoring the terrible complexity of the War Between the States. Another book by J. H. Hank Segars contains

BLACK SOUTHERNERS IN CONFEDERATE ARMIES

A Collection of Historical Accounts



Compiled and Edited by J. H. Segars and Charles Kelly Barrow

correspondence, military records, narrative reminiscences, newspaper accounts, and more from these brave men who served what they considered to be "their country."

Segars is a native of Eatonton, Georgia, managing editor of *Southern Lion Books*, an independent publisher of regional books and a consultant to first-time authors. (I guess he is a 'neo Confederate'.) Segars earned an A.B. from *West Georgia College* and an M.Ed. from the *University of Georgia*. He's author and editor of a number of books about the American South, including *Andersonville: The Southern Perspective* and *Black Confederates*, both published by *Pelican*. Segars is the founding president of the *Northeast Georgia Civil War Round Table* and now lives near rural *Madison, Georgia* with his wife. *Charles Kelly Barrow*, a native Georgian born in *Atlanta* was raised in *DeKalb County* and the *Tucker* area. With *J. H. Segars* and *R. B. Rosenberg*, he compiled and edited the anthology "Black Confederates." In 1979, he joined the *Sons of Confederate Veterans* and currently serves as second vice-president of the *Pike County Historical Society* and as the *Historian-in-chief* of the *SCV* (the youngest ever appointed.) He graduated from *Shorter College* in 1988 with a B.S. in Social Science. Now a social studies teacher at *Flint River Academy*, he's working on his Master's degree at *Piedmont College*. He resides in *Zebulon, Georgia*.

A member of the *Indiana Twentieth Regiment*, encamped near *Fortress Monroe*, writes to his newspaper, "Yesterday morning General Mansfield with *Drake de Kay*, *Aide-de-Camp* in command of seven companies of the *20th New York German Rifles*, left *Newport News* on a reconnaissance. Just after passing *Newmarket Bridge*, seven miles from camp, they detached one company as an advance and soon after their advance was attacked by 600 of the enemy's cavalry. The company formed to receive cavalry but the cavalry advancing deployed to the right and left when within musket range and unmasked a body of seven hundred Negro infantry, all armed with muskets, who opened fire on our men, wounding two lieutenants and two privates and rushing forward surrounded the company of Germans who cut their way through killing six of the negroes and wounding several more. The main body, hearing the firing, advanced at a double-quick in time to recover their wounded and drive the enemy back but did not succeed in taking any prisoners. The wounded men testify positively that they were shot by Negroes and that not less than seven hundred were present, armed with muskets. This is indeed a new feature in the war. We have heard of a regiment of Negroes at *Manassas*, and another at *Memphis*, and still another at *New Orleans* but did not believe it till it came so near home, and attacked our men. There is no mistake about it. The *20th German* were actually attacked and fired on and wounded by Negroes. It is time that this thing was understood and if they fight us with Negroes, why should not we fight them with Negroes too? We have disbelieved these

reports too long and now let us fight the devil with fire. The feeling is intense among the men. They want to know if they came here to fight Negroes and if they did, they would like to know it. The wounded men swear they will kill any Negro they see, so excited are they at the dastardly act. It remains to be seen how long the Government will now hesitate, when they learn these facts. One of the Lieutenants was shot in the back part of the neck, and is not expected to live-Sandusky Ohio Register December 31, 1861. Indianapolis Journal 23 December 1861"

The words of Irish-born Confederate Major General Patrick Cleburne from his January 1864 letter, proposed the mass emancipation and enlistment of Black Southerners into the Confederate Army, his words are both profound and very accurate, "Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late...It means the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern schoolteachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision...The conqueror's policy is to divide the conquered into factions and stir up animosity among them... ..It is said slavery is all we are fighting for, and if we give it up we give up all. Even if this were true, which we deny, slavery is not all our enemies are fighting for. It is merely the pretense to establish sectional superiority and a more centralized form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties-Major General P. Cleburne." Now you have some of the evidence, you decide...but don't shun any veterans simply because they had a different skin colour.



Cavalry troopers. Not only are there black Confederate soldiers, here's proof positive they were integrated, unlike the North.



Ransom Gwynn (seated front centre) with white Confederate veterans at what was billed as the "Last Confederate Reunion" Montgomery, Alabama September 1944. Rev. Ransom Gwynn attended at least two Confederate reunions (1937 and 1944) on the claim that he had been a "body guard" to his former master. Again Mr Gwynn's role is questioned, but answer me this, why is he seated in the front and centre of these veterans? This is a sign of great respect.

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This article was provided by Robert Taylor, writer for the Australian Civil War Roundtable

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**Mississippians have already had
a discussion about the state flag.**

Mississippi
Governor
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**It was put to a vote and an
overwhelming majority chose to
KEEP THE FLAG**